

Yaji and Kita's Road

The Furuichi Sangu (or Ise Shrine pilgrimage) Route Guide Map

The oldest route that connects Geku and Naiku (or the Outer Shrine and the Inner Shrine)
 During the Edo period, brothels, theaters, etc. lined the road, and many people on a pilgrimage to the Ise Shrine including famous Yaji and Kita in the story Tokaidochu Hizakurige walked along it. Even today, much of the characteristic look of Ise such as Tsumairi-style buildings such as the Asakichi Ryokan (a Japanese-style hotel) as well as many scenic sites and historic sites still remain. It is a good idea to walk along this road, thinking of the past when okage mairi or massive pilgrimage to the Ise Shrine occurred. From Geku, you will climb Ainoyama, pass through level Nagamine, and go down Ushitaniyaka. Please watch out for cars because you will be walking on a roadway.



9 高照山大林寺 kosyozan Dairin-ji
 This is an old Buddhist temple belonging to the Seizan Zenrinji faction of Jodo-shu. It has the graves of Aburaya girl "Okon" and Doctor "Itsuki Magofuku" portrayed in the famous kabuki play "Ise Ondo Koi no Netaba." The graves are regarded as hiyoku-zuka, or lovers' graves. Many people visit the graves to pay their respects to the two lovers. The grave of "Okon" was built by kabuki actor Hikosaburo Bando, and the grave of Itsuki Magofuku was built by another kabuki actor Enjaku Jitsukawa.
 * No restroom available here.



11 長峯神社 Nagamine-jinja
 The enshrined deity is a Japanese goddess Ame-no-Uzume-no-mikoto said to be an ancestor of the Sarume clan. She is also regarded as a goddess of entertainment, and kabuki actors visit this place to worship her.



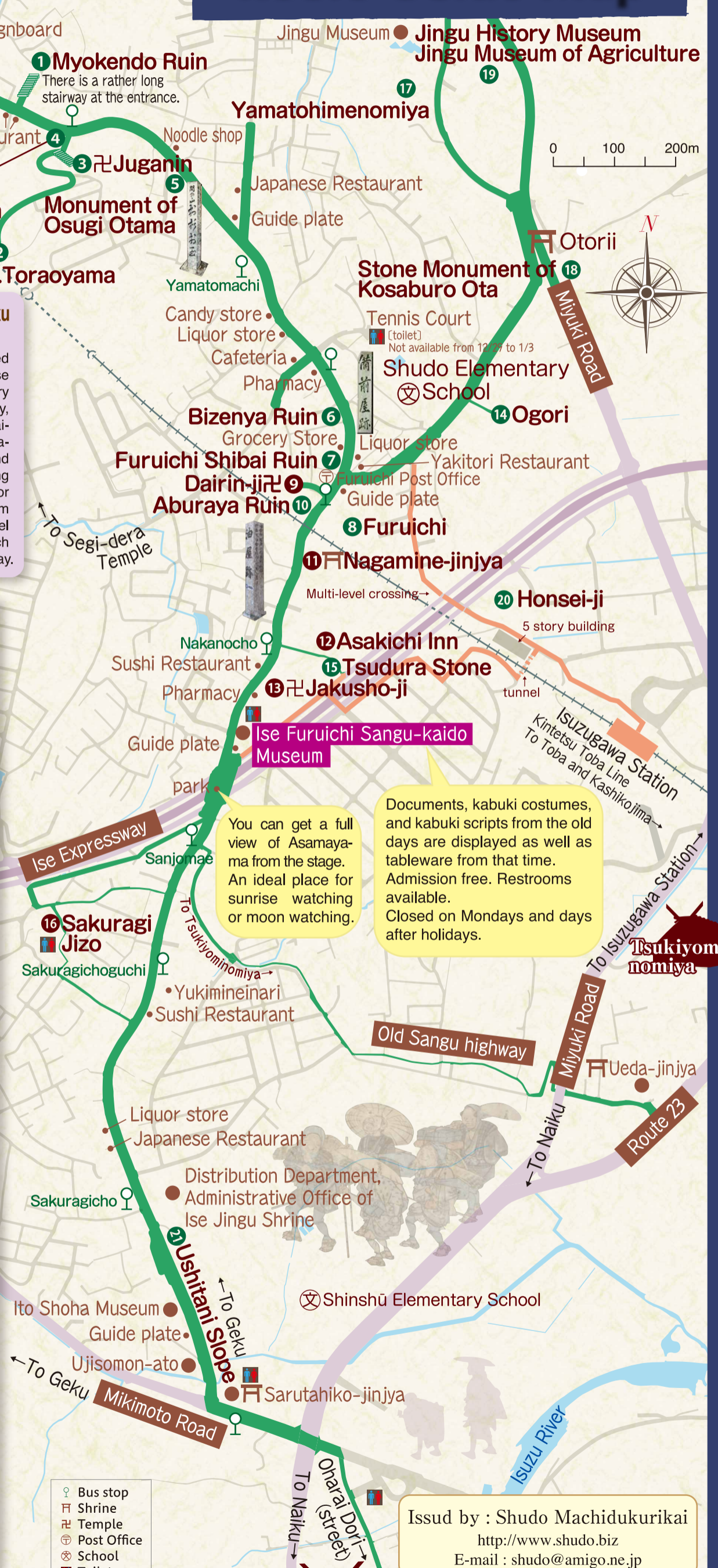
12 麻吉旅館 Asakichi Inn
 Founded in 1851, this is a Japanese-style hotel full of history. It still preserves its appearance from the old days and is still in business. It stands on the top of a mountain cliff with five layers outside and six stories inside. Many famous people stayed there, and their autographs and portraits are displayed.



13 寂照寺 Jakusho-ji
 This temple was built in 1677 in memory of shogun Ieyasu's granddaughter "Senhime." Buddhist priest Saint Gessen came here to be the chief priest of this temple from the temple Chion-in in 1774. He restored the temple and saved poor people by selling his paintings. Articles left by him are not disclosed to the public. The Gessen exhibition is held every November.



16 桜木地蔵 Sakuragi Jizo
 This is known as the Jizo statue of success. During the Edo period, Echizen-no-kami Tadasuke O-oka visited it when he was Yamada bugyo or Yamada magistrate. Later, he was promoted to Edo Minami-machi buyo or Edo Minami-machi magistrate by Yoshimune Tokugawa. Sumo wrestlers Mic-no-umi and Musashi-maru visited it every year, and both became yokozuna, or sumo champions. Restrooms are available.



- ♀ Bus stop
- ⌘ Shrine
- ⌘ Temple
- ⌘ Post Office
- ⌘ School
- ♻ Toilet

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1 妙見堂跡 Myokendo Ruin

It used to be a shrine called Okazaki-no-Miya, and it enshrined the ancestors of the Watarai clan. In 859, Ise Shrine Food Official Takanushi's daughter drowned in the Seta River. People searching the river for her discovered a statue of young Myoken at the bottom of the river, and they kept it here.

At present, the statue of Myoken is not kept here.

2 虎尾山 Mt.Toraoyama

There is a tower built to praise Japan's victory in the Russo-Japanese War. This place was portrayed by anime and movie Hanbun no Tsuki ga Noboru Sora.



3 寿巖院 Juganin

It was named the Inkozan Jugan-in, a branch temple of the Chion-in of the Chinzei faction of Jodo-shu. It was founded by Saint Jugen in 1615. The principal image is black Amida, which is a standing statue of Amida dressed completely in black clothes. Within the precincts of the temple, there is a slab with a haiku cut on it. The haiku was written by mid-Edo Period haiku poet Chora Miura. "My hermitage has leaves form a hackberry only"

4 旅館藤屋跡

Japanese-style hotel Fujiya Ruin

This is an inn where Yaji and Kita in Tokaidochu Hizakurige, a novel written by Jippensha Ikku, stayed.



5 お杉お玉の碑 Monument of Osugi Otama

During the Edo period, there were many female entertainers on the way to Ainoyama (or Obezaka). Among them, Osugi and Otama became famous because they sang to the shamisen and received coins tossed by Ise Shrine pilgrims in a skillful way.

6 備前屋跡 Bizenya Ruin

This is a representative brothel in Furuichi. It is also known as Gyusharo. It has the longest history of Ise Ondo. The one who devised the lifting of the dance stage is the fifth owner of this brothel.

It is written in A Dark Night's Passing written by Naoya Shiga that the main character in the story saw Ise Ondo here when he visited Ise.

7 古市芝居跡

Furuichi Shibai Ruin

There used to be theaters called Furuichi San-za (Entrance Theater, Middle Theater, and Back Theater), but these days there is only a monument with "Site of the Furuichi theaters" written on it in front of Nagataya, and that place was the site of the Entrance Theater, Nagamori-za. Nagamori-za was constructed in 1889 as a grand theater where great actors can always come to act. The first Ganjiro Nakamura, a leading actor in the Kansai theatrical world, came to act here as well as many other famous actors from Eastern and Western Japan including Nizaemon Kataoka and Koshiro Matsumoto.

The Back Theater was located on the street that Asakichi Ryokan faces. It is not known where the Middle Theater was located.

8 古市 Furuichi

There were not houses here until the early Edo period, but it came to thrive with Ise Shrine pilgrims and became famous as a place where people allowed themselves pleasure after the sacred ceremony. Senryu "Ise Shrine pilgrimage, dropping by the Great Shrine too."

During the Tenmyo era (1781-1788), the brothels such as Aburaya, Bizenya, Sugimotoya, and others numbered more than 70, and the prostitutes numbered one thousand plus several hundred. It is said that it became one of the three greatest red-light districts like Yoshiwara in Edo and Shimabara in Kyoto.

10 油屋跡

Aburaya Ruin

The 1796 murder and injury case involving young doctor Itsuki Magofuku and Okon produced the kabuki play "Ise Ondo Koi no Netaba" based on it. The case was dramatized and the play based on it has been played as a kabuki play, etc. many times. In the Meiji era, this place turned into a hotel. However, at one time, it became so prosperous that members of the imperial family and other distinguished guests stayed there.



14 大五輪 Ogori

Gigantic Gorinto (or five-ringed tower) is one of the famous places that various pictures of noted places and documents have been introducing since the old days. The height is 3.4 meters. It is the biggest tower in Mie Prefecture among the old towers built before the Keicho era (around the year 1600). It is located behind a private house. So, please keep it in mind and act accordingly.



15 つづら石 Tsudura Stone

There is a o-iwa shrine that enshrines o-iwa inari. Originally it was a huge rock about 2.4 meters high and about six meters wide. The pattern seen on the rock looked zigzag. At present, the rock has become smaller because it was moved. A small shrine was built in front of Tsuzura Ishi or the zigzag-patterned rock, and it has been worshipped by people as a stone deity since the ancient times.



17 倭姫宮 Yamatohimenomiya

It is a special appendix of the inner shrine to enshrine Yamatohime, located between the outer and the inner shrines. She is the imperial princess, and served Amaterasu-mikami as the second high priestess. After touring all over Japan, she was believed to arrive at Ise and build Kotaijingu Shrine (the inner shrine) in the present location. There was no shrine dedicated to Yamatohime before Meiji Era, and this one was built in 1923 to answer the increasing demand from the locals. It is a fairly new establishment in Ise Jingu Shrine.

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18 太田小三郎の石碑

Stone Monument of Kosaburo Ota

Kosaburo Ota was the owner of a large brothel called Bizenya (the Ota family) in Furuichi. Out of the concern over the run-down situation of the Ise Jingu Shrine back then, he established the "Sin'enkai" association and was actively involved in the improvement of the Shrine as well as building Choko Museum and Agriculture Museum in Kuratayama and establishing Jingubunko. He also built railroads, introduced electric lights, and founded Yamada Bank to serve people in Ise. The monument to commemorate his contribution has been built on Miyuki Road. Walk toward the inner shrine, you will find it on your left right after passing the giant torii gate.



19 神宮徴古館・神宮農業館 Jingu History Museum Jingu Museum of Agriculture

They are located in the area called Kuratayama Park.

Chouko Museum --- Founded in 1909, it is known for the graceful Renaissance-style exterior. It houses the "comprehensive archive of the history and culture" of Ise Jingu Shrine. Agriculture Museum --- It was founded in front of the outer shrine as the first industrial museum in Japan in 1891. It was later relocated to Kuratayama Park, then combined with the art museum in the present location. The museum building is a blend of Japanese and Western architectural styles, and the theme of the museum is the relationship between human and the nature's blessings.

Hours: 9:00 - 16:30

Closed on: Mondays (the following day in case of a national holiday), three days at the end of each year



20 本誓寺 Honsei-ji

Honsei-ji was founded in 1936. The present hall was rebuilt in 1994, due to the opening of the Ise Expressway. The temple gate of Honsei-ji is the only nison gate (or a gate with two statues) in the city.

When you face the gate from outside the temple, you will see a statue of Shaka Nyorai on the left and a statue of Aminda Nyorai on the right. In addition, there remain nine Fudan Nenbutsuko Reigaku (or sacred writings in a frame used for continuous chanting in a Buddhist priests' meeting) in Honsei-ji.

21 牛谷坂 Ushitani Slope

It was repaired by Naiku Chief Ujitomi Fujinami in 1674 during the Edo period, and then it was repaired again by Toshiyori Uji. It was greatly repaired by "Rito" of Furuichi brothel "Chitsukaya," and it came to nearly look like what it looks like now.

How to walk the Furuichi pilgrimage road

Root 1 Complete walk-through plan

Walk from Geku to the "Okamoto-cho" bus stop. Then take the bus heading for Urata-cho and get off the bus at "Yamato-machi." Or get on the bus for Urata-cho at Uji Yamada Station and get off the bus at "Yamato-machi." Then, from there you walk the Furuichi Ise Shrine pilgrimage road. If you get tired, take the bus for Urata-cho at the "Sakuragi-cho" bus stop and go to "Urata-cho." It is the entrance to "Oharai-machi."

Root 2 The plan you take a bus part of the way

There are almost no restrooms along the Furuichi Ise Shrine pilgrimage road because it is an old road. The only available restrooms are those at Furuichi Tennis Court (closed from December 29 to January 3), Furuichi Ise Shrine Pilgrimage Road Museum (Closed on Mondays and days after holidays), and Sakuragi Jizo. If you go down Ushitanzaka, restrooms are also available in the Sarutahiko Shrine as well as Urata-cho Rotary (Entrance to Oharai-machi).

☆Guide to restrooms



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