

Tokaido Road (Kyokaido Road) Guide map of Hirakata-shuku

Watashi-ba (Hirakata-watashi Ship Guard House of Kasho-bune 'Honjin[Accommodations] Hirakata-hama onenji Temple (Toiya-hama) Bansho-ura Shore Funa-kosatsuba Kosatsuba[The place where Aasugata no Mich Dairyuji Temple Senkoji Temple Waki-honjin[Sub-accommodatio Daikyoji Temple Ochaya-goten Palace Shimoido[Well on a stree Small forest of plum Shikinai Okami-jinja Shrine in the Hirakata-shuku **Ruins of Found** Muku Tree

Toiyaba was the public office in charge of any post town works such as relaying people and/or horses to another post town, and arranging inns for travelers for public purposes. In addition, the Toiya's officers got involved in private transportations. Toiya Yakunin (Shuku Yakunin) [Toiya's or Hirakata-shuku's public

> Shukueki Toiyaba no Zu [Picture of Toiyaba in the Hirakata-shuku]

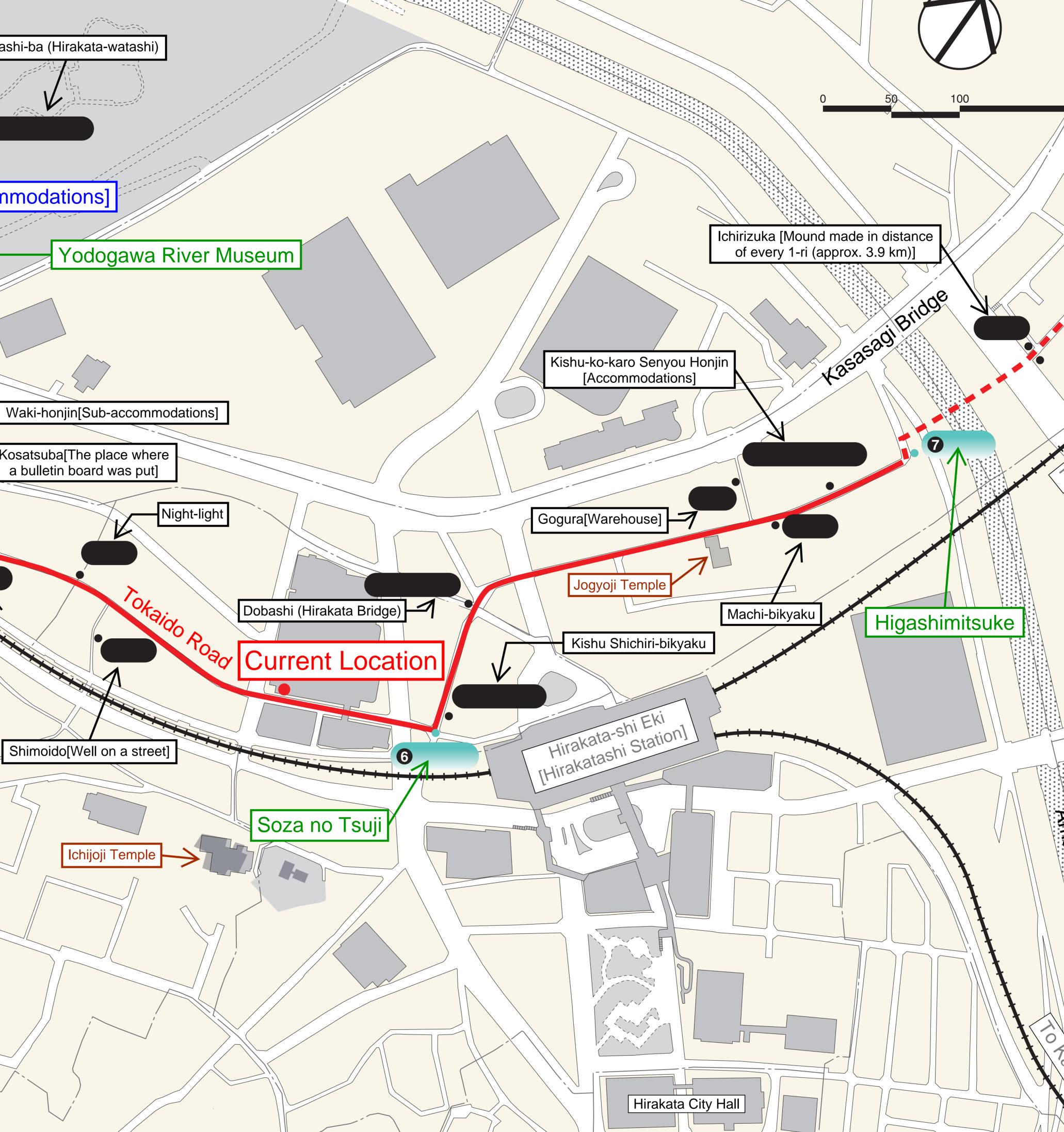


Mt. Mannenji and **Ochaya-goten Palace**

Shikinai Okami-jinja Shrine in the Mt. Mannenji is one of the eight views of Hirakata. The shrine has the famous plum orchard.

Allegedly, here was Ochaya-goten Palace. It was the building where Hideyoshi Toyotomi rested or stayed.

Honjin was an inn where Daimyos [feudal lords], the officers of the Tokugawa shogunate, or the nobles rested or stayed. Honjin was a large and high-social building unlike a normal inn. The building had the gate, the entrance, the main entrance for socially high rank persons, and "Jodan no Ma [the room where the floor was one step higher than others. It was used for socially high rank persons]".





Soza no Tsuji was the junction between the Tokaido Road (the Kyokaido Road) and the Iwafunekaido Road. The junction was next to the house of Soza Sumino who was an oil refiner. Therefore, the junction was named Soza no Tsuji.





Higashimitsuke was the east gate of the Hirakata-shuku. The Amanogawa River is running near the east gate. The river is said to be relating to Tale of Tanabata.



Yodogawa River (8)Museum

In the Yodogawa River Museum, you can learn the records of water controls and floodings in the Yodogawa River. Furthermore, the history of the water transportation and the people's way of life in the Hirakata-shuku are introduced.

Hirakata-shuku, the town in which history is breathing

Starting in the early 17th century, the Tokugawa Shogunate began constructing roads and establishing post towns [post town = "shuku"] throughout Japan. Consequently, the Fushimi-shuku, the Yodo-shuku, the Hirakata-shuku, and the Moriguchi-shuku were built to extend the Tokaido Road.

The Hirakata-shuku was 797 ken (1.5 km) between Higashimitsuke and Nishimitsuke. The Hirakata-shuku was one of the very busy post towns where not only Toiyaba and Honjin but also many town houses including inns and merchant's houses were built.

After Yoshimune Tokugawa assumed the 8th Shogun, Munenao Tokugawa succeeded the Yoshimune's position as the 6th feudal lord of the Kii Tokugawa Family. Since he went to Edo for Sankin-kotai in 1741 (Kanpo 1st), the feudal lord's processions of the Kii Tokugawa family often passed through the Tokaido Road to demonstrate the authority of the Shogun's Family in Osaka and Kyoto. When the feudal lords headed to Edo or Kii (Currently Wakayama), they always stayed at the Hirakata shuku.

In addition, Hirakata was not only the relay port for the Yodogawa River water transportation but also the distribution center of rice, Kawachi cotton, and rapeseed. Hence, Hirakata prospered as a business town and played a key role as a junction for water and land transportations where people or goods run back and forth.



Houses in town still remained until now

The road is still dotted with Machiya with Japanese latticework, insect-cage windows, and "Udatsu" sleeves. Those buildings convey the atmosphere of the post town to us.