



Case File Tracing (Explore the Scene of Genroku Ako Incident)

Just before dawn on the morning of December 15, 1702, 47 former retainers of the Ako Domain raided Kira clan’s residence in Honjo Matsuzaka-cho and beheaded Kozuke-no-Suke, the previous head of the family. This is known as “*Ako gishi no uchiiri*” (The Raid of the 47 Righteous Samurai). There are many historic sites related to the Genroku Ako incident still standing throughout Minato City. The origins of the incident can be traced back to March 14, 1701, just before the ceremony for returning New Year’s greeting to the emperor, when Lord Asano Takumi-no-kami of the Ako Domain, who was responsible for entertaining imperial envoys, attacked Koke Kira Kozuke-no-Suke Yoshihisa, a master of ceremonies, with a sword in the Matsu no Oroka corridor of Edo Castle. With Kozuke-no-Suke not fighting back, Takumi-no-kami was held down by a *hatamoto* (Shogunate’s direct retainer), Kajikawa Yoriteru. Shogun Tokugawa Tsunayoshi went mad because of the sword fight incident happening just before such an important ceremony. Thus, on the same day, he ordered Takumi-no-kami to commit *seppuku* and *kaieki* (dismissal and deprivation of all position, privileges and properties held). So the latter was sent to Tamura clan’s *kamiyashiki* in Ichinoseki Domain, Mutsu Province (see page 20), committed *seppuku* on that day and was buried by his retainers at the Sengakuji Temple (see page 23). The next day, on December 15, Asano Takumi-no-kami’s wife Aguri (later known as Yozen-in) moved to her home back in the Miyoshi Domain (see page 21), and turned over both *kamiyashiki* in Teppozu and *shimoyashiki* in Akasaka-Nambuzaka. She reached home on March 20, and despite discussions within the clan led by the senior retainer Oishi Kura-no-Suke Yoshitaka, she decided to surrender and handed over the Ako Castle on April 19.

The former retainers of the Ako Domain, now out of power, pushed forward a campaign to restore the Asano clan, but with their hope already dashed, they put up a radical plan and decided to raid the Kira clan’s residence. On December 14, 1702 (in fact, the 15th before dawn), on the day of the anniversary of Takumi-no-kami’s death, they attacked and beheaded Kozuke-no-Suke. Once they were through with it, Kura-no-Suke and the other Ako retainers went to Sengakuji Temple and presented Kozuke-no-Suke’s head in front of Takumi-no-kami’s grave. Then, they turned themselves in at the residence of Ometsuke (shogunate’s supervisor of daimyo) Sengoku Hokinokami (see page 20). The retainers were placed separately in the custody of the Hosokawa clan (Kumamoto Domain), Matsudaira clan (Matsuyama Domain), Mizuno clan (Okazaki Domain), and Mori clan (Chofu Domain) respectively, and eventually committed *seppuku* on February 4, 1703 (see pages 21-23).

Witness to such incident, the Genroku period was a time when politics shifted from a military government to a civilian government under the rule of the 5th shogun, Tokugawa Tsunayoshi, and the shogun and its shogunate (government) consolidated power. Moreover, as economic development progressed, the living standard of ordinary people improved and a wide variety of cultures flourished. In such progressively tranquil times, this incident, where some dozens of people conspired to gain control of the Koke *hatamoto*’s house and killed its former head, gave a great shock to the shogunate. And beyond the shogunate, it was the common people who mostly dealt with this case. The historical “Genroku Ako Incident” has developed into a theme for Ningyo Joruri (puppet shows) and Kabuki dramas evoking a panoply of stories that unfold within the performances, and therefore has been handed down to the present day for generations as the tale of “Chushingura,” which varies from the historical facts.

Shinjuku City

State Guest House
Akasaka Palace

Moto-Akasaka 2

Moto-Akasaka 1

Akasaka Palace and surroundings

Akasaka mitsuke Sta.

Akasaka 3

Akasaka 4

Chiyoda City

Site of the *Seppuku* of
Asano Takumi-no-kami

N



S = 1:24,000

0 500m

Shibuya City

Kita-Aoyama 1

Aoyama-itchome Sta.

Akasaka Sacas
Akasaka Sta.

Site of the Residence of
Sengoku Hoki-no-kami

Tameike-sanno Sta. 2

Uchisaiwaicho Sta.

Gaienmae Sta.

Site of the Residence of the
Asano clan of Miyoshi Domain
(Akasaka Hikawa-Jinja Shrine) 3

Nambuzakura

Toranomon Sta.

Shimbashi 1

Start

Shimbashi Sta.

16

Aoyama Cemetery

Nogizaka Sta.

Tokyo Midtown

Roppongi-itchoe Sta.

Toranomon Hills

Shimbashi 2

Shiodome Sta.

Omote-sando Sta.

Aoyama Park

Roppongi Sta.

Roppongi 1

Kamiyacho Sta.

Shimbashi 3

Higashi-Shimbashi 1

Metropolitan Expressway
Route No. 3 Shibuya Line

Minami-Aoyama 6

Roppongi Hills

Roppongi 2

Roppongi 3

Azabudai Hills

Metropolitan Shiba Park

Shimbashi 4

Higashi-Shimbashi 2

Nishi-Azabu 1

Nishi-Azabu 2

Roppongi-dori Ave.

Roppongi 4

Roppongi 5

Azabu-dori Ave.

Tokyo Tower

Shimbashi 5

Shibadaimon 1

Metropolitan Expressway
Route No. 3 Shibuya Line

Minami-Aoyama 7

Nishi-Azabu 3

Nishi-Azabu 4

Roppongi Hills

Roppongi 6

Roppongi 7

Azabu-dori Ave.

Minato City Shiba Park

Shiba-koen 1

Hamamatsucho 1

Nishi-Azabu 3

Moto-Azabu 3

Seppuku site of ten of the
righteous samurai
(Mohri Garden) 4

Roppongi 5

Roppongi 6

Azabu-dori Ave.

Minato City Shiba Park

Shiba-koen 2

Hamamatsucho 2

Minami-Azabu 5

Moto-Azabu 2

Arisugawa-no-miya
Memorial Park

Moto-Azabu 1

Azabujuban 1

Azabujuban 2

Metropolitan Shiba Park

Shiba-koen 3

Hamamatsucho 3

Minami-Azabu 4

Moto-Azabu 3

Azabujuban 3

Azabujuban 4

Mita 1

Metropolitan Shiba Park

Shibakoen Sta.

Shiba-koen 4

Hamamatsucho 4

Minami-Azabu 5

Moto-Azabu 1

Azabujuban 3

Azabujuban 4

Mita 1

Metropolitan Shiba Park

Shibakoen Sta.

Shiba-koen 2

Hamamatsucho 2

Rail map

- Toei Asakusa Line
- Toei Mita Line
- Toei Oedo Line

港区 (Case File Tracing)
 (Explore the Scene of Genroku Aiko Incident)
 港区事件簿を追って
 元禄赤穂事件の故地をゆく

Explore the Scene of Genroku Ako Incident



The World of Chushingura and Minato City

For a great number of people "The Raid of the 47 Righteous Samurai" recalls scenes of "Chushingura." Nevertheless, strictly speaking, the two are not the same thing. There are undeniable facts that Asano Takumi-no-kami attacked Kira Kozuke-no-Suke with a sword in the Matsu no Oroka corridor of Edo Castle, and then he was sentenced by the shogunate to commit *seppuku* and *kaieki*, as well as that the Ako clan's 47 former retainers under Oishi Kura-no-Suke raided the Kira clan's residence and beheaded Kozuke-no-Suke. Still, lovers Okaru and Kampei's story and others we all know from Chushingura are completely invented, and actually there is no clear reason why Takumi-no-kami stabbed at Kozuke-no-Suke, although rumors of bribery and rancor exist. Therefore, many famous scenes that remind us of the "Genroku Ako Incident" are just from the imaginary of the tale of Chushingura.

Shortly after the Ako righteous samurai committed *seppuku*, a play that compared the Ako Incident to the Tale of Soga, called

"Akemono Soga youchi," performed on February 16, 1703, at Nakamura-za Theater. Yet, it was immediately banned by the shogunate. Three years later, in 1706, another Ningyo Joruri play called "Goban Taiheiki" and written by Chikamatsu Monzaemon, was performed in Kamigata (Kyoto-Osaka area), where the original parts were cast: Enya Hangan (as Asano Takumi-no-kami), Oboshi Yuranosuke (as Oishi Kura-no-Suke) and Oboshi Rikiya (as Oishi Chikara). Thereafter, many other plays were produced including "Onikage Musashiabumi" and "Chushin kogane no tanzaku." In 1748, which marked 46 years since the raid on Kira clan's residence, the Ningyo Joruri "Kanadehon Chushingura" was created as a compilation of all these works jointly by Takeda Uzumo and other writers, and was performed at Osaka Takemoto-za Theater. Eventually, this play became very popular, was adopted by Kabuki and performed in the three major Kabuki theaters in Edo: Morita-za, Ichimura-za and Nakamura-za. Ever



Yoshiiuku: "Kanadehon Chushingura"



Toyokuni: "The Ronin: Yuranosuke at Takanawa" from "1st station: Takanawa, Nihombashi and Shinagawa"

since, "Chushingura" refers to "Kanadehon Chushingura," and has been embellished with all sorts of acting and staging, as well as becoming a theme for *nishiki-e* colored prints and *omocha-e* prints for children (for instance, the "Kanadehon Chushingura" by Yoshiiku).

In Minato City, where the righteous samurai of Ako met their death, there is an important place that recalls the tale of "Chushingura." This is the setting for the last scene of the story (although it does not feature in kabuki) where the righteous samurai of Ako, upon attaining their cherished desire, set out for Sengakuji Temple to report their action to their master who was interred there. After leaving Kira clan's residence in Honjo Matsuzakacho, they went south on Fuka-gawa River, crossed the Eitai Bridge, passed through Hatchobori, Tsukiji, Shiba and Takanawa, and finally arrived at Sengakuji Temple. "Chushingura: View of the Loyal Righteous Samurai withdrawing to Takanawa" (by Ichiyusai Kuniyoshi), and "The Righteous Samurai: Yuranosuke at Takanawa" from



Toyokuni: "View of the Sengakuji Temple Festival at Takanawa, the Eastern Capital"

"Takanawa, 1st Station on Tokaido between Nihombashi and Shinagawa" (by Utagawa Toyokuni III) are drawings showing the 47 righteous samurai being drawn away from the temple. Depicted by Utagawa Hiroshige, "The Incense-offering Scene" from Chushingura, also depicts the righteous samurai heading for the grave of Takumi-nokami at Sengakuji Temple. One can observe the strong influence Kabuki has had in all drawings featuring resplendent costumes. On the other hand, there is "View of the Sengakuji Temple Festival at Takanawa, the Eastern Capital" (by Utagawa Toyokuni III) which was drawn in a way that shows characters in "Kanadehon Chushingura" visiting the Sengakuji Temple to watch the Buddhist image exhibited there. This way, the famous place is being linked to Chushingura.

The tale of "Chushingura" has been repeated and reproduced in so many short novels, movies, plays and television programs since its creation in the Middle Edo period and through Meiji, Taisho, Showa period to the very present day. We could almost say that it is a story that has its roots in the nature of Japanese people, reflecting their social conditions and prevalent view of society and life of those days.

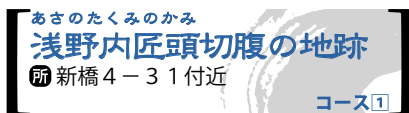


Hiroshige: "The Incense-offering Scene" from Chushingura

Explore the Scene of Genroku Ako Incident

Site of the *Seppuku* of Asano Takumi-no-kami [course 1](#)

Near 4-31 Shimbashi



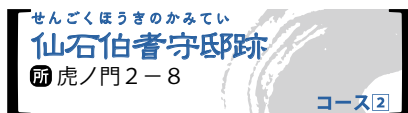
On March 14, 1701, the same day when Asano Takumi-no-kami, the lord of Ako Domain (Harima Province, 50,000 koku-worth), attacked Kira Kozuke-no-Suke with a sword in the Matsu no Oroka corridor of Edo Castle, he was put under guard and committed *seppuku* at the *kamiyashiki* of Ukyo-no-daibu Tamura Tatsuaki (clan of Ichinoseki Domain) which used to be around this area. Also, the Ako Domain was sentenced to *kaieki*. It is said that Takumi-no-kami had carried out the ritual suicide in the garden, and not in the *zashiki* (tatami room). At dusk, the retainers of the Asano clan, including Kataoka Gengoemon Takafusa and Isogai Jurozaemon, claimed his body and held the funeral at Sengakuji Temple.

Down Hibiya-dori Avenue, a stele has been erected of the "Last place of Asano Takumi-no-kami." Moreover, the actual *kamiyashiki* of the Tamura clan was located on the east side about 20m away from Hibiya-dori Avenue (approx. current 4-2-4, 28-30 Shimbashi location). [Metropolitan Heritage Site](#)



Site of the Residence of Sengoku Hoki-no-kami [course 2](#)

2-8 Toranomon



Before dawn on December 15, 1702, after raiding the Kira clan's residence and beheading Kozuke-no-Suke, the righteous samurai of Ako headed towards Sengakuji Temple, where their master Asano Takumi-no-kami rested. On the way, leader Oishi Kura-no-Suke Yoshitaka had Yoshida Chuzaemon (as a second leader) with Tomi-no-Mori Sukemon report their raid to the residence of Ometsuke Sengoku Hoki-no-kami Hisanao. After presenting Kozuke-no-Suke's head in front of Takumi-no-kami's grave, the 46 righteous samurai, without Terasaka Kichiemon, headed towards Sengoku's house. Sengoku Hoki-no-kami rushed immediately to Edo Castle and informed the Roju (members of the shogun's council of elders). After consultation, the Roju reported to Shogun Tsunayoshi, and the righteous samurai Ako were placed in the custody of the Hosokawa, Mori, Matsudaira and Mizuno clans. [Metropolitan Heritage Site](#)

Site of the Residence of the Asano clan of Miyoshi Domain (Akasaka Hikawa-jinja Shrine)

6-10-12 Akasaka

course 3



In the Genroku period, witness to the Ako incident, this area was host to residences for various lords, including Asano Aki-no-kami (Hiroshima Domain, head of Asano clan), Asano Takumi-no-kami (Ako Domain), Asano Tosa-no-kami (Miyoshi Domain), Asano Shikibu Shoyu (Asano junior assistant of the Ministry of Ceremonies and father-in-law of Asano Tosa-no-kami). Under the 8th shogun, Tokugawa Yoshimune, Hikawa-jinja Shrine was established here, although it is believed that by the Genroku period the residence of Asano Tosa-no-Kami was located here.

On March 14, 1701, Asano Takumi-no-kami attacked Kira Kozuke-no-Suke with a sword in the Matsu no Oroka corridor of Edo Castle, and on the same day he committed *seppuku*. Asano Takumi-no-kami's wife Aguri shaved off her hair, changed her name to Yozen-in, and was received at her home back in Miyoshi Domain the next day, on March 15.

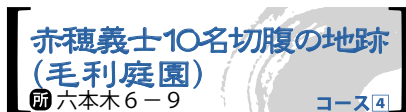
Metropolitan Heritage Site



Seppuku site of ten of the righteous samurai (Mohri Garden)

6-9 Roppongi

course 4



During the Edo period, the *kamiyashiki* of the Mouri clan of Chofu Domain (Nagato Province) was located here. This house was entrusted to ten of the 47 righteous samurai including Okajima Yasoemon. It is said that this daimyo family suffered the worst treatment among those that took the Ako retainers righteous samurai in and guarded them. On February 4, 1703, they performed ritual suicide. It is said that among them, Hazamashin Rokuro disdained to have someone assisting him in the ritual (beheading him) and carried out an authentic harakiri. His family took his body and buried it in Tsukiji Honganji Temple.

In 2003, the site where the residence of the Mouri clan from Chofu Domain once stood transformed into Roppongi Hills (commercial complex). Within the site's development, Mouri Garden was laid out by the techniques used in daimyo gardens.

Metropolitan Heritage Site



Explore the Scene of Genroku Ako Incident

Seppuku site of nine of the righteous samurai course 5

(Site of Mizuno Kenmotsu Residence)

5-20-20 Shiba



After their raid on the Kira clan residence, the righteous samurai surrendered themselves to the Ometsuke and were placed in the custody of four daimyo families. These included the Mizuno clan of Okazaki Domain (Mikawa Province), which took nine righteous samurai and had them perform the ritual suicide on February 4, 1703. The Mizuno clan's *nakayashiki* (a daimyo spare residence for emergency cases, located in remote regions of the city) was located 50m north from the place where today stands an explanation board.

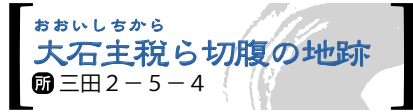
Of the daimyo families that took custody of the righteous samurai, this Mizuno clan and the Hosokawa clan are said to have treated them most civilly. There is a *rakushu* (satirical poem) that describes the rumors going around the four clans at that time: "The flow (pronounced "Hosokawa" in Japanese) of water (pronounced as "Mizuno" in Japanese) is clear, but the coast (pronounced "Oki" in Japanese, from Matsudaira - governor of Oki) of the wide sea (pronounced "Kai" in Japanese, from Mouri - governor of Kai Province) is turbid."

Metropolitan Heritage Site



Seppuku site of Oishi Chikara and nine of the righteous samurai

2-5-4 Mita



This was the location of the *nakayashiki* of the Matsudaira clan of Iyo-Matsuyama Domain. Here, ten of the Ako righteous samurai, including Oishi Kura-no-Suke's son Chikara, were held until their ritual suicide on February 4, 1703. The seppuku site of these righteous samurai has been dug and holds a pond. The earth from the excavation is believed to have been used to form the hill beyond the pond. On top of the hill was built a monument engraved with an epitaph by Tokutomi Soho. On the precinct stands today the Italian Embassy (although visits are not permitted). Two of the righteous samurai who took part in the raid were teenagers. One was Oishi Chikara and the other one Yato Emoshichi who was entrusted to the Mizuno clan. The youngest of the righteous samurai of Ako, Chikara was 16 and Emoshichi was 18 years old.

Metropolitan Heritage Site

Seppuku site of Oishi Kura-no-suke and 16 of the righteous samurai

1-16-25 Takanawa

course ⑥



In this area was located the *shimoyashiki* of Hosokawa clan of Kumamoto Domain (Higo Province). Upon their raid on Kira clan's residence, 17 ronin including their leader Oishi Kura-no-Suke Yoshio were placed in the custody of the Hosokawa clan and performed here the ritual suicide on February 4, 1703. The site of their *seppuku* is preserved within the fences of Takamatsu Junior High School.

A few years ago, excavations and research were conducted at the northern edge of the precincts. On this occasion, a porcelain sake cup engraved with the death poem of Asano Takumi-no-kami and a song of Oishi Kura-no-Suke was found in the well buried down in the 19th century. The Ako incident tells a story that may remain for a long time in people's memory and heart.

Metropolitan Heritage Site

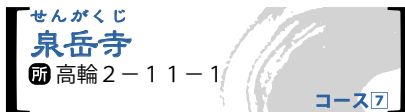


Porcelain sake cup



Sengakuji Temple course ⑦

2-11-1 Takanawa



Sengakuji Temple was established in Sotosakurada in 1612 and serves as a Soto sect temple. The construction was burned down by the Great Fire of Kan-ei (1641). Afterwards, the 3rd shogun, Tokugawa Iemitsu had the temple rebuilt in the present-day Takanawa area. There were five daimyo in charge of the Sengakuji Temple's reconstruction: Mori, Asano, Kutsuki, Niwa and Mizutani. It is based on this bond that this place became the Asano family temple. Also, as one of the three temples in Edo of the Soto sect, Sengakuji Temple held many seminaries and branch temples.

The name of the Sengakuji Temple has spread all around the world thanks to the boom of Genroku Ako Incident and "Chushingura." Ever since Edo period, the temple has been visited by many people, and still is host to the Gishi Festival every year at the beginning of April and on December 14. Items associated with the 47 righteous samurai are displayed at the Akogishi Memorial Hall.

Akogishi Memorial Hall

Opening Hours: 9am to 4pm

Fare: ¥500 (adult), ¥400 (high school & junior high school students), ¥250 (children ±10), free (children under 10).

Discounts available for groups of 30 people or more.

Contact: 03-3441-5560(Sengakuji)



Explore the Scene of Genroku Ako Incident

The Graves of Asano Naganori and the 47 righteous samurai

Sengakuji, 2-11-1 Takanawa



If you pass the main gate and walk down on the left side, on your left hand you will find Akogishi Memorial Hall. A well to its right is said to be the place where the righteous samurai of Ako washed the head of Kira Kozuke-no-Suke. Beyond lies the graves of Asano Takumi-nokami and his 47 retainers, and of Kayano Sampei who committed seppuku before the raid on Kira's house.

National Heritage Site



Distribution of Graves

Monument for the 13th Anniversary of their death
Oishi Chikara Yoshikane
Horibe Yasube Taketsune
Nakamura Kansuke Masatoki
Sugaya Hannojo Masatoshi
Fuwa Kazuemon Masatane
Kimura Okaemon Sadayuki
Semba Saburobe Mitsutada
Okano Kin-emon Kanehide
Kaiga Yazaemon Tomonobu
Otaka Gengo Tadao
Kayano Sampei Shigezane

The 10 righteous samurai in custody of Mouri clan

The 10 righteous samurai in custody of Matsudaira clan

Oishi Kuranosuke Yoshitaka	Yoshihide Chuzaemon Kanesuke	Hara Souemon Mototoki	Kataoka Gengoemon Takafusa	Mase Kyudayu Masetaki	Onodera Junai Hidekazu	Hazama Kihe Mitsunobu	Isegai Jurozaemon Masaritsa	Horibe Yahe Kanemaru	Chikanatsu Kanroku Tomimori Yukishige	Sukemon Masayori
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The Grave of Asano Takumi-nokami

Muramatsu Kihe Hidenao	Okajima Yasoemon Tsuneki	Ushioda Matanojo Takanori
Sugino Juheiji Tsugifusa	Yoshida Sawaemon Kanesada	Hayami Tozaemon Mitsuata
Katsuta Shinzaemon Taketaka	Takebayashi Tadashichi Takashige	Akabane Genzo Shigekata
Maehara Isuke Munefusa	Kurahashi Densuke Takeyuki	Okuda Magodayu Shigemori
Onodera Kouemon Hidetomi	Hazama Shinroku Mitsukaze	Yada Goroemon Suketake
		Oishi Sezaemon Nobukiyo

The 17 righteous samurai in custody of Hosokawa clan

Jizo for the 3rd Anniversary of their death

The 9 righteous samurai in custody of Mizuno clan

Terasaki Kichieon Nobuyuki	Hazama Juiro Mitsuki	Okuda Seidenon Yukiata	Yato Emoshichi Norikane	Muramatsu Sanyu Takanao	Mase Magokuro Masatoki	Kayano Wasuke Tsunenari	Yokokawa Kampei Munetoshi	Mimura Jirozaemon Kaneisane	Kanzaki Yogoro Noriyasu
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The Grave of Asano Takumi-nokami's wife

The *Seppukunin* at the Residence of Mouri clan of Chofu Domain (see page 21)

Full name	Died at age
Okajima Yasoemon Tsuneki	38
Yoshida Sawaemon Kanesada	29
Takebayashi Tadashichi Takashige	32
Kurahashi Densuke Takeyuki	34
Muramatsu Kihe Hidenao	62
Sugino Juheiji Tsugifusa	28
Katsuta Shinzaemon Taketaka	24
Maehara Isuke Munefusa	40
Hazama Shinroku Mitsukaze	24
Onodera Kouemon Hidetomi	28

* After the raid, Terasaka Kichieon Nobuyuki departed from the group of 47 ronin.

The *Seppukunin* at the Residence of Matsudaira clan of Matsuyama Domain (see page 22)

Full name	Died at age
Oishi Chikara Yoshikane	16
Horibe Yasube Taketsune	34
Nakamura Kansuke Masatoki	46
Sugaya Hannojo Masatoshi	44
Fuwa Kazuemon Masatane	34
Semba Saburobe Mitsutada	51
Okano Kin-emon Kanehide	24
Kimura Okaemon Sadayuki	46
Kaiga Yazaemon Tomonobu	54
Otaka Gengo Tadao	38

The *Seppukunin* at the Residence of Mizuno clan of Okazaki Domain (see page 22)

Full name	Died at age
Hazama Juiro Mitsuoki	26
Okuda Sadaemon Yukitaka	26
Yato Emoshichi Norikane	17
Muramatsu Sandayu Takanao	27
Mase Magokuro Masatoki	23
Mimura Jirozaemon Kanetsune	37
Kayano Wasuke Tsunenari	37
Yokokawa Kampei Munetoshi	37
Kanzaki Yogoro Noriyasu	38

The *Seppukunin* at the Residence of Hosokawa clan of Kumamoto Domain (see page 23)

Full name	Died at age
Oishi Kura-no-Suke Yoshitaka	45
Hara Souemon Mototoki	56
Kataoka Gengoemon Takafusa	36
Horibe Yahe Kanamaru	77
Yoshida Chuzaemon Kanesuke	64
Chikamatsu Kanroku Yukishige	34
Mase Kyudayu Masaaki	63
Akabane Genzo Shigekata	35
Ushioda Matanojo Takanori	35
Tomimori Sukemon Masayori	34
Onodera Junai Hidekazu	61
Okuda Magodayu Shigemori	57
Hayami Tozaemon Mitsuata	42
Yada Goroemon Suketake	29
Oishi Sezaemon Nobukiyo	27
Isegai Jurozaemon Masahisa	25
Hazama Kihe Mitsunobu	69

Case File Tracing (Incidents in the End of Shogunate and Restoration)

In 1603, Tokugawa Ieyasu established his shogunate at Edo and a time of peace came to Japan. This lasted for the next 260 odd years until the shogunate government met its end. In the wake of a progressive weakening of shogunate's absolutism and the arrival of the Black Ships, it was facing extensive anti-shogunate movements to revere the Emperor and expel the foreigners. Amid such turbulent conditions, Minato City provided many crucial settings for those troubled times.

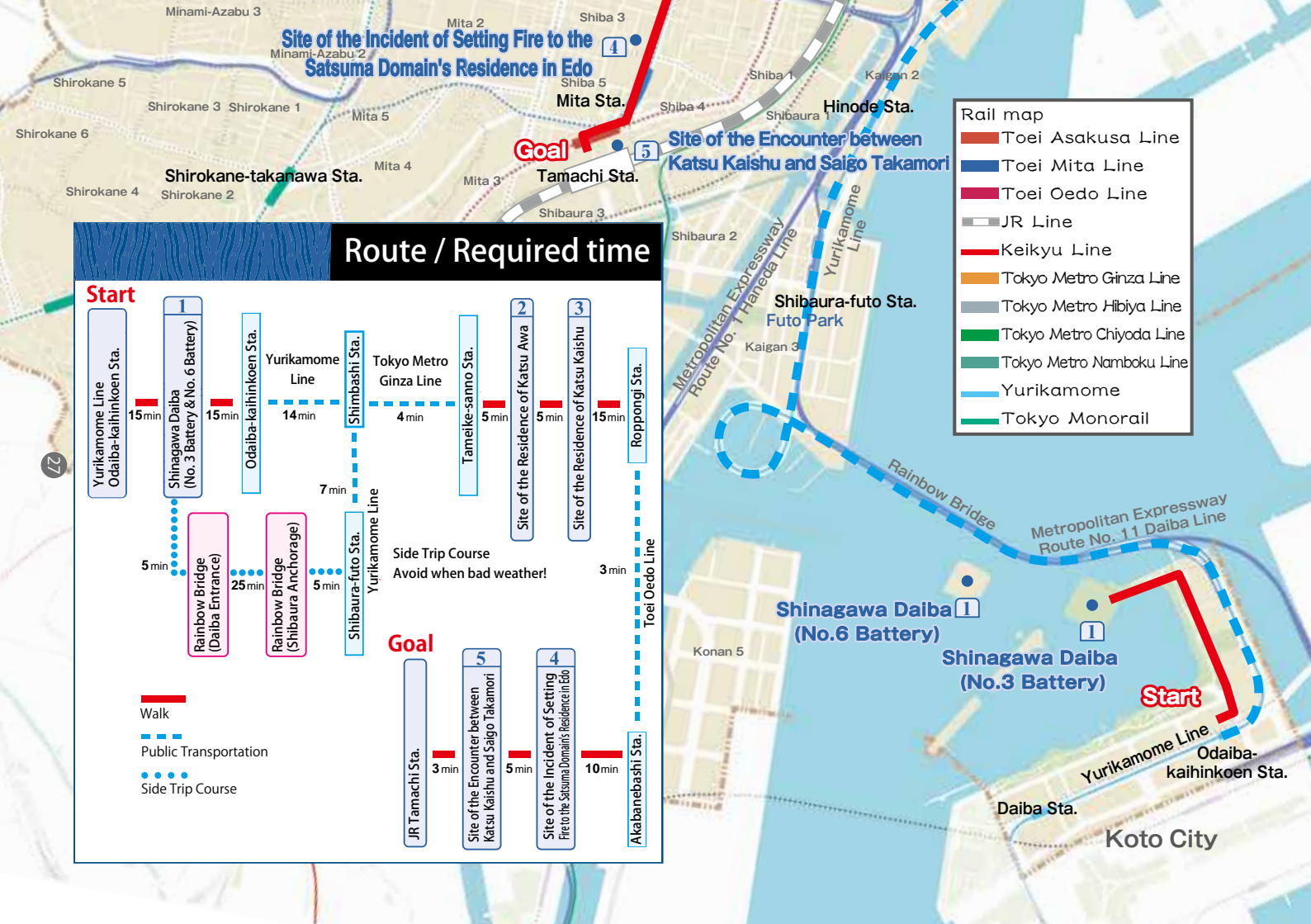
The squadron of the United States Navy led by Commodore Perry anchored off the coast of Uraga on June 3, 1853. Its arrival certainly wielded a great impact coming from overseas. "Jokisen ("steamships" in Japanese) woke me up from a long peaceful sleep, only four of them, but kept me awake all night long" is a *kyōka* (a comic tanka poem) that describes the great surprise this arrival was not only for the shogunate, but for people around the world, and how this led Japan to end the closed country policy of many years. Today an area crowded with people, "Odaiba," has its name from Daiba defense facility, which was built in a big rush by the shogunate to provide shield against Perry's arrival for a second time (see page 28). Today, only two remaining cannon batteries have been preserved as national historic sites and stand as a proof of the high civil engineering techniques the Japanese possessed back in those days.

Meanwhile, the friction between the Tokugawa shogunate and powerful domains in western Japan such as Satsuma and Choshu, the intensification of the movements to restore the Emperor and expel the foreigners, as well as the deterioration of public order were intensely shaking the nation. Scenes and leading figures of Japan's politics in the last years of the shogunate's governance are related to some of Minato City's current places. A special case is that of the Satsuma Domain, which played a central role during the end of the Edo period through the Meiji Restoration. The domain held several houses witness to various incidents. Present-day 2-3 Shiba neighborhood was once the location for one large residence measuring about 25,000 tsubo, where the incident of setting fire to the Satsuma Domain's residence in Edo occurred and consequently led to the Boshin War (see page 30). Also, in front of present-day JR Tamachi Station (5 Shiba) there was a *kakaeyashiki* (residence located further afield, often in agricultural land purchased from peasants), the same way that present-day JR Shinagawa Station (Takanawa 3-chome) was facing a Satsuma Domain's *shimoyashiki*. Before the general attack upon Edo Castle, Katsu Kaishu and Saigo Takamori met in both mentioned houses and negotiated the shogunate's bloodless surrender of Edo Castle (see page 30).

It is worth mentioning also that Katsu Kaishu, who was a key figure within the shogunate in that time, had lived for a long time in Akasaka area. Despite having changed homes several times, there was one residence in Akasaka famous for being the place of Kaishu's encounter with Sakamoto Ryoma, where he lived from the Meiji Restoration until his death (see pages 28, 29). Let's now take a walk retracing the incidents that marked a turning point for the history of Japan amidst times of great transition from the shogunate to the Meiji Restoration.



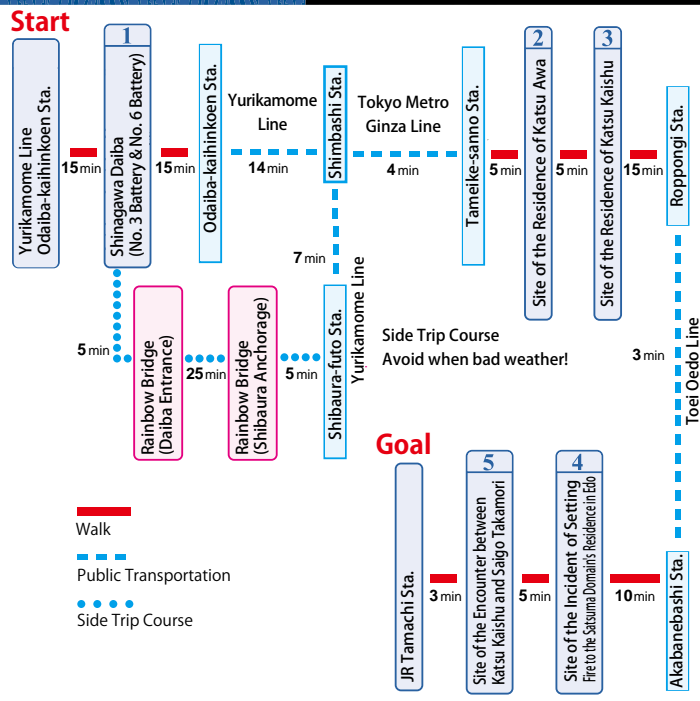
View of Odaiba's construction site
as the Shinagawa artillery



Site of the Incident of Setting Fire to the Satsuma Domain's Residence in Edo

Site of the Encounter between Katsu Kaishu and Saigo Takamori

Route / Required time



- Rail map
- Toei Asakusa Line
 - Toei Mita Line
 - Toei Oedo Line
 - JR Line
 - Keikyu Line
 - Tokyo Metro Ginza Line
 - Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line
 - Tokyo Metro Chiyoda Line
 - Tokyo Metro Namboku Line
 - - - Yurikamome
 - Tokyo Monorail

Shinagawa Daiba (No.6 Battery)

Shinagawa Daiba (No.3 Battery)

Start

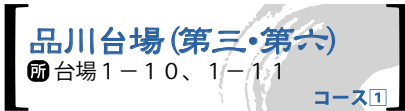
Koto City

Incidents in the End of Shogunate and Restoration

Shinagawa Daiba (No. 3 Battery & No. 6 Battery)

1-10, 1-11 Daiba

course ①



The squadron consisting of four US Naval ships, commonly called the "Black Ships," and led by Commodore Perry, anchored off the coast of Uruga on June 3, 1853. Its arrival had a major impact from overseas on the shogunate and society in general. Facing Perry's arrival for a second time the following year was Daiba, a fortress built in a big rush to protect Edo's coastlines. Egawa Hidetatsu (a local governor of Nirayama, Izu Province) was ordered to build a western-style marine battery off the coast of Shinagawa. The initial plan was to build 11 batteries at regular distance between them. However, as of March 3, 1854, Japan and the United States had signed the Convention of Kanagawa, only No.1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 5, No. 6 and Gotenyama (partially on land) batteries were finished. The stone used for the fortress came from the Izu and Boso peninsulas, while the soil to reclaim the land was obtained by cutting through Mt. Gotenyama and the mountain at the back of Sengakuji Temple. This was a large civil engineering project, which cost an overall 750,000 ryo (an old unit of gold currency), and mobilized 5,000 workers. After the Pacific War, batteries No. 1, No. 2 and No. 5 were removed, whereas batteries No. 3 and No. 6 were preserved as historic sites.

National Heritage Site



Site of the Residence of Katsu Awa course ②

Sun-Sun Akasaka, 6-6-14 Akasaka



This is the place where Katsu Kaishu lived from 1872 until his death in 1899, at the age of 77. After the Meiji Restoration, Kaishu became a representative of the former retainers of shogun and successively held posts as the Senior Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Senior Secretary of the Ministry of War, Vice Minister of the Ministry of War, Minister of the Navy and Councilor, Minister of the Navy and Councilor, Councilor of the Chamber of Elders, and Privy Councilor. He was also made a *hakushaku* (count). Still, it appears he didn't resume his activity to these positions, but in addition showed undiminished defiance of sharply criticizing the new government and opposing the Sino-Japanese War, he also strove to protect the former retainers of shogun and provide them with financial support. He dedicated his last years to writing and compiling collections such as: "Suijiroku" (collection of documents focusing on finance in Edo period), "Kaigun rekishi" (a naval history), "Rikugun rekishi" (a military history), "Kaikoku kigen" (about the opening of Japan), and "Hikawa seiwa" (his autobiography). On January 19, 1899, just after taking a bath and sipping a brandy, he suffered a cerebral hemorrhage and passed away on the 21th. It is said that his last words were "Kore de oshimai" ("This is it").

Metropolitan Heritage Site



Site of the Residence of Katsu Kaishu course 3

6-10-39 Akasaka



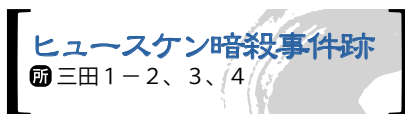
This is the place where Katsu Kaishu lived from 1859 until 1868, which means from the age of 37 to 46. In 1860, Kaishu served as the captain of the Kanrin Maru Warship (his real title was "Chief Professor of the Warship Training Institute") in charge of escorting the Japanese mission to North America to exchange the ratification of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between Japan and the United States. Back in Japan, he held various posts, such as the President of Bansho Shirabesho (one of the forerunner organizations of Tokyo University in Edo period), or Grand Master of the gunnery at Kobusho (a military training institute). In 1862, he acceded from todomi (president) to gunkan-bugyo (the government's naval magistrate). On November same year, Ryoma Sakamoto and his people suggested a meeting with Kaishu to kill him, and instead, they were inspired by him. It all happened in this place. Moreover, it was here where he lived by the time he met with Takamori Saigo and agreed upon the shogunate's bloodless surrender of Edo Castle in March 1868 (see page 30). Following Tokugawa Yoshinobu, he moved to Sumpu (now Shizuoka City) in July the same year, after the Restoration.

City Registered Site



Site of the Assassination of Henry Heusken

1-2,3,4 Mita



On December 5, 1860, Henry Heusken was an interpreter to the American legation walking back from the Official Foreign Guesthouse in Akabane to the legation in Zempukuji Temple (Azabu area), when he was attacked and killed by the *roshi* (masterless samurai) Imuta Shota and Hiwatari Hachibe, advocates of the expelling of foreigners. The place were all happened was close to the northern side of Nakanohashi Bridge over Shin-Horikawa River. Heusken didn't die immediately; he received medical help, but passed away the next day. He was 28 years old. Suzuki Zennojo, magistrate of foreign affairs, and his men escorting Heusken ran away without fighting back against the assailants, thus causing serious diplomatic repercussions as envoys from various countries condemned the deficiency in guarding the diplomats and withdrew to Yokohama. In response, the shogunate reinforced the watch on diplomats and security of their legations. Also, at the American request, the government paid an indemnity of \$10,000 to Heusken's family and settled the case down. Three days later, on December 18, Heusken was buried at Korinji Temple (4-11-25 Minami-Azabu) in Azabu (see page 36).

Incidents in the End of Shogunate and Restoration

Site of the Incident of Setting Fire to the Satsuma Domain's Residence in Edo

3-23-33 Shiba, near 5-7 Shiba [course 4](#)

薩摩藩邸焼き討ち事件跡

所 芝3-23・33、芝5-7付近

コース4

During the Edo period, most of today 2-3 Shiba and a part of 4-5 Shiba areas were the premises for a vast residence of the Shimazu clan of Satsuma Domain. On October 14, 1867, Tokugawa Yoshinobu handed the government back to the Imperial Court through the Taisei Hokan (restoration of the imperial rule). Still, tensions between the old Shogunate and the domains of Satsuma and Choshu remained unchanged. Amid this complicated political situation, the Satsuma needed the right pretext to engage in a war against the old army of the shogunate. To obtain it, they were preparing the grounds for inciting riots in a city of Edo where most of leaders of the old shogunate and retainers of Yoshinobu were absent. This residence was actually the Satsuma's base. On December 25 of the same year, the Shonai (guards of the city of Edo) raided this place and burned it down by gunfire, in response to a prior attack of their quarters by the Satsuma Domain. This incident became one of the triggers that led to the Boshin War. There are no traces of the house left today, although one block of present-day Shiba 3-chome, from numbers 23 to 33, is named "Satsuma-koji," an alley that reflects what the place looked like in the past.



Site of the Encounter between Katsu Kaishu and Saigo Takamori

5-33 Shiba [course 5](#)かつかいしゅう さいごうたかもり
勝海舟・西郷隆盛会見
の地跡

所 芝5-33

コース5

On March 13/14, 1868, the Tokugawa clan represented by Ichiro Okubo (Tadahiro) and Katsu Kaishu met Saigo Takamori from the imperial faction. This was already after Tesshu Yamaoka of the Tokugawa clan had left for Sumpu (now Shizuoka City) on March 9 and met with Saigo in advance of the negotiations. The preliminary meeting just before the set date of March 15, the day of the planned general attack upon Edo Castle, started on day 13, on a land lent by the Satsuma clan and finished the next day at the Satsuma's *kakaeyashiki* where the monument stands today. As a result, the general attack on Edo Castle was suspended and the castle saved from being devastated by the fires of war. Was in this place where such an important historical decision like the bloodless surrender of Edo Castle was made. It is believed that Katsu Kaishu had already elaborated a strategy to burn the city of Edo and stop the government army's invasion in case the discussions broke off. On April 11, Edo Castle capitulated and was seized by the Great Governor-General.

Metropolitan Heritage Site

