

## Famous Sites of Edo in Shinagawa

### The Shinagawa Goten

Gotenyama became a famous hill in Edo when the shogunate villa Shinagawa Goten was constructed on it in the early Edo Period\*. The Shinagawa Goten was a villa for the shogun relax and enjoy hawking, and is also believed to have served as a defensive outpost. The third shogun, Tokugawa Iemitsu frequently visited it for having many important political meetings and gatherings. The Shinagawa Goten was lost to fire in 1702 and was never rebuilt.

\* The Edo Period: The period from the beginning of 17th century until 1868. The shogunate government was located in Edo (present-day Tokyo), which is the origin of the period's name.

### A Famous Flower Viewing Spot

Gotenyama, the site of the former Shinagawa Goten, was opened together with Asukayama (Kita City, Tokyo) and the Sumida riverside during the time of the 8th shogun Tokugawa Yoshimune and later maintained as a famous flower viewing spot. As a place that offered leisure to many people, Gotenyama was featured in the ukiyo-e woodblock prints of renowned artists such as Utagawa Hiroshige and Katsushika Hokusai, and became one of the premier scenic locations in Edo. Many Sakura cherry blossom trees were also planted mainly in the temples and shrines in the area starting in Oi, located in southern Shinagawa up to the Ikegami Honmon-ji Temple in Ota City, Tokyo, attracting a wide range of people, from the shogun to commoners.

### Eight Fishing Villages that Offered Fish to Edo Castle

Two fishing villages developed in the Shinagawa region, Shinagawa-ura (Ryoshimachi Town, Minami-Shinagawa) and Oi-Ohayashi-ura (Ryoshimachi Town, Ohayashi), as two of the eight villages that offered fresh fish to the Edo Castle. The eight villages were: Kanasugi and Honshiba (present-day Minato City), Shinagawa and Oi-Ohayashi (present-day Shinagawa City), Haneda (present-day Ota City, Tokyo), and Namamugi, Shinshuku and Kanagawa, (present-day Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture). Among them, Shinagawa-ura, Kanasugi-ura and Honshiba-ura played central roles.

### A Whale Catching in Shinagawa

In May 1798, Shinagawa fishermen caught a whale, 16 meters long and two meters tall, that

became lost on the shoal of Tennozu (present-day Higashi-Shinagawa, Shinagawa). *Kawaraban*\* blockprint newsheets featured its capture, attracting large numbers of people. The whale was brought to the Hamagoten (present-day Hamarikyu Gardens) and presented to Tokugawa Ienari, the 11th shogun. The whale was thereafter buried in the grounds of Susakibenten (Kagata Shrine), and a monument to the whale was erected.

\* *Kawaraban* blockprinted news sheets: A type of special-edition newspaper made during the Edo Period.

1\_03\_01



### Guide for Famous Cherry Blossom Viewing Spots in the Southern Edo Region

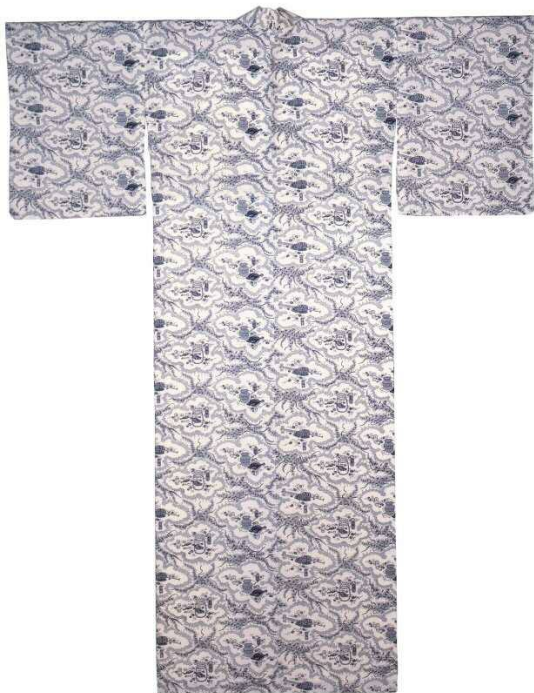
Tokusai Keizan

Circa 1804–1818(Surmised)

Onogozo Tadanori was a prominent figure and haiku poet as Tokusai Keizan of Oi Village. He produced a guide of *Sakura* cherry blossom viewing spots in the Shinagawa and Oi areas from the northern Gotenyama to the southern Ikegami Honmon-ji Temple. The guide included recommended seasons for haiku poems and flower viewing. The guide was offered to the temple associated with Matsuo Basho\*.

\* Matsuo Basho: The famous Edo Period haiku poet who wrote “Narrow Road to Oku (*Okuno-hosomichi*).

1\_03\_02



### Yukata (Reproduction)

Many *yukata* robes were made during the 19th century based on motifs of famous places and goods in Edo. This *yukata* is one example of that trend, and is based on a motif of the fish brought ashore in Shinagawa. The cross pattern is dyed to line up precisely with the surface and inner patterns of the *yukata*.

1\_03\_03



### Flower Viewing on Gotenyama (Reproduction)

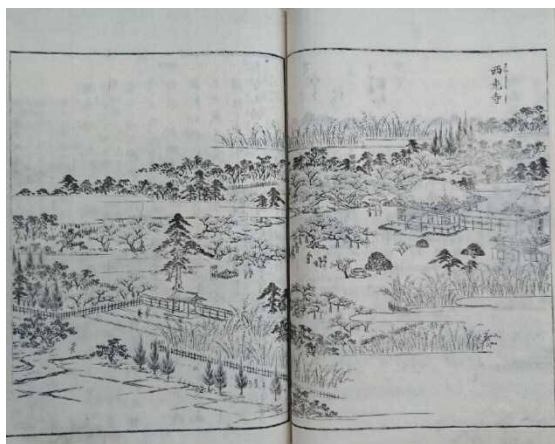
Illustration by Katsushika Hokusai

Bunsei to Early Tenpo Period (1818 – 1830s)

Original: Hokusai Museum Collection

Ukiyo-e woodblock prints featured a wide range of subjects, including actors, beautiful women, *rikishi* sumo wrestlers, scenery and flowers and birds. There are both brush-painted and wood block print ukiyo-e illustrations, which are produced through the cooperation of an illustrator, engraver and woodblock printer. This illustration is a brush-painted scene of flower viewing on Gotenyama.

1\_03\_04



Illustrations of Famous Sites in Edo -  
Second Volume “Saiko-ji Temple”

Saito Yukio and others’ verses, Hasegawa  
Settan’s illustrations

1834

A guidebook featuring famous sites with  
illustrations at the end of the Edo Period.  
*Chigo-zakura* and *Daigo-zakura* cherry  
blossom trees are drawn in front of the main  
hall on the grounds of Saiko-ji Temple.

The text states, “There are a few old *Sakura*  
trees on the grounds of the temple. When  
they come into full bloom, this is the  
greatest flower viewing spot in these areas.”

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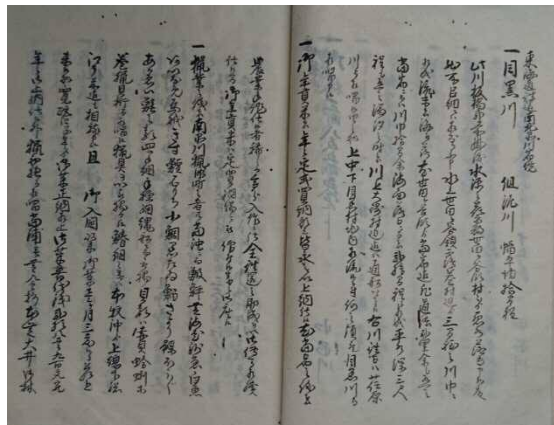


Specimen of Sakura Cherry Blossoms –  
“Fugenzo”

Preserved in 2016

A specimen of the Fugenzo variety of  
Sakura cherry blossoms. In the Edo Period,  
the tree bloomed at Raifuku-ji Temple in Oi  
with large multi-layered pale red flowers.  
This specimen is a set of Fugenzo flowers  
preserved in acrylic, taken from other  
locations.

1\_03\_06



Record of Lodging Information

March 1843

Rissho University collection, housed at Shinagawa Historical Museum

A record book with an overview of inns in Shinagawa, kept over several generations by the Kagata family, which served as the *nanushi*\* chief of Minami-Shinagawashuku. It records the seafood caught at Ryoshi Town, Shinagawa, such as flounder, shrimp, squid, and sea bream.

\* *Nanushi* chief: An individual who served as the overall leader of village politics

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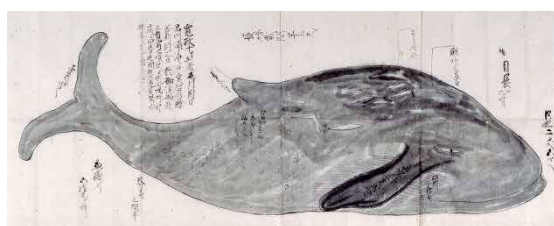


Illustration of the Whale that appeared in the Waters off Shinagawa

Produced in around 1798

It described the details of the whale, including its size.

\* This item is not currently on display.