

●Shinagawa Historical Museum Explanatory Sheet

Shinagawa, A Famous Spot in Edo

Shinagawa Post Station Throughout the Four Seasons

As the first post station, Shinagawa Post Station was a bustling station town in the Edo Period, which saw numerous travelers, as well as people visiting from Edo and its surroundings for leisure. Shinagawa was an exquisite location that offered views of the serene mountains of the Boso Peninsula, spectacular views of the sea, and delicious cuisine made with fresh fish and shellfish.

Shinagawa was famous as a place where the scenery of all four seasons could be enjoyed. A hill named Gotenyama was a premier spot for Sakura cherry blossom viewing in the spring, and many people tried shellfish gathering along the long shallow Shinagawa seaside. In the summer, there was a tradition to wait for the appearance of the moon based on the teaching that three Buddhas would appear within the light of the summer moon. On these evenings, numerous boats would dot the surface of Shinagawa Bay, as people reveled with food and drink together while waiting for the moon.

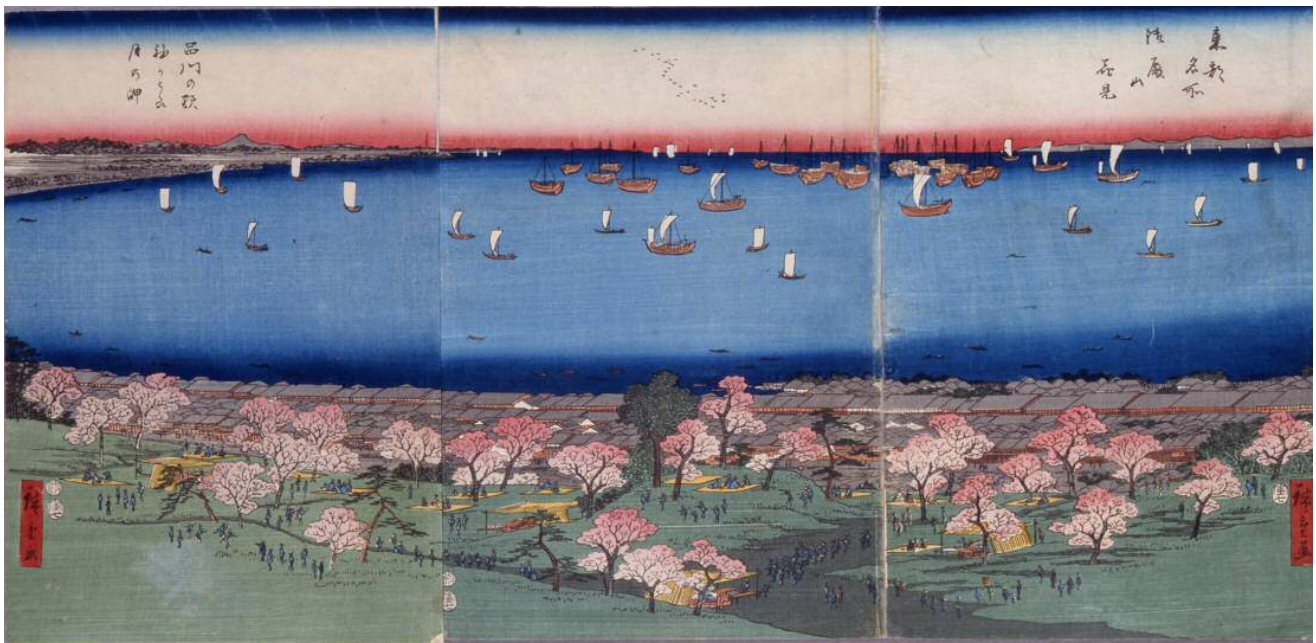
Autumn was a time to enjoy the vividly colored leaves of trees in Kai'an-ji Temple, said to be the best in Edo, and winter was the season when seaweed was harvested to make Shinagawa's famous *nori* laver. These various scenes were well-loved subjects for *ukiyo-e* illustrations, and were featured in the works of many masters, such as Utagawa Hiroshige and Katsushika Hokusai.



▲ A yukata with a Shinagawa motif (reproduction)

Famous Sights Found in Yukata Patterns

With the turn of the 19th century, yukata summer kimonos began to be produced featuring patterns based on the famous sights of Edo. This yukata is one example of that trend, and is patterned after the seafood harvested around Shinagawa. The yukata has been painstakingly dyed to ensure both the surface and inner patterns match up perfectly.



▲ Famous Places in Edo - Flower Viewing at Gotenyama, Utagawa Hiroshige I