

Okitsu Shuku and Ejiri Shuku Concerning with Opening Japan to Diplomatic Relations

JR Okitsu Station, Shizuoka City – Shizutetsu Sakurabashi Station, Shizuoka City

Introduction

The 17th shukuba Okitsu Shuku was located at an important place for traffic at the crossing point with Minobu Road leading to Yamanashi Prefecture. The neighboring 18th Ejiri Shuku had Shimizu Port bristled with storehouses of the shogunate, hummed as the predominant port to transport commodities during transition of the era from Edo (1603-1868) to Meiji (1868-1912).



**朝鮮通信使
Diplomatic Mission from Korea**
Ieyasu spent 9 years and realized the visit of diplomatic mission from Korea to Sumpu Castle to normalize the relationship gone cold by Korean invasion by Toyotomi Hideyoshi. The mission visited 12 times in total between 1607 and 1811 each time when new shogun inherited the predecessor.

**もつカレー
Motsu Curry**
A bar owner near Shimizu Station thought up a new type of curry by getting ideas from the curry he learnt in Manchuria during the Second World War and also from Dote-ni, stewed tough meat which is specialty of Nagoya in Aichi Prefecture. Now Motsu (gut) Curry became a regular menu and also became to be called Soul food in bars of former Shimizu City. Sold also in tin or retort-pack for souvenir.

**1 一碧楼水口屋跡 脇本陣
水口屋ギャラリー (フェルケール博物館別館)**
They say they were originally vassal of Takeda Shingen immigrated here to send salt and fishes to Yamanashi Prefecture. They became waki-honjin of Okitsu Shuku and later became to run a hotel. In the Meiji Period (1868-1912), statesmen such as Saionji Kinmochi and the members of the Imperial family, financiers and also people from foreign countries stayed as it was also introduced abroad. Although the guests highly praised the fine view from here, the hotel was closed because land reclamation and road construction spoiled the view. Now it became a gallery to introduce its good old days.



Attention! The road is narrow and the traffic is heavy.

One of the 3 major rows of trees in the Meiji Period (1868-1912). Plane trees in Japan are their descendants.

**Okitsu Shuku Houses: 316
(2 honjin, 2 waki-honjin, 34 hatago)
Population: 1668
(as of 1843)**



3 坐漁荘
Residence of Saionji Kinmochi who studied in France, a statesman of over 3 eras (Meiji: 1868-1912, Taisho: 1912-1926, Showa: 1926-1989), a pacifist stood by his principle to the end. Original building was moved to Meiji Mura (museum of buildings in Aichi Prefecture), but it was restored in 2004. It was named "Zagyoso" by expecting to "live tranquil fishing", but many statesmen came to ask his advice. When they visited, they stayed at Minaguchiya and the conversation at Zagyoso was called the "The small cabinet meeting".

**Ejiri Shuku Houses: 1340
(2 honjin, 3 waki-honjin, 50 hatago)
Population: 6498
(as of 1843)**



5 江尻城跡
Built around 1570 by Takeda Shingen as the front of Suruga Province invasion. They say its scale equaled to modern castles. Fell to Tokugawa Ieyasu in 1582, and it became ruined after the Battle of Sekigahara (1600) for it became unnecessary.

6 稚児橋
In 1607, a bridge was built over the Tomoe River. When people were just about to step on the bridge, a child appeared from the river, climbed up the pier and walked towards the inlet then disappeared. People talked it must be the Kappa (water imp) living in the river and decided to change the name of the bridge to Chigo Bridge from Ejiri Bridge.

4 江浄寺
It is a temple originally built by the 9th chief priest of Komyoji Temple in Kanagawa Prefecture at Mt. Katsusawa on his way to Kyoto, and was named Katsusawasan Komyoji Temple in the Muromachi Period (1336-1573). In the mausoleum, hair of Okazaki Saburo Nobuyasu, the first child of Tokugawa Ieyasu is kept. There is also "Koizuka" (burial mound of love) said to have miraculous power for fulfillment of love.

2 清見関と清見寺
Around 680, there was a barrier of guard and observed streets to preserve peace and order. Later, a temple was built at the vacant lot. In the Muromachi Period (1336-1573), the then shogunate protected Seikenji as one of "Zenkoku Jissetsu" (10 temples of Japan). Tokugawa Ieyasu came to study when he was a child, diplomatic mission from Korea and Ryukyu and also daimyo (feudal lord) of each province visited. Many cultural properties and historical spots are in the precincts.

7 清水の次郎長と船宿「末廣」
At first, Shimizu-no-Jirocho was a gambler, but later he became to be appointed to the guard of the main road. He made proposal about reformation of the Shimizu Port for starting international trades, he proceeded with starting regular liner service between Yokohama, promoted employment by cultivation and also encouraged people to study English. The shipping agent he opened in 1886 is the place where the first English class in Japan was given, and it was also usual inn of candidates of naval officer who later won brilliant feats in the Russo-Japanese War.

Old Tokaido Road Walking Route

— Sidewalk
●●● Sidewalk narrower than 70 cm

Legend

	Information		Parking lot
	Picturing point		Bench
	Toilet		Accessible toilet
	Convenience store		Cherry tree
	Explanatory board		Bus stop
	Automated external defibrillator, AED		View point of Mt. Fuji
	East boundary of shukuba		West boundary of shukuba