

# NIC Walking Guides

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## ② Yagoto Area



NAGOYA INTERNATIONAL CENTER VOLUNTEERS

## INTRODUCTION

With a population of 2.2 million, Nagoya, the capital of Aichi Prefecture, is the core city of Japan's fourth-largest metropolitan area.

As commerce and industry prospered, and culture flourished in the Edo Period, Nagoya grew into a thriving metropolis. Nagoya has continued to grow since Ieyasu Tokugawa, founder of the Tokugawa Shogunate Government, built Nagoya Castle in 1612. A culture and tradition of manufacturing blossomed during the Meiji Period and is still evolving today.

This guide has been prepared for foreign residents of Nagoya and visitors who are interested in viewing local tourist attractions. This is one of a series of walking guides covering various areas of Nagoya.

Contained in this guide is a model walking route applicable to the specified area or spot. You will find a variety of cultural and historical attractions situated around the walking course.

We hope that you find this guide useful.

The Nagoya International Center

## Series ② Yagoto Area Walk

Yagoto area is a bustling and active area located to the east of central Nagoya with several university campuses, large shopping centers, hotels, and many buildings with fashion boutiques.

The Yotsuya & Yamanote-dori districts that stretch north from Yagoto are home to several university campuses, including Chukyo University, the University of Nagoya, and Nanzan University. There are many trendy spots such as antique shops and brand shops that stimulate the sensitivity of the students. This district is always full of young people.

In the olden days, however, the area flourished as the temple town of Koyasan Bekkaku Honzan Koshoji, whose remnants can still be observed today.

In addition, the area enjoys good access to Nagoya City Center; it is only 15 minutes from central Nagoya by subway. The first subway loop line, the Meijo Line, was completed in October 2004, enhancing access options.

### **<Suggested Walking Route> (From Yagoto sub-way station)**

1. Koshouji Temple → 2. Tokurinji Temple → 3. Yamatedori Dori →
4. Saiko-in Temple → 5. Joshouji Temple → 6. Seiganji Temple →
7. Koushinji Temple → 8. Hayatoike Pond → 9. Houjuin Temple →
10. Hansobo Temple



## Sites of Interest along the way

### 1. Koshouji Temple



This Shingon Buddhism temple was established in Jokyo 3 (1686) by Mitsutomo Tokugawa. The 5-story pagoda is listed as an important national cultural asset. Ennichi (monthly ceremony accompanied by a bazaar) is held on the 5th and 13th of the month and the area is filled with people.

## 2. Tokurinji Temple



The temple was established approximately 1,000 years ago as a Johdo-shu sect temple near the present day Shirakawa Park (located close to the city center). The temple was moved to its current place - on the top of a small hill surrounded woods - during WW2 to escape from Allied air raids. Several interesting monuments can be seen in the

temple area. Located to the south of this temple is the huge Nagoya City Cemetery Park.

## 3. Yamate-dori Boulevard



This belongs to one of the special urban areas where the City of Nagoya is making an effort promote an attractive urban landscape. A nice area to walk and window shop.

## 4. Saiko-in Temple



The history of the temple followed dramatic fate like many of the other ones in Nagoya. Founded in Kiyosu (presently Kiyosu City) in early 16<sup>th</sup> Century as a Buddhist Jodoshu-sect temple, it was moved to Shirakawa (presently Shirakawa-Park near Fushimi) in 1604 when the 1<sup>st</sup> Shogonate Ieyasu Tokugawa established Nagoya Castle.

During WW2 (1943), this temple was moved once again to the current place.



The main hall was destroyed by fire (suspected arson) in 1997. The main building you see today is the newly reconstructed one.

For further details, see the temple website: <http://www.h6.dion.ne.jp/~saikouin/>

## 5. Joshoji Temple



Established here in 1832 as a Nichiren-sect Buddhist temple. It is nick-named “Myouken-san”.

Why is there a torii gate (a symbol of Shinto Shrine as an entrance) at a Buddhist temple? This is one of few remaining examples of the traditional co-existence between a Buddhist temple and a Shinto shrine. This practice

mostly disappeared after the Meiji Reformation took place in the later part of 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 6. Seiganji Temple



This Jodo sect Buddhist temple is known as Sakura-Seiganji. It was originally located in Kiyosu, was moved to Shirakawa-cho in Nagoya around 1610, and later rebuilt at the present site after being destroyed during WW2. The main objects of worship of the temple are its sculptures of Amida-Nyorai and Jizo-bosatsu (images of Buddha).

## 7. Koshinji Temple



Originally built in Kiyosu (presently Kiyosu City), this temple was moved to its present site at the beginning of the Showa Era (1920s). The main object of worship at this temple is the Healing Buddha (Yakushi-Sama) sculptured a thousand years ago by Rishuu (a legendary wizard); it is believed that it answers your prayers. Other interesting Buddhist stone

statues can be seen in the temple grounds.

## 8. Hayato-ike Pond



This pond was originally excavated in 1646 for irrigation purposes by Lord Naruse of Inuyama. The area is a popular recreation and relaxation spot for the people living in the neighborhood, particularly during the cherry blossom season in the spring time.

## 9. Houjuin Temple

This temple was moved to Nagoya from Kiyosu in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and was moved to this area during WW2 like many others. The grounds of Houjuin Temple next to



Hayato-ike Pond are special because of its Inunashi pear tree .

Although Inunashi trees exist in mainland China, they grow only in the Tokai region in Japan. The two Inunashi trees at this temple are valuable remnants of the groves that once

thrived in this area, and have been designated as natural monuments of the city.

## 10. Hansobo Temple

This temple was established as a branch of the Okuyama Hansobo Houkouji Temple (located in Shizuoka Prefecture) in 1885 in Sakae. The temple was moved to its present location in 1910.

An interesting item to be found here is the stone monument of Miyamoto Musashi, who was a master swordsman in the early Edo period. There are two monuments of him in Nagoya. This monument was built in 1973. The epitaph is unique for its difficulty of interpretation.

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