⑮Shukuba for Crossing the Difficult Oi River

JR Rokugo Station, Shimada City - JR Kanaya Station, Shimada City

Introduction

As for the Oi River, construction of bridges and using boats were strictly forbidden by the Tokugawa shogunate so travelers should wade across the shallows. In result, Shimada Shuku, the 23rd Shukuba from Tokyo has thrived by duties such as mediating bearers and offering accommodations related to the river crossing. At Kanaya Shuku on the other side of the Oi River, 'kawakaisho' (facilities for river crossing duties) and 'tenmayaku' (facilities for duties of preparing horses and express messengers for relay) were built at separate places.

大井川の川越 Crossing of the Oi River

Kawashoya is the government officials measured depth of the river and decided charge. They also controlled the carrying order and distribution of bearers. Travelers bought kawafuda (river crossing ticket) here and gave the ticket to the bearer and crossed the river. Bearers cashed this ticket at fudaba.

島田市博物館・島田市博物館分館 Shimada City Municipal Museum/ Shimada City Municipal Museum Annex

Documents related to Kawagoshi (river crossing duty) and Shimada Shuku are displayed in the main building. Annex building is the restoration of an old house built in the 19-20th century, exhibiting folk documents donated by the residents in Shimada City.
●Open: 9:00 to 17:00(admission until 16:30)
●Closed: Mondays, the next day of a national holiday, the year-end and New Year holidays
●Admission to the main museum: ¥300 for adults, ¥150 for elementary school and junior high school students. Admission to the museum annex : ¥300 for high school students and above, ¥100 for children

Oi Shrine
❶大井神社

Oi Shrine appears in an archive written in 865. Also a record says it has settled at Shimada in 1276. Three deities enshrined are goddess of water, land, and sun protecting people from floods and at the same time the guardian deities of women and children. At "Shimada Obi Matsuri", one of the 3 most eccentric festivals in Japan, they walk in a parade showing 'obi' (broad sash tied over kimono).

This street won a prize awarded to a place of scenic beauty given by the Ministry of Land Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism in 2009.

Shimada Shuku
Houses: 1461 (3 honjin, 48 hatago)
Population: 6727
(as of 1843)

The 50th ichirizuka

Shimada Ichirizuka Ruins 島田一里塚跡

"Yaoya Oshichi" was madly in love with Kichisaburo and set fire to the town of Edo (Tokyo) to see him. Oshichi was sentenced to death and Kichisaburo who went on a trip to mourn her has died and was buried here.

Sword smith in Shimada was honored publicly. It had 400 years history until the end of the 19th century. Powerful samurai clans such as Imagawa, Takeda, and Tokugawa use to set a high valuation.

Shimada City Tourism Association,
Kanaya Station Information Office
TEL 0547-46-3500
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Closed on Mondays and the next day of a national holiday

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Kanaya Shuku
Houses: 1004
(3 honjin, 1 waki-honjin, 51 hatago)
Population: 4271
(as of 1843)

蓬莱橋 Horai Bridge

Constructed in 1879 to cross over to Makinohara Tea Plantation. The length is 897.4 meters and width is 2.7 meters, it was registered as world's longest wooden footbridge in the Guinness Book of Records in 1997. They say they named the bridge after the words of Tokugawa Iesato, the 16th feudal lord of Shizuoka Clan when he visited the plantation.
●Hours: 8:30 to 17:00
365 days
●Fee: ¥100 for adults, ¥10 for elementary school students and children below, and ¥100 for bicyclists.

Oi River Kawagoshi Ruins
(Designated as historic site of Japan)
❷大井川川越遺跡 国指定史跡

Even constructing a temporary bridge in winter over the Oi River was strictly forbidden by the Tokugawa shogunate. So the crossing was often interrupted, the longest record is 28 days. In Oigawa Kawagoshi Ruins, you can visit facilities such as 'kawakaisho' (management office of river crossing), 'banyado' (staffroom of river crossing bearers) and 'fudaba' (place where river crossing bearers cashed the ticket).

Monument of Nakata Genzo (Mizukami Park)
❸仲田源蔵翁碑(水神公園)

Cultivation of Kanaya, the well-known tea growing area started in the end of the 19th century when samurai and bearers lost their jobs after abolition of the river crossing system and immigrated to cultivate the tea plantation. Nakata Genzo who was only 29 years old, but invested private property and made direct appeal to the government for Makinohara Plateau cultivation and laid foundation for the later cultivation.

Burial Mound of Nippon Zaemon's Head (Takuenan)
❹日本左衛門首塚(宅円庵)

Nippon Zaemon is the model of Nippon Daemon, a character in a Kabuki program "Shiranami Gonin Otoko". It is said that he stole from storehouses of rich families and gave the money to the poor people. He surrendered himself in Kyoto and was decapitated in Tokyo and was sentenced to public display in Suzugamori (in western Shizuoka Prefecture). They say that his lover "Oman" lived in Kanaya Shuku brought back his head and buried at Takuen-an.

0m 250m 500m

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
Recommended route
Explanatory board
Bus stop
AED Automated external defibrillator, AED
View point of Mt. Fuji
東 East boundary of shukuba
西 West boundary of shukuba