

Abeno History Map


9 Monument of Horse Tram
 (Location: In Hankai-Uemachi Line Higashi-Tengachaya Station)

In 1900, a horse tram service was commenced between Tennoji Nishimon-mae (west gate of Tennoji Temple) and Higashi Tengachaya by Osaka Horse Tram Company. Subsequently, given the development of the neighborhood, the company planned to introduce electric streetcars. In 1908, the company finally decided to terminate the horse tram service, so as to start electric streetcar service.




10 Abe Seimei Shrine
 (Location: 5 Abeno Motomachi)

The deity enshrined at Abe Seimei Shrine is Abe Seimei, offspring of Emperor Kogen, and known as the founder of Onmyodo (the Way of Yin and Yang). It is said in the legend of Seimei holy sites that it was built in 1007, in the Heian Period, at the behest of the 66th Emperor Ichijo. The current main shrine was restored in 1925.




11 Abeno Oji Shrine
 (Location: 9 Abeno Motomachi)

According to the Legend of the Abeno Oji Gods, this shrine was built by Emperor Nintoku; another theory has it built by Abe, who lived in the area in ancient times. With the increased popularity of the pilgrimages to visit the Kumano shrines in the Heian period, Abeno Oji Shrine was named as the second of 99 Kumano Oji shrines and became very active.




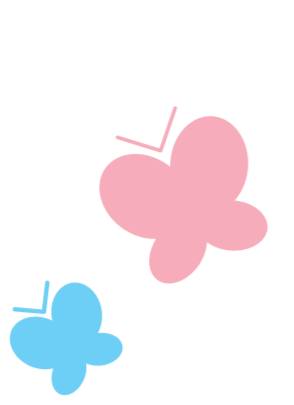
12 Kyozyuka Ancient Burial Mound
 (Location: 15 Abeno Motomachi)

The Chronicle of Setsuyo states that Kyozyuka came about when Prince Shotoku wrote all of the Buddhist scriptures (kyo) on a stone-one character on each stone-and made an offering to the gods of those stones here. In another theory, the Legend of the Abe Gods says that in the summer of 826, a great plague broke out and that Kukai (Saint Kobo) entered Oji Shrine and made a thousand copies of the sutra of the great god of medicine, of which he then made an offering at the burial mound.



13 Abeno Shrine
 (Location: 3-7 Kitabatake)

This shrine is dedicated to Akiie Kitabatake, retainer of the Southern Imperial Court, and his father, Chikafusa. The shrine, built on the battleground where Akiie fought the Ashikaga army, was established in 1882. The current main shrine was rebuilt in 1968.

1 Old Abe Temple
 (Location: 3-6 Matsuzaki-cho)

It is thought that this temple was named after the Abe clan, the owner of this area. The kin of the Abe included Abe Kurahashimaro, who supported the reforms of the Taika era along with people such as Fujiwara Kamatari. Going by the foundation stone for the temple's main pillar, it is thought that the temple was a very large-scale affair.



2 Site of Tensai-gajuku Art School
 (Location: 3-7 Matsuzaki-cho)

Tensai-gajuku Art School was the first in Osaka to teach authentic Western-style oil painting. The school was operated from 1904 to 1925 by Sangoro Matsubara (1864-1946). His students at Tensai-gajuku are all known as leading artists in the modern Japanese art history.



3 Osaka Municipal Kogei Senior High School
 (Location: 1-7 Fuminosato)

It is said that the building of Kogei Senior High School was designed by young and energetic engineers in Osaka City in 1924. The school building was modeled after the Bauhaus in Weimar, Germany, the school famous for its new type of art education. Recognized as a masterpiece school building, Kogei Senior High School was designated as a registered tangible cultural property of Osaka City.




4 Old Kumano Road
 (Location: 9 Abeno Motomachi)

The Kumano Road connected Hakkenya (Tenmabashikomachi, Chuo-ku) in Osaka and the three Kumano Shrines in Kishu. It was always vibrant, humming with people back when the Kumano religion was thriving.




5 Matsumushizuka Ancient Burial Mound

According to Ashiwakebune, Matsumushi and Suzumushi, two ladies in waiting in the service of Emperor Go-toba (1183-1198), embraced the Buddhist teachings of St. Honen. It is said that Matsumushi created a hermitage in this area and lived in seclusion thereafter.



6 Maruyama Ancient Burial Mound
 (Location: 2-8 Maruyama-dori)

With only 82 m2 of space, featuring two stone towers on the top - one rectangular and the other crown-shaped - little Maruyama burial mound is covered with old pine trees. There are also two depressions to the west - one large and one small, which are likely the remains of a moat. It was its round appearance that led to the burial mound being named Maruyama (literally "round mountain").




7 Kaishozan Shoenji Temple
 (Location: 3-2 Matsumushi-dori)

The last of the ancient Shingon Sect Kyoto Toji temples, it is said that the temple was founded when Osho Kodo founded a temple about 500 meters east of the current site in 939 and called it Hannyazan Abeji temple. The current Shoenji is situated in a serenely beautiful place atop a hill, on the western tip of the Uemachi Plateau. It is dedicated to the god Daishokangiten (Shoten or Nandikesvara), and therefore the hill upon which it sits is known as Mt. Shoten.



8 Momogaikae Pond
 (Location: 1 Momogaikae-cho)

Momogaikae is a very old pond situated in a depression between the Uemachi Plateau and the hills of Abiko. It is said that it used to connect with the Nekomagawa River. The pond has always been known as Momogaikae, but the characters used in the written name have changed over the years. An ancient map of the Sesshu area says that Momogaikae is so called because it is shaped like a leg, (one of the many characters which can be read "momo" in Japanese means "high"), and there is also a theory that the large number of ponds in the area led to Momogaikae being written with the character meaning "hundred").




Origin of the ward's name Abeno

The history of Abeno is said to date back to the Yayoi period. There are various views about the origin of the ward's name Abeno. One view is that the name originates from Abeno-jima Island referred to in Yamabe no Akahito's poem in the Manyoshu, the oldest existing collection of Japanese poetry. Another view is that the name comes from Amabego, an old area name. However, the most widely accepted view is that the name originates from the Abe clan, who is believed to have occupied the Abeno area and established Abe-dera Temple.

14 Tomb of Akiie Kitabatake
 (Location: 3-8 Oji-cho)

Akiie Kitabatake was a general in the service of Emperor Go-daigo in the era of the Northern and Southern Imperial Courts. Together with his father Chikafusa, Akiie took part in the suppression of Ou. It is said that Akiie died at only 21 years old, after ambushing the great army of Takauji Ashikaga with only a small band of 20 soldiers.



15 Komachizuka and Harimazuka ancient burial mounds
 (Location: 4-3 Oji-cho)

Komachizuka: In the ancient literary work Ashiwakebune, Komachizuka is said to be the burial mound of Ono Komachi; however, there are no records of Ono Komachi dying in this area. It is thought that the burial mound was made for religious purposes, such as a wish to blessed with Ono Komachi's beauty and talent.
 Harimazuka: In the era of the northern and southern imperial courts, Harimazuka was built by Sadanori, son of Enshin Akamatsu, governor general of Harima. Sadanori fought with Masatsura Kusunoki, a retainer of the Southern Imperial Court in the Battle of Sumiyoshi, and lost. He created the burial mound to house the bodies of his fallen soldiers; naming it Harimazuka, he prayed for happiness for his fallen subordinates in the afterlife.



The history map of ABENO

The government of Abeno Ward strives to publicize information about the ward more effectively through various measures. As one of such measures, with cooperation from Kogei Senior High School, Osaka, the government has created the Abeno History Map to get local residents more familiarized with and interested in the ward. This map is also available on Abeno Ward's website.

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