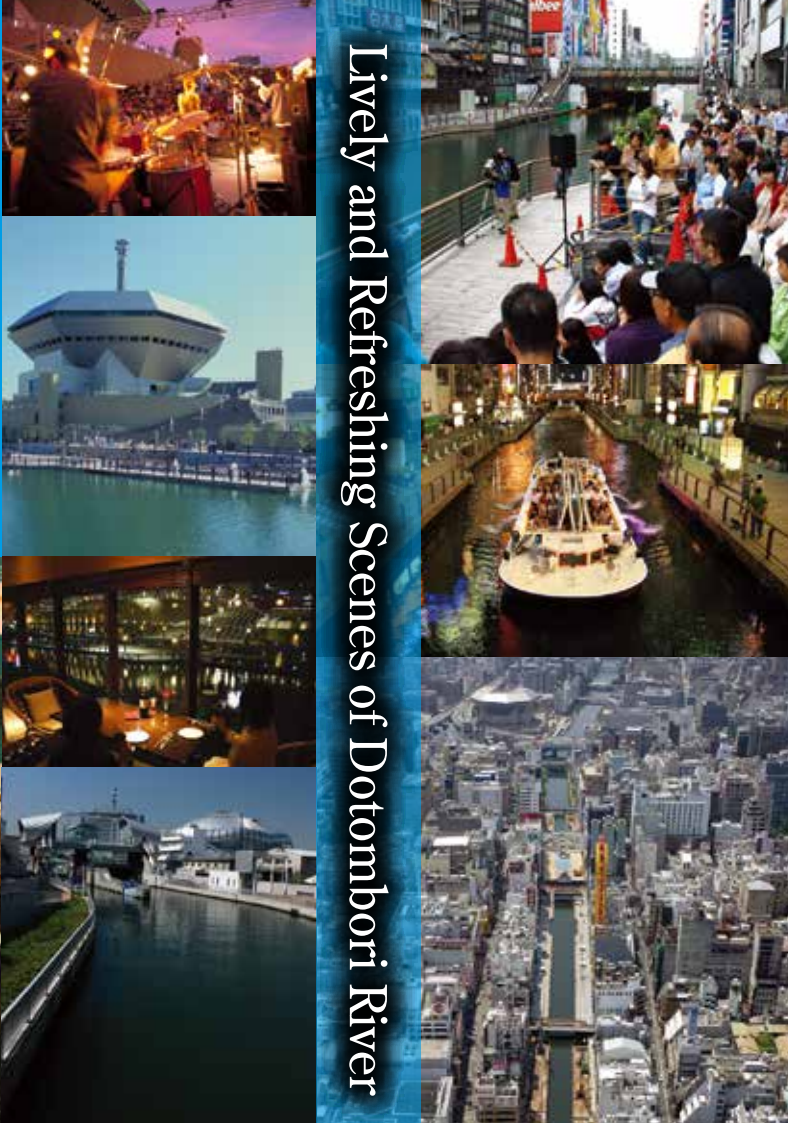


At Dotombori River, you can see beautiful neon lights reflected in the water surface around Ebisu Bridge and urban landscapes featuring examples of modern architecture such as Minatomachi River Place and Kyocera Dome Osaka. Also, at the time of the Tenjin Festival and the kabuki world's Funanorikomi Parade, the entire river is decorated with the colors of different boats, and you can feel the lively atmosphere of "Aquapolis Osaka".

# Dotombori River

Lively and Refreshing Scenes of Dotombori River



## Dotombori River Waterfront Improvement Project

Dotombori River is a river that represents Osaka, and has remained a precious waterfront space in the southern part of the city center since early times.

However, due to water pollution and the construction of revetments as a flood-control measure, Dotombori River had ceased to be an integral part of the town.

In line with Osaka City's aim of regenerating itself as an "aquapolis", the objective of the Dotombori River Waterfront Improvement Project is to enhance the charm of the city through the construction of promenades that blend well with the water along Dotombori River, creating a refreshing ambience.

Work section Of the approx. 2.7 km length of Dotombori River, the approx. 1.0 km section between Minatomachi and Nippom Bridge.



■ Previous appearance of Dotombori River (section of Dotombori River between Ebisu Bridge and Tazaeon Bridge)



■ Post-reconstruction appearance of Dotombori River (section of Dotombori River between Ebisu Bridge and Tazaeon Bridge)

## History of the Neighborhood of Dotombori River

Dotombori River is a canal that was completed in 1615. At that time, the surrounding area was the scene of many playhouses, such as the Nakaza kabuki theater, and it flourished as a theater district.

Apparently, theater-goers traveled by "yakata-bune" and "chabune" (roofed pleasure boats) until the middle of the Meiji Period.

After Typhoon Jane hit in 1950, a tide barrier was constructed to protect against high tides in the section between the confluence with the Nishi-Yokobori River and the Kizu River.

In 1967, in order to combat pollution and protect against high tides, new boat-shaped revetments were constructed on both banks upstream from the Daikoku Bridge.

With the objectives of water purification and environmental improvement, fountains were installed in 1979, and water screens were installed downstream from Ebisu Bridge in 1989.

### Edo Period (1603–1867)



### Meiji (1868–1912) and Taisho Periods (1912–1926)



■ Dotombori River in the middle of the Meiji Period (Property of Tatsui Ishikawa)

■ Dotombori area in the Taisho Period

### Showa (1926–1989) and Heisei Periods (1989–Present)



■ Traditional restaurants that flourished alongside the Dotombori River in the early Showa Period

■ Green Belt (boat-shaped revetments) completed in 1967



■ Fountains (aerations) installed in 1979 (Picture shows 1999 Tenjin Festival.)

■ Water screens installed in 1989



■ Ukiwa (Floating Garden) Bridge



■ Night view of Minatomachi section promenade

## Hustle and bustle at the Tombori Riverwalk



■ Kabuki world's July Funanorikomi Parade (organizer: Shochiku)

■ Water event



■ Music event

■ Limited time food and beverage business

At Tombori Riverwalk, we hold various events, such as sales and culinary festivals. Information related to past events and to the use of Tombori Riverwalk is provided on our website. The URL of our website is <http://www.tombori.jp/>

## Waterfront Improvement Plan

Prior to waterfront improvement, a new water gate was constructed at the downstream end of Dotombori River, and the aging Higashi-Yokobori River Water Gate was rebuilt. This not only improved protection against high tides, it also enabled water-level adjustment, which is indispensable for the safety of water-oriented recreational areas. The two gates also function as locks, enabling the smooth passage of boats.

In waterfront improvement, promenades that are close to, and blend well with, the water surface will be constructed on both sides of the river, and rest facilities and wharfs will be provided at various points, thereby creating a waterside area that allows pedestrians to feel refreshed while enjoying the local amenities.



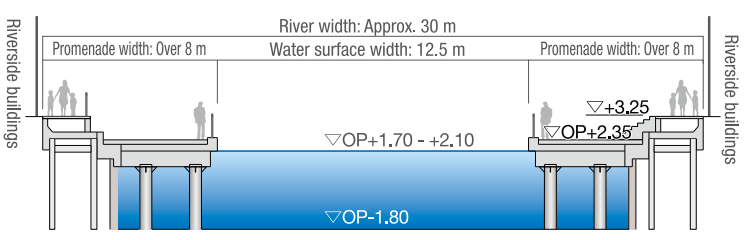
## Construction of Promenades Blending Well with the Water

The completed promenades each have a width of about 8 m, and with slopes and resting areas, they provide a space from which people can enjoy many aspects of the river and the local area.

It is also possible for buildings along the river to have entrances on the river-side, and so it is hoped that this will help to create a new waterfront townscape in the future.



■ Night view of Tombori Riverwalk (riverwalk between Ebisu Bridge and Tazaeon Bridge)



At Tombori Riverwalk, we hold various events, such as sales and culinary festivals. Information related to past events and to the use of Tombori Riverwalk is provided on our website. The URL of our website is <http://www.tombori.jp/>

## Dotombori River Water Gate and Higashi-Yokobori River Water Gate

In addition to performing a flood-control function by protecting against high tides and controlling the water level, the current water gates are equipped with water-purification and lock functions.

### Operation of Water Gates

#### 1. Protection Against High Tides

When the water level rises due to heavy rain or a high tide, the water gates are closed to protect the city from flooding.

#### 2. Control of the Water Level

Dotombori River and Higashi-Yokobori River are tidal rivers whose water levels vary with the ebb and flow of the tides. These levels are maintained within a certain range using both gates.



■ Dotombori River Water Gate

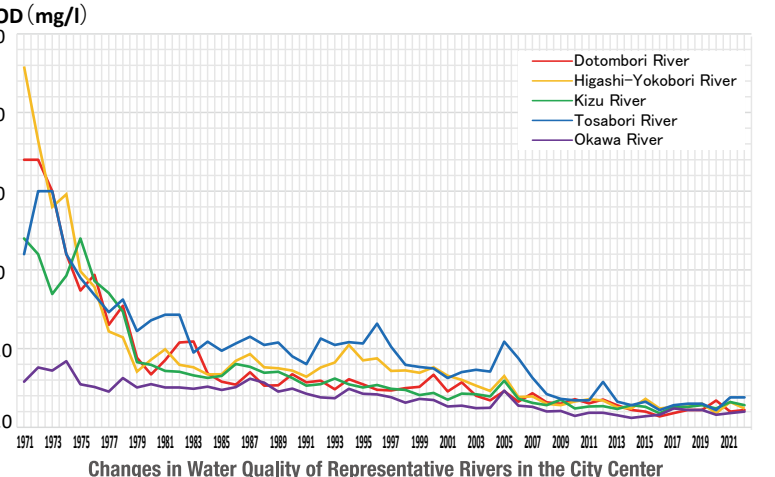


■ Higashi-Yokobori River Water Gate

## Water Quality of Dotombori River

As a result of water quality improvement measures, such as water purification by the operation of water gates, the quality of the river water has improved in recent years, and is now at a high level, with a BOD (\*1) of less than 3 mg/l.

As a result, fish can now be seen swimming in the river.



(\*1) BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand) This is a measure of the amount of oxygen required by microorganisms to decompose the pollutants contained in a body of water. Larger BOD values indicate higher levels of pollution.

## Fish Living in Dotombori River

In recent years, the river water quality has gradually increased due to purification measures, and fish can now be seen swimming in the river.



● Rhanka gudgeon

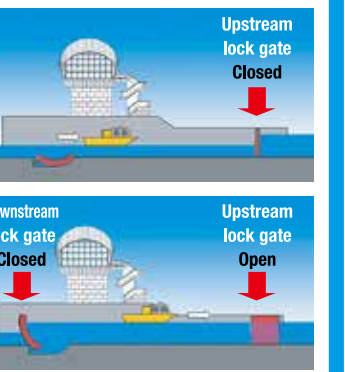
● Goby

## Lock Function

Each of these water gates has a lock function that makes it possible to maintain the water level between the lock gates at a certain height when the water level before and after the gates is different, allowing boats to pass smoothly.

Top: When the boat enters  
● The boat enters the area between the gates.  
● The upstream gate is closed.

Bottom: When the boat leaves  
● The downstream gate is closed and the area between the gates is filled with water.  
● When the water level is equal to that on the upstream side, the upstream gate is opened, and the boat passes.



## River Purification by Operation of Water Gates

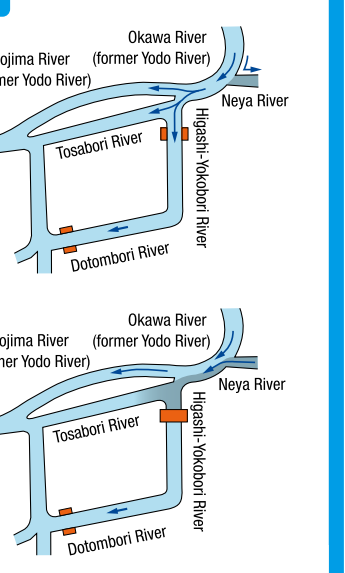
By controlling the water gates for the upstream Higashi-Yokobori River and the downstream Dotombori River, dirty water from Neya River is blocked and clean water from Okawa River (former Yodo River) is led into Higashi-Yokobori River and Dotombori River.

#### 1. At high tide (top-right)

● The gates for both rivers are opened when the water level rises.  
\*The inflow of water from the Neya River is naturally blocked.

#### 2. At low tide (bottom-right)

● The Higashi-Yokobori River Water Gate is closed to block the inflow of water from the Neya River.  
\*At low tide, the water from the Neya River flows downstream.



## Working for Clean River Water (Water Purification Measures)

Various efforts are being made to improve the water quality of rivers in the city.



■ Cleaning the water surface



■ "Masumi" river patrol



■ Dredging (Doutombori Riber)



■ Dredging (Higashi-Yokobori Riber)

■ Status of fish inhabiting urban rivers: Survey for the 2022 fiscal year from the "Osaka City Environmental White Paper (2022 edition)."



● Mullet



● Bluegill

## Osaka's Rivers of Past and Present

Osaka is a city that sprang up at the mouth of the Yodo River, and its basic structure was formed by crisscrossing canals. Most of these canals were constructed during the period from the late 16th century to the 18th century, and to the present day, they have supported both daily life and economic activities.

Most of the canals in the city center were filled because of pollution resulting from an increase in the urban population and the growth of industry, and because of the development of automobile traffic systems.

It is possible, however, to see traces of former canals that flowed through the city center, such as Nagahori River and Satsumabori River.

Even though many canals became roads, rivers still account for approximately 10% of the area of the city and so Osaka can be described as a city that is blessed with water.



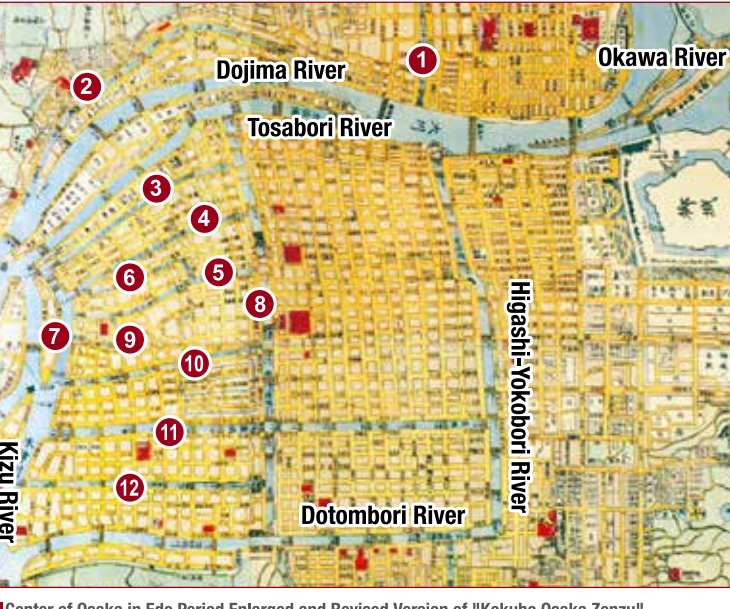
■ Crysta Nagahori (Nagahori River)



■ Monument at Site of Satsumabori River

## Major Rivers in the City Center That Changed Form

- 01: Temmabori River
- 02: Sonezaki River
- 03: Edbori River
- 04: Kyomachibori River
- 05: Awabori River
- 06: Kaifuori River
- 07: Hyakkembori River
- 08: Nishi-Yokobori River
- 09: Satsumabori River
- 10: Itachibori River
- 11: Nagahori River
- 12: Horie River



■ Center of Osaka in Edo Period Enlarged and Revised Version of "Kokuho Osaka Zenzu" (National Treasure Drawing of Osaka), 1863)

## Rivers and Culture of Osaka

In addition to festivals staged on rivers, such as the Tenjin Festival, there are many examples of color prints and literary works that are based on rivers, and we can see the deep relationship that has existed between Osaka's rivers and its culture.

## Rivers and "Nishikie" (Color Prints)

Osaka's rivers not only formed part of the living space of its citizens, but were also a familiar source of inspiration to its painters and writers.



■ "Sesshu-Naniwa-Bashi Tenjin Matsuri No Zu" (Drawing of Tenjin Festival at Sesshu-Naniwa Bridge) from "Shokoku Meisho Hyakkei" (One Hundred Famous Views of Various Places) by Utagawa Hiroshige I (Property of Osaka Prefectural Nakanoshima Library)



■ "Hachikenyu Chakusen No Zu" (Drawing of a Boat's Arrival at Hachikenyu) by Utagawa Kunikazu (Property of Osaka Prefectural Nakanoshima Library)

## Rivers and Literature

Osaka's rivers were mentioned in the Chronicles of Japan, and since then, have been used as settings and themes in Genroku literature and modern literature.

■ Great Writers Who Supported Genroku Culture Ihara Saikaku (left: 1642 to 1693) and Chikamatsu Monzaemon (right: 1653 (estimated) to 1724) Bottom: Monument of the birthplace of Yosa Buson (1716 to 1783) and an engraving of the poem "Shumpu Batei Kyoku" (on the Kema levee in Yodogawa Riverside Park)

## Rivers, Festivals, and Events

### Tenjin Festival

The Tenjin Festival is held by the Osaka Temmangu Shrine, which enshrines Sugawara no Michizane as a deity. It ranks alongside Kyoto's Gion Festival and Tokyo's Kanda Festival as one of Japan's three big festivals, and is celebrated every year by more than one million visitors.



■ "Sesshu-Naniwa-Bashi Tenjin Matsuri No Zu" (Drawing of Tenjin Festival at Sesshu-Naniwa Bridge) from "Shokoku Meisho Hyakkei" (One Hundred Famous Views of Various Places) by Utagawa Hiroshige I (Property of Osaka Prefectural Nakanoshima Library)



■ Modern-Day Tenjin Festival



■ Osaka City Regatta



■ Kabuki World's Funanorikomi Parade

Annual Schedule of River Festivals and Events  
● Osaka City Regatta (Okawa River): Late July  
● Cherry Blossom Viewing (Japan Mint, near Okawa River): Mid-April  
● Kabuki World's Funanorikomi Parade (Higashi-Yokobori River and Dotombori River): Late June  
● Tenjin Festival (Okawa River, Dojima River, etc.): 24 to 25 July  
● Yodogawa Fireworks Festival (Yodo River): Early August  
The above schedule is subject to change.