

— Route Introduction

1. Shinanomachi Stn.

Opened in 1894 (Meiji 27). Descending southwest leads to the Aoyama Military Drill Ground, an area with extensive historical ties to Japan's military.



2. Meiji Kinenkan Main Hall (Former Akasaka Imperial Guest House Dining Hall)



3. Gokanpei Enoki

This was the spot where Emperor Meiji always positioned himself during military reviews. The current zelkova tree is the second generation, marking the location of the original.



4. Front Plaza & Ginkgo Avenue, Meiji Memorial Picture Gallery (Cover Photo)



5. Meiji Park: Site of the Kasumigaoka Apartments



6. Monument to Students Sent Off to the Front Standing in a corner of the National Stadium, this monument quietly preserves memories of wartime amidst the present-day bustle.

7. Site of the Funeral Hall

The location where the Funeral Hall for Emperor Meiji's grand state funeral was placed. Behind the Meiji Memorial Picture Gallery, the history of the site remains quietly.



Mini Tips for Enjoying Your Visit

- 2. Meiji Kinenkan Main Hall
(Former Akasaka Imperial Guest House Dining Hall)
Approximately a 3-minute walk from JR Shinanomachi Station. Security guards are posted at the main gate, but both the gardens and the interior are open for visitors. Take your time to enjoy a leisurely stroll!
- 3. Gokanpei Enoki
Open from 9:00 to 16:30. Please pay attention to visiting hours. Adjacent to the tree is a stone monument inscribed by Admiral Heihachirō Tōgō.
- 6. Monument to Students Sent Off to the Front
Imagine the atmosphere around this monument when events are held at the National Stadium. Consider its location at the edge of the grounds and how that positioning influences your experience.



For more information,
please visit our website!



Leaflet Design : Manaka
Kameyama, Tsubaki Narusawa,
N · Y, / Special Thanks :
Hidekatsu Takaya / Historical
Advisor : Katsutaka Hojo

Sophia Archives, Sophia School Cooperation
Sophia University, Library Building 9th fl.

Please contact us in advance

if you wish to visit.

Tel: +81-3-3238-3294

E-mail: sophia-archives-co@sophia.ac.jp

"Unfolding Historical Layers: Yotsuya and War" Meiji Jingu Gaien (Outer Gardens of Meiji Shrine)



Duration: Approximately 90 minutes

This area, where the Tokugawa Shōgun's gunpowder depots were reinforced during the Kyōhō Reforms of the Edo period, also served as a place of refuge during the bombing of Tokyo in wartime. On this course, visitors will explore the relationship between the emperor system, religion, and the nation as inscribed in Meiji Jingu Gaien. The tour also considers social issues that continue into the present, such as displacement and gentrification to prepare for the Olympic Games and the forced removal of street trees under unreasonable redevelopment plans, offering insight into the historical layers of this site.

Note: Access to the "Monument to Students Sent Off to the Front" is available via stairs or elevator. Please be mindful of congestion during events.

TOP3 Recommended Historical Sites —

2. Meiji Kinenkan Main Hall

(Former Akasaka Imperial Guest House Dining Hall)
With advice from German consultant Rudolf Rößler and others, Ito Hirobumi and his colleagues held Imperial Council meetings here to draft the Constitution of the Empire of Japan. Since citizens' rights were defined only "within the limits of the law," fundamental human rights were not fully protected. Furthermore, the relationships among the Emperor's advisory institutions were not clearly specified, which meant that the Prime Minister held a position equivalent to the Ministers of the Army, Navy, and other state officials. This site is therefore inseparable from discussions of Japan's wartime history.

Sources: 1) House of Councillors Constitutional Examination Committee; 2) Institute for Peace Policy Studies.

4. Front Plaza & Ginkgo Ave, Meiji Memorial Picture Gallery

The ginkgo trees lining this avenue were planted after the 1923 Great Kantō Earthquake (Taishō 12) and were intended as "firebreak trees" due to the high moisture content of their wood. Every four years, the trees are pruned into conical shapes, creating an "artificial nature" that contrasts with the Japanese ideal of harmony with the natural world. At the end of the avenue stands the Meiji Memorial Picture Gallery, positioned at the vanishing point of the perspective and emphasizing its symmetrical architecture.



5. Meiji Park: Site of the Kasumigaoka Apt.

After the bombing of Tokyo, temporary barracks were built on this site to house people who had lost their homes. These structures were demolished before the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, making way for the Kasumigaoka Apartments. Later, the expansion of the National Stadium and improvements to Meiji Park for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics once again forced residents to relocate. Although alternative housing was provided, the process reportedly involved heavy-handed measures by the authorities. Amid the current bustling recreational space, traces of war and the memories of those who lived here quietly endure.

