

# Osaka Town Walk Illustrated Map for Osaka Walk Nakanoshima

Nakanoshima, sandwiched between rivers to the north and south, has always enjoyed particularly good water transportation in Osaka, the center of economy and commerce since olden times. One upon a time, the streets were lined with the storehouses of feudal fiefdoms, and the town was vibrant with energy as merchants went to and fro where people, goods, wealth and information came together. New things were positively adopted and over time took root here. Please walk around Nakanoshima which has been through the vicissitudes of changing times and accumulated a wealth of history and culture.

**4 Nakanoshima Festival Tower**  
Reconstructed in 2012 to become a new landmark of Nakanoshima, detailed care can be seen in the wall of 220,000 bricks specially made and laid by the hands of artisans as well as in the relief of fauns in the south made of 345 parts. The latest technology was made use of in its construction.

**1 Monument of Yukichi Fukuzawa**  
Yukichi Fukuzawa (1835-1901) was one of the enlightenment philosophers representing Japan. From humble beginnings, being born in a storehouse of the Nakatsu Fiefdom, he eventually became the founder of Keio University. He studied under Koan Ogata at Tekijuku, a western study institution in Osaka which produced a great many talented persons toward the end of the Edo era, and served as the school principal in 1857. He published books on western philosophy, culture and studies in Japan, which became best sellers and are still read widely today. His face now appears on Japanese 10,000 yen bills.

**5 Company of the Osaka origin 2**  
The Asahi Shimbun is a leading Japanese newspaper company publishing a national paper whose first edition was printed in January 1879. The reconstruction plan as a 200-m class twin building together with the Nakanoshima Festival Tower on the east side is now under way and due to be completed in 2017.

**1 Osaka accumulates knowledge 1**  
Monument commemorating Yukichi Fukuzawa  
Yukichi Fukuzawa (1835-1901) was one of the enlightenment philosophers representing Japan. From humble beginnings, being born in a storehouse of the Nakatsu Fiefdom, he eventually became the founder of Keio University. He studied under Koan Ogata at Tekijuku, a western study institution in Osaka which produced a great many talented persons toward the end of the Edo era, and served as the school principal in 1857. He published books on western philosophy, culture and studies in Japan, which became best sellers and are still read widely today. His face now appears on Japanese 10,000 yen bills.

**2 Monument commemorating Tako no Matsu**  
Due its convenient water transportation, a lot of the old feudal fiefdoms built storehouses in Nakanoshima which they used to bring together products from all over Japan. These storehouses served as consulates, managing both storage and sales of local products. Each storehouse planted beautiful pine trees, and people could enjoy the scenery of white storehouse walls and pines reflected on the water. In particular, the black pine of the Hiroshima Fiefdom was said to resemble a swimming octopus, thus earning the moniker of "Tako no Matsu (octopus pine)" and was a famous sight.

**3 Company of the Osaka origin 1**  
Suntory Holding Limited  
One of the leading companies in Japan producing and marketing alcoholic, soft drinks and food, which was established by Shinjiro Torii in 1899. One of his favorite phrases was "Go for it". This spirit of taking on a challenge was passed down over the generations and became established in the DNA of the Suntory corporation.

**8 Monument to Yodoya**  
Merchants termed "business magnates" were especially prominent in commerce in Osaka, handling fabulous sums of money in Osaka when it was known as the "kitchen of the nation". "Yodoya" is especially well known. The record says it built a bridge with its private fund, or laid its mansion with gold. Yodoya still survives in the names of a bridge, a town and a station.

**10 Osaka accumulates knowledge 2**  
Koan Ogata  
Koan Ogata (1810-1863) was the founder of modern medicine in Japan, contributing to a cure for smallpox. He was respected as a doctor of Dutch medicine, or the leading figure of the Dutch school of learning. He opened a private school "Tekijuku" in 1845 and offered education to all regardless of social class, putting his energy into educating young people.

**11 Osaka accumulates knowledge 3**  
Tekijuku (tour available, admission charged)  
The townspeople invested their private funds in building schools around Nakanoshima from the late part to the end of the Edo era where medicine, economics and western study, etc. were taught. Nearly 3,000 students from all over Japan received their education here at Tekijuku. This place produced a great many talented individuals who would contribute to the modernization of Japan, people such as Yukichi Fukuzawa and others of his ilk.

**12 Osaka Central Public Hall**  
Built by Osaka City thanks to a donation from Einosuke Iwamoto who was a stockbroker in Osaka. Deeply impressed by the numerous American philanthropic millionaires donating their assets and bequests to charities and public projects, he decided to establish a public hall. It is still one of the symbols of Osaka today and is very well thought of by the citizens.

**13 Hokonagashi Bridge**  
"Tenjin matsuri" is a summer festival representing Osaka with over 1,000 years of tradition. The ritual of plunging the Sacred Halberd into the river to petition divine favors is held at the foot of this bridge, the opening event of the festival. A big parade of 3,000 costumed participants reminding us of olden times plus lots of tourists adds vigor to Osaka. Every July 24 (festival eve) - July 25 (main festival)

**14 Naniwa Bridge**  
Osaka with its advanced waterway system has always had lots of bridges and was once known as "The 808 Bridges of Naniwa". The popular Naniwa Bridge is also known as "Lion Bridge". At its foot there are statues of 4 valiant-looking lions, seemingly watching over the people crossing the bridge.

**15 River Station Hachikenya**  
There were 8 shipping agents in the Edo era, and this area was called "Hachikenya (8 houses)". It prospered as a landing stage for boats transporting cargo between Osaka and Kyoto. Today the site is home to various restaurants, cafés, and the like.

