

*Walking the Tōkaidō:  
A Multi-Disciplinary Experience  
in History and Culture*

Edo to Kyoto  
318.9 miles  
17 Stations

Five College Center for East Asian Studies  
National Consortium for Teaching about Asia  
Curriculum

John Frank, Arlene Kowal, Yurika Kurakata, Anne Prescott

This program was made possible by funding from the  
Freeman Foundation and the  
Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership



***Walking the Tōkaidō: A Multi-Disciplinary Experience in History and Culture***  
**A National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) Program**  
**Five College Center for East Asian Studies (FCCEAS)**  
**Funded by a generous grant from the Freeman Foundation**  
**With additional funding from the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership**  
**Self-guided syllabus**

Using the My Virtual Mission ([www.myvirtualmission.com/](http://www.myvirtualmission.com/)) platform, participants will exercise (walk, run, swim, cycle, etc.) and log their distances into the dedicated mission page. Progress along the Tōkaidō will be updated as miles are posted, and users will be able view their location on Google Maps as well and Google Street View. We have created seventeen milestones along the route, and the milestone e-mails include historical and cultural information. Ten of these are required “stops” where participants complete readings, view recorded videos, and respond to forum prompts. Seven additional milestones are available for optional exploration.

You may wish to purchase or borrow these books: *Japanese Inn*, Oliver Statler; *Japan Journeys*, Andreas Marks; *Stranger in the Shogun’s City*, Amy Stanley; *You Gotta Have Wa*, Robert Whiting; and *Green with Milk and Sugar*, Robert Hellyer. Links to other online resources are included below, and the seventeen milestone e-mails include additional links for independent investigation.

Participants will need to create a MyVirtualMission account. Please follow the instructions on the “Creating a MVM Account” document to set up that account.

\*Note: alternatives to walking/exercise might include miles credited for completed assignments, attendance, etc.

Project Team: Anne Prescott (FCCEAS Director, MA), John Frank (retired NCTA master teacher, IN), Yurika Kurakata (former UW EARC Director, Singapore), Arlene Kowal (FCCEAS NCTA seminar facilitator, MA)

**Milestone 1 Edo Nihonbashi**  
**Life in Edo**

**Read**

*Stranger in the Shogun’s City*  
*Japan Journeys*, pp. 22, 23, 24, 25

**View**

Welcome to Walking the Tōkaidō <https://vimeo.com/549301146>  
Navigating My Virtual Mission <https://vimeo.com/548417096>  
Webinar: *Stranger in the Shogun’s City*, Dr. Amy Stanley  
Watch it here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/1750182131124373260>

**Educator discussion prompts**

- 1) *Stranger in the Shogun's City* may challenge what you thought you knew about samurai. What stood out to you about the samurai lifestyle as described in this book? Does it reinforce or challenge what you thought you knew?

- 2) Which scene in the *Stranger in the Shogun's City* did you find so appealing or compelling that you would want to time travel to it? Why?

### **Classroom discussion prompt**

- 1) Using MyVirtualMission, look at the Google Street View at Nihonbashi. Compare what you see with Hokusai's depiction of Nihonbashi. Would he recognize the place today? Discuss the similarities and differences.

## **Milestone 2 Kanagawa**

### **Woodblock Prints and Hokusai's Great Wave Off Kanagawa**

#### **Read**

*Japan Journeys*, pp. 82-89, 111-119

#### **View**

Webinar: Ukiyoe: Depictions of the Tōkaidō, Dr. Andreas Marks, author of *Japan Journey*

Watch it here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/7931228583821968899>

#### **Explore**

Compare different artists' depictions of the Tōkaidō stations.

[https://www.hiroshige.org.uk/Tokaido\\_Versions/Tokaido\\_Versions\\_01.htm](https://www.hiroshige.org.uk/Tokaido_Versions/Tokaido_Versions_01.htm)

### **Educator and classroom discussion prompts**

- 1) *The Great Wave* has been used across the world in its original form or as a springboard for other creative artists. Find an example of this image being used outside of its original context. Modified images, advertising, product placement, etc. are all welcome. In your response to this prompt, post a link to the image (or insert the image itself). Then answer these questions: How does the image you found differ from Hokusai's? If it's not obvious, for what purpose is your image being used?
- 2) Using MyVirtualMission, look at the Google Street View of the Tōkaidō around Kanagawa. What do you see? Do you think Mt. Fuji is visible from that spot today?

## **Milestone 3 Totsuka (optional)**

### **Convenient Life at Conbini**

See milestone e-mail for resources

### **Classroom discussion prompt**

- 1) Compare items sold and services offered at convenience stores in the US (or other country) and Japan.

## **Milestone 4 Odawara (optional)**

### **Meibutsu and Commercialized Travel**

See milestone e-mail for resources

### **Educator and classroom discussion prompt**

- 1) What are some of the meibutsu, famous souvenirs and foods, from Tokyo? Kyoto? Hiroshima? Sapporo? Are there famous souvenirs from cities in the US? If you go to NYC or Miami or Chicago or San Francisco, are there specific items that you would purchase for your friends and family that you can only get there or that are strongly identified with those cities? What about famous foods associated with specific cities?

### **Milestone 5 Hakone Shinto**

#### **Read**

*Japan Journeys*, pp. 105-109

#### **View**

[“Buddhism and Shinto Explained: A Complicated History”](#)

[“What is Shinto?”](#)

[“When Shinto Became a ‘Religion’”](#)

#### **Educator and classroom discussion prompts**

- 1) On MyVirtualMission, drop in at a shrine somewhere around Hakone. Hakone Shrine is just off the Tōkaidō before you reach the Hakone Tōkaidō Checkpoint. The Tōkaidō passes through Komagata Shrine, which is just beyond the Hakone Tōkaidō Checkpoint. You don’t need to limit yourself to these two, though. Look around the area on Google Street View. Move around (if you can) to get a sense of the space. If you’re visiting a shrine other than Hakone Shrine or Komagata Shrine, include the name of the shrine so that the rest of us can visit. Describe what you see. Thinking about what you know about Shinto, whether from the limited readings this week or previous work, what is the function of two or three things you can see?
- 2) Do an Internet image search for “manga and Shinto” or “anime and Shinto.” Choose one image. What do you see that is part of Shinto?

### **Milestone 6 Okitsu The Who, Why and How of the Tōkaidō**

#### **Read**

*Japanese Inn*

#### **View**

Webinar: *Walking the Tōkaidō Road: Who, Why and How*, Dr. Ethan Segal, presenter

Watch it here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/5530793490068736008>

#### **Resources**

Tōkaidō Clothing (handout available in curriculum)

Travelers on the Tōkaidō (handout available in curriculum)

#### **Educator discussion prompts**

- 1) Who were the women along the Tōkaidō—either traveling or serving travelers? Why were they traveling, or what were their roles in serving travelers? How does this compare to the men who were traveling or serving?

- 2) Choose one chapter in *Japanese Inn*, summarize it, and tell us how that chapter helps you understand the "whos and hows" of travel and lodging.

### **Classroom discussion prompt**

- 1) Think about the last time you went on a trip. Who were the people you encountered in hotels, restaurants, on public transportation? Describe these people—what they were doing, what they were wearing, the implements they were using, etc. Could you tell what their role was just by looking at them? Now look at the Tōkaidō Clothing and Travelers on the Tōkaidō handouts, and compare the people in those documents to the people you encountered on a trip. Discuss the similarities and differences in their roles, and which roles in Edo Japan and contemporary US could be identified by their clothing or the items they use in their jobs.

### **Milestone 7 Mariko (optional)**

#### **Trains**

See milestone e-mail for resources

### **Educator and classroom discussion prompt**

- 1) How did the change from foot travel to train travel along the Tōkaidō impact the region and the country?

### **Milestone 8 Kanaya**

#### **Tea Cultivation, Production, and Culture**

#### **Read**

*Japan Journeys*, p. 110

*Green with Milk and Sugar*

#### **View**

*How Japanese Green Tea is Made*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S04\\_KBC8mIA&t=2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S04_KBC8mIA&t=2s)

Webinar: *Total Immersion: Exploring Tea Culture in East Asia*, Dr. Mindy Landeck, presenter

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/3895843880306051073>

*Japanese Green Tea Cultivation*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9iyb80dqvYo>

#### **Explore**

Japanese Tea Education database [http://www.nihon-cha.or.jp/export/nihoncha\\_db/](http://www.nihon-cha.or.jp/export/nihoncha_db/)

DMatcha company <https://www.dmatcha.com/>

Shizuoka Green Tea [http://www.pref.shizuoka.jp/a\\_foreign/english/tea/index.html](http://www.pref.shizuoka.jp/a_foreign/english/tea/index.html)

Global Japanese Tea Association <https://gjtea.org/info/japanese-tea-information/japanese-tea-cultivation/>

### **Educator discussion prompts**

- 1) How could you bring tea (broadly defined--from cultivation to drinking) into your classroom?
- 2) What did you learn about tea, what surprised you about tea, and what more would you like to know about tea?

- 3) In *Green with Milk and Sugar*, Robert Hellyer describes many ways that US and Japanese history intersect through green tea. Write a tweet about one thing that struck you. Add #hashtags if you like. (#walkingthetokaido) Feel free to actually tweet it if you like. (For those not familiar with Twitter: 280 character limit.)

#### **Classroom discussion prompt**

- 1) Watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9iyb80dqvYo&t=1s>. What did you learn about tea harvesting and processing? What more would you like to know about tea?

### **Milestone 9 Hamamatsu Motor Vehicle Industry**

#### **Read**

“Honda Soichiro and the Rise of Japan’s Postwar Motor Vehicle Industry,” *Education about Asia*, Jeffrey W. Alexander, Fall 2015. <https://www.asianstudies.org/publications/eaa/archives/honda-soichiro-and-the-rise-of-japans-postwar-motor-vehicle-industry/>

“A Brief Chronology of Japan-US Motorcycle and Automotive Manufacturing Ties” (handout available in curriculum)

#### **View**

Welcome to Hamamatsu (manufacturing) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j1fxdbtmeBs&t=2s>

#### **Educator and classroom discussion prompts**

- 1) Discuss the impact of Japanese business located in your own home area (city, state), upon your community and/or state.
- 2) After reading *Honda Soichiro and the rise of Japan’s Postwar Motor Vehicle Industry*, discuss two or more items in the article that explain the success of the Honda Motor Corporation in both Japanese and international markets.

### **Milestone 10 Arai (optional) Checkpoints and Transit Permits** See milestone e-mail for resources

#### **Educator and classroom discussion prompt**

- 1) Create a transit permit in the style of a Tōkaidō transit permit for a student from your school to travel to a city in your state or region.

### **Milestone 11 Futagawa (optional) Traveling Musicians** See milestone e-mail for resources

#### **Educator and classroom discussion prompt**

- 1) Is there a modern-day equivalent of the traveling musician?

### **Milestone 12 Okazaki (optional) Castles and Castle Towns**

See milestone e-mail for resources

**Educator and classroom discussion prompt**

- 1) The Meiji Government tore down Okazaki Castle in 1873. What impact do you think that had on the city and its people?

**Milestone 13 Narumi (Nagoya)  
Sports: Sumo, Baseball and the Olympics**

**Read**

*You Gotta Have Wa*

Chūnichi Dragons song lyrics (handout available in curriculum)

“Japan in the Olympics, the Olympics in Japan,” *Education about Asia*, Robin Kietlinski, Fall 2016

<https://www.asianstudies.org/publications/eaa/archives/japan-in-the-olympics-the-olympics-in-japan/>

**View**

Webinar: *Sports in Japan: The Olympics and More*, Dr. Robin Kietlinski, presenter

Watch it here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/6669708316512909583>

*Japanese Baseball--Yakult Swallows vs Chūnichi Dragons*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZ7Hmm2vcoQ&t=59s>

Chūnichi Dragons Song [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugedd3s\\_NLQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugedd3s_NLQ)

Chankonabe <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uoxGQuV7nXQ>

Sumo Overview [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cj\\_QyxPZE8M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cj_QyxPZE8M)

The Venues of Tokyo 2020 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lptQWWCs2s>

**Educator discussion prompts**

- 1) What can you learn about Japan--its history, culture, politics, anything--from the Olympic games held in Japan?
- 2) How does Japanese baseball differ from American baseball? Does that difference help you understand Japan, or just confuse you?

**Classroom discussion prompts**

- 1) Watch the video on chankonabe. What are the ingredients in this particular recipe? Are there specific dishes associated with, for example, baseball or football in the US?
- 2) Write the lyrics in the style of the Chūnichi Dragons song for a sport at your school.

**Milestone 14 Yokkaichi  
Industrialization and the Environment**

**Read**

“Factory Night Views of Yokkaichi,” *Japan Times*, Jan. 21, 2019

“Nation versus People: Ashio and Japan’s First Environmental Crisis,” *Education about Asia*, James L.

Huffman, Winter 2010 <https://www.asianstudies.org/publications/eaa/archives/nation-versus-people-ashio-and-japans-first-evironmental-crisis/>

**View**

Yokkaichi Factory Night View

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=081fGJhbdK4&feature=emb\\_imp\\_woyt](https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=081fGJhbdK4&feature=emb_imp_woyt)

Exploring Ashio Copper Mine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=dDtdVVCxwYk>

### **Educator discussion prompts**

- 1) Are there environmental tourism sites in the US, either like Yokkaichi or Kamikatsu? What might be some of the obstacles to creating environmental tourism in the US? Can you think of a site that might be a good candidate to adopt either the Yokkaichi or Kamikatsu model?
- 2) The articles “Japan’s Environmental Policy” and “Ashio and Japan’s First Environmental Crisis” are loaded with so many take-aways. What one (or two or three) things stood out to you, and why? What would you like to know more about?

### **Classroom discussion prompt**

- 1) In Yokkaichi industrial tourism highlights environmental issues in the city. Name an environmental issue, large or small, in your school, town or region. How might environmental tourism help people to understand that issue?

### **Milestone 15 Tsuchiyama (optional)**

#### **Bashō**

See milestone e-mail for resources

### **Educator and classroom discussion prompt**

- 1) Write a haiku about a friend or family member who you’ve traveled with on a journey.

### **Milestone 16 Otsu**

#### **Math and Machiya**

### **Read**

“Soroban: The First Calculator” <https://sites.google.com/site/osakasoroban/news/soroban>

“The Japan Soroban Association” <http://www.shuzan.jp/english/>

“Math Abacus School of Seattle” <http://www.abacusseattle.com/>

[Soroban Abacus Handbook](#)

### **View**

“Soroban: Math as a popular culture” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xzCzbl5n0>

Abacus as Traditional Craft <https://kougeihin.jp/en/craft/1004/E>

[An Old Posttown Makes a Comeback](#). The City of Otsu and [Hachise](#), a realtor specializing in *machiya* (traditional houses from this area) renovations.

*Machiya* at the Boston Children’s Museum <https://japanesehouse.bostonchildrensmuseum.org/>

Living in Traditional Japanese Townhouses <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIjSnaZ2WiY&t=1s>

### **Educator discussion prompts**

- 1) In the video “Living in Traditional Japanese Townhouses” they ask the question “What’s so special about *machiya*?” After watching the video and looking at the information about the realtor Hachise, what’s your response?
- 2) How might you incorporate the soroban into your classroom?

### **Classroom discussion prompt**

- 1) Using a soroban, solve this problem:  $127 + 56 + 12 = ?$

**Milestone 17 Kyoto**  
**Transition to the Meiji Era**

**Read**

*Japan Journeys, pp. 122, 123, 124, 125, 132-33*

**Educator and classroom discussion prompts**

- 1) How did Kyoto's role in the nation change with the Meiji Restoration?
- 2) Drop in at Sanjō-Ōhashi (Big Bridge at Third Street). What do you see? Compare the arrival point today to that depicted by Hiroshige. Would a 19<sup>th</sup> century traveler recognize anything? Next go a little to the north and west of Sanjō-Ōhashi and drop in at the Kyoto Imperial Palace/Kyoto Gyoen National Garden. Do you think the Meiji Emperor would recognize this place today?

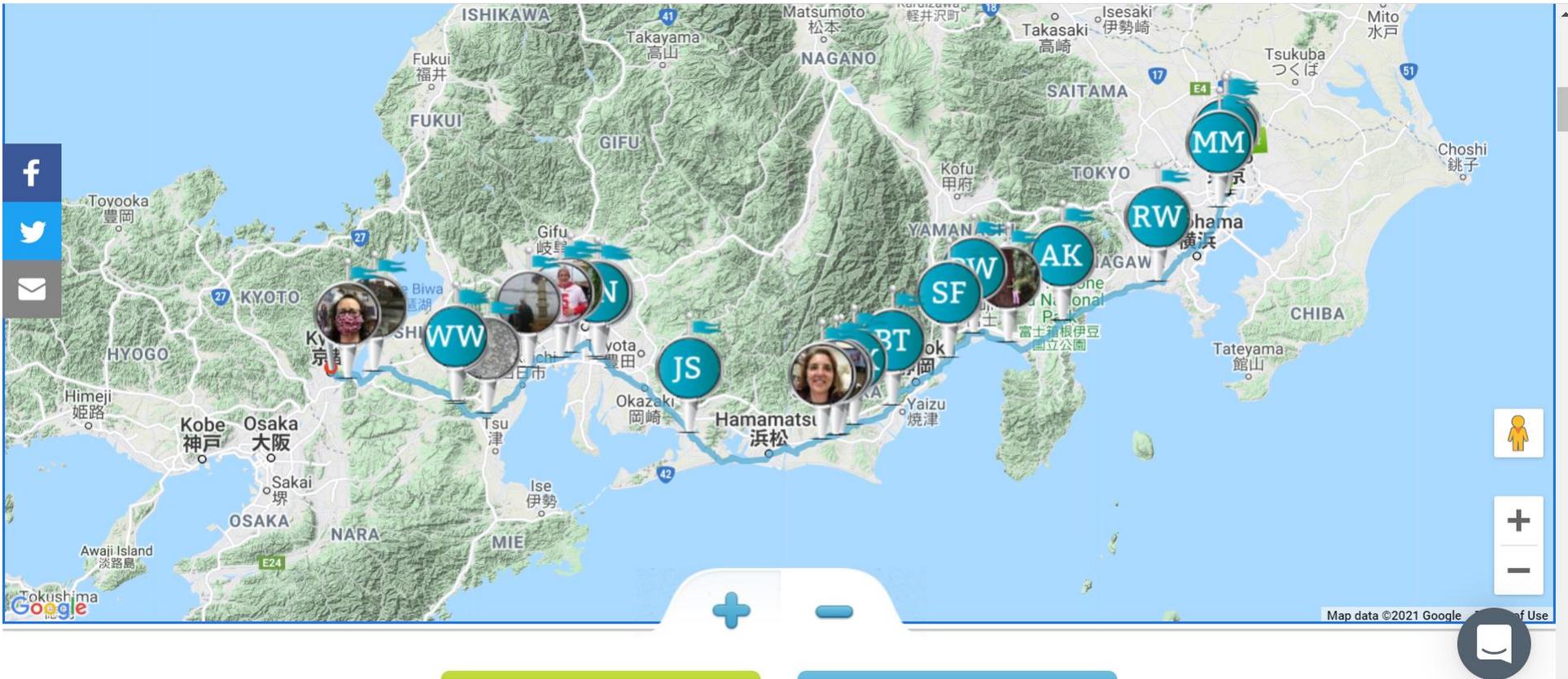


## **Walking the Tōkaidō: Navigating the My Virtual Mission Map**

This project is made possible with funding from the Freeman Foundation  
and the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (CGP)

On the mission map, you can see the location of every person who is on the mission. Once someone has completed the mission, their icon will disappear from the map. Use the + and – (either the blue ones in the bottom center or the ones in the lower right-hand corner of the map) to zoom in and out on the map.

To change your profile photo, see the document titled “Change Your Profile Photo.”



The red marker is your pace, which you can set under Mission Control (Set Timeframe) If the red pace dot gets to the goal before you do, the system will not allow you to add more miles. Simply go to Mission Control and change Set Timeframe to a larger number of weeks.

Under Viewing you can choose to just see your position (Just Me/My Team) or see where everyone on this mission is (Active Participants/30 Days).

← → ↻ 🔒 https://www.myvirtualmission.com/missions/64367/st-francis-way-virtual-challenge 🔑 🔍 ☆ ⚙️ 👤 ⋮

📱 Apps 📁 Hiroshima Nagasak... 📁 Music 📁 Taiwan 📁 Tokaido 📁 Ties that Bind 🌐 "Intimate Disconne... 🇯🇵 <甲州街道の宿場選...

📄 Other bookmarks 📖 Reading list

Google Maps showing a route in Italy. A red pace marker is positioned near Arezzo. A blue line indicates the route, with a 40% progress indicator. A red line indicates the pace. A 80% progress indicator is visible near Spoleto. The map includes labels for cities like Florence, Arezzo, Perugia, and Spoleto, as well as geographical features like the Ligurian Sea and Adriatic Sea.

**VIEW**

Choose who you want to see on the map and newsfeed.  
To set up a private community, [click here](#).

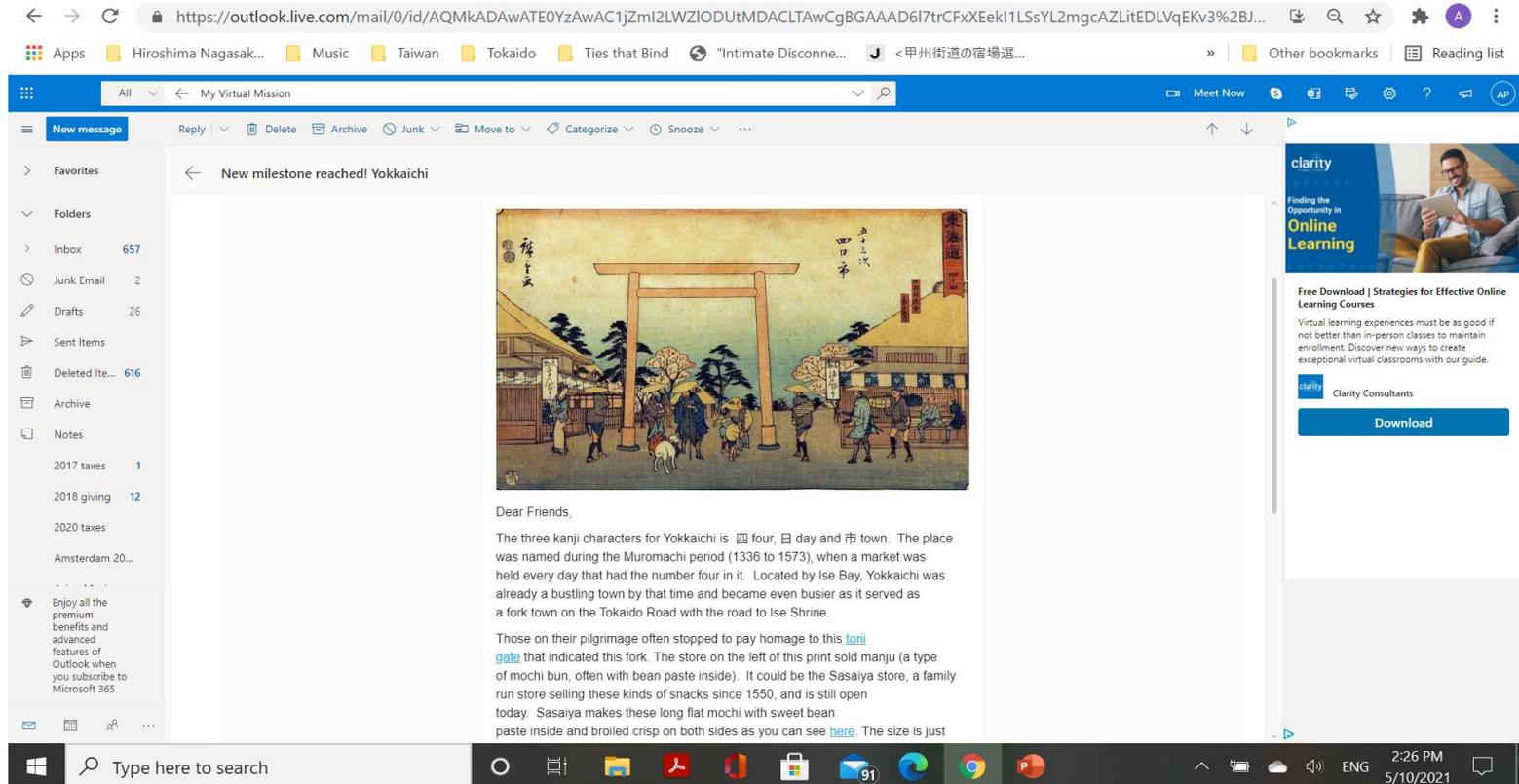
Viewing Just Me / My Team

Show me on Street View Zoom in to position

Windows taskbar: Type here to search, File Explorer, Adobe Reader, Microsoft Edge, Outlook (90), Chrome, PowerPoint, System tray: Network, Volume, ENG, 2:31 PM 5/10/2021

At each of 17 Milestones you'll receive an e-mail with an image related to that location as well as text with historical and cultural information and links to additional information and resources. The resources may be links to webinars, newspaper articles, websites or videos that will help you learn about Japanese history and culture.

The milestone will also pop up on your mission page the first time you log in after you've passed that location.



The screenshot shows an Outlook email interface. The subject line is "New milestone reached! Yokkaichi". The email content features a traditional Japanese woodblock print illustration of a torii gate and a street scene. Below the image, the text reads:

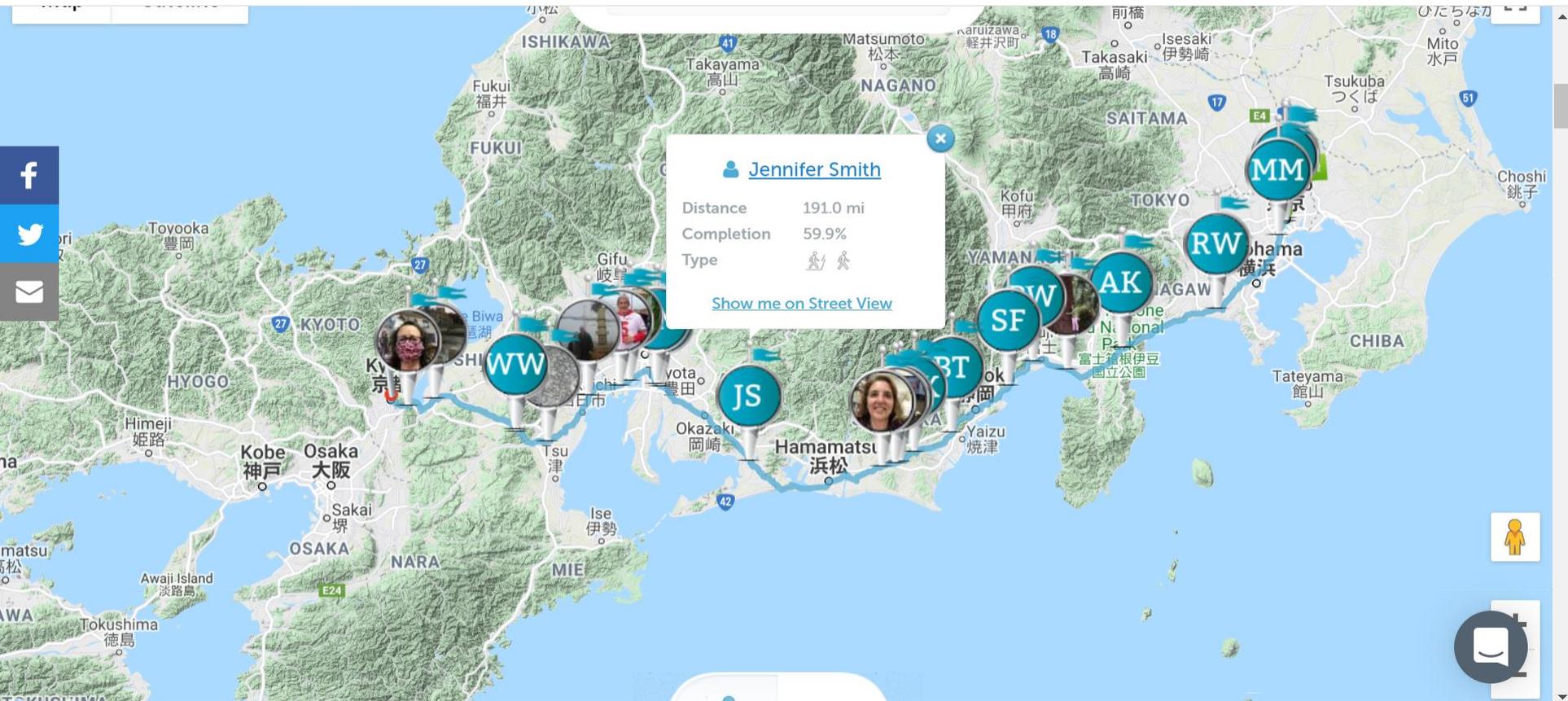
Dear Friends,

The three kanji characters for Yokkaichi is 四日市, 日 day and 市 town. The place was named during the Muromachi period (1336 to 1573), when a market was held every day that had the number four in it. Located by Ise Bay, Yokkaichi was already a bustling town by that time and became even busier as it served as a fork town on the Tokaido Road with the road to Ise Shrine.

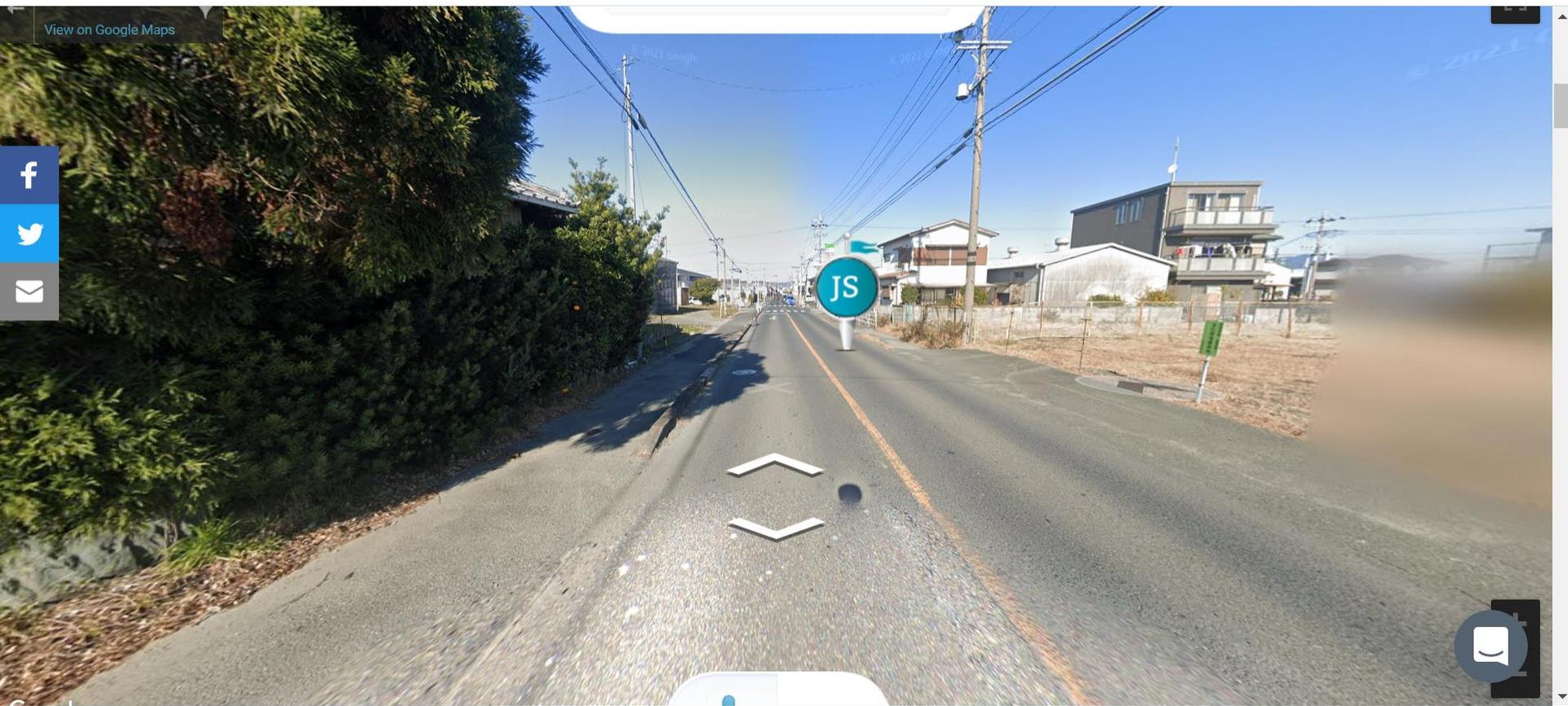
Those on their pilgrimage often stopped to pay homage to this [torii gate](#) that indicated this fork. The store on the left of this print sold manju (a type of mochi bun, often with bean paste inside). It could be the Sasaiya store, a family run store selling these kinds of snacks since 1550, and is still open today. Sasaiya makes these long flat mochi with sweet bean paste inside and broiled crisp on both sides as you can see [here](#). The size is just

The interface includes a left sidebar with folders like "Inbox 657", "Junk Email 2", and "Deleted Items 616". The top navigation bar shows "My Virtual Mission" and various icons. The bottom taskbar displays the Windows search bar and several application icons.

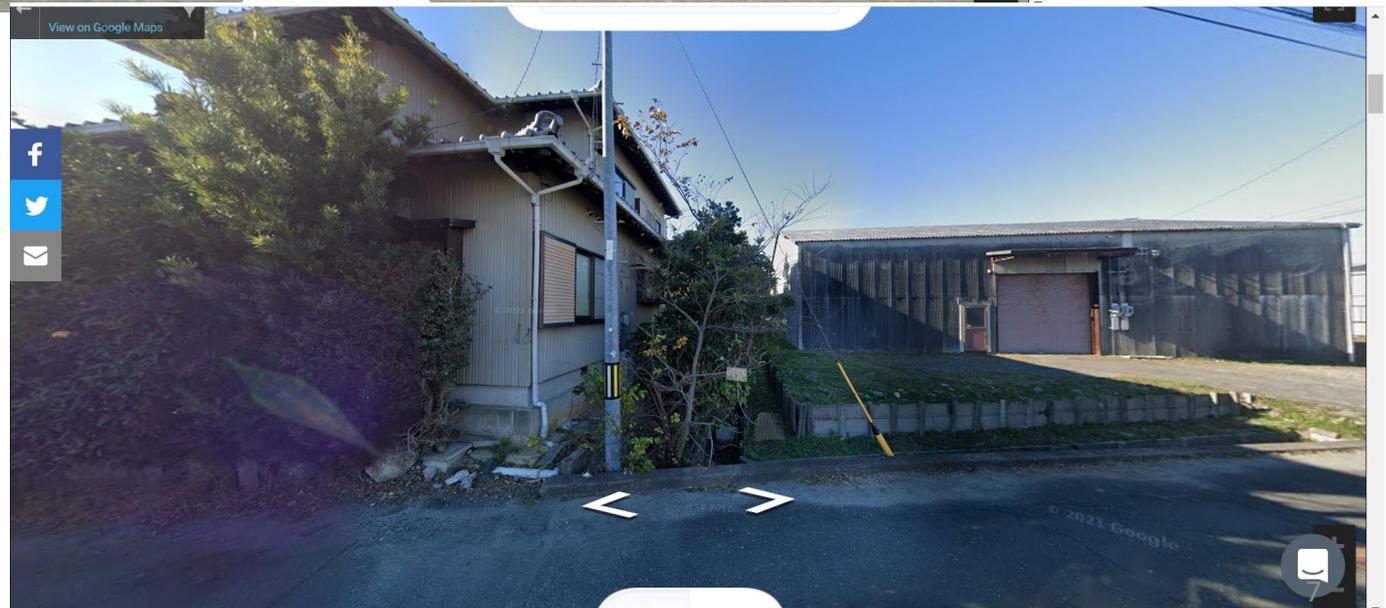
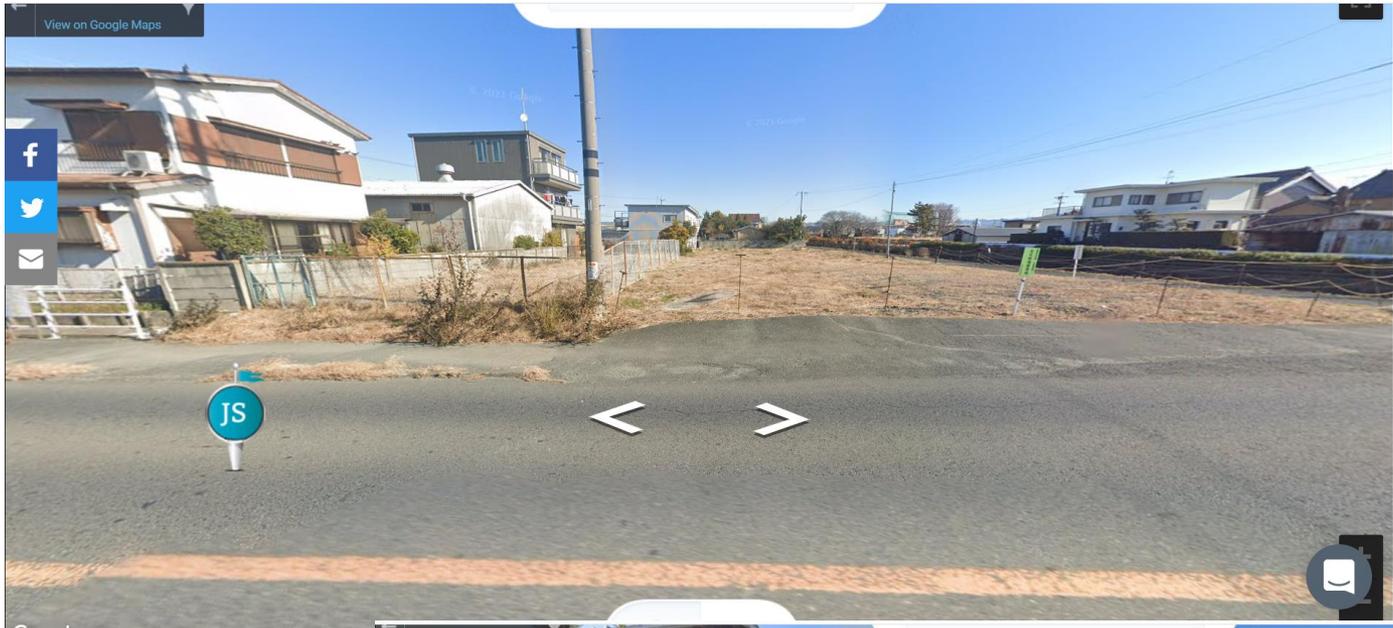
You can click on any icon to find out who that person is and their location. Jennifer Smith has completed 191 miles, or 59.9% of the route. Click on “Show me on Street View” to see the view as if you’re there.



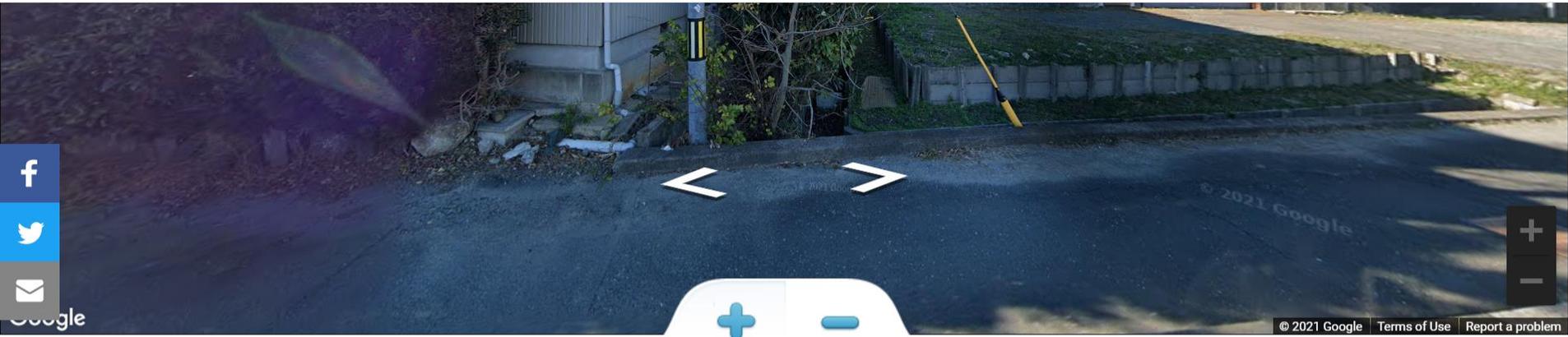
And here's Jennifer! Click on the white arrows to move forward and backward on the route.



Use your cursor to rotate your position for a 360° view.



To return to the map, click on “Close Street View.”



Close Street View

Reset zoom position

### VIRTUAL WEATHER AND LOCATION INFORMATION

Kyoto, Japan [↗](#)

Wednesday, May 5th  
4:15am

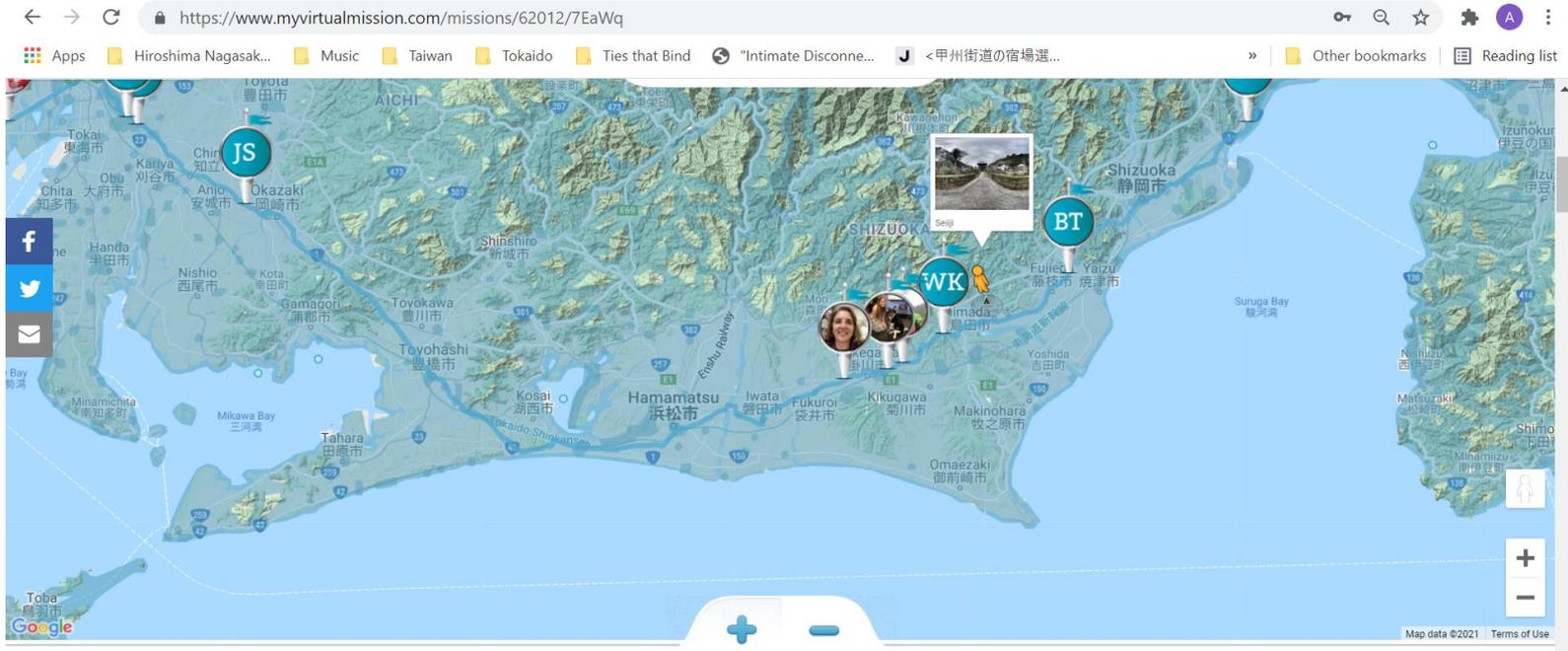


14°C | 58°F

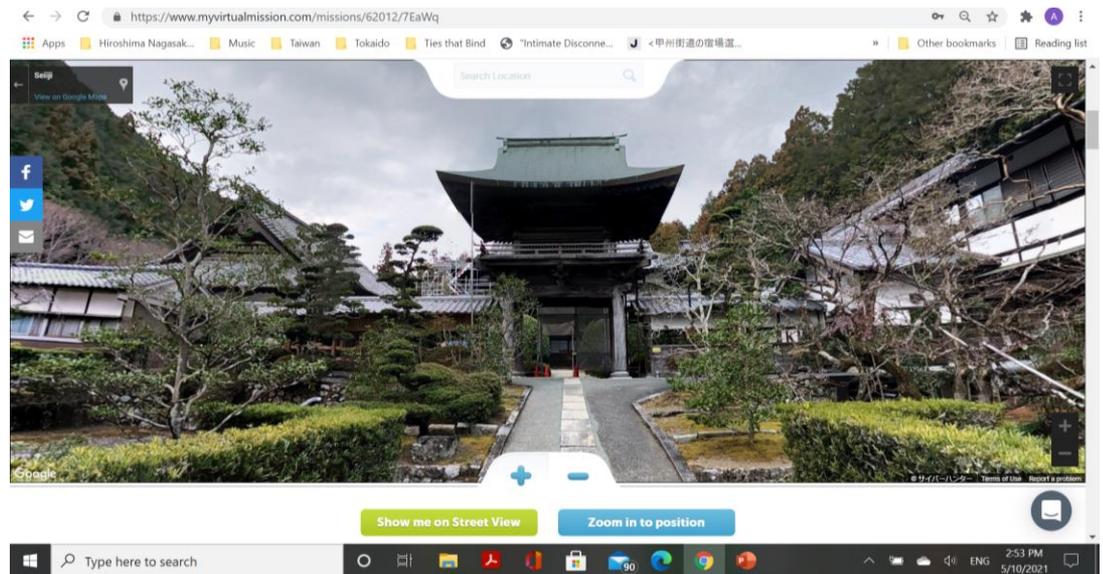
### COMMENTS AND UPDATES

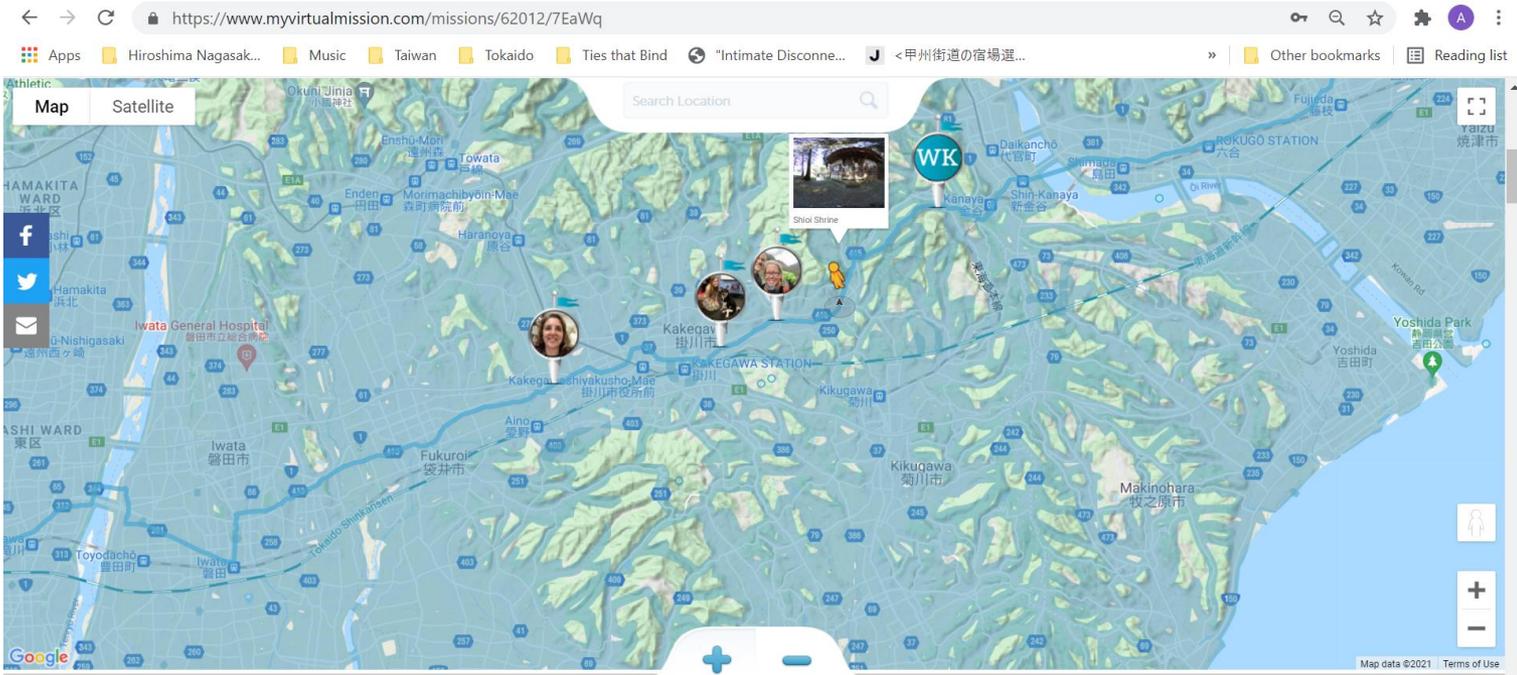






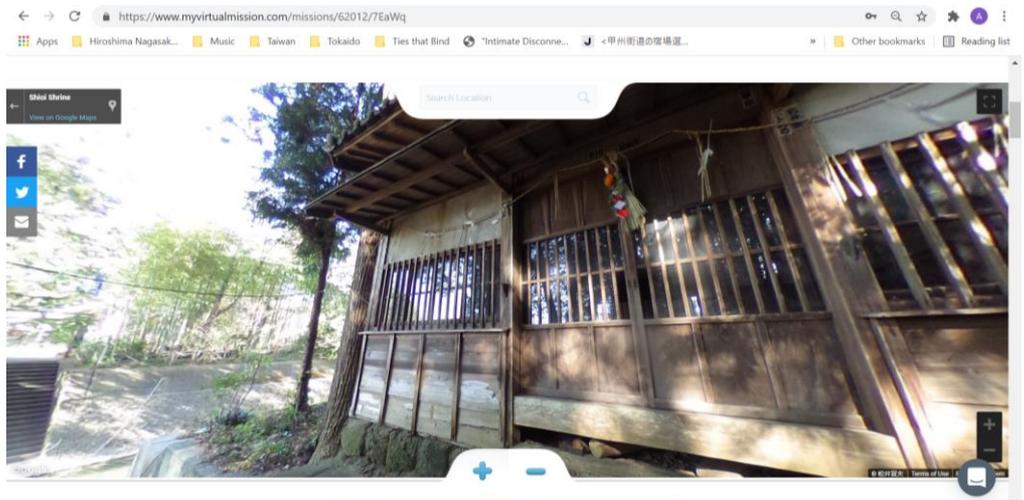
Use the yellow human icon to drop in on anyplace on the map that turns blue-green when you move the icon.





Show me on Street View

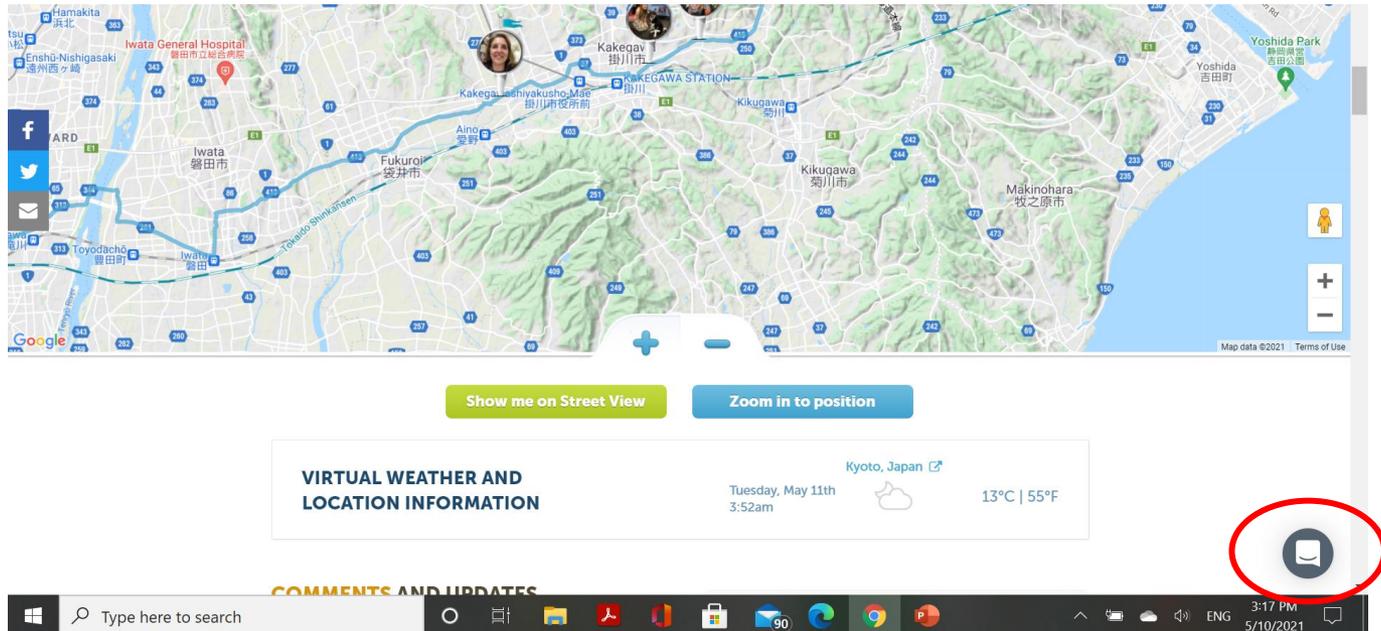
Zoom in to position



Zoom in for more precision. As you can see, there's pretty good coverage in Japan!

You can use the MVM conversion chart if you are doing an activity other than walking.

You can also decide on a conversion rate that works for you. For example, if you're not used to exercising, or you're recovering from an injury, set your own conversion rate.



Technical question or problem? Use the chat box in the lower right corner to communicate with MyVirtualMission staff.

*Walking the Tōkaidō: A Multi-Disciplinary Experience in History and Culture*

A National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) Program  
Five College Center for East Asian Studies (FCCEAS)

John Frank, Arlene Kowal, Yurika Kurakata, Anne Prescott, authors

Milestones with Links to Resources



Funded by a generous grant from the Freeman Foundation  
With additional funding from the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership

Text copyright FCCEAS 2021: NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0)

## Nihonbashi (mile 0)



Dear Friends,

We're off! We've left Nihonbashi, in the center of one of the commercial and business areas in Tokyo, headed for Kyoto. During the Edo period, also known as the Tokugawa era, 1603-1868, this city was called Edo. The name was changed to Tokyo ("eastern capital") after the Meiji Restoration of 1868.

Distances to and from Edo were traditionally measured to Nihonbashi, literally "Bridge of Japan." There's a [plaque](#) on the ground marking the exact point. Look at the area using street view, then compare it to the photo above of Nihonbashi in 1946 as well as these *ukiyo*e prints ([Hiroshige](#) , [Hiroshige](#), [Hiroshige](#)) of this key location. See any differences?

This bridge was so important to Edo that when you visit the Edo-Tokyo Museum, you pass over a [model of the bridge](#) to enter the exhibition area. Why not [explore the Museum virtually](#), and find out what life has been like in Edo and then Tokyo.

The highway running overhead today is scheduled relocated underground, once again restoring some of the mystique to this bridge.

Many people enjoy visiting the fish market in Tokyo. Originally located in Nihonbashi, it was relocated to Tsukiji in 1935, and again to Toyosu in 2018. You might enjoy this look at the [Tokyo fish market from Nihonbashi to Tsukiji to Toyosu](#) created by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

If you'd like to learn more about Edo in the early 19th century, I recommend Amy Stanley's *Stranger in the Shogun's City*, the biography of a woman from rural Japan who moves to Edo. You might also enjoy this [webinar](#) by Amy Stanley, which focuses on the primary sources she used when researching and writing the book.

Please enjoy this journey along the Tōkaidō of yesterday and today.

## Kanagawa (mile 18.6)



Dear Friends,

For many travelers in the Edo period, Kanagawa might have been the first overnight stop. Today, the word “Kanagawa” might conjure up images of the famous Hokusai *ukiyo*e (woodblock print) “[The Great Wave Off Kanagawa](#).” Take a look at these modern takes on the famous print. [Mitsui Junpei Legos](#), [Godzilla](#), [shoes](#).

If you’ve never seen how *ukiyo*e prints are made, watch [this video](#). To learn more about Tōkaidō *ukiyo*e, watch this [webinar](#) with Dr. Andreas Marks, Minneapolis Institute of Art, one of the leading experts on the subject.

You might also be interested in perusing this woodblock print [website](#) which features various depictions of the 53 stations on the Tōkaidō.

The Port of Yokohama is very close and if you’re interested in Japan’s opening to the West after Perry’s arrival, the [Yokohama Archives of History](#) is one place to visit. It is the site where the Treaty of Kanagawa was signed on March 31, 1854. Yokohama being one of the five ports (The Ansei Five) that opened in 1858, there are remains of several foreign settlements.

The Namamugi Incident, also known as the Richardson Affair, took place near here in September 1862. Charles Richardson, a British man travelling on the Tōkaidō Road was stabbed by the samurai of the Satsuma clan for not dismounting from his horse. This image is a woodblock print depicting the incident. A rather old New York Times article about this incident from that time can be found [here](#), and a more balanced and objective view of the incident written more recently can be read [here](#). It’s interesting to read and consider each of these resources separately.

## Totsuka (mile 27.5)



Hello,

Today if you walk the Tōkaidō, you may be surprised by the variety of Japanese *konbini* (convenience stores) that you pass. [FamilyMart](#), [7-Eleven](#), [Lawson](#), [Daily Yamazaki](#), [Circle K](#), [Ministop](#); there are so many. You would easily have passed more than a hundred *konbini* by now.

For tourists, company employees, or neighborhood residents, "... Convenience stores in Japan have plenty to offer: they are open around the clock, and sell a variety of food for breakfast, lunch, bento boxes and snacks as well as beverages including local beer and sake.

Many outlets offer seasonal and limited-time items to attract customers. They also sell stationary, health and household products, books and magazines. You can even pay your electricity bill, and pick up delivered items as well."\* When it rains during the journey to Kyoto, and it will rain, you can stop at a *konbini* and pick up an umbrella or poncho.

The left side of this milestone photo is a *konbini* on the Tōkaidō near Kanagawa train station. The right side of the photo is a typical bento lunch sold at *konbini*.

\*<https://web-japan.org/nipponia/nipponia19/en/feature/feature03.html>

## Odawara (mile 53.4)



Greetings!

I have arrived in Odawara. In the Edo period, this station was the first castle town where many travelers made their second overnight stay. Odawara Castle is the closest castle to Edo, and it withstood many invasion attempts until Toyotomi Hideyoshi overwhelmed the Hojo clan with his manpower, even building a temporary castle nearby in less than three months to strategize his siege. What we see at Odawara Castle today was rebuilt in the 1960's based on drawings from the Edo period but you can still appreciate the hilltop location and the amazing defense perimeter around the castle.

In order to arrive here, I crossed the bridge over the Sakawa River. This fifty-second [video](#) shows you the river today, with a bridge that serves the shinkansen and other trains. Back in Edo times, there were professionals who carried travelers, even on their shoulders to cross these perilous waters. [These](#) woodblock prints show how these crossings took place.

Odawara is known for its *chochin* (paper lanterns) that you see on this card. This five-minute [video](#) shows you how some Japanese styles of lanterns are made. The Odawara style *chochin* are especially useful for their portability and durability. The cylindrical shaped lantern can fold down into a disc shape for easy carrying.

*Image source: yagi-s, CC BY 2.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>>, via Wikimedia Commons*

## Hakone (mile 63.8)



Dear Virtual Travelers,

Hello from Hakone! We've made it through some of the most difficult sections of the Tōkaidō, so I thought we should take a little break and do some sightseeing. Hakone jinja (shrine) is a major attraction and you'll know you're in the right place when you spot the large vermillion torii gate that marks the entrance to the sacred space.

Three *kami* (gods) are enshrined in the current location, which dates from 1667. Before you visit, watch this [video](#) to learn proper shrine etiquette so you'll know what to do. You can preview your visit by looking at some photos and reading about [Hakone jinja](#).

These videos on [Buddhism and Shinto Explained](#), [What Is Shinto?](#) And [When Shinto Became a "Religion"](#) will help you to make sense of what you see at Shinto shrine.

After you've toured Hakone jinja, take a look at some other Shinto shrines, either in the Hakone area or another location on the route. How do they differ?

## Okitsu (mile 103.7)



Konnichiwa! (Good day, or hello)

I've arrived at Okitsu, a peaceful station on the coast. I've been amazed at the variety of travelers, their modes of travel, and the stories they tell about their journeys. To learn more about the people on the Tōkaidō, I consulted Dr. Ethan Segal at Michigan State. [Watch the recorded webinar](#) on this topic.

One of the other travelers recommended that I try [namadora kintoki](#), a delicious sweet made from two small pancakes filled with *anko* (bean paste) or cream. Luckily there was a shop not far from my hotel and I'm so glad I tried them.

## Mariko (mile 117.7)



Greetings from Mariko,

After walking for about a week, we have repeatedly crossed over, and occasionally been obstructed by, the tracks of the Shinkansen ("new trunk line"), often referred to in English as the bullet train. Japan's first train line, from Tokyo to Yokohama, began service in 1872 and rail traffic between Tokyo and Kyoto started in 1889. Later, this same line was extended to Osaka and Kobe. The railroad line was called the Tōkaidō hon-sen or Tōkaidō Main Line. The Tōkaidō hon-sen did not exactly follow the old Edo era road, especially after the train departed Nagoya, heading toward Kyoto. The railroad route often deviated from the old highway route because of mountain topography. The train decreased travel time from 12-13 days on foot to 14.5 hours by train.

The first [Tōkaidō shinkansen](#) service began in 1964, in time for the Tokyo Olympic Games that year. Travel time between Tokyo and Kyoto was reduced from 6 hours and 40 minutes (on the Limited Express) to about 3 hours and 30 minutes. Today, the fastest shinkansen covers the route in about 2 hours and 30 minutes, often reaching speeds of 200 mph.

This [1964 documentary](#) is an interesting look at the building of the shinkansen. Although it's in Japanese, you'll be able to understand much of the content. From laying the rails, to designing the cars, adding on to stations, and more, it was a monumental task which began in April 1959 and was completed on Oct. 1, 1964.

Today, Japan's centers of population lie along this route – Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Kyoto, Osaka and Kobe. Although the Tōkaidō route accounts for only three percent of Japan's rail line by distance, it accounts for over 2 percent of all passenger and freight traffic in the country.

## Kanaya (mile 135.7)



Greetings from Kanaya!

The rolling hills in this area are covered with lush green tea plants, making my walk a restful and pleasant one. I was lucky with the weather and got some great views of Mt. Fuji, too. I took a short detour to visit the [“Fuji no Kuni Cha no Miyako Museum”](#) or the “Land of Fuji, Tea Capital Museum.” I learned that this is the largest tea farming region in Japan, and enjoyed the exhibits on the tea industry, history and culture. I wish I had had more time to take part in all the hands-on experiences at the Museum, but I couldn’t resist making time to sample the tea on the tea terrace.

To learn more about tea growing, I watched this [video](#) of the harvesting and processing process. The [website for D:Matcha](#), a company in another important tea growing region near Kyoto, helped me to expand my knowledge about tea. To learn more about tea culture in East Asia, I watched [Total Immersion: Exploring Tea Culture in East Asia](#), a 60-minute webinar with Dr. Mindy Landeck.

### Hamamatsu (mile 165.3)



Hello again,

Today you passed through Hamamatsu, a city of 800,000 residents. Hamamatsu is known for its castle, once the home of Tokugawa Iyeyasu the manufacture of motorcycles and automobiles, and the production of musical instruments. You can learn about the manufacturing industry in Hamamatsu today in this short [video](#).

The manufacturing hub of Hamamatsu is the home of Suzuki Motor Corporation and the Yamaha Corporation. [Soichiro Honda](#), the founder of Honda Motor Company, was born here in 1906.

In Hamamatsu you can visit the [Soichiro Honda Craftsmanship Center](#) (in Japanese, but you can read it using Google translate) and the [Suzuki Corporation Museum](#), located a few hundred meters north of the old Tōkaidō Road.

The photo for this milestone was taken at the Suzuki Museum and is a display of the first automobile made by Suzuki in 1955.

## Arai (mile 175.9)



Dear Travelers,

After passing successfully through the checkpoint at Hakone, you've arrived at another checkpoint, Arai. Edo period travelers had to carry a passport issued for this journey which allowed them to transit through the designated checkpoints. Below you'll find a translation of the text of two eighteenth-century passports.

Due to tsunamis and earthquakes, the Arai station and checkpoint have been located in different places over the years, but the current location was established after the earthquake of 1707. Checkpoints were officially abolished with the start of the Meiji Restoration in 1868.

### **Seiksho Transit Permit (1706)**

*Four women, among them one with cut hair [kamikiri], and one who is not married, will be traveling from Kyoto to Edo. Please grant them safe passage through the sekisho. The four women are the mother of actor Takeshima Kōemon, his wife, daughter, and a maidservant. The City Elders from Takasegawa Tennō-chō and their Group of Five Households [goningumi] are their guarantors.*

1706/10/11

*[From] Nakane Setsu no kami and Andō Suruga no kami [Kyoto City Magistrates]*

*[To] Imagiri Sekisho Inspector of Women*

### **A Passport (1782)**

*Genjirō, a peasant from Moro Village in the Saku District of Shinano Province, wishes to make a pilgrimage to various shrines and temples. He is accompanied by one child. It is therefore requested that they be granted safe passage through all sekisho. Furthermore, it is respectfully requested that in case of sickness or death the appropriate village or city officials send notice here, and that they be cared for with benevolence according to the customs of the local area.*

1782/11/19

*Shinano Province, Saku District, Moto Village headmen Sadaemon Goemon*

*[To] All officials of sekisho, towns, and villages*

Source: Vaporis, Constantine Nomikos Vaporis,  
*Voices of Early Modern Japan : Contemporary Accounts of Daily Life During the Age of the Shoguns*,  
Westview Press, 2014. Pp. 171-172.

## Futagawa (mile 184.1)



Dear wanderers,

During the Edo period, you might have seen traveling musician such as the three women, two carrying a three-string shamisen, depicted in this woodblock print by Hiroshige. Two of the women are blind; I wonder who they were?

Itinerant musicians have traveled throughout Japan for hundreds of years. The overwhelming majority of them were blind beggars who depended on travelers and residents of the areas they traveled through to support them through donations in exchange for a tune.

The earliest itinerant musicians were *biwa* (pear-shaped lute) *hoshi* who recited tales of the Miyamoto and Heike clans during the twelfth-century Genpei War (1180-1185).

*Mōsō*, blind priests who played the *biwa*, chanted a mix of Buddhist and Shinto texts. They were most active in Kyushu and Western Japan and were not likely seen on the Tōkaidō.

*Bosama*, blind male shamisen players, and *goze*, blind female shamisen players, made their living by entertaining travelers at stations along the Tōkaidō and other popular roads. Their repertoire consisted primarily of narrative tales. The women pictured by Hiroshige are likely two *goze* and their sighted companion, whose job was to get the *goze* safely from place to place.

A few *bosama* and *goze* continued their professions well into the twentieth century. The best-known in the twentieth century were masters of the Tsugaru-style from northern Japan who continued to travel the back roads of the northern part of Honshu and Hokkaido. Takahashi Chikuzan (Takahashi Sadazō, 1910-1998) rose from a life of poverty traveling the country to a celebrated folk musician whose recordings continue to be celebrated today. Chikuzan even performed in the United States in 1986.

You can [watch a video of Takahashi Chikuzan on YouTube](#). Listen to the percussive quality of his melodies; I wonder if that sound is influenced by the bitterly cold, snowy winters of northern Japan?

[You can see a re-creation of how goze travelled and listen to some of their songs](#) from the Niigata Prefecture 2020 Culture Festival.

## Okazaki (mile 208.7)



Fellow travelers,

As a castle town on the Tōkaidō, Okazaki was very prosperous during the Edo period. Okazaki Castle is best known as the birthplace of Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543-1616). The original Okazaki Castle was built on the grounds of Myodaiji Temple in 1455. It was moved to its present location, just across the Oto River, by Ieyasu's grandfather in 1531. The new Meiji government tore down the castle in 1873, but left some of the foundation, moats and wall. It was reconstructed in 1959. If you want to learn more, you can read about it on the [castle website](#) (use Google translate if you can't read Japanese).

Okazaki is famous for one of my favorite foods, *hatchō miso*. It has a stronger taste and is a bit saltier than most miso. You might like to try it in a dish called [miso katsu](#).

Want to learn more about Okazaki? Check out the [city tourism website](#).

photo credit: By Alexander W. - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=23399911>

## Narumi (mile 225.4)



Friends,

After many consecutive days of walking, having covered over 360 kilometers, celebrate your accomplishment (and give your aching feet a rest) by taking a day off in Nagoya, Japan's 4th largest city.

If you are walking the Tōkaidō during the month of July, you might try to attend the [sumo](#) tournament held annually in Nagoya during a 15-day period. From Narumi train station, it is about 15 km or 45 min. by public transportation to the sumo arena (Dolphin's Arena, aka Aichi Prefectural Gymnasium), which is located next to Nagoya Castle. The problem with this plan is procuring a ticket. A sumo ticket is a prized commodity. To get this ticket, you'll need to get in line before the ticket office opens up at 7:30 am. For dinner you might try [chankonabe](#), the food that helps sumo wrestlers grow big and strong.

If you're not able to get sumo tickets, how about attending a home game of the [Chūnichi Dragons](#) professional baseball team. The Nagoya Dome, home stadium of the Dragons, is also about 15 km and a one-hour train ride from the station. Before you go, read *You Gotta Have Wa* by Robert Whiting to learn about Japanese baseball. [Experience the atmosphere](#) and [hear the team song](#) in these videos.

Speaking of sports in Japan, even though Nagoya hasn't hosted the Olympics, it is playing a role in the 2020 (rescheduled for 2021) Tokyo games. The torch relay [passed through Nagoya](#) on April 5-6, 2021 as it traveled to Tokyo. You can learn more about the Olympic games in Japan in a [webinar](#) by Dr. Robin Kietlinski.

### **Chūnichī Dragons song**

Hearing the cry of a dragon,  
echoing in the distant night sky,  
we pack into the Nagoya Dome.  
We feel numb just being there.  
Good job, do your best Dragons! Defeat them, Dragons!

Defeat the tiger, catch the carp and chase the warrior offshore.  
The swallows are dropped, hold your breath big man. It's a victory!  
Good job, do your best Dragons! Defeat them, Dragons!

Catch the lion, trap the hawk, tame the bull and cross the sea.  
The Dragons tackled the fighting spirit of the north and the golden eagle.  
The Dragons are the best in Japan.  
Good job, do your best Dragons! Defeat them, Dragons!

Japanese baseball teams referenced above:

(Note: Teams are usually referred by the sponsoring company name followed by their mascot.)

tiger: Hanshin Tigers (Nishinomiya)  
carp: Tōyō Carp (Hiroshima)  
warrior: Lotte Marines (Chiba)  
swallows: Yakult Swallows (Tokyo)  
big man: Yomiuri Giants (Tokyo)  
lion: Seibu Lions (Saitama)  
hawk: SoftBank Hawks (Fukuoka)  
bull: Orix Buffaloes (Osaka)  
sea: DeNa Baystars (Yokohama)  
fighting spirit of the north: Nippon Ham Fighters (Sapporo)  
eagle: Rakuten Golden Eagles (Sendai)

## Yokkaichi (mile 252.3)



Dear Friends,

The three kanji characters for Yokkaichi are 四 four, 日 day and 市 town. The place was named during the Muromachi period (1336 to 1573), when a market was held every day that had the number four in it. Located by Ise Bay, Yokkaichi was already a bustling town by that time and became even busier as it was at the junction of the Tōkaidō Road and another busy route, the road to Ise Shrine.

Those on their pilgrimage often stopped to pay homage to this [torii gate](#) that marked the fork in the road. The store on the left of this print sold *manju* (a type of mochi bun, often with bean paste inside). It could be the [Sasaiya](#) store, a family run store selling these kinds of snacks since 1550, and is still open today. Sasaiya makes these long flat *mochi* with sweet bean paste inside and broiled crisp on both sides as you can see [here](#). The size is just right to fit into your hand and makes for a warm, filling snack.

Since the Taisho period, Yokkaichi has housed many factories and refineries. One of the city's attractions today include a nighttime cruise along the bay to [see the lights and smoke from these factories](#). The air pollution caused by this industrial complex had a major impact on post-war Japanese environmental policy. Read about Yokkaichi's [legacy of pollution](#) in this Jan. 21, 2019 article in the *Japan Times*.

Another landmark environmental crisis in Japan was at the Ashio Copper Mine in Tochigi Prefecture. The *Education about Asia* article "[Nation versus People: Ashio and Japan's First Environmental Crisis](#)," by James Huffman summarizes this case. To see what the Ashio Copper Mine looks like today, watch this [video](#).

### Tsuchiyama (mile 280.9)



Dear Scholars,

As we near the end of our journey, you might have been wondering about the writers who have traveled the Tōkaidō. Perhaps your thoughts turned to Matsuo Bashō, one of the best-known Japanese poets of all times. His hometown of Iga is near here, and he traveled the portion of the Tōkaidō between Narumi (Nagoya) and Kyoto a number of times.

Between August 1684 and February 1685 [Bashō traveled from Edo to Kyoto](#) via the Tōkaidō as far as Nagoya, and returned to Edo via the Tōkaidō from Kyoto to Nagoya. Here's what he wrote at Minakuchi, the station just beyond Tsuchiyama, where he met an old friend after twenty years of separation, in *Nozarashi Kikō* (*The Records of a Weather Exposed Skeleton*).

命二つの中に生たる桜哉

A lively cherry  
In full bloom  
Between the two lives  
Now made one.

(translated by Nobuyuki Yuasa in *The Narrow Road to the Deep North and Other Travel Sketches*)

Many places on the road between Tsuchiyama and Minakuchi have been restored to look much like they likely did in Bashō's time. Take a look around on Street View, and maybe you'll be motivated to write your own haiku!

## Otsu (mile 311.9)



Dear Friends,

As you walk on the historic Tōkaidō Road in the city of Otsu, you will pass by a monument to the *soroban*, or the Japanese abacus on the grounds of Miidera Temple. A monument to the abacus! How unique. If you're not familiar with the *soroban*, here's a [short introduction](#). You might also enjoy this six-minute-long

[YouTube video about the soroban and Japanese mathematics](#) before the widespread introduction to Japan of Western mathematics during the Meiji Period (1868-1912). Finally this video on [hand-made soroban](#) will be of interest to those of you who like working with your hands.

Otsu is also known for Otsu-e, a style of painting unique to Otsu and a popular souvenir for travelers on the Tōkaidō and today. Here's a brief [introduction to Otsu-e](#).

In an effort to revitalize interest in Otsu, there's a growing movement to preserve traditional housing style, called *machiya*. [Hachise](#) is a company that refurbishes old traditional *machiya* townhouses to make them attractive to buyers today. The Boston Children's Museum has a *machiya*, but if you can't make it to Boston, you can take a [virtual tour](#).

### Sanjō Ōhashi (mile 318.9)



Dear Weary Traveler,

Congratulations—you've reached your goal, Sanjō Ōhashi (the big bridge at Sanjō Street) in Kyoto. This bridge serves as the end point for both the Tōkaidō and another famous route, the Nakasendō. Still a lively location in Kyoto, a bridge has spanned the Kamo River at this point since at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Take a look around—would an Edo traveler recognize it today?

From here it's just 2.3km (1.4 miles) to Nijō Castle, the Kyoto residence of the Shogun, and 3km (1.9miles) to the front entrance of the Kyoto Imperial Palace, home of the Emperor until the Meiji Restoration.

If you head south from Sanjō Ōhashi you'll soon come to the downtown shopping area, filled with department stores, boutiques, souvenir shops, restaurants, coffee shops and more. Stop by the Daimaru department store to sample a [Yatsushashi](#), Kyoto's famous cinnamon-flavored cookie. You can also get a soft version called [nama-Yatsushashi](#) that's traditionally filled with sweet bean paste. Today this soft variety comes in many flavors, from green tea to peach to chocolate. You've earned it after your long journey.

## Clothing worn by travelers on the Tōkaidō



1. **Kasa:** Straw hat worn by men and women to shield oneself from the sun and rain.
2. **Uwapari:** Smock like outerwear.
3. **Tekou:** A hand and wrist covering for shielding the sun and wiping sweat.
4. **Momohiki:** Leggings that became common work wear for men during the Edo Period.
5. **Tsue:** Walking stick. It was also used by women for self defense.
6. **Kyakuhan:** Gaiters also protected other clothing from dust. Worn by men and women.
7. **Tabi:** Socks that divide the big toe from the rest, and compatible with the sandals.
8. **Warajibaki:** Light, flat sandals made from straw rope, made for long distances. The attached ropes were secured around the ankles. These could last for about three full days of walking.

**Other common items that were worn:**

**Obi:** Sash wrapped around the waist to keep their top layer closed and hang items such as *inrō* from.

**Inrō:** The word means “seal box”, and these small pillboxes were usually hung on the *obi*. Their seals, as well as medicine were kept inside. On left below. In the right image below, the *inrō* may be hanging behind his pouch.

**Furiwake nimotsu:** Two baskets (often made from bamboo) tied together and carried over the shoulder. One basket is carried in the front, the other in the back

**Kappa:** Rain cloak. It comes from “capa” worn by the Portuguese and Spanish missionaries who came to Japan. *Kappa* were often made from used clothes. Center image below.

**Zouribaki:** Flat sandals made from straw rope that could be easily slipped on and off. These were not for walking long distances. The man in the right image below has already removed his pair.



Travelers during this time dressed comfortably and carried very lightly. Often, their clothes were reversible so they didn't carry many changes of clothes. All their belongings needed to fit in the baskets they carried over their shoulders or needed to hang from their sash such as *inrō*. These belongings might also include a *chōchin* (foldable paper lantern), candle to go inside the lantern, personal smoking pipe, writing utensils and most importantly, their travel permits.

**Image credits:**

Page 1 top : Ando Hiroshige The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido- Hara - 1985.235 - Cleveland Museum of Art.jpg" Licensed under Creative Commons CC by 1.0

Page 1 bottom: Ando Hiroshige Tōkaidō gojūsan tsugi saiken zu'e, Kanagawa Licensed under public domain.

Page 2 left: Inrō with Design of Two Hawks on Tasseled Perches. Metropolitan Museum of Art Licensed under Creative Commons CC by 2.0

Page 2 center: <http://cprhw.tt/o/2E1zV/> Rain Cloak (kappa) (Japan); cotton (recycled fiber); 2009-36-1. Licensed under public domain.

Page 2 right: Library of Congress, (LC-USZC4-8691, 8692; LC-USZC4-8689-8690)



Some of the travelers on the Tokaido Road during the Edo Period

Image credit: Trustees of the British Museum

1. *Hikyaku*: Documents and luggage carrier
2. *Anma*: Masseuse for travelers; many were often blind
3. *Bikuni*: The word comes from Bhikkhuni, a Pali word for fully ordained female Buddhist monk
4. Tour groups: Groups would raise funds in their local town to travel together
5. *Bushi*: Belonging to the warrior class, he is strutting along with a pipe, possibly wanting to show off.
6. *Angya*: Writers, poets and artists who were on their pilgrimage.
7. *Tomeonna*: These women lured travelers to stay at their inns.
8. *Kumosuke*: The word is made up from the characters “cloud” and “help” implying that these men surrounded you like a cloud for help you need most, such as safely crossing a river or help carrying luggage. The word today can refer to taxi drivers who take you for a ride.



1. Medicine seller: Carried two big boxes in the front and the back
2. *Kago*: The word means basket; it refers to porters or horse providers.
3. *Junreisha*: pilgrims
4. *Nukemairi*: It means "slipping out pilgrimage". This group comprised of those not officially permitted to go on a pilgrimage (women and children).
5. Touters: Men who lured guests into inns.
6. *Jinba*: A limited number of horses could be at each station so after travelers rode a horse to one station, the horse provider needed to walk it back.
7. *Goze*: Female music troupe, many who were often blind. The group often included a vocal and a *shamisen* (a plucked three string instrument) player.
8. *Kampirasan* pilgrims: These pilgrims visited the Kampirasan Shrine on Shikoku, as seen by the white robe they are wearing and the *tengu* (demi god) mask they are carrying.

## Transportation – Hamamatsu Moodle Sources

### A Brief Chronology of Japan - U.S. Motorcycle and Automotive Manufacturing Ties

(Dates and events displayed in **red** relate to motorcycles. Automotive events are shown in **blue**.)

1930s – Ford and GM control 85% of the Japanese passenger car market.<sup>i</sup>

1936 – Japanese government initiates policies to restrict foreign automotive production and sales in Japan.<sup>ii</sup>

1941 – Ford and GM plants are taken over by the Japanese government and parceled out to Japanese firms.<sup>iii</sup>

1948 – Honda Motor Company is formed and produces its first motorcycle.<sup>iv</sup>

1952 - Suzuki became the first Japanese producer of motorcycles, which soon led to a ripple effect of high-quality bikes being created within the country.<sup>v</sup>

1955 - Honda and Yamaha also enter the motorcycle marketplace.<sup>vi</sup>

1959 - Japanese company Honda became the largest manufacturer of motorcycles in the world, surpassing German NSU.<sup>vii</sup>

1959 - American Honda Motor Co., Inc., is established in Los Angeles.<sup>viii</sup>

1960 - Kawasaki released its first motorcycle.<sup>ix</sup>

1962 - Honda worked with Grey Advertising on their "You Meet the Nicest People on a Honda" campaign, which helped eliminate some of the stereotypes regarding motorcycle riders.<sup>x</sup>

1962 - Honda's first automobiles, are introduced at *Ninth Tokyo Motor Show*.<sup>xi</sup>

1970 - Honda begins export of automobiles to US mainland<sup>xii</sup>

1975 - Toyota surpassed Volkswagen to become the No. 1 automotive import brand in the U.S.<sup>xiii</sup>

1978 to 1989 - In the U. S., seven Japanese manufacturers (Honda, Nissan, Toyota, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Fuji Heavy Industries and Isuzu) established local production operations between 1978 and 1989. These operations were undertaken in various ways: independently, jointly with other Japanese manufacturers, or jointly with American manufacturers.<sup>xiv</sup>

1981 – U.S. administration introduced Voluntary Export Restraints, which capped the number of imported vehicles to the United States. Japanese automakers exports were limited to 1.68 million vehicles to America. (Faced with import restrictions, Japanese automakers also pivoted to selling more lucrative, luxury vehicles, such as the Honda Acura and Toyota Lexus, which competed with the medium-sized cars that had traditionally been the bread-and-butter of American brands.)<sup>xv</sup>

1982 - Honda of America becomes the first Japanese company to produce automobiles (the Accord sedan) in the United States.<sup>xvi</sup>

1989 - Accord is best-selling passenger car in the U.S.<sup>xvii</sup>

1991 - Almost one in three passenger cars sold in the United States was made by a Japanese-owned firm.<sup>xviii</sup>

1994 - Voluntary automotive export restraints between the U.S. and Japan were abandoned.<sup>xix</sup>

1995 - Agreement signed in which Japan pledged to open its market to more U.S. automobiles and automobile parts and to build more Japanese automobiles in the United States.<sup>xx</sup>

2007 - Toyota overtakes General Motors to become the world's leading automaker.<sup>xxi</sup>

2018 - Japanese car makers build one third of all vehicles in the United States, and purchased \$61.2 billion in US auto parts. Many of those cars use imported Japanese parts, which were worth \$16 billion.<sup>xxii</sup>

May, 2019 - President Donald Trump declared imported auto parts and vehicles a national security threat and threatened to place a tariff of up to 25% on them.<sup>xxiii</sup>

October, 2019 - The U.S. and Japan signed a limited trade deal intended to boost markets for American farmers and give Tokyo assurances, for now, that President Donald Trump won't impose tariffs on auto imports.<sup>xxiv</sup>

2019 – Statistics about Japanese-brand automakers in the United States from the *Japan Automobile Manufactures Association*:

A. Since 1982, Japanese-brand automakers have cumulatively invested \$53.3 billion in their U.S. manufacturing presence.

B. More than 1.61 million U.S. jobs are supported by the Japanese-brand automobile companies' U.S. production facilities, R&D/design centers, headquarters, sales/distribution and dealer networks

C. Japanese-brand automakers operate 24 U.S. production facilities and 49 research and development (R&D) and design centers across the United States.<sup>xxv</sup>

## 2020: 10 Most American Cars and Trucks You Can Buy Today\*

Car and Driver Magazine, July 2, 2020

<https://www.caranddriver.com/features/g22639636/most-american-cars-and-trucks-you-can-buy/>

1. Dodge Grand Caravan
2. Ford Ranger

### 3. Honda Ridgeline

*As Ford, Chevy, and Ram duke it out for truck supremacy and their buyers wave the red, white and blue, the most American pickup is actually a Honda.*

### 4. Honda Passport

*Like its platform mates, the Ridgeline and Odyssey, the midsize five-passenger Honda Passport is built in the same Alabama facility as Honda's pickup and minivan. The Passport's large 3.5-liter V-6 engine is sourced from the United States and Canada, as is its automatic transmission.*

### 5. Honda Odyssey

*Its large V-6 engine and automatic transmission, as well as the van itself, are all made in the U.S.A., and 70 percent of the parts are sourced from the United States and Canada. Odysseys are assembled in Lincoln, Alabama, on the same Honda assembly line as the Ridgeline, Pilot, and Passport.*

### 6. Acura ILX

*The most American sedan out there comes Acura, from Honda's luxury arm. With 70 percent of its pieces sourced from North America the Acura TLX boasts highest domestic content by far of any sports or luxury-brand sedan, including its engines*

7. Mercedes-Benz C-class
8. Mercedes-Benz GLE-class
9. Chrysler 300
10. Dodge Charger

*\* Since 1994, the American Automobile Labeling Act (AALA) dictates that all carmakers must list the vehicle's assembly point, the country of origin for its engine and transmission, and the percentage of its parts content sourced from the United States and Canada.*

*How does it work? Well, to be frank, it doesn't really. Considering the AALA combines U.S. and Canadian content as one value, but excludes Mexico makes it a bit difficult. To complicate things even more, the AALA percentages value each component based on price the quantity of each part installed in the vehicle. If a given model has multiple build variations (e.g., manual or automatic transmissions, leather or cloth seats, etc), the end figures are based on the manufacturer options mix estimates. Figuring it out is about as straight forward as filing for unemployment as a freelance extreme unicyclist, but based on these government tallies, here are the 10 most American vehicles available in 2020.*

---

<sup>i</sup> *Fair Practices in Automotive Products Act: Hearings before the ...*, Volume 4, by United States. Congress, 1982, page 756.

<sup>ii</sup> *Fair Practices in Automotive Products Act: Hearings Before the ...*, Volume 4 By United States. Congress, 1982, p. 760.

<sup>iii</sup> *Rivals beyond Trade: America versus Japan in Global Competition* by Dennis J. Encarnation, Cornell University Press, 1992, p. 45.

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.honda.com/history#40>

<sup>v</sup> <https://brainbucket.rumbleon.com/history-of-motorcycles>

<sup>vi</sup> <https://brainbucket.rumbleon.com/history-of-motorcycles>

<sup>vii</sup> <http://www.bicyclehistory.net/motorcycle-history/motorocycle-timeline/>

<sup>viii</sup> <https://global.honda/heritage/timeline.html>

<sup>ix</sup> <https://brainbucket.rumbleon.com/history-of-motorcycles>

<sup>x</sup> <https://brainbucket.rumbleon.com/history-of-motorcycles>

<sup>xi</sup> <https://global.honda/heritage/timeline.html>

<sup>xii</sup> <https://global.honda/heritage/timeline.html>

<sup>xiii</sup> <https://pressroom.toyota.com/company-history/>

<sup>xiv</sup> <https://carfromjapan.com/article/industry-knowledge/development-history-japanese-automotive-industry/>

<sup>xv</sup> <https://www.perc.org/1999/09/01/voluntary-export-restraints-on-automobiles/>

<sup>xvi</sup> <https://global.honda/heritage/timeline.html>

<sup>xvii</sup> <https://global.honda/heritage/timeline.html>

<sup>xviii</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/26/business/japan-american-honda-hnk-intl/index.html>

<sup>xix</sup> <https://carfromjapan.com/article/industry-knowledge/development-history-japanese-automotive-industry/>

<sup>xx</sup> <https://www.c-span.org/video/?65955-1/us-japan-auto-trade-agreement>

<sup>xxi</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/26/business/japan-american-honda-hnk-intl/index.html>

---

<sup>xxii</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/26/business/japan-american-honda-hnk-intl/index.html>

<sup>xxiii</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/26/business/japan-american-honda-hnk-intl/index.html>

<sup>xxiv</sup> <https://www.mema.org/us-japan-trade-deal-includes-trump-pledge-no-auto-tariffs>

<sup>xxv</sup> <https://www.jama.org/>