

In the belly button of Tokyo
東京のおへそ
Guidebook of Kokubunji city

Kokubunji
こくぶんじ



【Emblem】



【City Flower】
Dwarf azalea

【City Tree】
Zelkova

【City Bird】
Kingfisher

【Population】
128,363

【Number of households】
63,545

【Area】
11.46km²

Current information as of August 1st, 2022

【Mascot of Kokubunji City】
"Bunjihotaru Hocchi"



This is a mascot inspired by the abundant water, lush greenery and light that symbolize the charms of Kokubunji City. It was designed based on the concept of a new kind of firefly seen only in Kokubunji City. Hotchi celebrated its 10th anniversary in August 2022. Information is also available on Twitter(@koku_hocchi)!

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Kokubunji Tourism and
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Let's meet within the belly button of Tokyo!

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



Kokubunji City is situated in the center (center of gravity) of Tokyo. The city is a key traffic junction in the Tama area, as the JR Chuo Line, Musashino Line, Seibu Kokubunji Line and Tamako Line run through the city lengthwise and breadthwise, and it is at the same time a cultural city with water and greenery where the remnants of Musashino still remain.

Kokubunji promotion video

Collaboration with students' daring ideas and Kokubunji's charms!



Shouting out love in the center of gravity of Tokyo



Production: Kokubunji City, Tanaka Ikueikai Technos College



Kokubunji, a livable city for aliens, too



Soji Temple Kodo Hall Remains at the Musashi-Kokubunji Temple Remains (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

Displays centered on historical materials unearthed from remains, based on the outcomes of years of excavation surveys. [magnified map b-2]

📍 Nishi-Motomachi 1-13-10 ☎ 042-323-4103
🕒 9:00-17:00 (Entry until 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 admission fee is required for Otaka-no-michi Spring Park.

Seven-storied Pagoda at the Musashi-Kokubunji Temple Remains

Musashi-Kokubunji Temple was built in 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



Rest Station of Historic Site "Ota Café" [magnified map c-2]

This free rest stop is located on Otaka's Path. Besides being the reception for guides to historic sites, it also sells entry tickets to Otaka-no-Michi Springs, food made with Kokubunji Veggies, famous Kokubunji products, and more.

📍 Nishi-Motomachi 1-13-6 ☎ 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.



Wooden Sitting Statue of Yakushi-Nyorai (inside Kokubunji Yakushido Temple)

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



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

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 healed and relaxed people across the ages

Otaka's Path and Masugata Spring Water Site (One of the Best 100 Natural Waters in Japan selected by the Ministry of the Environment) [magnified map b-2 c-2]

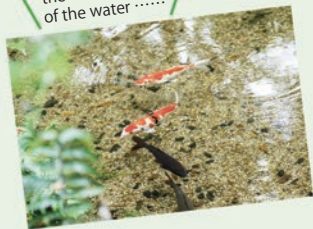
100 Famed Mineral Waters

Otaka no Michi Path and Masugata no Ike Pond Springs was selected as one of Japan's 100 famed mineral waters by the Ministry of the Environment in 1985. The key points when selecting it were the purity and abundance of the waters, as well as the legends surrounding the famed waters and the preservation activities.

The water flowing from the springs goes into streams that bathe the city with their cool, clear waters. We squint at the sunbeams streaming through the leaves and dancing on the water surface. We take our time and enjoy tasting the fruits and vegetables grown with the spring water. The large clear pond is like the mirror of the city. The rich water bubbling from under the Kokubunji cliff changes into various forms, nurturing the city.



Fascinated by the cleanness of the water



Masugata-no-ike Pond

Legend has it that during the Heian period, a woman named Tamatsukuri no Komachi, who was plagued by illness, purified herself in the spring waters of this pond, and was transformed back into a woman of great beauty. (Metropolis Designated Place of Scenic Beauty; One of the 57 best spring waters in Tokyo) [magnified map map b-2]

What smooth skin!

Tokyo Tamatsukuri Komachi soap is produced using spring water of Masugata-no-ike Pond.



Tokyo Metropolitan Park-Tonogayato Gardens

The Jiro Bentei-ike Pond in the gardens produces water at about 17-18°C all year round. 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 Ryokuchi Park

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

boost the agriculture that has continued for 300 years.

Local vegetables, raised slowly with the soil.

Some of the vegetables sold from fresh vegetable stands become regular dishes for meals at home, while others become fashionable dishes at local cafes. The spread of these vegetables continues to support lives in the city.



Events that foster the spirit of local production for local consumption are also popular!



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, restaurants, related groups and local citizens are now working together to increase local production for local consumption.



Special website for Kokubunji Veggies

Restaurants with Koku Veggies on the menu!



Kokubunji Veggie plate



Vegetable quiche

Farmers' marche "Koku Veggies Time"



Freshly harvested vegetables!



This is the place of the research and development of railway technology including Shinkansen bullet trains. With people's memories and wishes, trains connect dreamsto the future.



where people
gently shine on each other.
**A Town
of Science**

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

Various experiments were conducted from the development stage of the bullet train at the railway technology laboratory (now the Railway Technical Research Institute). One of the train cars was donated to the city by the institute in 1991. In 1972, the Shinkansen bullet train recorded the world's highest speed of trains at the time, which was 286 km/h, between Nishi-Akashi to Himeji on the Sanyo Shinkansen Line. Let's talk about our dreams and envision the future of the city on the bullet train that is now a museum.



Kokubunji City Bullet Train Museum
[map B-2]

The history of the development of Shinkansen bullet trains is introduced using panels, models, videos, etc. in the train car. There is also a driving seat and passengers' seats.

The Benefits of Walking

* If you have a chronic disease, please consult your doctor before starting.

① Prevent lifestyle-related diseases

It is effective for lowering blood sugar level and blood pressure. Also, it is said to reduce the risk of lifestyle-related diseases such as cancers and diabetes.

③ Prevent obesity

Walking consumes energy and helps reduce waist size and weight.

② Improve cardiopulmonary functions

Making exercise a habit leads to maintaining and improving physical fitness, including overall endurance and muscle strength.

④ Reduce stress

Walking can bring a great change of mood and relieve stress, and it is helpful for improving physical and mental health.

Created with reference to the Physical Activity Reference
for Health Promotion 2013
(Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)



Small efforts, lasting health

Tokyo Metropolitan Government
Health Promoting character
KENKOUDESUKA-MAN



Here lies the
origin of Japan's
space development.
**Kokubunji City
×
Space**

In 1955, Japan's first launch experiment of a rocket was conducted in the Kokubunji area. This pencil rocket opened the door to developing Japan's space technology. Adults and children can touch the edge of space through various events such as Space School and stargazing parties. "Kokubunji City × Space" create bonds in the community.



municipality
HP

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.

23
centimeters



© 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.

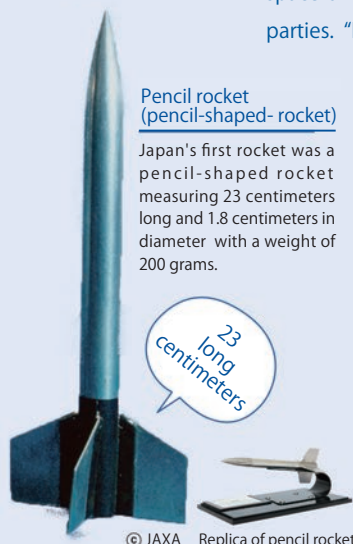


April 12 is Pencil Rocket Day

The day when Japan's first pencil rocket horizontal launch test was conducted is registered as an anniversary by the Japan Anniversary Association.

Rocket manhole covers

Manholes commemorate 12 successive rockets that served Japan well and the 60th anniversary of the pencil rocket launch. You can trace back the history of the development of Japan's rocket technology as you walk. [map B-4]



© JAXA Replica of pencil rocket

Asteroid "Kokubunji"

As Kokubunji City is a memorable place where the horizontal launch experiment of a pencil rocket, which pioneered Japan's space development, was conducted, a proposal was made to name an asteroid located between the Earth and Jupiter "Kokubunji," with support from the Japan Spaceguard Association and the Japan Space Forum. This proposal was officially approved by the International Astronomical Union on February 3, 2015.