

Kurume History Walks

No.42 Bonotsu Kaido and Fuchu Shuku 坊津(薩摩)街道と府中宿

About the Bonotsu Kaido

“*Kaido*” were public roads constructed during the Edo period, the time of the Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868). One of the roads passing our city was the Bonotsu Kaido (also called Satsuma Kaido). It ran north-south of Kyushu, starting at today’s Bonotsu in Kagoshima Prefecture, coming up through Nankan in Kumamoto Prefecture, Setaka, Kurume Chikushino, then joined to the Nagasaki Kaido, and reached Edo 1500 kilometers far.

This road was used for the travel of the feudal lords of several domains in Kyushu and their samurais to the capital Edo to render service to the shogun. (This kind of road was called Sanpu Kaido, which means the road to going to the government.)

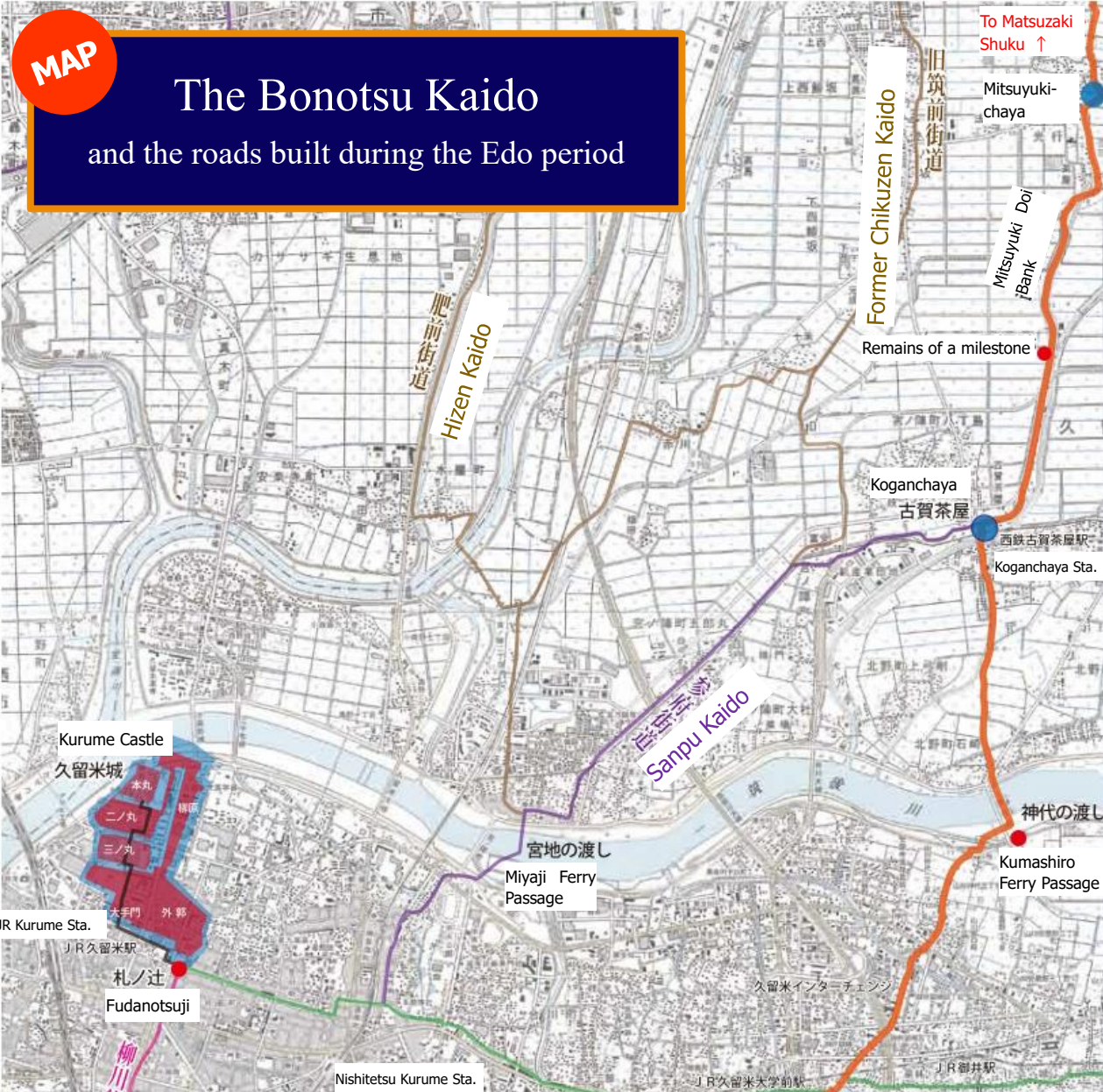
About the Fuchu Shuku

“Shuku” or “Shukuba” is post stations, established during the Edo period, where travelers could rest on their journey, and transportation by palanquin bearers or horses were available to go to the neighboring towns. The Fuchu Shuku was thought of as an important post station because it was a place where three public roads (Bonotsu Kaido, Hita Kaido, and Yanagawa Okan) merged, as well as a town developed near a Torii gate of Mt. Kora, a sanctuary to which people have paid respect since ancient times.

The town was constructed alongside the road and had two entrance gates at the northern and the southern ends. In the northern area, there was an official accommodation (*honjin*) for lords, nobles, and government officials, of which the site is today used for a municipal elementary school. A well of that time remains.

And then, there were many other buildings such as a subsidiary official inn, facilities for providing palanquin bearers and horses, sixteen lodgings for general travelers, three temples, the outer shrine of Mt. Kora, and private houses.

In the late 19th century, due to the spread of new transportation such as steamship and railroad, and the new system of governing, the post stations merely received travelers and rapidly declined.



MAP
The Bonotsu Kaido
 and the roads built during the Edo period



Mitsuyuki Doi Bank
 The Bonotsu Kaido passed on the bank of a river

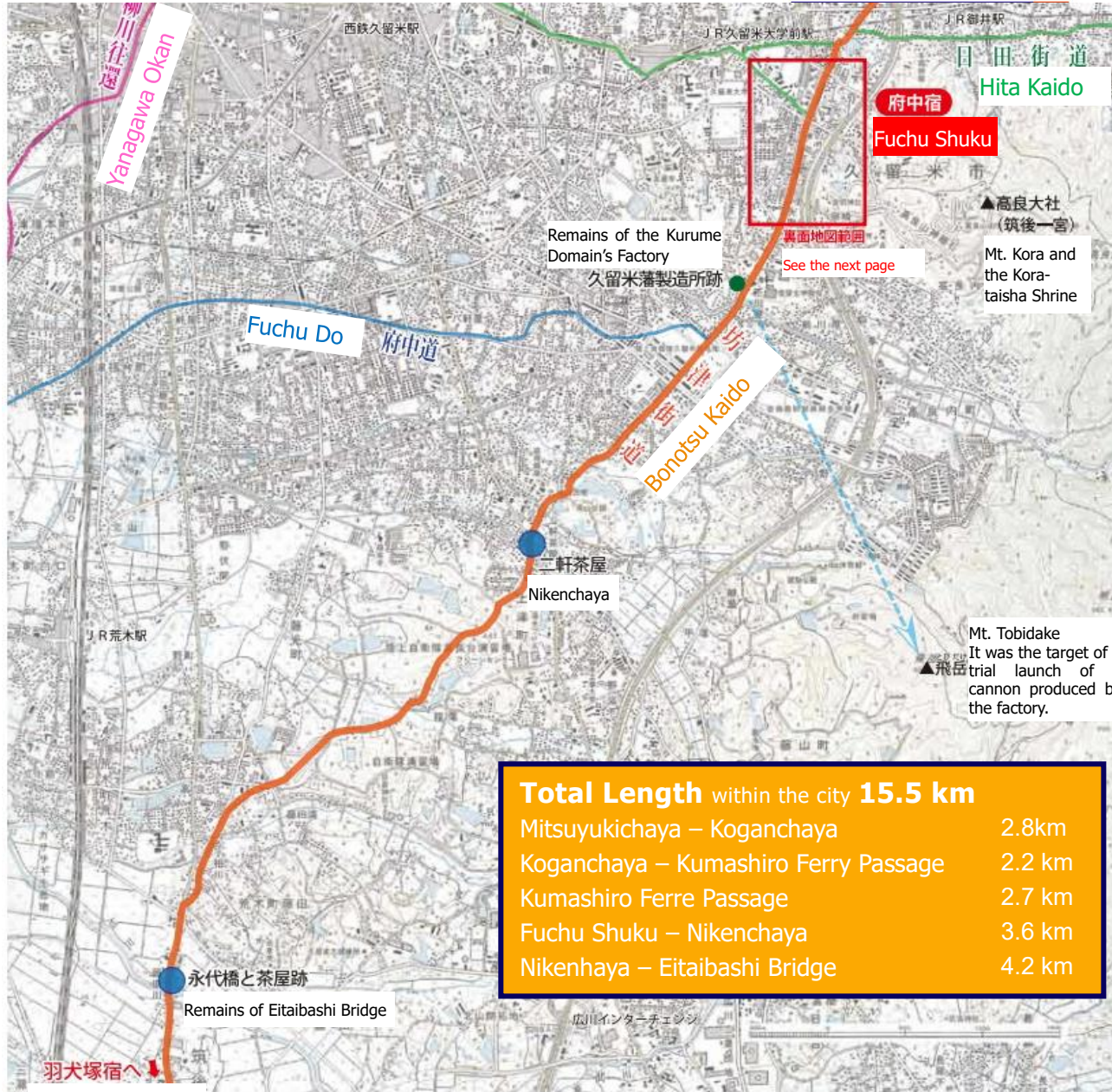


Remains of a milestone
 Located on a side of the road No. 322



Kumashiro Ferry Passage
 There used to be a pontoon bridge around 13th century.





Total Length within the city	15.5 km
Mitsuyukichaya – Koganchaya	2.8km
Koganchaya – Kumashiro Ferry Passage	2.2 km
Kumashiro Ferre Passage	2.7 km
Fuchu Shuku – Nikenchaya	3.6 km
Nikenhaya – Eitaibashi Bridge	4.2 km

To Hainuzuka Shuku ↓



Former Honjin (Today's Mii Elementary School)
Official inn for the lords during their travel to Edo



Remains of the Kurume Domain's Factory
Tanaka Hisashige, the founder of TOSHIBA, produced bronze cannons at the end of Edo period



Bonotsu Kaido at Nikenchaya
Winding and narrow road is reminiscent of that time.



Remains of Eidaibashi Bridge
It was a bridge on the Bonotsu Kaido.

WALK ON THE BONOTSU ROAD

Northern Gate

[Upper area]

Shokoin Annyo-ji Temple
Established by Shoko (great monk) in 1238

A private house
Built during the Edo period

A sculpture of Ebisu
Carved in half-relief on a stone tablet

Eifuku-ji Temple

Remains of the honjin (officers' inn)

The well at the remains of the honjin
One of the few remains of the honjin which was transformed into a school in 1873.

[Middle area]

Former Hitaya Inn
That building was constructed during the Edo period

The outer shrine of the Kora-taisha

Grand Torii gate of Mt. Kora
Arima Tadayori, the second lord, donated it in 1655. Designated a National Important Cultural Property.

Six sculptures of Ebisu, a deity of luck and commerce

A sculptures of Ebisu

Gensho-ji Temple

[Lower area]

A sculpture of Ebisu
Re-erected in 1915. Carved in half-relief on a stone tablet

Plaster wall and decoration
The oldest building in the lower part of the Fuchu Shuku. It has a history of over 300 years.

Three Symbols of Buddhas carved on the rock

Atago-jinja Shrine

Horse sculpture
Town people and owners from the neighboring towns donated it to the shrine in 1876.

Southern Gate

A sculpture of Ebisu at Yatori
Erected in 1836

* Pale green colored roads were built before the Meiji period (1868-1912).

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Email: bunkazai@city.kurume.fukuoka.jp / Date of publication: Mar. 31st, 2017 / Translated in Nov. 2020

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