



To National Scenic Beauty

On March 18, 2014, 13 scenic spots from 10 pre fectures related to MATSUO Basho's Oku-no Hosomichi were commended for their influence or the ideas of landscape held by later generations and for still conveying the atmosphere of the old days, and were named as nationally designated

Located to the north of Soka-shuku, which appears in Oku-no Hosomichi, Soka Matsubara has been known since the Edo period as a scenic spot on the Nikko Road. This area has been rec- A road traveled ognized for providing an excellent landscape that conveys the atmosphere of the days of Oku-no by MATSUO Basho Further, additional designations after that have In March (May in the current calender) 1689,

been made to enhance the landscape as a whole. Basho left Fukagawa, Edo by boat for Senju,



The appearance of the old trees

Among the 634 pine trees existing today, there are about 60 old trees. You can recognize them at first glance. They vary in appearance, ranging from trees with trunks as large as 2 meters in circumference, to those that extend branches over the Ayase River. You can enjoy viewing the appearance of the old trees while walking in Soka Matsubara

ing additional saplings and protation, and the number of pine trees reached 634 later, it was designated by the national government as a scenic spot in March 2014. The walking trail is thus now loved as something that links the past to the future.





said goodbye to the people who had come to see him off, and later arrived at Soka, the second post station on the Nikko Road. ng that I would return there alive. on my unreliable fate, I finally arrived at an inn in a town called Soka that evening." As it is written. Soka appears in Oku-no Hosomichi. I is said that Basho used a character meaning "quick" in writing the place name of Soka because he wanted to emphasize the halting pace on his first day of walking, while missing the people he had had to leave, and being bothered by the heavy load on his shoulders.



Soka Matsubara, now and then

One theory holds that the row of pine trees was planted when the Ayase River was improved in 1630. The first record of any pine trees being planted indicates that 1,230 saplings were planted in 1792. Later on, painters and literati depicted them in numerous works. In the Showa period, the scenery has reduced to little more than 60 trees. Local people worring that such a landscape took the lead in plan





Cherry Blossom Trees of Kasai irrigation Canal (South of the Hisaizu-jinja Shrine) (MAP Kasai irrigation Canal Area)

4. Minebun Bridge of Forest and cherry blossom

(MAP Between Kitaya 1-choume and Koyama 1-choume)

5. The Ten Bridges over the Tatsui River (MAP Yatsuka Area) 6.Cherry Blossom Dike of Ayase River (MAP Ayase River Area) 7.Precincts of Sengen-jinja Shrine (MAP Yatsuka Area) 8.Precincts of Tofukuji Temple (MAP Imayo Soka-shuku Area)

Soka's specialties

ne edamame soybeans of Soka began to be cultivated in earnest in mid-1940s, and they are actively produced in the whole of the city y are characterized by their sweet and delicious taste. Shipment



lebrate a good occasion, so arrowheads pods have long been used for good ick as a dish in celebratory events. They have a distinctive bittersweet taste begun in the Meiji period. Although it is forced to



uspend, it was then resumed after World War II and was actively ultivated in the Yatsuka and Shinden districts. The chrysanthemums roduced in Soka are still high in quality and highly acclaimed in the Komatsuna Also known by the beautiful names vegetable) and "vukina" (snow vegetable). Komatsuna popular as a yellow-green vegetable with a peak harvest period in winter. It has long been cultivated in greenhouses, so it can be stably cultivated throughout the year. Komatsuna in winter is thick-leaved, loses its bit

Visit: Hands-on experience

*For visits and hands-on experiences, please make a reservation by contacting the factory and shop of your choice.

Globes : Watanabe Kyogu Seisakujo Co., Ltd. +81-48-936-0339 (3-20-14, Inari) Metal products : Inui Fusion Co., Ltd. +81-48-931-7399 (2-11-1, Matsue) Metal products: Higano Co., Ltd. +81-48-931-3321 (3-24-7, Aoyagi)

Paper products : Mori Shiki Co., Ltd. +81-936-9321 (2-11-43, Aoyagi) Metal machine parts: Jun Seisakujo Co., Ltd. +81-48-931-1125 (1-5-58, Aoyagi)

Plastic products: So-seru Co., Ltd. +81-48-922-2251 (2-5-44, Yoshicho) Automatic packaging machines: Kawashima Seisakusho Co., Ltd. +81-48-925-1573 (434,

Fusuma paper: Kikuchi Fusuma Manufacturing Co., Ltd. +81-48-925-1245 (1355, Nissatocho) Precision metal processing: Sankei Seiki Co., Ltd. +81-48-925-5630 (565-36, Yanagishimacho) Acrylic tanks : Agua Project Co. Ltd. +81-48-942-3665 (2-7-15 Kitava)

Senbei : Ikedaya Co., Ltd. +81-48-922-2061 (4-1-40, Yoshicho)

Senbei : Soka Senbei Shimen'ya Honten +81-120-211-721 (1-11-1, Shinmei Senbei and Leather : Dento Sangyo Tenji Shitsu, "Parisse" +81-48-931-1970 (in Soka-shi Bunka Kaikan, 1-1-5, Matsue)

Senbei : Ichifuku Honten Co., Ltd. +81-120-037-129 (2-16-18, Aoyagi) Senbei : Yamako Senbei Honpo Soka Senbei no Niwa Co., Ltd. +81-48-942-1000 (790-2, Kinmeicho) Tofu: Matsubara Shokuhin Co., Ltd. +81-48-936-5864 (2-19-11, Nakane)

local industries that have been cu include the art of yukata dyeing, w

Soka Senbei

Soka Senbei are synonymous with senbei rice crackers. The baked 100-percent non-glutinous rice dough with the fragrance of soy sauce is absolutely irresistible

Soka Senbei is registered as a regional group trademark and accredited by the Japan Food Industry Association as a "genuine and a thentic" food brand.

Leather

Since the mid-1920s, Soka has had many leather processors and distributors, and the city brings together all processes ranging from the treatment of raw leather to dyeing, cutting, sewing, and finished products. With a wide range of leather types, local distributors sell various products.



Yukata dyeing

This is a traditional product designated as a prefectural traditional handicraft. It is known under the "Tokyo Hanzome Yukata" brand. You will never tire of rolls of cloth and hand towels dyed with even deeper vividness by injecting the cloth with dve.



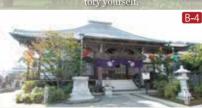
↓You can purchase these items here.

Traditional Industries Exhibition Room "Parisse"

Permanently available on the first floor of the Soka-shi Bunka Kaikan (Soka City Culture Hall), this exhibition this room exhibits to present the history and production processes of Soka's big three local industries: senbei, leather, and vukata dveing. You can also see local products on sale, have a hands-on experience of senbei by







B-4 Tofuku-ji Temple Shojusan Fudoin Tofukuji This temple is said to have been estab

Soka-shuku Basho-an

the sanctuary, main gate, and bell tower are

Frected in the Meiji period, this

nade of Japanese cedar and Jap-

anese cypress from Saitama Pre-

Built on a stone wall, it is a wooder

internal has a spiral staircase

that overlooks Soka Matsubara. In

addition, It is lit up at night, and the





Statue of KAWAI Sora

A-3 This structure was erected in Osen Park to commemorate the 50th anni-

A-4 Facing the former Nikko Highway, this park evokes the atmosphere is park evokes the armosphere
fa post station on the old road. It
sed to accommodate the Soka

Watchtower (Bo-ro)

town office and other establish-Osen Park

hrine. It has a local monument to rate the birth of Soka Senbei

B-5

Shinmeigu Shrine

Soka Station East Exit Square





Hachiman-jinja Shrine Eko-in Temple A history of Soka says that this shrine was established by being enshrined in 1615, and then relocated to its current

location at the request of the nine villages name in 1777 when a wooden image of the Taishi, and the Honen Shonin. In addiof Soka in 1713, as the general sacred deity Hachiman was enshrined. tion, there are Buddha statues such as

Carson Plaza

sanctum of a main temple has a statue of the Amida Sanson, and the Zendo



his structure was erected to commemora



MASAOKA Shiki A-3 Poem Monument

Soka Matsubara (National Scenic Beauty) A-1~3

Hyakutai Bridge A-2

This is one of two drum-shaped bridges located on the Soka Matsubara Walking Trail. Erected in 1986, the bridge takes its name from Oku-no Hosomichi: "Days and weeks are like hundreds of people passing by..." From over the bridge, you can have a good view of the row of pine trees, so the bridge is an ideal

Yadate Bridge A-3
This is one of two drum-shaped bridges on the Soka Matsubara Walking
Trail. Erected in 1994, this bridge (Yadate Bridge) takes its name from

MIZUHARA Shuoshi "Oku-no Hosomichi": "With the spring gone, birds are singing as if crying, and the eyes of fish look as if filled with tears, with which I begin my writing. "Here "writing" was written with the word "vatate



the city, and tea is served for a fee.

048-931-9325

[Application / Inquiry] Soka-shi Bunka Kaikan

Closed First wednesday, New Year holidays

pen 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Tourist Information and Rest house), 9:00 a.m. to

9:30 p.m. (Rental house Kikunoma, Matsunoma, Sakuranoma, Koma)

Zenso-an Travelers of a Hundred Ages A-2 This wooden single-storied building of the sukiya type of Japanese residen tial architecture was named by Japanese literature scholar Donald Keene, who also wrote the name by calligraphy. The facility is designed to dissemi-nate all kinds of things about the tea ceremony, flower arrangement, koto, shamisen, and other traditional Japanese cultural assets related to Soka. The facility also has a rest house designed for visitors from in and around



A guide is provided to a group of at least five visitors as a rule. You should apply in advance.

[Application / Inquiry] EL. 048-999-5970

ed to Soka City's tourisr

Information Center

ture, we also serve as

Open 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Closed Monday (In the case of a holiday,

Address 1-11-29, Sumiyoshi, Soka City, Saitama Pre

Soka City Tourist

DATA

pen 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
losed New Year holidays Marui's closing day
ddress Soka Marui 1st floor (2-9-1, Takasago, Soka city, Saitama Prefecture)
irections Walk 3 minutes from the east exit of Soka Station on the Tobu Skytree Line

For a guide in Soka, ask to the **Soka Guides Association.**

As you walk through the town, you will see merchant ho and whitewashed storehouses that evoke the atmosphere what stations on the old highways used to be like. The premises of the temples are home to many monuments to commemorate literati as well as painters and calligraphers. Fudaba-Kash Park also serves as a stage for expressing culture and litera-ture beginning with the image of MATSUO Basho. The centu-ries-old pine trees of Matsubara speak of the emotions of the people who passed by.

We consider it our task to present these attractions and scenes of Matsubara to our visitors, and that is why we provide difference of the control o

