

Recommended place for strolling



1 Shimogoiinden Bridge (Train Museum)

In the middle of Shimogoiinden-bashi Bridge is a special viewing deck from which to view trains such as Shinkansen and express trains as they constantly pass to and fro on over 14 train lines, including the Yamanote Line and Keisei Line.

■ 2-58 Nishi-Nippori, Arakawa City



2 Hongyōji Temple

This temple was called the "moon-viewing temple" during the Edo period (1603-1868) and was popular among the cultured. A poem stone by haiku master Kobayashi Issa is here, as well as the grave of the Confucian scholar Ichikawa Kansai.

■ 3-1-3 Nishi-Nippori, Arakawa City



3 Kyōōji Temple

After losing at the Battle of Ueno in 1868, members of Shōgtai (an elite corps of the shogunate) hid themselves at this temple, where they were confronted by troops from the new government. Bullet marks from the fighting can still be seen on the main gate.

■ 3-2-6 Nishi-Nippori, Arakawa City



4 Fujimi-zaka Hill (slope for veiwing Mt. Fuji)

Until recently, Fujimizaka was one of a number of hills in central Tokyo from which Mt. Fuji was visible. In 2004, the hill was selected as one of the best 100 spots in Kanto to see Mt. Fuji.

■ Vicinity of 3-7 Nishi-Nippori, Arakawa City



5 Jōkōji Temple

Located on a small rise of land with a good view, the temple became known as good spot for snow viewing.

■ 3-4-3 Nishi-Nippori, Arakawa City



6 Suwa Jinja Shrine

A branch shrine of the Suwa Grand Shrine in Nagano Prefecture dedicated to *Takeminakatanomikoto*, a deity in Japanese myths. Built in 1205, local residents believe that the shrine protects Nippori and Yanaka area.

■ 3-4-8 Nishi-Nippori, Arakawa City



7 Nishi-Nippori Park

This is a quiet park away from the nearby street bustle. The nice view from elevated parts of the neighborhood made this area a favorite relaxation spot since old times.

■ 3-5-5 Nishi-Nippori, Arakawa City



8 Seiunji Temple

This temple, along with Shushōin Temple, is known for its many blossoms and is home to Ebisu, one of Yanaka's Seven Gods of Fortune (Shichifukujin). The calligraphy pens and inkstones of Takizawa Bakin, author of the 18th century epic *Nansō Satomi Hakkenden*, a favorite Japanese adventure story even today, are enshrined in a corner beside the main hall.

■ 3-6-4 Nishi-Nippori, Arakawa City

Walking trail in Teramachi Course



9 Shushōin Temple

This temple, along with Seiunji Temple, is known for its many blossoms. The grounds appear in the ukiyo-e woodblock prints of Utagawa Hiroshige's 100 Famous Views of Edo series. The temple is home to the statue of Hotei, one of Yanaka's Seven Gods of Fortune (Shichifukujin), probably Edo's oldest Seven Gods. The temple receives many worshippers even today.

■ 3-7-12 Nishi-Nippori, Arakawa City



10 Yūyake Dandan and Yanaka Ginza

The name Yūyake Dandan (Sunset Stairway) was decided by public poll and reflects its history as a popular spot to watch sunsets. At the bottom of the stairway is Yanaka Ginza, an old-fashioned shopping street that retains the bustle and warmth of old Tokyo. Look for the seven delightful wooden cat sculptures by students of Tokyo University of the Arts.

■ Vicinity of Nishi-Nippori 3-chome through Yanaka 3-chome



11 Okakura Tenshin Memorial Park

The park sits on the former estate of Okakura Tenshin, a scholar instrumental in the development of Japanese modern art and author of seminal work *The Book of Tea*.

■ 5-7-10 Yanaka, Taito City



12 Daienji Temple

The Shinto god Inari was enshrined here in the middle of the Edo period, making Daienji both a temple and a shrine, and was very popular as a place to pray for the cure of smallpox and skin diseases. It is also home to an itabi stone slab monument dedicated to ukiyo-e master Suzuki Harunobu and his muse, Osen, a tea-shop waitress considered to be one "Edo's three beauties" and featured in many of his prints. Every October, the temple holds a chrysanthemum festival.

■ 3-1-2 Yanaka, Taito City



13 Zenshōan Temple

This temple was built by Yamaoka Tesshū (a samurai who played an important role in the Meiji Restoration) and is the resting place of rakugo master San'yūtei Enchō. Each August, the temple holds Yanaka Enchō Festival with rakugo performances as well as an exhibition of its ghost scrolls by noted Edo-period artist Maruyama Ōkyo.

■ 5-4-7 Yanaka, Taito City



14 Sansaki-zaka Hill

The name is said to derive from the three major highrise slopes of Komagome, Tabata and Yanaka. It is also called "Nodding Hill" in reference to the Buddhist monks who used to live in the area, as they would nod their heads while walking.

■ Running between Yanaka 2 and 3-chōme and Yanaka 4 and 5-chōme in Taito City



15 Tsuji-bei wall of the Kannonji Temple

This unusual wall, a type of tsuji-bei or roofed earthen wall, was built during the Edo period. It consists of alternating layers of tamped earth and tile topped with a tile roof.

■ 5-8-28 Yanaka, Taito City



16 Goten-zaka Hill

Previously, there was a steep hill leading up to Yanaka called Gotenzaka. Much of it was leveled to build Nippori Station and JR railway lines, and only the top part of the slope remains. The name may possibly have come from the commoner's term goinden, used to refer to the hermitage of Rinnojimiya who was the chief priest of Kaneiji Temple.

■ From Nippori Sta., North Exit, between Nippori 3-chōme and Yanaka 7-chōme

Recommended place for strolling



1 Zenshōji Temple

The temple is associated with the Tokugawa family since the mother of the sixth Tokugawa shogun was buried here. It is also home to a statue said to be from the Azuchi-Momoyama period (late 16th century) and the grave of the great sumo wrestler Futabayama.

■ 5-41-14 Higashi-Nippori, Arakawa City



2 Tennōji Temple

Tennōji, one of Tokyo's most famous temples, was established in the Kamakura period (1185-1333). The tomitsuki (lottery) established in the Edo period was very popular with residents and became the basis of Japan's current takarakuji lottery.

■ 7-14-8 Yanaka, Taito City



3 Daimyō Clock Museum

This museum is the only one in Japan exhibiting various Japanese clocks (turret clocks, grandfather clocks, pillow clocks, etc.), which were the exclusive domain of daimyō feudal lords. Visitors can get a close-up look at the superb design and craftsmanship of these antique timepieces.

■ 2-1-27 Yanaka, Taito City



4 Miura-zaka Hill

This slope, which runs down to Nezu, was located in front of an estate under a feudal lord named Miura Shimanokami, and came to be known as Miurazaka.

■ Between Yanaka 1 and 2-chōme in Taito City



5 Shitamachi Museum Annex (The Former Yoshidaya Liquor Shop)

A Meiji-period sake shop was moved in its entirety to the museum grounds. The shop, designated as a Taito City folk cultural property, displays scales, casks, bottles and other items historically used by sake merchants.

■ 2-10-6 Ueno-sakuragi, Taito City
Hours: 9:30-16:30 (entrance until 16:00)
Closed: Mondays, year-end and certain other days



6 Jōmyōin Temple

Built in 1666, this temple is home to more than 20,000 jizō statues. An annual hechima (luffa) memorial service is held on August 15 of the lunar calendar to pray for relief from coughs or asthma, as hechima sap was once used to relieve coughs.

■ 2-6-4 Ueno-sakuragi, Taito City

Annual events held around Nippori and Yanaka

January 1 to January 10	Yanaka Shichifukujin Pilgrimage (Visit to the Yanaka's Seven Gods of Fortune)
The second Saturday and Sunday of May	The annual festival of Motomishima jinja Shrine
August 1 to August 31	Yanaka Enchō Festival (Zenshōan Temple)
The last Saturday and Sunday of August	The annual festival of Suwa jinja Shrine
From early September through early October (August 15 on the lunar calendar)	Hechima Kuyō (Jōmyōin Temple)
Early October	Yanaka Festival
	Yanaka Chrysanthemum Festival (Daienji Temple)
Early to mid October	Arts and Crafts Fair
Mid November	Nippori Fashion Design Contest

Museumtour Course



7 Negishi Sanpeidō Museum

The memorial museum established in honor of Hayashiya Sanpei the first, a Rakugo (comic story telling) performer in the Showa period, who was called "Showa king of laughter". It exhibits his various belongings and memorabilia.

■ 2-10-12 Negishi, Taito City



8 Calligraphy Museum

The museum displays calligraphy-related antiques and archeological artifacts from Japan and China collected by Western-style painter and calligrapher Nakamura Fusetsu. The collection includes several important cultural properties and art treasures.

■ 2-10-4 Negishi, Taito City
Hours: 9:30-16:30 (until 16:00)
Admission: 500 yen (elementary, middle and high school students, 250 yen) Closed: Mondays, year-end, and for exhibition changes



9 Shikian House

Masaoka Shiki is considered the father of modern haiku. He held poetry readings and gatherings in the library of his home, Shikian, and through the support of friends, disciples, and mother and sister, was able to devote himself to creating innovative haiku and tanka poetry before dying at an early age.

■ 2-5-11 Negishi, Taito City



10 Nippori-Minami Park

Nippori-Minami Park has a large fountain that received a commendation from the Japanese government. The park is filled with evergreen trees and seasonal planted flowers, and comes alive with cherry blossoms in the spring.

■ 5-19-1 Higashi-Nippori, Arakawa City



11 Commemorative Stone for Yūyake Koyake (Dai-ni Nippori Elementary School)

Nakamura Ukō, lyricist of one of Japan's most famous children's songs, *Yūyake Koyake* (Sunset Glow), was assigned to Dai-ni Nippori Elementary School in 1918 when he first became a teacher. He wrote the song in 1919 after transferring to Dai-san Nippori Elementary School.

■ 5-2-1 Higashi-Nippori, Arakawa City



12 Nippori Fabric Town

All kinds of fabrics and textiles are available from the specialty shops that line both sides of this one kilometer shopping street. Furatto Nippori hosts the Nippori Fashion Design Contest to spread awareness of Nippori Fabric Town across Japan.

■ Vicinity of Higashi-Nippori 3-chome through 6-chome

Origin of the Nippori Name

Nippori means "village for spending the day" and brings to mind the image of a lively and enjoyable place. Nippori was popular among the literary during the Edo period (1603-1868) as a scenic spot, and Fujimi-zaka Hill is a common theme appearing in literature and ukiyo-e woodblock prints, including those of master artist Utagawa Hiroshige. It is also home to Nippori Fabric Town, a collection of dozens of fabric and textile stores.

Origin of the Yanaka Name

Yanaka, which means "middle of the valley," was given its name in the Edo period, reflecting its location at the bottom of the valley between the Ueno and Hongō plateaus. With the construction of Kaneiji Temple and policies of the Edo shogunate, many temples moved from the Kanda area to Yanaka, creating a "town" of temples. The area remained relatively insulated from earthquake disasters and war damage, so many of the old street layouts and buildings remain today.