

# NIC Walking Guides

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## ③ Chikusa Ward Area



NAGOYA INTERNATIONAL CENTER VOLUNTEERS

## Walking Guide for Historical Sites in Chikusa Ward Area.

### <Suggested Walking Route>

Walking Route around Chikusa Park and Suidomichi Green Road 7.0 Km

**Start:** Imaike Subway Station

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Daishoji Temple (Suidomichi green road)       | 8. Yasakasha Shrine               |
| 2. Natayakushi Temple                            | 9. Seimei jinnsha Shrine          |
| 3. Yamajinsha Shrine / Higashiyama Water Tower   | 10. Atago-jinsha Shrine           |
| 4. Shikannon ways & Sign-post (Tenma Green road) | 11. Susanono-jinnsha Shrine       |
| 5. Ueno Tenmangu Shrine                          | 12. Chikusa Park                  |
| 6. Choyoji Temple                                | 13. Mamushi-ga-ike Shrine         |
| 7. Eikoin Temple                                 | 14. Mamushi-ga-ike Ryuujin Shrine |

**End:** Ikeshita Subway Station



## Imaike Subway Station

Imaike derives its name from Umaike (Horse pond) which was located southwest of present day Imaike Subway Station. The Umaike pond was filled in approximately 90 years ago (during the Taisho era).

### 1. Daishoji Temple



The temple was originally constructed as the villa of the Kanematsu clan who were one of feudatories of the Owari Tokugawa Family. The villa was rebuilt as a temple toward end of Edo period, which has worked as a nunnishi temple since then.

### 2. Natayakushi Temple



The temple was built by Chan Shinpo in 1669 - a naturalized citizen from China. He was also called Lodo because he worked as the main doctor for Tokugawa Yoshinao (the founder of the Owari Tokugawa branch).

In the main hall of the temple there are a laid out a pair of Nikko and Gakko Bosatsu and the Yakushi Buddhist image. These were likely sculptured by Enku – a very famous for a sculptor who could engrave any image using only an axe. For this reason he was called Nata-Yakushi.

### 3. Yamajinsha Shrine



During the Edo period there was a hill in the area that had many agricultural fields Yamajinsha Shrine was dedicated to mountain god that farmers around this area worshipped. Some tools for decorated horses and bonote (pole) - which were used on festival days - are preserved in the shrine.

#### 4. Shi-Kannon Michi ( Four Kannon Temples Road) and Guide Post

There was a highroad called Shi-Kannon-Michi which is located north of Natayakushi Temple. “Shi-Kannon” refers to the four Kannon temples of Arako, Jimokuji, Ryusenji, and Kasadera. A road leading to the four Kannon temples was called Shi-Kannon-Michi. A guide post can still be seen erected near the tomb of Chan Shimpo showing the description

“ 南 あつた かさでら 北 せと りゅうせんじ “

Southwards: Atsuta Kasadera Northwards: Seto Ryusenji)

#### Higashiyama Water-supply Tower



You can see an ivy-covered tower shaped like an onion head on a hill east of Natayakushi Temple – this is a water-supply tower of Nagoya City. The tower was constructed in 1930 in order to supply water around this area; it was made redundant in 1979. At present it functions as a drinking water tank for emergency use. The water tank stores enough water to supply approximately 100,000 people for a day. The water-supply tower is open to the public twice a year, on the Vernal Equinox Day and August 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### Tenma Green Road



The green road was constructed in 1985 to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Nagoya City's water supply network. You can enjoy walking in green area and listen to the flow of stream. On the north side of the stream, a riverhead square was designed with a shape similar to a dam, and on the south end of the stream, a filtration plant square was built to resemble a water filtration plant. Along the artificial stream, trees similar to those that inhabit the Kiso River Basin have been planted.

## 5. Ueno Tenmangu Shrine



Together with Sakura Tenjin Shrine in Naka Ward and Yamada Tenmangu Shrine in Kita Ward, this shrine is one of big three Tenmangu shrines. It is not clear when the shrine was built, but a record remains in the shrine stating that the shrine was built before the year 1800.

## 6. Choyoji Temple



The image of Juichi-Kanzeonbosatsu which is said to have been sculptured by Unkei is displayed together with a Buddhist image sculptured by Enku in the temple. Inside the temple remains one of four stones which were set up at the four corners in the temple in order to offer prayers for peace and property during the construction of Nagoya Castle.

## 7. Yokoin Temple



The temple was constructed in 1538 by Sadakiyo Shimosada who was the lord of Ueno Castle. A monument to mark the ruins of Ueno Castle remains in the temple along with the Chizo-Bosatsu (also known as Kachigun-Chizo) which was worshipped before battles.

## 8. Yasaka-jinsha Shrine



The shrine is located next to Yokoin Temple. The shrine's deity was worshipped in order to get protection from disasters.

## 9. Seimei-jinsha Shrine



The shrine was built up at the place where Seimei Abe - a popular fortune teller during the Heian Period once lived. A folk story recalls how he rescued the people of the village from a multitude of snakes which inhabited the area. Many star-shaped balloon flowers called "Seimei Kikyō" (Seimei's balloon flower) are hung everywhere in the shrine, giving the shrine a unique feel. The shrine is said to be popular among young girls who visit to receive fortunes above love.

## 10. Atago-jinsha Shrine



The shrine was constructed in 1556 by Sadakiyo Shimosada who was the lord of Ueno Castle. The shrine was constructed to house a guardian deity because of the presence of an Owari Province explosives warehouse that had been constructed near the castle.

### 11. Susanono-jinsha Shrine



The shrine is one of Susanono-jinsha shrines which exist in various regions in Japan. It is also called Yabutenoryujin Shrine.

### 12. Chikusa Park



The park was built on the site of a WW2 munitions factory - which was completely destroyed by an air attack in March 1945. After the war, Higashi-shimin Hospital and Chikusa Park were built up on the site. A variety of lilies can be seen in the park from end of May to the middle of June.

### 13. Mamushi-ga-ike-hachimangu Shrine (Vipers lake Shrine)



The shrine was dedicated to a guardian deity which was worshipped by farmers living around this area during the Edo Period. The name of Mamushi-ga-ike-hachimangu derives from the fact that the shrine was near the Mamushi-ga-ike (vipers lake). It was Seimei Abe, a fortune-teller, who got rid of the many vipers which had inhabited this area.

#### 14. Mamushi-ga-ike-ryujinsha Shrine



Mamushi-ga-ike (vipers lake) was filled in during the Taisho Era. Ryujin Shrine (dragon god) and Benten Shrine (goddess of fortune) were dedicated to a corner of bottom of the lake.

#### Ikeshita Subway Station

Name of Ikeshita (bottom of lake) derives from fact that this area was once bottom of a lake.