

## Route Description

### 1. Building No.1 at Sophia Univ.

The oldest surviving building on campus, it once witnessed the departure of student soldiers and still carries the memories of the 1945 bombing of Tokyo.



### 2. Ucpfc c'O qcv



### 3. Kuichigai Mitsuke Gate

### 4. Shimizudani Park

A quiet memorial site that evokes the assassination of Ōkubo Toshimichi who was one of the key architects who built the base of Imperial Japan.

### 5. Akasaka Prince Classic House (Former Residence of Yi Imperial Family)

Originally built as the residence of the Yi imperial family of Korea, this elegant Western-style building stands as a silent reminder of the Japanese Empire's expanding ambitions during its colonial era.



### 6. Hirakawa Tenmangū Shrine (\*Cover Photo)

Column : Tghgvcqpu"qp"Hckj "cpf "Rgceg

cvJ kcmey c"Vgpo cpi "Uj tkpg



Within the grounds of Hirakawa Tenmangū Shrine stands a monument inscribed with the military record of the Imperial Guard Infantry First Regiment, accompanied by a quiet reflection on “peace” engraved in its title. The inscription—said to have been written by the chief priest of Yasukuni Shrine—reveals traces of prayer, mourning, and the shadow of the former state ideology. Standing in the precincts, where the scars of wartime air raids still remain, one is reminded of an era when local faith and national aspiration were deeply intertwined. The prayers and memories preserved here invite us to contemplate the meaning of peace in the present day.



For more information,  
please visit our website!



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"Unfolding Historical Layers: Yotsuya and War"

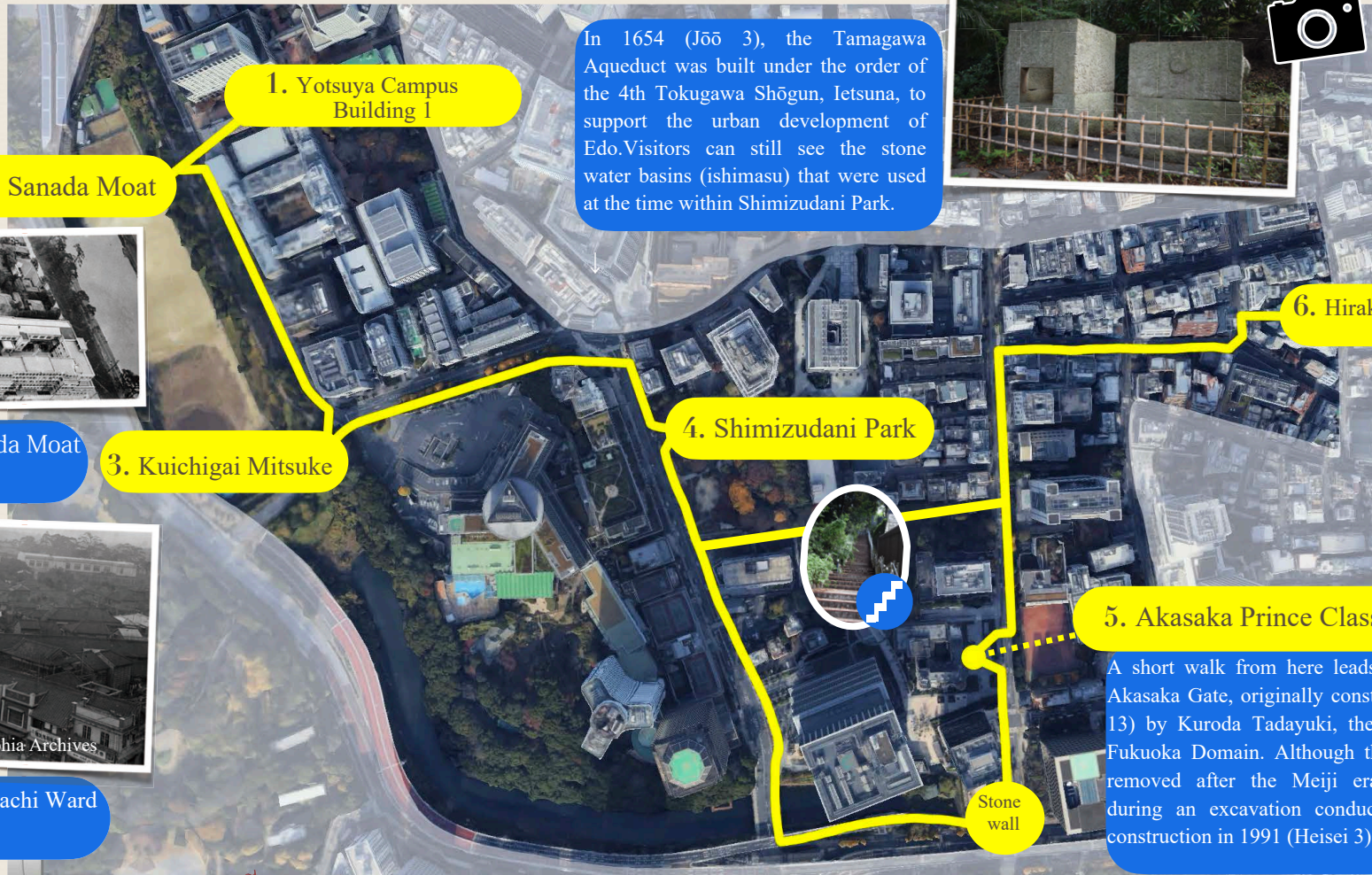
Yotsuya to Hirakawa-cho

史層をひらく  
—四ツ谷と戦争  
四ツ谷～平河町



Duration : Approximately 60 minutes

This walking route begins in front of Building No. 1 at Sophia University, crosses the Shimizudani Valley, and leads to Hirakawa Tenmangū Shrine. Along the way, visitors can still trace the memories of the Edo period in parks and gardens that once bordered the residences of the Kii, Owari, and Hikone domains. This area also witnessed several events that shaped the course of modern Japan, and it retains memories linked to imperial designs or plans and wartime air raids. As you walk, let's uncover the layers of history connecting the Edo period to modern times that lie beneath the surface of this landscape.



In 1654 (Jōō 3), the Tamagawa Aqueduct was built under the order of the 4th Tokugawa Shōgun, Ietsuna, to support the urban development of Edo. Visitors can still see the stone water basins (ishimasu) that were used at the time within Shimizudani Park.



Building 1 and Sanada Moat  
1932



Kioi-chō Area, Kōjimachi Ward  
1924

3. Kuichigai Mitsuke

4. Shimizudani Park

6. Hirakawa Tenmangu Shrine

5. Akasaka Prince Classic House

A short walk from here leads to the stone walls of Akasaka Gate, originally constructed in 1636 (Kan'ei 13) by Kuroda Tadayuki, the lord of the Chikuzen Fukuoka Domain. Although the gate and walls were removed after the Meiji era, remnants uncovered during an excavation conducted alongside subway construction in 1991 (Heisei 3) have been preserved.

Stone wall

### 2. Sanada Moat

Passing through the main gate and a tunnel, visitors arrive at the university grounds, where students actively engage in sports and other activities. The area took on its present form after World War II. Before that, it was part of Edo Castle's outer moat, whose water surface reflected the university building. Today, it is designated as an emergency evacuation site by Chiyoda Ward. Pine trees line the embankments, alongside cherry trees planted by alumni, creating a beautiful seasonal landscape.



### TOP3 Recommended Historical Sites — 3. Kuichigai Mitsuke

An outer gate of Edo Castle designed with a staggered embankment to impede intruders. In the late Edo period, the essayist Tōya Suzuki recorded the appearance of a hanging spirit, called a Iki (縊鬼), in his writings (Hogo no Uragaki). In folklore, restless spirits who wish for salvation or rebirth may cause accidental deaths to be reincarnated, a practice known as Kikyū-dai (ghost-seeking replacement). The Iki is no exception to this phenomenon※. Historically, the site witnessed the Akasaka Kuchigai Incident in 1874 (Meiji 7), when Lord Iwakura Tomomi, the Minister of the right (Udaijin), was attacked on his way back from a council at the Akasaka temporary palace. Even during the postwar occupation, US GHQ jeeps occasionally had accidents navigating the gate's sharp curves. ※Mizuho Sawada, Kishu-dan-gi, "Kikyū-dai"

### 6. Hirakawa Tenmangu Shrine

The shrine, dedicated to the deity of scholarship, still bears traces of the past: bullet marks and burnt patches from air raids can be seen on the guardian dogs (komainu) and the torii gates. Within the grounds stands a commemorative monument for the Imperial Guards Infantry Regiment, which once stationed here and bore the shrine's crest, allowing visitors to sense the atmosphere of the era extending even into the postwar period. The shrine serves not only as a place of prayer for those affected by the ravages of war but also as a space for reflection on the complex relationship between conflict and collective memory.

