

Congratulations on Japan Heritage designation!

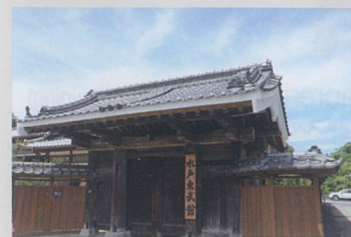
A National Historic Site and Important Cultural Property

Kodokan

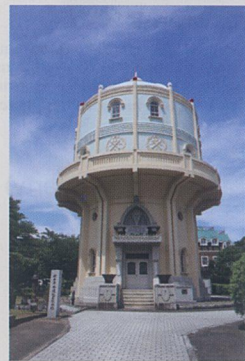
Recommended Walking Routes

Kodokan Walking Routes (red line)
Distance: approx. 1.3 kilometer
Required time: approx. 1 hour

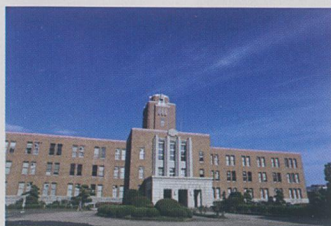
Mito Castle Walking Route (yellow line)
Distance: approx. 2.7 kilometer
Required time: approx. 2 hours



Mito-tobukan



Water Tower to low-lying areas (built in 1932)



Ibaraki Prefectural Sannomaru Building (the former prefectural government building) (built in 1930)



The dry moat and clay fort



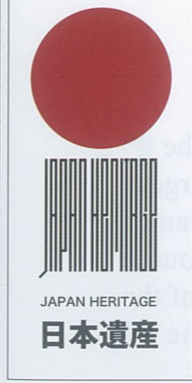
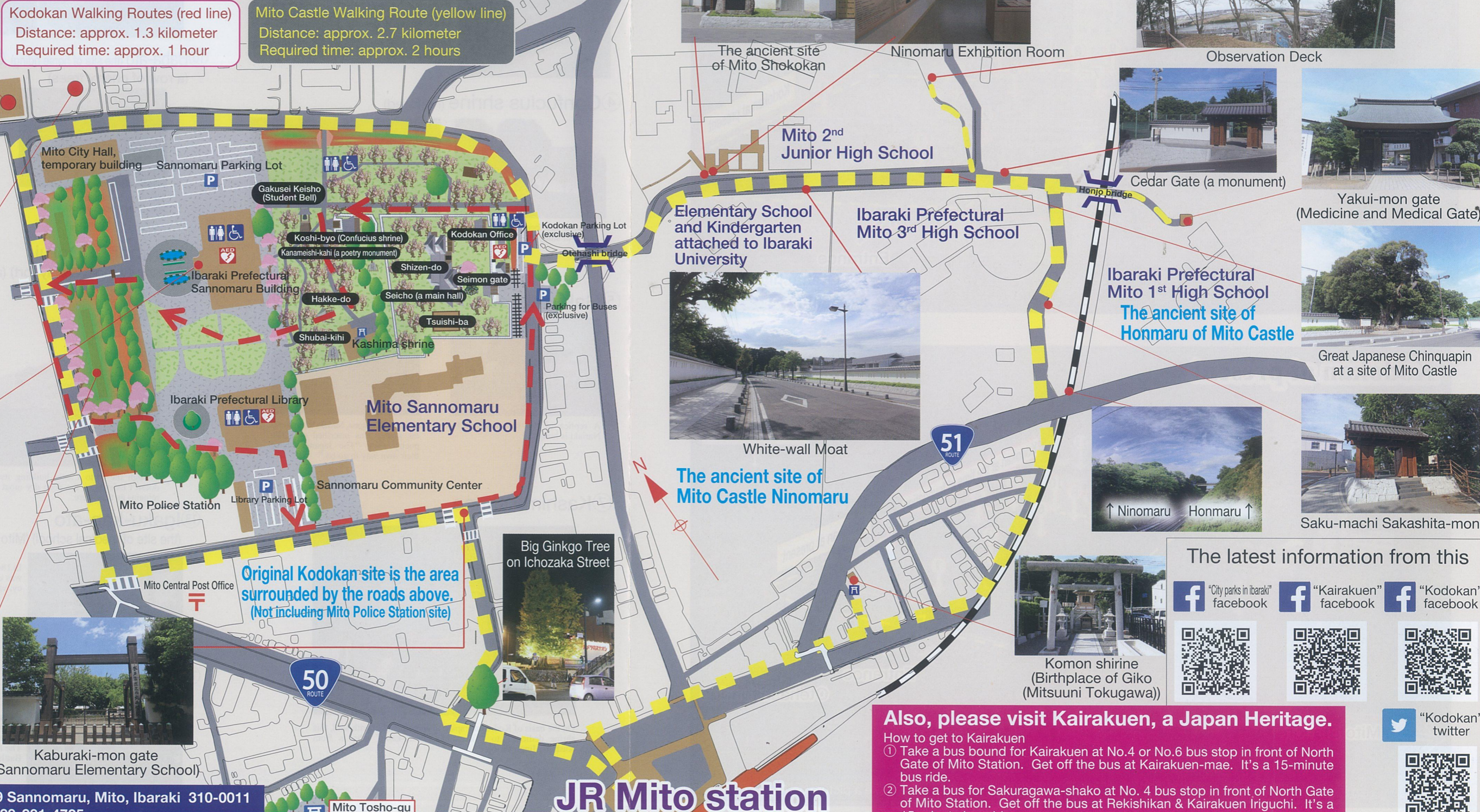
Kaburaki-mon gate (Sannomaru Elementary School)

Kodokan Office

1-6-29 Sannomaru, Mito, Ibaraki 310-0011
Tel. 029-221-4705

Mito Toshogu

JR Mito station

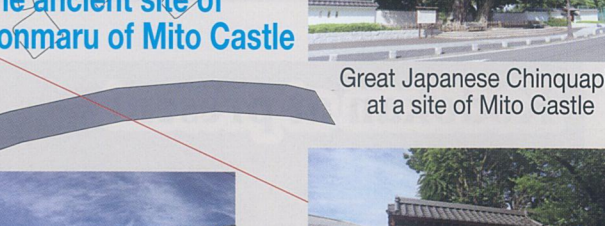
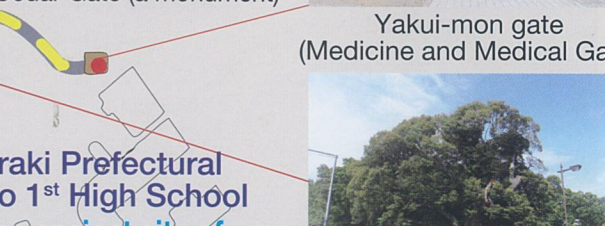


Authorized in April, 2015.

Japan Heritage

«a series of Educational Heritage in early-modern times, basic attitude about learning and good manners»

Japan had been keeping a high education level among warriors and common people before the early-modern educational system was introduced. For many years various educational institutes, (for example, feudal domain schools, village schools, and private schools) played an important role in the field of education. Therefore children from various kinds of classes were able to learn and master how to read, write, and calculate. These people's basic capabilities contributed greatly to the success of the Meiji Restoration. Following this tradition, even today Japanese people treasure good manners as well as studying and education.



The latest information from this

“City parks in Ibaraki” facebook “Kairakuen” facebook “Kodokan” facebook



Komon shrine (Birthplace of Giko (Mitsuuni Tokugawa))

Also, please visit Kairakuen, a Japan Heritage.

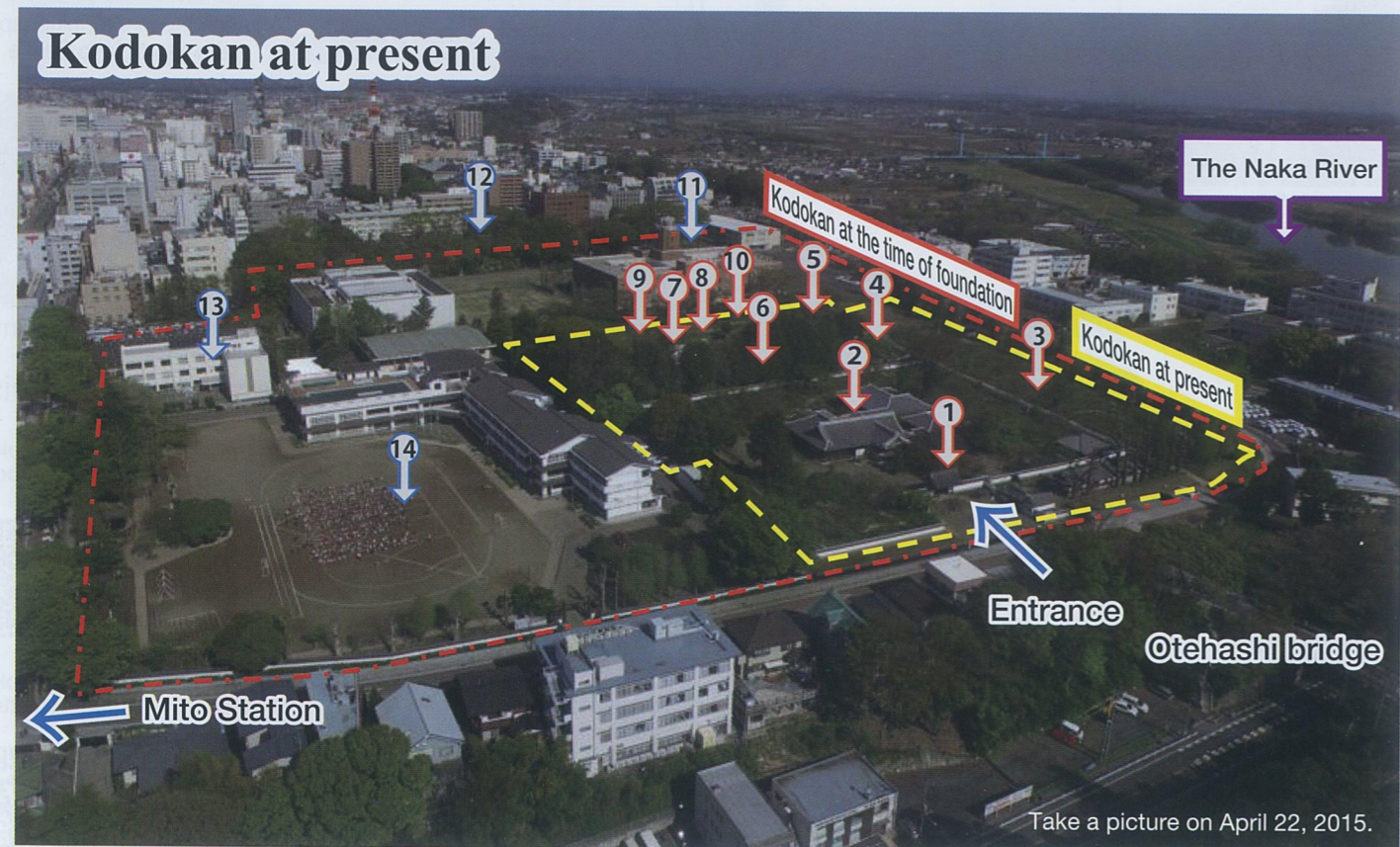
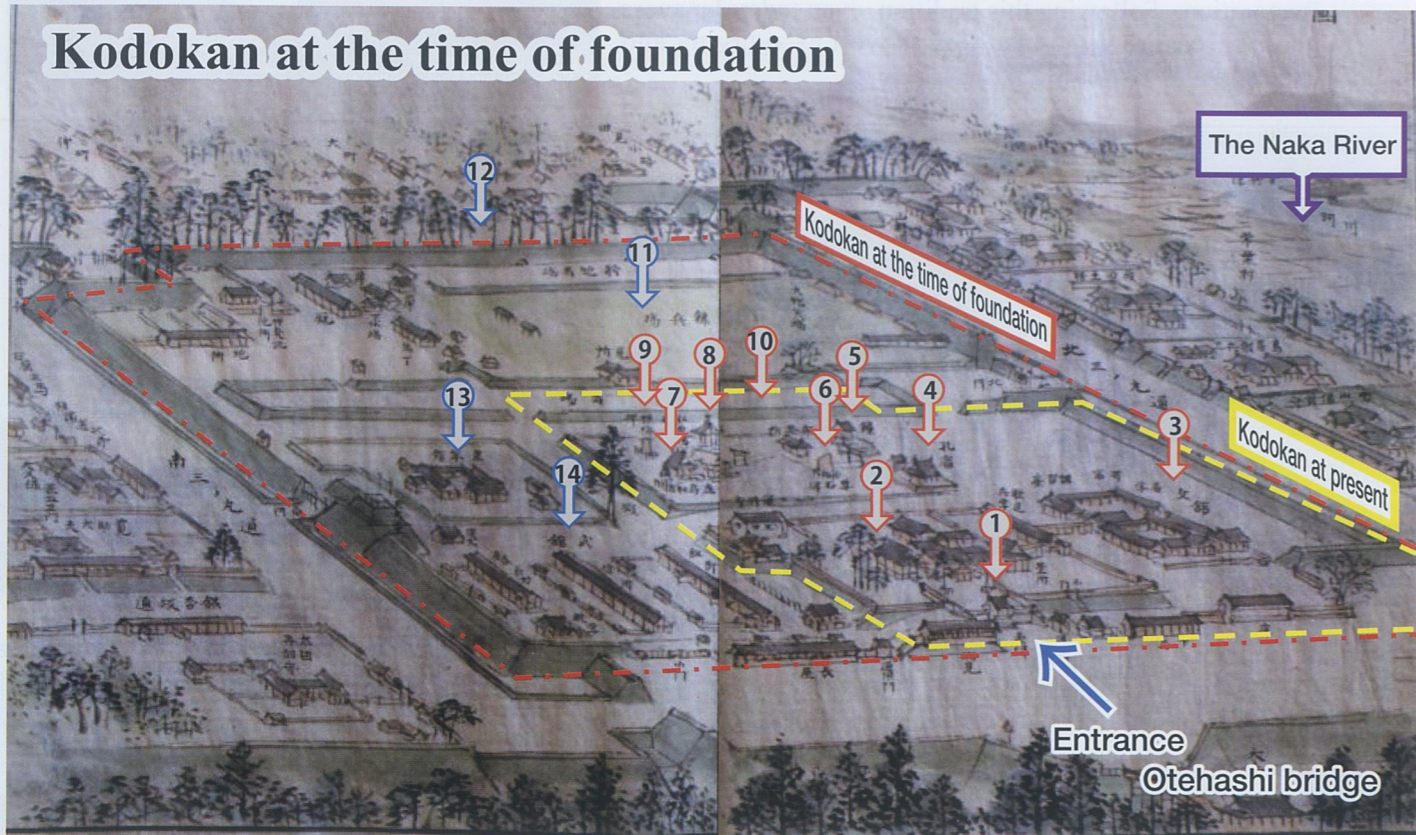
How to get to Kairakuen
① Take a bus bound for Kairakuen at No.4 or No.6 bus stop in front of North Gate of Mito Station. Get off the bus at Kairakuen-mae. It's a 15-minute bus ride.
② Take a bus for Sakuragawa-shako at No. 4 bus stop in front of North Gate of Mito Station. Get off the bus at Rekishikan & Kairakuen Iriguchi. It's a

“Kodokan” twitter



An overview of Kodokan

This is an old feudal domain school established in 1841 in the Edo period by Nariaki Tokugawa, the 9th feudal lord of Mito domain. Its area located in the Mito Castle ground, and this school was Japan's largest at that time. The school had various halls and facilities such as Sei-cho, Shizen-do, Bun-kan, Bu-kan (a martial arts training room), a medical room, Kashima shrine, Confucius shrine, Hakke-do, a riding ground, and a training room. The layout of them was elaborately planned on the basis of the spiritual legacy of the Kodokan's foundation. Now a 3.4-hectare-area is designated as a special historic site in the name of "Kyu-Kodokan," (the former Kodokan).



① Sei-mon gate (an important cultural property)



The gate would open on the occasion of the lord's arrival and formal events.



When the gate is open, the scene is like this. (Usually it is closed.)

② Sei-cho and Shizen-do (an important cultural property)



Sei-cho ("Sei" literally means right and formal, and "cho" does an office.) is a hall where large-scale examinations and ceremonies were held in the presence of the lord, while Shizen-do ("Shizen" literally means to practice virtue, and "do" does a hall.) is a facility with rooms for the lord to take some rest and places for the successive lords and their sons including Yoshinobu Tokugawa to devote themselves to their studies.

③ The site of Bun-kan (a plum forest)

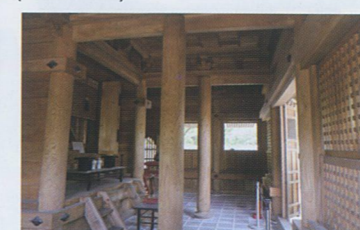


Bun-kan ("Bun" literally means literature and "kan" does a building.) consisted of four places such as a Kyogaku room, a lecture room, a recitation room, and a dormitory, besides an editor office, a domain family tree office, a lecture office, and a teachers' room. *Bun-kan was burned down at the Kodokan Battle in 1868.

④ Confucius shrine (restored)

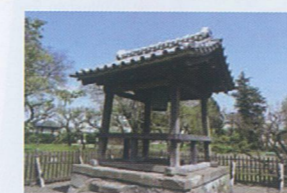


Confucius has been respected as a founder of study.



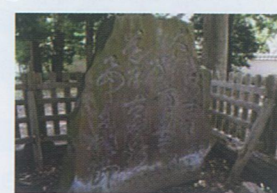
Inside the Confucius shrine (usually closed)

⑤ Gakusei-keisho



A replica of the bell founded by Nariaki is hung.

⑥ Kanameishi-kahi



(Kanameishi stone, Nariaki's handwriting poetry was inscribed on.) The poetry says, "The Japanese have their own way to go on."

⑦ Kashima shrine



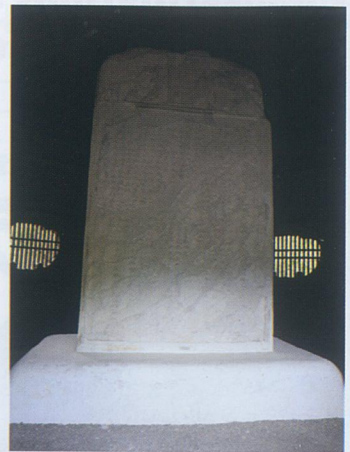
On the basis of Kodokan's spirit to coincide mind with soul, this shrine dedicates to "Takemikazuchi-no-kami" who is from Kashima Jingu shrine.

⑧ Hakke-do (restored)

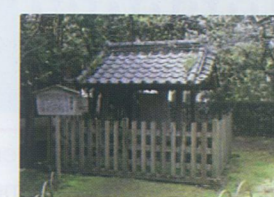


This temple is located in the center of the ground and Kodokan-kihi that is a monument with the school's foundation inscription is placed in it.

Kodokan-kihi (usually closed) →



⑨ Shubai-kihi (plum stone monument)



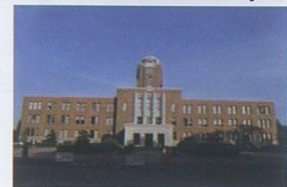
On this monument the reason why Nariaki began to grow lots of plum trees in his domain including Kodokan, Kairakuen, and other places is inscribed based on his own writing.

⑩ Baba-ato (the site of horse riding) (a row of cherry trees)



This was a site for horse riding practice and horse races.

⑪ Chorenjo-ato (the site of training) (Ibaraki Prefectural Sannomaru building and other places)



This site was used for martial art training. Instructions and training on how to use weapons including guns and bows were carried out, and stables and other facilities were here.

⑫ Karabori & Dorui (an empty moat & clay fort) (a prefectural cultural property)



Though the Mito Castle building itself was burned down and doesn't exist now, the deep dry moat and masu-shaped clay fort remains as they were.

⑬ Igaku-kan-ato (the site of medical school) (Mito Sannomaru Community Center)



In 1843 (during the Edo period) the medical school was established, where medical lectures, pharmacy, vaccinations for smallpox were conducted.

⑭ Bukan-ato (the site of martial art school) (Mito Sannomaru Elementary School)



The school consisted of three buildings for training of swords, spears, and Kyokai, jujutsu, and Japanese halberds. The buildings were burned down at the Kodokan Battle in 1867, the first year of the Meiji era.