

Embassies and Tourist Bureaus in Akasaka & Aoyama

The United States of America Armenia Armenia



- Capital: Washington, D.C.
- Language: English The Embassy of the United States

1-10-5 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-8420

Ambassador Roos also

recommends visiting the National

Parks to feel the American spirit.

There are approximately 400

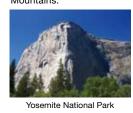
National Parks in the United States,

The United States of America and Japan have a historically close relationship, but how well do we really understand this vast country? I interviewed Ambassador John V. Roos at the United States Embassy and asked him which American tourist spots and foods he recommends

Ambassador Roos' recommended tourist spots

New York, Washington D.C., San Francisco and Hawaii are the most popular tourist destinations for Japanese visitors. but Ambassador Roos recommends other cities such as Philadelphia, Pennsylvania which has many historical tales of early America and interesting museums; Atlanta, Independence Hall

Georgia - the city with the busiest airport in (Philadelphia) the world and a mild climate; eco-friendly Seattle, Washington; and Ashville, North Carolina - which is surrounded by the Blue Ridge

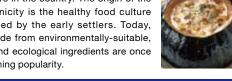


including Yosemite, Grand Teton and Yellowstone. They are all protected Yosemite National Park as national heritage sites.

Multi-ethnic country and diversified food culture

The United States is a multi-ethnic country, and people enjoy unique foods. Using a wide variety of ingredients, such as corn, meat, seafood, fruit and vegetables, different styles of food are available: Italian, French, British, Hispanic,

etc. Japanese sushi is also popular everywhere in the country. The origin of the multi-ethnicity is the healthy food culture established by the early settlers. Today, foods made from environmentally-suitable, healthy and ecological ingredients are once again gaining popularity.



lease visit the following websites for more information about the United States.

On Tourism:

Discover America http://www.discoveramerica.com/jp/ Agricultural products/food/food culture:

mvfood http://www.mvfood.ip/ Public reference service: http://usinfo.jp/

For students who wish to study in the United States, please call us at 03-3224-5293 Booking is essential for the Reference Service and study consultation.)

 Come and visit us on 'Community Friendship Day.' Many events, including music performances, magic shows, parades and stalls, will be held during the month of August each year.

ease contact the Embassy at 03-3224-5000

Follow Ambassador John V. Roos on Twitter! @AmbassadorRoos

What do you think about Vol.1

What do you think about Vol.2



Mr David Parmer

Japanese people who live or work Akasaka or Aoyama about the attractions of the town.

The first person is Mr. David Parmer (68). Mr. Parmer is from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and is a copywriter and a freelance writer. He has been living in Aoyama or more than 35 years with his wife Yuko, who is originally from

Q1: When did you first come to Japan?

'I came to Japan in the 1970s in the middle of the oil crisis when I was 27 years old. I was in the army at that time, but I became interested in Japanese culture and history, so I decided to visit Japan

Q2: What do you think is the advantage of living or working in Akasaka or Aovama?

'Tokyo has many areas, and each area has its own character. Although Akasaka and Aoyama are modern, these towns are a mixture of tradition and trend. It is fun to go shopping, dine out or just walk around. The wide streets like Aoyama-dori or Omotesando make you feel special all year round.'

Q3: What are the attractions of Akasaka and Aoyama?

'I like walking from Aoyama-dori Street (St.) to Jingu-mae where you can find something new every time you go there. I am thinking about publishing a photo book just about Jingu-mae. I take photos of the fashion and the streets of Harajuku too. Please check my work using the link below.'

http://www.flickr.com/photos/tokyodave66/

Q4: Is there any inconvenience in living in the area?

'I wish there were more benches or rest areas on the side of the road. There is a new large apartment building right behind the Aoyama Twin Building at the Aoyama 1-chome intersection where there are some places for people to sit down to have lunch. I wish we had more places like that.'

Q5 : Do you have any favorite places in Akasaka and Aoyama?

'I often have coffee in an open-air cafe. I enjoy sitting along Omotesando and watching people.'

Q6: Do you have any interesting stories about living in Japan? 'When I went to Izu Oshima, there was a sink for people with seasickness, but I used it as a toilet without knowing what it was for.'

Q7: What is your lifetime goal?

Mr. Parmer and his wife Yuko

'Now that I am getting older, I would like to have an enjoyable, healthy and active lifestyle as much as possible. I would like to keep contributing to society for a long time. I exercise, eat vegetarian food, and go to a chiropractor and visit a doctor regularly. If you have any questions, please contact me at the Akasaka Regional City Office.'



Aovama Cemeterv **A** Person and History

Joseph Heco (1837-1897)

In the foreign section of Aoyama Cemetery, there is a tombstone with an inscription of '净 世夫彦' ('Joseph Heco' in Chinese Characters).

This is the place where Joseph Heco. known as the 'Father of the Newspaper' was buried. He was born as Hikozo Hamada and was the first Japanese person to be naturalized as a United States citizen. He published the first Japanese language

newspaper 'Shinbun-shi' in 1864 in Yokohama. Although the newspaper was well received, not many people wanted to pay money to read it, and publishing was discontinued within a few months. Although the newspaper was published the following year, re-titled as 'Kaigai shinbun,' it was discontinued after Issue No. 26. Heco's hope of wanting Japanese people to understand the importance of obtaining the correct information is still alive today in the modern world. On the site of his house, there is a monument to 'The birthplace of the newspaper in Japan.'

Heco was born in current Harima-cho, Hyogo Prefecture in 1837. In 1850, after his mother's death, he left for Edo (current Tokyo) with his



Japanese newspaper was born

American father, US Customs Officer B.C. Sanders, his life was totally changed.

In 1853, when Matthew Perry visited Japan, Heco had an opportunity to meet then US President Franklin Pierce in Washington D.C. and became the first Japanese to shake hands with a U.S. President. When he was baptized the following year at 17, he started using his Christian name 'Joseph Heco'. He was naturalized as an American in 1858 and tried to visit Japan, but the unstable situation at the end of the Tokugawa Shogunate forced his return to the U.S. without landing in Japan.

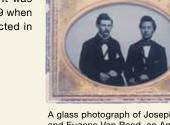
In 1859, Heco visited Japan as an interpreter for the American Consul in Kanagawa Prefecture. When he returned to the US for the third time in 1862, the Civil War had already started. He also met Abraham Lincoln and became the only Japanese to ever shake hands with the President. In 2007 it was discovered that the photograph assumed to have been shot after his arrival in San Francisco, was the first photograph of a Japanese person taken using the Daguerreotype* process.

Heco continued to work as a bridge between the U.S. and Japan. His deep involvement in Japan's history of modernization was too immense to mention here. He was the 'first Japanese' in various historical moments.

Heco moved back to Tokyo in 1888 when he was 51. Although he was hoping to live in Japan permanently as a Japanese citizen, his wish never

come true. He died in 1897 at the age of 60 from a heart condition. It was two years after his death in 1899 when the naturalization law was enacted in

plate as sensitive material.



The world's first commercially successful photographic process using a silver-copper

Aovama Cemeterv A Person and History

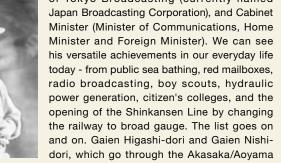
Goto Shimpei (1857-1929)

Goto Shimpei collapsed from a cerebral hemorrhage while driving to a medical conference, for which he was the president. He kept saying 'Okayama, Okayama...' - the location of the conference, and ultimately died in a Kyoto hospital on April 13, 1929. Many Boy Scouts gathered at each railway station to salute his coffin while it was

being carried to Tokyo by train. When it arrived at Tokyo Station, it was surrounded by music played by a Scout band

Goto was born in Mizusawa, Iwate Prefecture in 1857 and lived through the Meiji, Taisho and Showa periods. He was a doctor, an administrative officer, and a politician. He died at the age of 73, and his funeral was held at the Aovama Funeral Hall. Goto held prominent positions such as Mayor of Tokyo, President

of the Imperial Capital Reconstruction Department to conduct the reconstruction of Tokyo following the Great Kanto Earthquake, President of Tokyo Broadcasting (currently named



When Goto became the first area, were created from the plan that he drew Chief Scout of Japan on a blueprint of the reconstruction of Tokyo. The plan allowed for roads to radiate in all directions from the Imperial

Palace, and be connected by loop roads. These two roads were part of the reconstruction project as Loop Road No. 3 and No. 4. In his later years. Goto spent an enormous amount of time and effort developing human resources. It was here in Aoyama where the 69 year old Goto initiated 'The Moralization of the Japanese Political Movement,' and on the night before the beginning of the general election, he talked about the need to encourage the people toward self-governance. The book titled

"The Moralization of Japanese Politics", which contained a collection of Goto's most influential speeches, including his talk at Aoyama Hall (formerly the address of Aoyama, 5-chome), sold one million copies. He was made the first Chief Scout of Japan (currently Scout Association of Japan) and wanted to pass his dream on to young people, saying, 'The self-governance of the Scout will lead to the self-governance of Japanese people, and thus the Scout will become a pillar of civilized society.' The

as follows: To not be overly dependent on others, to help others, and to not expect any reward for doing so. These life goals had been important to Goto growing up, and he always tried to adhere to

The three phrases for self-governance

three phases for self-governance he proposed as mottos for the Scouts are

For more details about Goto's life story, please read "Seiden Goto Shimpei no Shogai" (Fujiwara-shoten) written by his son-in-law Tsurumi Yusuke and "Goto Shimpei no 'Shigoto'" (Editorial Office of Fujiwara-

(Sourced by: Goto Shimpei Memorial Hall)

Aovama Cemeterv A Person and History

Nagaoka Hantaro (1865-1950)

Nagaoka Hantaro was a Japanese physicist from the late Meiii to Showa periods. He received attention around the world by introducing the Saturnian model of the atom. Nagaoka was born in 1865 in the Omura Domain (currently Omura City, Nagasaki Prefecture) the eldest son of a warrior named Nagaoka Jisaburo. The family



moved to Tokyo in 1874, and Nagaoka entered the School of Science at the University of Tokyo after attending the Preparatory School of the University of Tokyo (Tokyo Yobimon). This young seeker filled with passion and cool judgment initially

wondered whether an Asian could demonstrate his creativity in the Western-dominated field of natural science, but after finding interesting statements about heaven, earth and nature in classical Chinese literature such as 'Zhuangzi,' he decided to study Physics. Nagaoka became a Doctor of Science in 1893 for his research on

'magnetostriction' - the condition where the shape

renowned researchers.

or dimensions of nickel or iron change when torsion

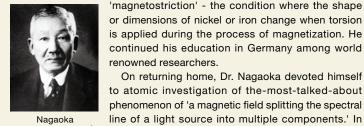
is applied during the process of magnetization. He

continued his education in Germany among world

On returning home, Dr. Nagaoka devoted himself

to atomic investigation of the-most-talked-about

phenomenon of 'a magnetic field splitting the spectral



Hantaro1865-1950) an analogy to the ring revolving around Saturn, he developed 'Nagaoka's Atomic Model', in which many negatively-charged electrons revolve around the positively-charged nucleus. He announced his discovery in 1904 and caught the world's attention. It was an incredibly innovative proposal which became the basis of the Atomic Model known today. He was truly a pivotal leader in early Japanese physics.

While supervising many researchers as a Professor of Tokyo Imperial University, Dr. Nagaoka continued his research at RIKEN. He held prominent positions, such as the first president of Osaka Imperial University and director of the Imperial Academy. He was granted the first Order of Culture by the Japanese government in 1937 and was awarded an honorary doctor of science degree from the University of Cambridge.

Although he was often called 'a snarling old man' because of his straightforward and often harsh attitude toward others and his deeply penetrating eyes, he was always conscientiously following the latest developments in physics. One example of his thoughtful dedication to the field of physics was his ability to appreciate and recognize talent in other scientists. For example, he recognized the talent of Dr. Hideki Yukawa, who became the first Japanese to win the Nobel Prize in 1949 with his meson theory, and recommended Dr. Yukawa to the Nobel committee very early on in Yukawa's career.

Nagaoka lived a disciplined life and enjoyed exercise and swimming. His pen name 'Rakusui' shows the human side of Dr. Nagaoka who was 'always looking forward to relaxing and floating in water.'

Dr. Nagaoka pursued the truth of nature with passion and vitality both physically and mentally and died peacefully from a cerebral hemorrhage in 1950. There was a book on seismology still open on his desk.



A calligraphy work with Nagaoka's pen name 'Rakusui' 「粕を嘗る勿れ which means, 'not to emulate someone else's success without understanding the real meaning behind it.

(Photograph sourced by: School of Science, Osaka University)

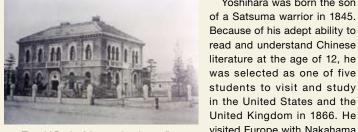
Aovama Cemeterv A Person and History

Yoshihara Shigetoshi (1845-1887)

The current governor of the Bank of Japan is Masaaki Shirakawa, the 30th governor to hold the position. However, Yoshihara Shigetoshi was the first governor of the Bank of Japan some 130 years ago.

It was October 10, 1877 when the Bank of Japan started its business by the Eitai Bridge. The purpose of

the bank was to control the rapidly-induced inflation, which resulted from the issuance of too many bank notes and inconvertible notes by the Meiji government and state banks to cover expenses for the Satsuma Rebellion, which started in 1877. Part of its purpose was also to stabilize the currency. At that time, the Lord of the Treasury (currently Minister of Finance) was Matsukata Masayoshi. Yoshihara, who was from the same hometown and 10 years junior to Matsukata, worked hard to open the Bank of Japan as the Vice-Minister of Finance. Yoshihara gained considerable credibility with Matsukata.



The old Bank of Japan when it was first

read and understand Chinese literature at the age of 12, he was selected as one of five students to visit and study in the United States and the United Kingdom in 1866. He visited Europe with Nakahama Manjiro (also known as John Manjiro) in 1870, visited the

Yoshihara was born the son

United States as a member of the Iwakura Mission in 1872, and visited the Qing Dynasty in 1874. He spent the majority of his 20s overseas.

Yoshihara was only 37 years old when he became the first governor of the Bank of Japan. He bolstered his efforts in establishing a modern banking system by promoting the collection and resolution of inconvertible notes, and making convertible bank notes the main physical currency. He became ill and died at the age of 42 on December 18, 1887 while still in his position as governor. In the diary of the second governor Tomita Tetsunosuke, (a Sendai Domain member) who supported Yoshihara as the Vice-Governor, it says 'December 22, 1887 (Rain): The bank closed for Yoshihara's funeral. Came home after five from the funeral.'

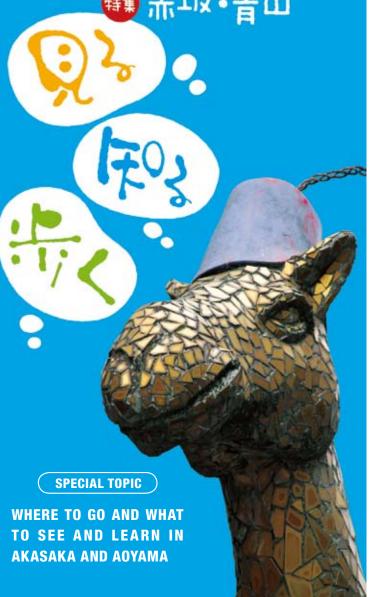
As for Yoshihara's personality, the diary says 'He is gentle and never likes to argue. He is a scholar and there is no one who compares to him amongst the government officials who know economics.' Among those top people with strong individuality at that time, it is not difficult to imagine that the gentle and intelligent Yoshihara was respected and valued beyond the

At the cemetery, the exceptionally tall headstone facing toward Higashisan-dori with the large inscription 'Age at death: 43' announces the sorrow of losing a brilliant man in the prime of his life.



Tomita Tetsunosuke): all written by Yoshino Toshihiko

(Photograph sourced by: The Bank of Japan's website)



In this section, we will ask non-

This time, I met and interviewed Ms. Irina Amosenok (38) from St. Petersburg, Russia. A

beautiful lady with an infectious smile, she came to Japan in 2011 and is working in a restaurant in he Akasaka Regional City

Q1: Why did you come to Japan?

'I was an accountant in Russia.'

Ms. Irina Amosenok

'I got married to my husband five years ago, and came to Japan in July of 2011 because of his job. We live in Aoyama. Japan is a safe place, and the people are very nice and polite. Q2 : You speak Japanese well. Where did you study the

language? 'I studied Japanese for three years before coming to Japan at the Japan Center in Russia. I would like to speak it better, so I am still studying every day. My son speaks Japanese very well because he

Q3: What were you doing before coming to Japan?

has been attending local schools since moving to Japan.'

Q4: What is the best thing about living in the Akasaka & Aoyama area?

'There are many supermarkets and privately owned shops in the area, which sell imported products, so it is great that we can buy ingredients to make Russian dishes easily. It also has many places, such as sport facilities and museums, where we can spend time on our days off.'

Q5: Is there anything you feel annoyed about when you live and work in the area?

'Using mobile phones on the trains or while driving is prohibited in Japan, but it is okay to do so in Russia. I sometimes feel very inconvenienced when I cannot use my mobile phone, but I do feel that it is dangerous to use the mobile phone while driving. Also, because houses in Tokyo are generally smaller compared to the houses in Russia, we cannot talk too loud without disturbing our neighbors.'

Q6: Do you have any favorite places in Akasaka and Aoyama?

'We often go for a walk in the evening on weekends when not so many people are around. I like to walk along Aoyama-dori, Omotesando, Meiji-dori and Gaien Nishi-dori around the Aoyama Cemetery. I also like checking the flea market and finding some nice

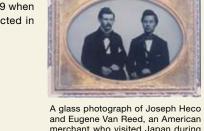
Q7 : Do you have any interesting stories about living in Japan?

'When my husband ate a whole squid sashimi, I could not eat it after seeing the squid still moving. I felt sorry for the poor squid. I enjoyed it after the chef immediately grilled the squid for me! In Russia, winters are long and cold - we only eat warm, cooked food not raw meat or fish.'

Q8: What is your future goal?

'I majored in Economics at university, but now I am studying Psychology. I would like to improve my Japanese and become a counselor in Japan.'

Borscht made by

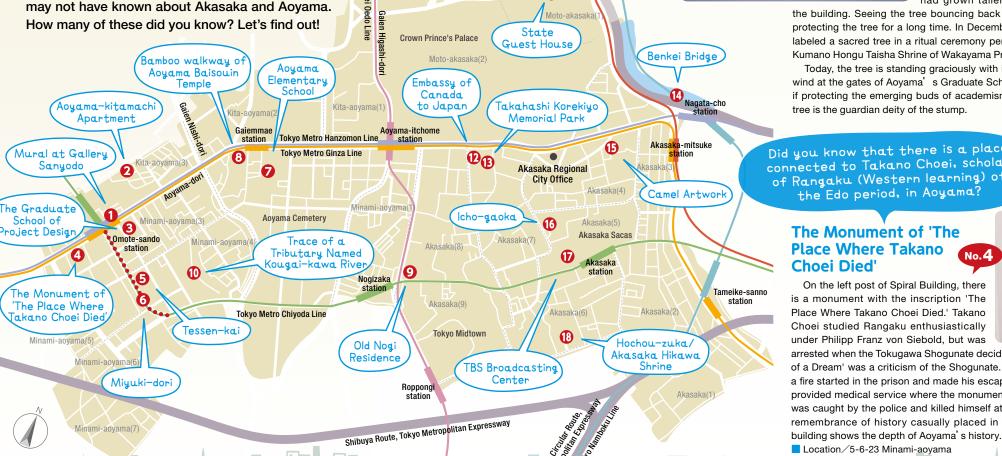


merchant who visited Japan during the last days of the Tokugawa Shogunate (sourced by Harima-cho,

Akasaka and Aoyama are old historical towns where traces of various events are etched everywhere.

Living or working in Akasaka and Aoyama, we may begin to think that we know everything there is to know. But the reality is that we do not, and therefore we sometimes wonder about the details surrounding certain events. Occasionally, we may even discover new tidbits of history we overlooked in the past.

In this issue, we collected information that you may not have known about Akasaka and Aoyama.



it true that the large distinctive mural at Omotesando Intersection ad a different picture at one tim



The original design was of a red balloon with a yellow background, and was changed to the current design titled, "The Loss of the Umbrella is the First Star" in 1975.

This mural is a mosaic b Rokuro Taniuchi, who designed the front covers of the "Shukan Shincho" magazine for 25 consecutive years. The first mural was created when renovation work was done to

expand the Aoyama-dori road in preparation for the 1963 Tokyo Olympics. Saving the first mural became difficult when exterior work was required - thus the mural was changed to the second one. So Olympians who visited Tokyo from all over the world approximately 50 years ago saw a different mural than the one we see

Location/3-5-22 Kita-aoyama

The Monument of 'The Place Where Takano No.4 On the left post of Spiral Building, there is a monument with the inscription 'The Place Where Takano Choei Died.' Takano

Choei studied Rangaku enthusiastically under Philipp Franz von Siebold, but was arrested when the Tokugawa Shogunate decided that his book 'The Tale of a Dream' was a criticism of the Shogunate. Takano arranged to have a fire started in the prison and made his escape. He secretly carried on provided medical service where the monument is currently located, but was caught by the police and killed himself at the age of 47. This bitter remembrance of history casually placed in a glamorous and trendy building shows the depth of Aoyama's history. Location / 5-6-23 Minami-aoyama



University) and its elementary school were previously located here after

were transferred to an outside district in 1936, the 15th Tokyo Prefectural

Junior High School (currently Tokyo Metropolitan Aoyama High School)

was established in 1940, but was burned down in the Great Tokyo Air Raid

of 1945. The housing complex was built after the war. There is a stone

roject Design

he Graduate School of No.3

There was an old wooden house located

ust off Aoyama-dori, and the camphor tree

ocated in front of the house used to be

a grand tree over a dozen meters high. A

975 Minato-ku reference book listed the

trunk circumference as 4.2 meters. The

ree was cut down before the land was

sold, and only a large stump remained.

Soon after Sendenkaigi Co., Ltd. bought

he land, two small buds were found. The

building was thus designed around the

tree so as not to hinder the growth of the

roots. In 1996, more buds emerged one

after another, and a year later the tree

had grown taller than the first story of

the building. Seeing the tree bouncing back to life, there was talk of

protecting the tree for a long time. In December of 2000, the tree was

labeled a sacred tree in a ritual ceremony performed by priests of the

Today, the tree is standing graciously with its leaves fluttering in the

wind at the gates of Aoyama's Graduate School of Project Design, as

if protecting the emerging buds of academism. The shrine next to the

Kumano Hongu Taisha Shrine of Wakayama Prefecture.

tree is the guardian deity of the stump.

the Edo period, in Aoyama?

you know that there is a place

monument showing the site of Tokyo Prefectural Normal School.

Location/3-4 Kita-aoyama

Life restored to

200 year old sacre

tree.

When walking the length Surrounded by trees on the north of Miyuki-dori and passing ide of Aoyama-dori is the Aoyamathe architecturally-designed kitamachi Apartment, a municipallybuildings from Minami-aovama to owned housing complex built from Omotesando Station, you will see 1957 to 1968. The Tokyo Prefectural Normal School (currently the Tokyo Gakugei

a large building called Tessen-kai Noh-gaku Institute. There, "Aoyama Noh" is performed on the Noh stage located on the second floor. Performers wearing having been moved from Koishikawa in 1901. After these two schools masks and costumes sing and dance. You can see the Noh-gaku which was perfected by Zeami in the Muromachi Period.

Tessen-kai, led by the family of Kanze Tetsunojo, offer regular performances, Noh classes for children, workshops for teachers of Japanese language and music, and lectures after the shows. You can encounter this 600 year old traditional art in Aoyama. Location/4-21-29 Minami-aoyama Contact/Telephone: 03-3401-2285









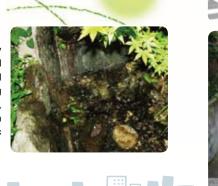
We interviewed an urban planner named Mr. Kamiya Hirotada. He shared his knowledge of the history of Miyuki-dori with us.

'When Issei Miyake opened his boutique, From First Building (Yamashita Kazumasa) in Aoyama in 1975, more pioneering architectural designers such as Yoji Yamamoto's Y's Super Position (Uchida Shigeru) were inspired to showcase their artistic visions on Miyuki-dori, Minami-aoyama Square (Mitsui Jun) and overseas brand Prada Boutique Aoyama (Herzog & de Meuron) have opened there recently, and the number of distinctive buildings has increased. Other than fashion, Nezu Museum (Kuma Kengo), Collezione (Ando Tadao), Yoku Moku Building (Gendaikeikaku Architectural & Planning Office) and Sankono Building (Nagata Masashi) were built there. In contrast to these modern designs, we can see traditional historical monuments in the area as well, such as the small shrine on Miyuki-dori. Thus we see a blending of modern and traditional designs.' * Names in parentheses are the architectural designers.



Aovama Elementary

In 2004, the Aoyama Elementary School in Minato-ku first started keeping fireflies to 'create a school with dreams.' The 'Firefly Watching Night' is held in June every year, and approximately 600 children and adults visit to enjoy a fantastic evening surrounded by fireflies. Location/2-21-2 Minami-aoyama





bamboo walkwa 3amboo walkway of

Aoyama Baisouin Temple

There is a spectacular 40 meter long bamboo arc from Aoyama-dori to the gate of Baisouin Temple. Mr. Kawazoe of the Public Relations Division says, 'These bamboo trees are called Kinmeimousouchiku, brought from Kurume by the architectural designer Kuma Kengo in 2004 when Baisouin Temple was renovated. The characteristic of the bamboo is the green and gold cylindrical parts appearing alternately.' Maintaining the freshness is Baisouin Temple's Walkway of not easy work. Staff members sweep the walkway each morning and evening, and a specialist gardener is employed to control the number of bamboo shoots. Near the end of the walkway in front of the handwash basin and the lanterns, there are two Chigo Jizo (Child Jizo) statues which were previously located on the temple premises. Come and enjoy strolling down a bamboo walkway in an urban space – which has a Mr. Kawazoe, who is knowledgeable very different feel to walking along a similar road in a historical city. Gazing at the Jizo

Location/2-26-38 Minami-aoyama

Old Nogi Residence

properties of Minato-ku.

Location/8-11-32 Akasaka

These are the stables where General Maresuke Nogi

of the Meiji period kept his beloved horses 'Su' and

'Aratama,' along with a well for the horses. Compared to

the wooden Noai Manor, the stables are made of bricks.

main well for the horses, and there was another well

a short distance away. We can see how important the

horses were to Nogi. The stables are now designated

The cylindrical structure in the photograph is the

which were considered valuable materials in 1889.

about the Aoyama of 40 years ago. seated alongside the Chigo Jizo

statues, the whimsical facial expressions may lighten your mood as well.

Trace of a Tributary Named

Kougai-kawa River is a tributary of the Shibuya-

awa River, and is now entirely in a culvert. It

starts from Minami-aoyama 3-chome, runs across

the valley on the south-western side of Minami-

aoyama 4-chome to the east, and then joins the

main stream on the western side of Gaien Nishi-dori

alongside Aoyama Bridge. The river is thought to

have been used to water the farmlands of the tobichi

(detached) territories which existed at that time in

Harajuku-mura. A portion of the palisade built to

expand the farmland remains, and we can see part of

it between the houses in the photograph. In this next

additional photograph, we see that the walkway going

Kougai-kawa River

down to the valley is not a slope, but stairs.

Contact/Telephone: 03-3404-8447



felike statues.

These stone statues are called 'Bunjinzo (Statues of Bunjin).' 'Bunjin' means scholar or artist. The statues were originally placed to protect a king's grave and were mostly seen in China, the Korean Peninsula and western Japan. In Japan, these statues are used as artistic objects for the garden. Although only four 'Bunjinzo' were listed on the information board of the park, we counted six of them in the park. According to a

Location/2-1-1 Moto-akasaka

State Guest House

Surrounded by rich greenery, the luxurious State

Guest House stands with pride. It was built in 1909

in a corner of the site where the residence of the

Kishu-Tokugawa clan's old Edo (Tokyo) used to be. A

court architect named Katayama Tokuma designed

the house. It is the only Neo-Baroque style western

treasure. It was originally built as a residence for the

Queen of Bhutan staved here last year.

staff member of the Minato-ku Public Works Subsection who manages the park, the statues were donated when the nearby buildings were rebuilt about 30 years ago. All the statues are in different sizes with individua facial expressions. They seem

almost lifelike in appearance and evoke a sense of mystery.

Location/Inside Takahashi Korekiyo Memorial Park, 7-3 Akasaka

During the heyday of the bubble economy

in the 1980s, there were popular discos

such as Juliana in Roppongi, but there were

also some lesser known discos like Mugen

and White House. White House remained

there after changing its name, first to Black

& White and then to Camel, but it is now

the Akasaka Jewelry Design School.

Because the previous owner has

since passed away and the school

changed hands, no one knows

the exact details as to why it

Location/4-7-16 Akasaka

was named Camel.

Camel Artwork



welcomes guests to the palace grounds.

Why don't you visit

the luxurious State

building in Japan, and is designated as a national The two-story granite palace has an "open-wing" design, which

Guest House?

Crown Prince. After the war, the National Diet Library was founded here, and then

guests. Kings, queens and presidents have stayed here - the high-profile King and

the government started using the building as accommodation for state and official

You might wonder why a western-style building is being used to welcome official

guests from overseas. Well, traditional Japanese touches have been added, such

as the Japanese-style annex, 'Yushintei' located on the premises. Additionally,

A random selection process is utilized each summer to allow members of the

general public to visit (unfortunately this year's selection process has already

been closed). The front courtvard is open to the public each autumn. This will take

amels at the entrand

f Ushinaki-zaka Slop

Japanese meals and dance shows are occasionally provided to quests.

pre-booking is necessary. Please check the website for more details.

Embassy of Canada to Japan

Walk past the long escalator, and you will suddenly feel Canadian air blowing around you. A lovely piece of art portraying waves crashing against the rocks of the Atlantic Ocean welcomes us to the embassy. We can walk through a corridor symbolizing gardens of Canada. Beginning with the Precambrian rocks of the Arctic, there is a stone sculpture of Inuksuk, the directional landmark used by early settlers for navigation and hunting and ultimately used as the basis of the logo design of the 2010 Winter Olympics held in Vancouver. Then the majestic Canadian Rocky Mountains appear. As you walk through the calm Pacific waves, you will reach the final destination - a Japanese garden designed by Masuno Shunmyo, a Zen monk and a garden designer. Two rocks symbolizing communication between Japan and Canada



the Benkei Bridge in Akasaka t

ctual location of "Ushiwakama

and his subordinate Benkei?





Use your imagination as you stroll the length of the corridor, and you will most assuredly feel as if you are in Canada.

Embassy of Canada to Japan)



hotographs supplied by:

Hours of operation

Location/7-3-38 Akasaka Contact/Telephone: 03-5412-6200

Monday - Friday: 9:00am - 5:30pm (Library and Gallery)

Monday - Friday: 10:00am - 4:00pm Wednesdays: 10:00am - 8:00pm Office is occasionally closed for Canadian and Japanese public holidays.

http://www.japan.gc.ca/

Icho-gaoka is a small park on the premises of the Akasaka Park

The entire area, including Tokyo Broadcasting System

(TBS), is where the 'The Third Infantry Regiment for the Imperial Guard' was located. Therefore there were Icho (ginko) trees, a monument and symbol of the

guard; and the park is called 'Ichogaoka to tell the history of that time. During the 'February 26th Incident,' Lieutenant Nakahashi Motoaki's group left this place and attacked Takahashi Korekivo's residence Akasaka was once a military town, and locations such as Ichogaoka Park can teach us of this history.

What is the stone statue at

Akasaka Hikawa Shrine with

the inscription of 'Hocho-zuk





a mound for kitchen knive Hochou-zuka/ Akasaka Hikawa Shrine

the founding group (President of Akasaka

in 1974 to remind us of the importance of kitchen knives. In early October, the highlight the importance of cooking for

With nine television studios and eight radio stations, TBS is the only commercial

Location/5-3-6 Akasaka





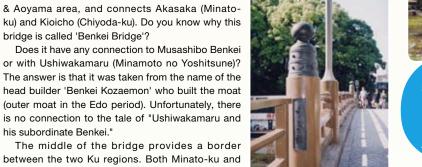
Aoyama Food and Beverage Union).

'The statue was built by head chefs to mark the 20th anniversary of the Union Union holds the 'Annual Celebration of Hocho-zuka' to help all of us head chefs

allow us to directly thank our customers as well.' The stone statue to the left of the mound, which was built for the

30th anniversary, has a bowl shaped design on top of the two A's representing Akasaka and Aoyama.

Location/6-10-11 Akasaka (inside Akasaka Hikawa Shrine)





head builder 'Benkei Kozaemon' who built the moat (outer moat in the Edo period). Unfortunately, there is no connection to the tale of "Ushiwakamaru and cherry trees at

The middle of the bridge provides a border between the two Ku regions. Both Minato-ku and Chiyoda-ku share the maintenance of the bridge, but the surface of the bridge is maintained solely by Chivoda-ku.

'Benkei Bridge' is the only bridge in the Akasaka





his subordinate Benkei.'

bridge is called 'Benkei Bridge'?





The reason for the nickname is the gigantic deck surrounded by parabolic antennas on the roof of the building, making it appear as if it was wearing a big hat. It was built in 1994, with a diameter of 36 meters and a weight of approximately 730 tons. In order to save electricity, the lights are not normally used, but they

are turned on for special events. television company which broadcasts both television and radio.







