Ayase River Area

Bird Sanctuary A-1

The right-hand shore of the Ayase River to the east of the Shinei-cho Housing Complex is a sanctuary for wild birds. It is home to a Plaza for Friendship with Birds, with about 40 species of trees that wild birds like.
Around the plaza, you can observe spot-billed ducks, little egrets, Eurasian collared doves, black-backed wagtails, and other wild birds and beautiful butterflies.

Along the Ayase River A-1～3

The Ayase River, which flows from the west in the northern part of the ci·ty and flows south after that, was a clean river where fireflies lived until the mid-1960s. With the recent regeneration project, rivers and riversides have been beautifully restored, and the watershed has become a place for people to explore.
The Ayase riverside from Shinden Station to the Bird Sanctuary is a place where cherry trees are in bloom to provide a scenic spot for viewing cherry blossoms.

Asahi-jinja Shrine A-3

It used to be called Hikawa shrine, but changed its name in 1907.The sanctuary dates back to the middle of the Edo period. The shrine houses Sangaku ("Sangaku" means mathematical puzzles or solutions described on wooden tablets), which have been designated by the city as cultural assets, along with Chikarishi stones placed at the entrance of the path to the shrine and numerous other stone structures.
Snakes made of straw are placed on the torii gate, and these snakes are renewed (called "snake-twisting") every October.

Kuwai-ta Field A-2

A Soka specialty, full-scale cultivation of arrowheads began in the early Meiji period, and they are still cultivated to this day, mainly in the Shinden district. Planting is in late June, and they are harvested and shipped from late November to February.

Walking course

Single Round
About 7 km
About 3 hours

Shinden Station
↓
Ayase River Healthy Road
↓
Asahi-jinja Shrine
↓
Tenmangu Shrine
↓
Bird sanctuary (Round trip course)

WALKING ADVICE

If you feel tired, take a rest, and do not strain yourself.

Kakinoki Soka Park Area

From the east exit of Shinden Station on the Tobu Skytree Line, take the Tobu Bus "Shin-01", After a 12-minute ride, get off at Soka Koen.
From the east exit of the Dokkyodaigakumae Soka-Matsubara Station, take the Paripori-kun Bus. After a 14-minute ride, get off at Soka Koen.

Tozen-in Temple A-5

This is the city's oldest temple, reportedly established by the Johan in the Muromachi period (Around 1500A.D.). The main gate, a city-designated cultural asset, is said to have been erected in 1782. Yakushi-do, on the left-hand side of the main gate, enshrines an image of Yakushi Nyorai (the Buddha of Healing), which is reported to have been sculpted by Keisho, a Buddhist monk who ate only tree fruit and grass.

Soka Park A-5

The extensive Park, with a total area of 17.8 ha, includes a forest of the four seasons, featuring waterfalls and little streams, a public forest, walking trail, a multi purpose ground tennis courts, a scenic pond that attracts wild birds and water birds, and other facilities. The Park is home to about 300 species, and 25,000 trees and plants, providing a treasure of nature where you can observe wild birds and insects. The row of cherry trees along the Hachijo canal to the west of the Park is the city's main spot for cherry trees.

Nyotai-jinja Shrine A-5

This shrine is reported to have been built oriented toward the north in the direction of Mount Tsukuba by the Toyoda clan. Formerly the lords of TOYODA Castle in Shimousa Province, the clan venerated the Nyotai-jinja shrine on Mount Tsukuba, and they chose Kakinoki as their next permanent residence after their castle fell. The shrine also features the literary monument of local author TOYODA Saburo.

WALKING ADVICE

Wear a cap or hat and be careful about heatstroke.

Walking course

Single Round
About 5 km
About 2 hours

Soka Park
↓
Nyotai-jinja Shrine
↓
Shimotsuma Road Ruins
↓
Tozen-in Temple
↓
Soka Park

*This is a picture map, and is not drawn to scale.

Yatsuka Area

The Ten Bridges over the Tatsui River C,D-2

The Tatsui River was excavated over a period of six years from 1981. The bridges over the river were built not only for crossing but also for viewing, "interacting with people," and "being proud." The bridges are thus designed with originality that harmonizes with the history of the community and the nature of the surroundings. Six of these bridges received awards in the bridge category of the community development and local pride awards conferred by the Ministry of Construction (now the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism).

Sengen-jinja Shrine D-3

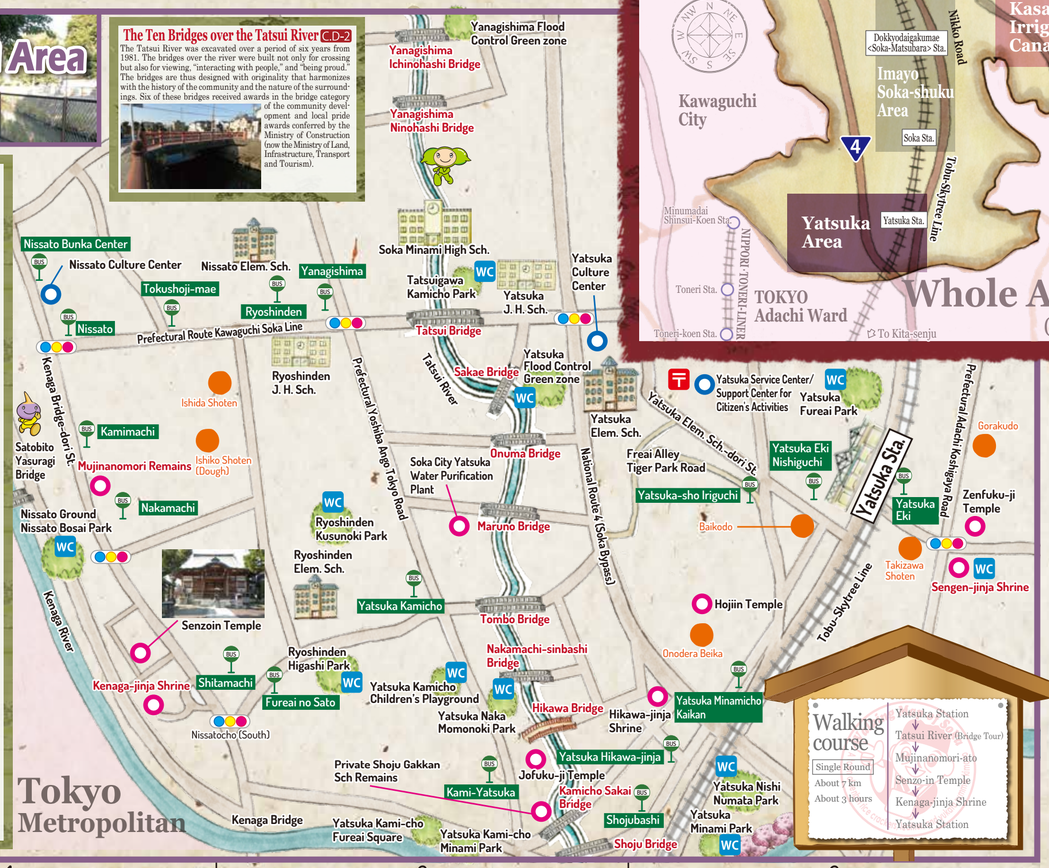
This shrine has been venerated by many people for its enshrinement of Mt. Fuji since the Edo period. It is officially named the Fuji Sengen-jinja Shrine. The current sanctuary was rebuilt in 1842 and has been designated by the city as a cultural asset. Eve and main festivals are conducted on the first Saturday and Sunday in July every year.

Mujinanomori-ato D-1

There were many large trees on the extensive premises of an old house in Nissatocho, which is said to have once been the home of badgers, so the villagers called the place "the badgers' forest." There is still a large tree at the remains of the mansion where the badgers used to live.

Kenaga-jinja Shrine D-1

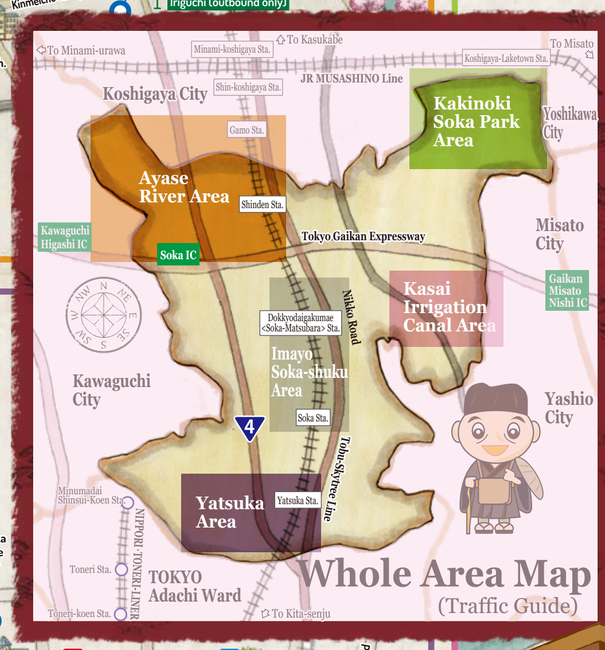
Although it is unclear when it was constructed, this is a rare shrine in that it enshrines "a woman's hair" as an object of worship. There is a record of the renovation of the shrine.
Tradition has it that this shrine was built on the ruins of the mansion of a rich villager, while the hair used to be that of his daughter. (Another theory holds that it was the hair of the younger sister of the deity Susanoo-no-Mikoto.) The torii gateway to the entrance of the shrine was relocated from the Edo mansion of the Mito Tokugawa clan.



Walking course

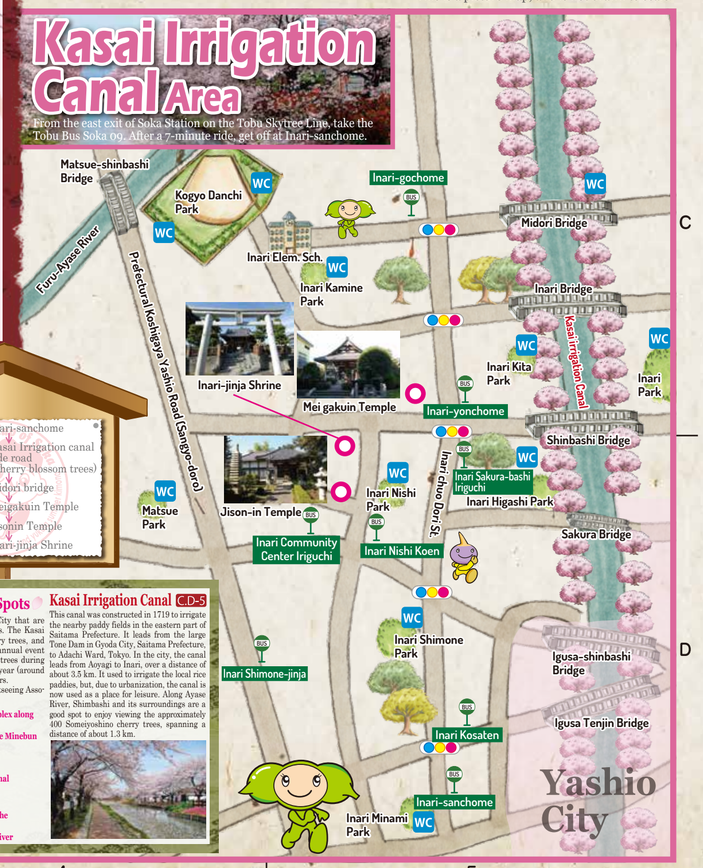
Single Round
About 7 km
About 3 hours

Yatsuka Station
↓
Tatsui River (Bridge Tour)
↓
Mujinanomori-ato
↓
Senzo-in Temple
↓
Kenaga-jinja Shrine
↓
Yatsuka Station



Kasai Irrigation Canal Area

From the east exit of Soka Station on the Tobu Skytree Line, take the Tobu Bus Soka 09. After a 7-minute ride, get off at Inari-sanchome.



Walking course

Single Round
About 2 km
About 1 hours

Inari-sanchome
↓
Kasai Irrigation canal side road (Cherry blossom trees)
↓
Midori bridge
↓
Meigakuin Temple
↓
Jisonin Temple
↓
Inari-jinja Shrine

Cherry Blossom Spots

There are many spots in Soka City that are ideal for viewing cherry blossoms. The Kasai Irrigation canal, lined with cherry trees, and Soka Park are the venue for an annual event for taking pictures of the cherry trees during the cherry blossom season every year (around April), which attracts many visitors.
(Organized by the Soka City Sightseeing Association)

- The Shin-ei Cho Housing Complex along the Ayase River
- Along the Den-u River, near the Minebun Bridge
- Tokyo Gaikan Expressway (National Route 298)
- Along the Yakota Irrigation canal
- Fudaba Kashi Park
- Soka Park
- Along the Kenaga River, near the Hanabatake Ohashi Bridge
- Kinmei-cho, along the Ayase River

Kasai Irrigation Canal C,D-5

This canal was constructed in 1719 to irrigate the nearby paddy fields in the eastern part of Saitama Prefecture. It leads from the large Tone Dam in Gyoda City, Saitama Prefecture, to Adachi Ward, Tokyo. In the city, the canal leads from Aoyagi to Inari, over a distance of about 3.5 km. It used to irrigate the local rice paddies, but, due to urbanization, the canal is now used as a place for leisure. Along Ayase River, Shimbashi and its surroundings are a good spot to enjoy viewing the approximately 400 Someiyoshino cherry trees, spanning a distance of about 1.3 km.

National Scenic Beauty
"Scenic Area of Oku-no Hosomichi Soka Matsubara"

Soka Walking Map

A town of senbei rice crackers, leather, and yukata summer kimono

On March 27, 1689, MATSUO Basho, at the age of 46, left Fukagawa, Edo (today's Tokyo), along with his disciple KAWAI Sora. This journey, which would culminate in the compilation of *Oku-no Hosomichi*, which later became a representative Japanese travel book, lasted as long as 150 days, spanning 2,400 km. The route makes a tour of scenic spots and historic sites in the Tohoku and Hokuriku regions, from Nikko and the Shirakawa Barrier to Matsushima, Hiraizumi, Kisakata, Izumozaki, Kanazawa, and Tsuruga, before finally reaching Ogaki, Mino Province (today's Gifu Prefecture).
"Days and weeks are like hundreds of people passing by, while years passing by are travelers as well. Those who float away their lives on boats and grow old leading horses by the bit spend their days and months in travel and regard their journey paths as their dwellings."
Having left Fukagawa, Basho went by boat to Senju-shuku, where he said goodbye to those seeing him off and started walking.
"Hoping that I would return there alive, counting on my unreliable fate, I finally arrived at an inn in a town called Soka that evening."
Thus, while suffering from the burden of the heavy load on his shoulders, Basho walked 8.8 km, reaching Soka, the second stopover station on the Nikko Highway. The journey described in *Oku-no Hosomichi* would then extend from Soka to Tohoku.

Published by Soka City
With the cooperation of the Soka City Sightseeing Association and Soka City Guide Volunteer Club
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TEL +81-48-922-0151 (Main Line)
2023.1 (In January of the 5th year of the Reiwa era.)
Made with recycled paper.
Printed with environmentally friendly vegetable ink.