



# Minato City Historical Sightseeing Guidebook

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港区 歴史 観光  
ガイドブック

Avant-garde city  
steeped in history and tradition



Almost 30,000 years have passed since the first human activities started in Minato City. Meanwhile, many different people have been living here or constantly working here. Their legacy remains in the historic heritage (historic and archaeological sites) that have been passed on through generations as the city became one of the most urbanized areas in Tokyo today.

This guidebook focuses on five fields - "Ancient history," "Garden history," "History of incidents," "History of foreign policy," and "Modern history (Industry, Transportation, Telecommunications, Medical Care, Education and Administration)" - to approach the diverse history of the Minato City. It is meant to be like the buoy lighting up your path to historic heritage still intact for you to see and touch.

As the author, it would give me great satisfaction if you could enjoy a precious time contemplating the multifaceted activities and wisdom of our ancestors while walking around the crossroads across the city feeling completely guided just by taking this guidebook with you.

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## Preface

1. This guidebook was created to provide you with both a memorable sightseeing experience and fun learning about the historic heritage (historic and archaeological sites) throughout Minato City, as part of the initiatives to promote the city as a tourist destination.
2. Issued by Minato City Industry and Community Promotion Support Department, containing updated information, this book is a revised edition of the 2011 *Minato City Historical Sightseeing Guidebook*.
3. All supplementary materials (incl. images of *ukiyo-e* prints and archaeological relics) and photos of the State Guest House Akasaka Palace and Keio University (Library and Speech Hall) in this guidebook are supplied by Minato City's Secretariat of the Board of Education – Education Promotion Department – Library and Cultural Assets Section – Cultural Assets Subsection (Minato City Local History Museum)
4. This guidebook is copyrighted by the Minato City.
5. The days and hours when facilities and other buildings are open may be subject to change due to social conditions.

## Legend

1. All years given here are according to the Japanese calendar (Christian eras) that uses the lunar calendar. There are no dates following the Gregorian calendar.
2. The year in which an era has changed is described according to the month and day of said change. For example, the second year of the Genji period lasted until April 6, 1865, meaning that the Keio period started from April 7.
3. The names in Japanese of historic sites and other spots alike comply with the basic principles set out in "*Minato-ku bunkazai no shiori*" (a bookmark of Minato City's cultural assets), published by Minato City's Secretariat of the Board of Education. However, in order to simplify the use of this guidebook, some parts were edited.
4. The square sign displayed at the end of text shows the current status of the designated cultural assets.  
National Heritage Site: Cultural assets designated by the State.  
Metropolitan Heritage Site: Cultural property designated by Tokyo Metropolitan Government.  
City Heritage Site: Cultural assets designated by the Minato City.  
City Registered Site: Cultural property (except the city's designated heritage site) registered in the Minato City's integrated catalog of cultural assets.



As part of their coursework at Toita Women's College, students in the Department of Fashion Design Arts & Crafts participated in the creation of mascot characters with a logo and catchphrase to promote historical tourism in Minato City.

#### *Minayasu-kun* character based on Tokugawa Ieyasu



##### **Character description**

The Minayasu-kun character was based on the image of Tokugawa Ieyasu, who was known for his persevering personality, and designed to portray a calm and dignified impression.

The character's clothing makes use of the colors of the Minato City flag, and features an hydrangea pattern, which is the City's official flower.

#### *Katsuto-kun* character based on Katsu Kaishu



##### **Character description**

The Katsuto-kun character was created based on the image of Katsu Kaishu, who is said to have had a heroic and fearless personality, and designed with a focus on the character's facial expressions.

The character's clothing incorporates the international orange with the white colors of Tokyo Tower, and features a wave pattern to evoke Minato City's relationship with the sea.

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