Tohode
Let's walk and enjoy strolling in Setagaya!

Walk with your camera in hand!

Promoting Setagaya's wonderful viewing spots and a healthy lifestyle.

Sport and Health
Official Programme

* This booklet is voice-coded for text-to-voice rendition in Japanese with a specialized reader.
Walking Courses with Different Charms in Each Season

Stroll Seijo leisurely with this map to guide you!

Fully opened, the map is A3 size (420 × 297 mm).

《How To Use This Map》

A camera lens will reveal small discoveries on your walk around Seijo. We put together this map to help you find them. The graphic icons on the map indicate Setagaya's 100 Most Scenic View locations, places with wild birds, cherry trees or fireflies, or other interesting sites. Places marked with a camera icon are great locations to take a picture. Take your time along the two courses: the Seijo Culture and Cherry Tree Course and the Kokubunji Cliff Line and Seijo Nature Course. There's also a half-course for each. We've estimated the number of steps so you can leave your pedometer at home, but don't forget to bring your camera!

This map was created based on information from members of the local community. Some of the slopes and parks use local nicknames.

Capture your own special impressions of sunlight filtering through trees

Seijo Culture and Cherry Tree Course
Seijo is known as a cultural town where many politicians, artists, and movie directors live. It is also home to Toho Studios, the cornerstone of Japan's film industry during the Showa era and where many films are still made today. You'll find numerous cherry trees throughout the town, including fabulous riverside cherry trees that are designated as one of Setagaya's 100 Most Scenic Views.

**Course Highlights**

1. **Ginkgo Tree Road in front of Seijo Gakuen**
2. **Cherry Tree Road**
3. **Old Town Street**
4. **Menno no Mori Woods**
5. **Setagaya Katsuzendo & Yokasidou Temple**
6. **Seijo Gakuen Pond**
7. **Setagaya Art Museum annex**
   - Taji Kyokochu Memorial Gallery
   - Godzilla Wall Mural at Toho Studios
   - Promenade along the Sankawa River

You can also walk a half-course (A1 or A2) using Kinuta District Administration Office as the start point.

**Ginkgo Tree Road in front of Seijo Gakuen**

The street running east-to-west in front of the main gate of Seijo University is planted with about 120 meters of ginkgo trees that are tinged with different hues according to the seasons. Students from Seijo Gakuen planted the trees when the school moved to this area in 1925. Today, they serve as an important community symbol.

**Cherry Tree Road**

From Ginkgo Tree Road, proceed north to arrive at a street lined with cherry trees. When Seijo Gakuen school first moved to the area, they followed the example of other residential areas such as Denenchofu and planted many cherry trees. This 600-meter stretch of cherry trees was selected by citizens as one of the city's 100 Most Scenic Views. You can also visit the lively Sakura Festival in April as they celebrate these beautiful blossoms.

**Old Town Street**

When Seijo Gakuen school moved to the area, they included hedges, Oya stone walls and other considerations as part of the area’s residential development. One example is sumi-ki (corner cutoffs), in which intersection corners are cut diagonally to increase visibility and improve traffic safety. Interestingly, these corner cutoffs were implemented before cars were commonplace, attesting to the detailed planning that went into the town's design.
**GREEN SPOT**

**Minna no Mori Woods**

Minna no Mori is a relaxing place originally developed by resident volunteers. The ground is covered with wood chips from cedar, cypress and camphor trees to provide a pleasant tactile feeling under your feet. In autumn, nuts and leaves carpet the ground. In nice weather, the sunlight filtering through trees produces pictures with a soft touch.

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**Soshigaya Kanzeondo Temple**

It is believed this temple was built in 1654 by the residents of Soshigaya Village. The Eleven-Faced Kannon (one form of Guanyin, Goddess of Mercy) and Fudo Myo-o (Acala, one of the Wisdom Kings) are enshrined here. Kanzeondo has been revered since ancient times as a child-rearing deity that safeguards children. The atmosphere here is quiet and pure, but you might manage to capture a strong spirited photograph.

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Next to Soshigaya Kanzeondo is Soshigaya Yakushido Temple, which has a statue of Yakushi Nyorai (the healing Buddha). About 50 years ago, the current statue was enshrined after a fundraising campaign by local residents. The flanking attendant and the Juni Shinsho (Twelve Heavenly Generals) standing statues are said to date from the middle of the Edo era. As the healing Buddha, Yakushi Nyorai cures mental and physical illnesses, especially eye diseases.

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**Seijo Gakuen Pond**

This large pond on the Seijo Gakuen campus is one of Setagaya’s 100 Most Scenic Views. Students can be found relaxing here, affectionately referring to it "Donut Pond" because of the small island in the middle.

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**Soshigaya Art Museum annex**

**Taiji Kiyokawa Memorial Gallery**

The house and atelier of painter Taiji Kiyokawa (1918-2000) was renovated into this gallery. After his death, his family donated many of his works as well as the land and house to Soshigaya in order to realize his last wish of using his assets to promote art and culture. In addition to exhibiting the artist’s works, the gallery is also a place for residents to present their own cultural activities.

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At the gift shop, you can purchase the artist’s designs or goods based on those designs. Postcards, handkerchiefs, mini-scarves, glasses, cufflinks, tie pins, pendants and other items await you.

Address: 2-12-17 Seijo, Setagaya ku, Tokyo TEL: (03) 3445-5332
Hours: 10 am-6 pm (closed on Monday and holidays)
Closed during exhibit changes

**Shop Tips**: The gallery is open and instead closed the rest of the week.

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**Deep Boy**
Godzilla Mural at Toho Studios

Godzilla suddenly appears before you! This giant mural is actually a wall of Toho Studios, home to the best film production facilities and largest studios in Japan. Toho is responsible for many of Japan’s masterpieces, including Kurosawa’s 1954 classic Seven Samurai, and the studio has grown together with the town.

* Toho Studios is not open to the general public. When taking photos, do not enter the grounds and be careful of traffic.

Go around to the main gate to find another Godzilla! This one is a bronze statue, but he still packs a punch! To one side, you’ll also find a huge mural from film Seven Samurai.

The Viewfinder Will Lead You to New Discoveries

Kokubunji Cliff Line and Seijo Nature Course

You’ll find stools along the river inscribed with traditional Japanese children’s song and charming illustrations. These are perfect spots to observe the river and take a rest. It’s also an excellent place for birdwatching—the ducks swimming cutely in a row is a soothing sight. In spring, the cherry trees along the riverside path burst with blossoms. The blossoms are also lit up for a limited period.
Kokubunji Cliff Line and Seijo Nature Course

Seijo is located on a plateau on Kokubunji Cliff, between Sankei River to the east and Nogawa River to the west and provides excellent views of Mt. Fuji. The Kokubunji Cliff Line connects the area's nature to the Musashino area in the northwest, retaining a rich variety of trees, plants, flowers and even spring-fed waters. Enjoy the relaxing sight of cherry blossoms and birds along the banks of the Sankei and Nogawa Rivers. The clear spring waters will also soothe your soul.

Course Highlights

1. Fujimashi Bridge and Fudobashi Bridge
2. Cherry and Momiji Maple Trees of Seijo 3-chome
3. Many slopes
4. Green Reserve at Seijo 3-chome (Hibazaka Slope)
5. Kitami Fudobashi Temple
6. Pomerada along the Nogawa River
7. Shomai no Mori Mitsui Pond and Environs
8. Nogawa Green Space (Visitor Center)
9. Tohka Kasai Memorial Museum of Invention
10. Inenro Garden
11. Cirino Tree Roads in front of Seijo Galeries

You can also walk a half course (B1) using Kinuta District Administration Office as the start point.

Fujimashi Bridge and Fudobashi Bridge
Both these bridges are great spots to view Mt. Fuji. Photography enthusiasts come here each year in early February to set up their cameras to capture "Diamond Fuji," in which the rising or setting sun aligns with the summit to create a beautiful effect. Enjoy the mountain sitting on a Fudobashi Bridge bench or taking a photo using the "frame" installed at Fujimashi Bridge.

Cherry and Momiji Maple Trees of Seijo 3-chome
These trees were originally planted by a landowner on his 1-hectare lot as an approach lane. You can sense his desire to enjoy cherry blossoms in spring and autumn leaves in the fall. The lane has been kept unpaved and cars cannot enter; it's a place to walk slowly and enjoy a bit of luxury.

Many Slopes
The west side of Seijo sits up about 20 meters, which means there are a lot of slopes in the area. Each slope has its own name and gradient. Ochaya-zaka slope near Meio Elementary School is the steepest. The name comes from an "ochaya," which means tea room, in the area that was run by an early Edo shogunal vassal named Shigekatsu Kitami.
**Green Reserve at Seijo 3-chome**

Located at the bottom of a hill, this area is like a refreshing summer resort. Even in midsummer, the area is shady and cool. The forest along the Kokubunji Cliff Line is protected as a green reserve and is home to a wide variety of planted forests. The reserve sits on the slope, so walks are up and down along paths with log-type stairs—just like satoyama (which means hills near villages) that are common throughout Japan.

**Birdwatching Point**

Hebizaka Slope

One of the slopes in the reserve is named Hebizaka. Clear spring water flows in the reserve and there is wetland community based on grassy-leaved sweet flag. You can observe and photograph Japanese freshwater crab, rhinoceros beetles and other creatures here.

**Birdwatching Point**

Spring Water

**Detour**

Kitami Fudosou Temple

The temple has protected this area since the Meiji era. The entrance waterfall was once used for waterfall ascetic training, and still lends a sacred air to the site. There is a wonderful temple hall at the top of the stairs. In the back corner of the grounds you will see a cave, in which you'll find a small shrine that gives an aura of strong religious faith.

**Promenade along the Nogawa River**

Both sides of the Nogawa River have walking paths. The west bank path is the Nogawa Green Reserve, while the east bank path runs along the Kokubunji Cliff Line. In spring, the east side provides a nice, relaxing view of the cherry trees in the Nogawa Green Reserve.

**Shimmei no Mori Mitsu-ike and Environs**

Walking along the Nogawa River, you'll come across a small path that is easy to overlook. Along the path and you will find a small stream. If you look closely at the water's surface, you can see small snails, which are the food source for fireflies. At the end of the path is a special protected area for Genji fireflies, only one of two such locations in Tokyo's central wards. Note that the protected area is closed to the public, except for special events several times a year.

**Green Spot**

Nogawa Green Space (Visitors Center)

Continuing along the Nogawa River, you'll see the Nogawa Green Space alongside the path, Nogawa Green Space has walking paths and natural features such as biotopes. The visitors center is operated by a local foundation to disseminate local information and as a base for volunteer activities. Stop by for a rest and enjoy the handmade sweets sold here.

*Satagaya Trust & Community Design Visitors Center*
Toshio Kashio Memorial Museum of Invention

This was the home of inventor Toshio Kashio, one of the four brothers that founded electronics giant Casio. The exhibits are arranged into five themes that explore the inventions and products that put the company on the world map, starting with its iconic calculators. The museum is a testament to Toshio's passion for invention. Note that reservations are required to see the exhibits.

Address: 1-19-10 Seijo, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo
Admittance by reservation only (Up to 10 people per reservation)
Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Closed: Please check the website
Entry: Free
Parking: None
E-mail: info@kasiohistory.org

Inomata Garden

The house was constructed in a traditional Japanese residential style known as sukiya by Isao Yashida for Takehira Inomata, a former president of the Labor Administration Institute. The Japanese-style strolling garden has many trees and is a great place to enjoy while exploring interesting camera angles.

Seijo's Origins

Located on a quiet hill with a view of Mt. Fuji, the Seijo area is known as one of Japan’s first cities built around education. Seijo Gakuen was founded in 1917 in Shinjuku and moved to this area two years after the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923. School affiliates developed the town as an ideal community. As you walk around Seijo, look for the ingenuity that went into their planning, strolling leisurely with this map to guide you.

Setagaya’s 100 Most Scenic Views

In 1984, Setagaya residents voted for the landscapes and scenery they most wanted to preserve. In commemoration, signboards and etched metal plaques were installed at each of the top 100 locations. In recent years, the area has attracted many cultural figures and entertainers and has a strong affinity with high culture.

Himalayan Cedars

A century ago, in the Taisho era, Western-style homes in the area were required to plant three Himalayan cedars and Japanese-style homes three pine trees. You can still find these Himalayan cedars here and there around Seijo. Many of the ones at private residences are registered as protected.

Wild Birds

Forests on the Kokubuji Chikuji Line are home to owls and other birds of prey as well as other woodland birds such as Japanese green woodpeckers and great spotted woodpeckers. Along waterways, you will see great egrets, kingfishers, ducks and other river fowl.

Abundant Nature
Seijo's beautiful landscapes have many interesting details that are easy to overlook. The Senkawa River Course fuses nature and culture, so I realized the landscape was something created by locals out of love for their community. The Nogawa River Course really has a lot of greenery that works in harmony with the town, so it was a really pleasant walk. It was also amazing to discover a spring-fed oasis with kingfishers and fireflies only about a 10-minute walk from the quiet residential areas nearby. I captured those feeling in the pictures I took.