

In the belly button of Tokyo

東京のおへそ

Guidebook of Kokubunji city

Kokubunji

こくぶんじ



**Strolling in
Kokubunji Map
is included**

*Guidebook of
Kokubunji city*



東京のおへそで、会いましょう。

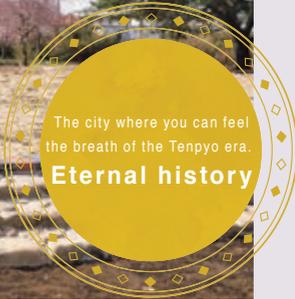
Let's meet within the belly button of Tokyo!

Kokubunji Ro-Mon Gate (City Important Tangible Cultural Asset) [Magnified map C-2]



Kokubunji City, situated in the center of Tokyo, is just like a belly button. Kokubunji is a key traffic junction as the JR Chuo Line, Musashino Line, Seibu Kokubunji Line and Tamako Line run through the city. Kokubunji City is rich in culture and greenery, and retains the atmosphere of the old Musashino region.

This city was born of the peoples' desire to pray for world peace and healthy lives.



Musashi-Kokubunji Site Ko-dou (National Historic Site) [magnified map c-2]

In 741, which was Tenpyo 13 under the Japanese calendar, in the middle of the Nara period, Emperor Shomu ordered a Kokubunji Temple be built in each province to stabilize the nation under the Buddhist faith. In Musashi Province, the Kokubunji Temple was situated along on a cliff. It was one of the largest of the approximately 60 Kokubunji temples located throughout Japan. The name of the city came from the Kokubunji Temple in the Tenpyo era. The soul of the old Tenpyo era is still alive in the city, even in this changing world.



Musashi-Kokubunji Temple Remains Museum

The artifacts on display were excavated from the historical ruins of the temple as a result of many years of archaeological study. [magnified map b-2]

📍 1-3-10 Nishimotomachi 📞 042-323-4103
🕒 9:00 ~ 17:00 (Last entry is at 16:45)

Closed on Mondays (If a national holiday falls on a Monday, it is closed the next day). Year-end and New Year's holidays. (An entrance ticket from the Otaka-no-michi Spring Water Park is required.)

Musashi-Kokubunji Site

Kokubunji Temple was built during the Nara period. The foundation stones are still set in place, enabling us to imagine the size of the original temple. (National Historic Site)

[magnified map c-2]



A comfortable rest stop along the way

Wooden Yakushi-Nyorai Sitting Buddha (inside Kokubunji Yakushido Temple)

This lacquered 1.9 meter statue with carved eyes is thought to have been built during the last stage of the Heian period (794 – 1185). The statue is open to the public on October 10th every year. (National Important Cultural Properties) [magnified map b-2]



Rest station of Historic site "Ota Cafe" [magnified map c-2]

This rest stop is in the woods along the Otaka's path. Volunteer guides will be there to show you around. The menu uses local vegetables known as Koku Veggies. Other local products are also sold.

📍 1-13-6 Nishimotomachi 📞 042-312-2878 🕒 9:00-17:00

Closed on Mondays (If a national holiday falls on a Monday, it is closed the next day). Year-end and New Year's holidays.

While the spring water of this city transforms, the waters of the springs remain close to the lives of the people and the city.



Rich spring waters
that have relaxed people
across the ages.

Otaka's path • Masugata Spring Water Site [magnified map b-2 c-2]

The water flowing from the springs goes into streams that bathe the city in their cool, clear waters. As we enjoy the fruits and vegetables grown in the waters of the springs, the sunbeams streaming through leaves cause our eyes to narrow. The large, clear pond is like the mirror of the city. The rich water bubbling from under the Kokubunji cliff transforms, cultivating the city.



Fascinated by the clearness of the water



Masugata-no-ike Pond

Legend has it that during the Heian period, a once beautiful woman by the name of Tamatsukuri Komachi was plagued by illness. Seeking a cure, she bathed herself in the spring waters of this pond, and was transformed back into a woman of great beauty. (Designated one of the 100 best waters by the Ministry of the Environment, and one of the 57 best spring waters in Tokyo) [magnified map b-2]



Tokyo Tamatsukuri Komachi soap is produced using spring water of Masugatano-ike Pond.

What smooth skin!

Tokyo Metropolitan Park-Tonogayato Garden

Approximately 37 liters of water bubble up from Jirobenten Pond in the garden each minute. The Jomon people may have drunk this water to quench their thirst. (One of the 57 best spring waters in Tokyo; Nationally designated Place of Scenic Beauty) [magnified map a-3]



Sugatami-no-ike Pond

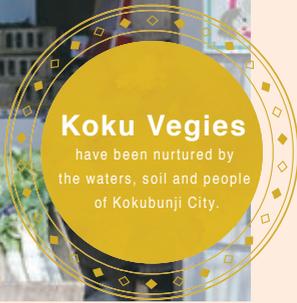
The pond's name is derived from a legend that tells of Kamakura period courtesans using the pond as a mirror to view themselves in the morning and evening. (One of the 57 best spring waters in Tokyo)[magnified map a-1]



What is Hake?

Hake is a terraced cliff carved out by the Tama River in ancient times. The pure water coming out from under the cliff flows into fields and rivers. Otaka's path is an ideal route to stroll by this clear stream.

Koku Veggies have been nurtured by the water, soil and people of Kokubunji City.



Local Koku Veggies have been nurtured along with the soil over many centuries. Some of the vegetables sold from fresh vegetable stands become regular dishes for meals at home, while others are sold to local cafes and become fashionable dishes. The spread of these vegetables continues to support lives in the city.



Many colorful vegetables!



What is the Koku Veggie Project?

With the development of new fields during the Edo period, agriculture started to spring up all over Kokubunji City. The local vegetables called Koku Veggies are from fields which have been carefully protected for 300 years. Farmers, restaurant related groups and local citizens are now working together to increase local production for local consumption.



The vegetable stands are always full of smiles.



Weekly cheese potage fondue

Restaurants with Koku Veggies on the menu!



Bolognese sauce with autumn eggplants

Freshly harvested Chinese cabbage!



Kokubunji is the birth place of Japan's space technology. Someday, let's meet on the Kokubunji Asteroid.



In 1955, Japan's first experimental rocket was launched. This pencil rocket opened the doors to develop Japan's space technology. Adults and children can touch the edge of space through events such as stargazing parties and Space School. Kokubunji City x Space create bonds in the community.



Kokubunji City x Space
(Kokubunji City Website)



Pencil rocket (pencil-shaped-rocket)

Japan's first rocket was a pencil-shaped rocket measuring 23 centimeters long and 1.8 centimeters in diameter with a weight of 200 grams.



© JAXA



© JAXA

Dr. Hideo Itokawa (1912~1999)

He conducted the first experimental launch of a rocket, the pencil rocket, in Japan. He is known as the Father of Space and Rocket Development in Japan.

Water rocket making activity and launch experience

As the birth place of Japan's space technology, water rocket making and launching activities are held for elementary school pupils in the city.



Rocket manhole covers

Manhole covers with pictures of 12 successive rockets developed in Japan are placed on the streets. You can trace back the history of the development of Japan's rocket technology while walking. [map B-4]



Kokubunji Asteroid was born

Kokubunji City is a memorable place where the first experimental rocket was launched in Japan. In commemoration of the City's 50th anniversary, with support from the NPO Japan Spaceguard Association and Japan Space Forum, the city proposed to name an asteroid Kokubunji. This proposal was officially approved by the International Astronomical Union on February 3, 2015, which was Heisei 27 according to the Japanese calendar.

Experimental 951-type bullet train car (Manufactured in 1969)

Many experiments were conducted at the Railway Technical Research Institute in the city. One of the train cars was given to the city in 1991 (Heisei 3) and has been made into the Kokubunji City Bullet Train Museum.



Kokubunji City Bullet Train Musium [map B-2]

Pencil



Rock



【Emblem】



【City Flower】
Dwarf azalea

【City Tree】
Zelkova

【City Bird】
Kingfisher

【Population】
121,682

【Number of households】
58,822

【Area】
11.46km²

Current information as of December 1st, 2017

【Mascot of Kokubunji City】
"Bunjihotaru Hocchi"



© Hocchi Project

This is a mascot, drawing on the images of abundant water, lush greenery and light, which symbolize the charms of Kokubunji City. It was designed based on the concept of a new kind of firefly seen only in Kokubunji City. Find us on Twitter (@koku_hocchi) too!

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※Photo credits: Kokubunji Ro-mon Gate, Musashi-Kokubunji Site
Ko-dou © Taeko Nakanishi

