

Oh!

Preserving Edition

# 大千住

Sen

# 住

MAP

# 2

How to walk in SENJU. "Qini Sen Ju MAP"

足立区

## “Having Fun in Senju”

# 大千住

From Meiji to early Showa period

## What is “大千住 (*O-senju*)” ?

“大千住 *O-senju*”, appears in the book written by Ogai Mori, one of the famous Japanese novelist, who had been living in Senju when he was young. It was used from Meiji to early Showa period. Name of “*O-senju*”, which suggests that Senju has followed in the prosperity of *shukuba-machi* era, covers wide area of north and south of Senju. In this map, we introduce Senju which is the north of Sumidagawa River.

And now .....

There are five universities, a fashionable station building, the crowded shopping streets and the fulfilling bar-and-grill streets, and good access to transportation. On the other hand, there are uncountable quiet alleys and a spacious river bank of Arakawa River. Senju is a town where old and new are mixed exquisitely. A hip place located east of Tokyo. Would you like to join the treasure hunting walk?

Edo period (1603 – 1868)

## Senju was a\**Shukuba-machi* !

Senju in Edo period was one of the *Edo Shishuku* (four post stations). *Shishuku* was the first post station of the *Kaido* (major road) leading to the local area and it was the starting town for traveler. It was also a hot spot for people in Edo as an exciting place in outlying of Edo.

*Senju-juku* (Senju Post Station) had more population and houses than *Shinagawa-juku* or *Naito-shinjuku*. It was crowded as a town of merchant rather than inn. Many patrons who were successful merchants supported the artists.

\**Shukuba-machi* (Post Station)---Town on the major road where people and horse took a rest or stayed overnight, and relayed the information. It was a busy, bustling and crowded.

# How to Enjoy in Senju

Of course, the convenient station building is an attractive place, but, there are exciting Senju outside of the station building. Senju has been flourished over the special history of *Shukuba* (post station) started in Edo period. You can get glimpses of the character of Meiji, Taisho and Showa period in the modern-day Senju. How about taking a step into Senju where is just a little bit different from other towns in Tokyo?

## Enjoying two “S”s (1)

### *Sento* (public bath) and *Sakaba* (bar)

Senju is one of the foremost and fulfilling town of “*Sento*” and “*Sakaba*” in Tokyo. Here, we’d like to propose to enjoy both “S”s. If you want to enjoy Senju more deeply, why don’t you add the *Yado*(inn) to the plan?

Bathing in the big bathtub to relax and refresh, wandering about the many choices of *Sakaba* and getting into the clean futon without worrying to come back home.

### 10 “*Sento*”s in Senju

Mr. Furo Wakuzo, living in Senju and a highprofile entertainer, says “When I get in the big bathtub of *Sento* once a week, I just feel refreshed. There are so many old style “*Sento*”s close to you in Senju, I want young people to visit these “*Sento*”s more casually”. According to Mr. Wakuzo, in Senju, there are both “*Sento*”s with old fashioned taste and modern facilities, and it is very appealing to enjoy *Sento* by the feeling of the day. The temple like appearance of *Sento* is actually concentrated around Tokyo. Because of Great Kanto

Bathing charge of *Sento*  
Adults ¥460, Elem. School child ¥180, Infant and toddler ¥80  
※As of April, 2015.

The first and third Saturdays of each month are “Day of Interact with Parent and Children”. When you come to *Sento* with elementary school kid, there is a discount!

The paint of Mt. Fuji over men’s and women’s bath of 金の湯 *Kanenuyu* is a big impact.

Mr. Furo Wakuzo

Earthquake(1923), numerous buildings were burnt down in Tokyo. It was triggered that one carpenter specialized in temple and shrine building was asked to build the *Sento*. He tried to construct the unconventional *Sento* with his seasoned technique to cheer Tokyo up. People were surprised at the completed temple like *Sento*, and it became very popular. The time was the reconstruction period and *Sento* after *Sento* were built. Everybody copied the style.

You can enjoy this richly constructed temple like *Sento* in Senju. Meanwhile, you can also enjoy a modern *Sento* such as *Sento* with small swimming pool.

Why don’t you enjoy the treasures of Senju?

### *Sakaba* (bar) in Senju

Turn to the left at the West exit of Kita-Senju station, there is elongated *Sakaba* street, by the name of “*Nomi-Yoko*”. “*Mainichi-Dori* Bar and Grill Street” and so on around Senju where the taste of Showa 30s (from 1955 to 1964) remains. However, *Sakaba* created by younger people have increased. You can enjoy the hospitality, persistence of cooking, and space creation unique to the young. The attractive events with *Sakaba* have increased. Now, *Sakaba* in Senju is cool!

### Two charming *Yados* (inn).

Senju was a *Shukuba-machi* during Edo period, however, there are still two “*Yado*”s in Senju. The *Ryokan* (inn) built in 1948 are favorable taste, and also a convenient and modern hotel is attractive. Which will you stay?

梅の湯 *Umenoyu* is two minutes on foot from the East Exit of Kita-Senju station.

大黒湯 *Daikoku-yu* is called “King of *Sento*”.

ホテルココグラン北千住  
Hotel Coco Grand Kita-Senju  
3-40-2 Senju ☎03-5284-1155  
Single : From ¥8,800/night  
It is a western-style hotel for people travelling on business and family. Travelers can be satisfied by its atmosphere.

福水旅館 *Fukusui Ryokan* 3-52 Senju  
☎03-3881-4001 From ¥3,800 for one person/night.  
It is located near the station. It is clean and offers a reasonable room charge.

# Enjoying the buildings with extra touch

Mr. Taiku Yamazaki who is an architect and the president of Senju *Ie-Machi* Project says, “The allure of Senju is that various buildings built in Edo to Showa period are spread in mosaic. Senju is totally opposite to the town redeveloped to become homogenized. The shops utilized old buildings have increased. Utilizing the old buildings, the depth is added to the atmosphere of town.” After visiting at various towns, Mr. Makoto Sasaki who is a member of the same project and an associate professor of Nippon Institute of Technology says “Senju has an attractive alleys and townscape. You can feel the sense of life when you walk into the alley even near the station. This charm is different from the tourist spot”. We have visited the buildings which are recommended by these two experts.

## Feel the atmosphere of Edo

“*Nagura*” was a very good bone-setting clinic and appeared even in *Senryu* (*Haiku* like humorous poet) in Edo period. Doctor “*Nagura*” was very good that patients poured in as many as 630 patients in one day during the Taisho period, because of his unique skills and treating techniques. There were 5 inns around the clinic. The inn had a special system that the owner had the bone setter license and hospitalized the patient in his inn for treatment. It is very interesting that the entertainer such as *Rakugo* (comical story) teller and *Naniwabushi* (narrative singing) singer sometimes visited the inn and entertained the hospitalized patients.

The 8th generation of *Nagura* is now practicing as orthopedic surgeon with the modern equipments at the same place.

## Attractive buildings

There were many *Jizukigami* (paper made of recycled paper) whole seller in Senju where was close to the city center but adjacent to the farming area from the Edo period and Senju was said to be the

The examination room, usually not opened to the public, had been used since 1848 till 1960s. Also Nagaya-Mon Gate remains. These are the treasure of Senju.

名倉医院 *Nagura Clinic*  
5-22-1 Senju ☎03-3888-7711

Mr. Makoto Sasaki

center of distribution for *Jizukigami*.

Especially, the house of Yokoyama and Shimomura remind the bygone days. In order to have a big open space at the first floor for carrying in the goods, the combined second floor and step-on ceiling of the first floor, the *Dashigeta* (deep eaves) structure were utilized. You can see the distinct character of building style of Senju merchant’ s house.

The house of Itagaki is located in between house of Yokoyama and Shimomura, and was built in early Showa period. The house has a Japanese style structure with western style drawing room and the style was popular from the Taisho to early Showa period.

The southern half of Senju was burnt down by the air raid during WW2, but the northern half survived the war. There are many attractive buildings in the northern half, and pass on the history and industry of Senju.

## *Ikkenya* (solitary house) shop

The shops created in a fashionable way by making use of old building have rapidly increased in Senju. 14 years ago, applying the old building, Ms. Akemi Shimakawa started “*Moezo*”, a restaurant of original dish, and has opened the new restaurants with the same idea since then. She says, “It is a waste if you just tear down the old building. I like to renovate the building by making use of old taste”. Mr. MAH has renovated the cozy building with 1-*ken* (about 1.8m) frontage which has been changed from sushi restaurant to shoes shop to stamp shop since pre WW2 period. It took him for 2 years to complete by DIY and started the “*Yakoya*, a stand-up drinking bar”. He says, “I left old windows, beams and wiring as much as possible. The old items attract me, because, perhaps it has a true taste”. Charging style of ¥1,000 for three tickets is a good bargain and a casual style has become popular. Young people get together every night. “Senju Fresh *Yakoya* Night” is the promotion connecting the unique customers gathering in *Yakoya*.

梅山家 House of Yokoyama /4-28-1 Senju  
\*inside is not opened to the public

下村家 House of Shimomura /5-19-11 Senju  
\*inside is not opened to the public

板垣家 House of Itagaki /5-6-7 Senju  
\*inside is not opened to the public

前蔵 *Moezo*  
1-34-10 Senju ☎03-3879-6083

八古屋 *Yakoya*  
4-23-1 Senju ☎03-3881-6799

Mr. Taiku Yamazaki

Mew Mew Mew

Many *Roji-inari* (a local tutelary shrines)

# Enchanted Labyrinth Wondering in alleys

Around the area where Kyu-Nikko-Kaido St. run through Senju from south to north flourished as *Shukubamachi* in the Edo period and is now crowded with shopping street. As the tax was imposed based on the frontage, the townscape with narrow frontage and slender depth was developed. There are many merchant houses which the shop faces a street, and living quarter and *Kura* (storehouse) are placed behind the shop. In addition, the rent house was built behind the main house thus the alley had increased.

Even if the owner of land was changed, the alley tracing the townscape has remained. There are many remaining narrow alleys like a fish bone with Kyu-Nikko-Kaido St. as the backbone. It makes Senju very intriguing.

When you stroll about the alley, you often find the charming shop and *Kura*. You encounter various discoveries in the alley of Senju.

It may be nice to get lost leisurely in the unknown labyrinth. However, let’s keep the manners not to disturb the residents.

Up/You often encounter the cobbled floor built of reutilized stone(the flagstone of Toden etc.). Right/Many bare light bulbs are still active around Yanagihara area.

The cool cafe appears suddenly when you stroll about the alley. This cafe has utilized the structure of old storehouse for rice with over 100 years history as much as possible to renovate by the owner. カフェコンバージョン *Cafe Conversion* /2-31 Senju

喫茶蔵 *Cafe “Kura”* in the alley  
1-34-10 Senju ☎03-3882-0838

Discovered the storehouse built of bricks!

# Tasting the Senju Specialty

Mr. Masanobu Ando

## Story of “*Senju-Negi*”

There is the wholesale market specialized only for *Negi* (green onion) in Senju. Green onion moved through this market, that is, the green onion selected by the discerning merchant is called as “*Senju-Negi*”. It is exceptionally delicious in season in winter.

Mr. Masanobu Ando, the onion merchant “*Negishige*”, says “*Senju-Negi* has a fine texture and is heavy, isn’t it? When you chopped it for spice, it has a piquant and pleasing flavor with only a small amount. Though it is hard to be fallen in pieces when you boil, it gets soften and sweet when you cook”. He has felt sorry that *Senju-Negi* have been only distributed among professional Japanese Restaurants. So, the group headed by Mr. Ando has developed the new distribution channel. Because of their effort, *Senju-Negi* has become available even in the super markets and can be personally ordered. Mr. Ando feels, “I want to let the children who hate the onion realize the good taste of *Senju-Negi*. And I want to enlighten that there is a local specialty in Senju”. So, he supplies *Negi* for the local elementary school lunch and accepts the field trip actively. When he provides the *Senju-Negi* Tempura with whitebait for tasting, children say “Sweet!”, “Yummy!” in unison.

## Senju Specialty Dish, *Negima-nabe*

(*Senju-Negi* and *Tuna* are boiled together in the seasoned broth in a pot)

*Negima-nabe* was a dish for the ordinary people in Edo period, and now, it is quietly gaining momentum in Senju. After all, Senju is the town of “*Senju-Negi*”. And there is “Senju Fish Market” which is the only market specialized for fisheries products trading in Tokyo. In that case, “Senju Fish Market *Asunaro* Group” decided just have to create a new thing in Senju. They have supplied the dish at the events in town, delivered the recipe. Accordingly, some restaurants have started to add *Negima-nabe* to their menu gradually.

At the Yamagashiwa market 10, the morning auction starts from 6:30 everyday. High-spirited voices have a pleasant ring. They say that only *Senju-Negi* still has solid roots even after rinsed cleanly. You can purchase *Senju-Negi* in Adachi Senju Fish market 15 and in 菊茂 *Negishige* 16.

You can enjoy the *Negima-nabe* at 市場食堂さかなや “*Sakanaya*” 17 From ¥1,200 per plate (reservation only) 4-11-6 Senju ☎03-3881-4286. And also at ちやぶ台 “*Chabudai*” (3-17 Senju) , 一歩一歩 “*Ippo Ippo*” (3-53 Senju) and its affiliated restaurants (reservation only), 粋心亭 “*Suishin-Tei*” (3-57-2-2F Senju)(reservation only),

Town of Shopping Street

Market has been operating in Senju since Edo period and Senju has been the town of distribution. And it is still active as a town of trading. When you stroll about the bustling shopping street, you can find delicious foods and unique goods which cannot be found at mass retailer.



**Town of Enma** (Ruler and Judge of the Underworld)  
Because Edo Shishuku (four post stations) including Senju is the gateway to Edo, maybe *Enma* is keeping eye on the people. He has occupied two places, Akamon-dera Temple (Shosen-ji Temple) and Konzo-ji Temple. Enma-biraki *ennichi* (street fair) is held twice a year at Akamon-dera Temple and you can admire the Lord *Enma*. *Enma* of Konzo-ji Temple is not open for public, but legend has it that he was made up as a girl to have *soba* (buckwheat noodle) every night, a cute “*Soba Enma*”.



Lord Enma of Akamondera Temple

Town of Mt. Fuji

Mt. Fuji has been attracting the interest for the registration for the world heritage. Senju is one of the town of Mt. Fuji. There are many beautiful pictures of Mt. Fuji in Sento shown on the cover, and three *Fujizuka* (Fuji mound). The faith in Mt. Fuji was very popular in Edo period and “*Fujizuka*” was constructed by lodging the molten rock and soil transferred from Mt. Fuji for the people who cannot go to Mt. Fuji directly. There used to be about 60 *Fujizuka* around Tokyo and three remains in Senju today. *Fujizuka* at Okawacho Hikawa-jinja Shrine is the oldest in the City. You still can climb up, furthermore, the opening mountain *ennichi* (street fair) is held.



Fujizuka at Okawacho Hikawa-jinja Shrine



Red Fuji of Daikokuyu (in the female bathroom)

Town of River and Alley

Dou you know that Arakawa River is a manmade river?

In order to avoid the repeated floods of Sumidagawa River, the present Arakawa River was dug out by men from Taisho to early Showa period. Town placed between two rivers, Arakawa River and Sumidagawa River is Senju. There are many alleys inherited from the townscape of Edo period, and it is pleasant to stroll about. Please walk quietly because the alley is right next to the ordinary life.



Arakawa River



1 through 17 on the map is the information shown on the face.

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「楽しいまち」は「安全なまち」

marks are the recommended cherry blossom point by Senju Ie-Machi Project



You can relax!



Nostalgic station building



Largest indoor fishing spot in Tokyo.



One of the largest skateboarding parks in Tokyo.

Uogashi (Fish market) at Senju

During Edo period, at around the base of Senju-Ohashi bridge, there was a vegetable market, Yatchaba, taking major role in the distribution of Edo. And now, Yatchaba has become Adachi Market as the only Central Wholesale Market specialized in fisheries products. Though the market is for the professionals, people can use the market in the restaurant building and some shops which carries the cooking ingredients such as *Konbu* (dried kelp), *Katsuoobushi* (dried, fermented and smoked skipjack tuna) and utensils for professionals. You may purchase rare goods at the market price.

