

## Geisha's lucky charm

### *Senjafuda* 千社札

Geisha use *senjafuda* (literally, "one thousand shrine tags") adhesive labels as their business cards. Each geisha's label design is different from the next. It is said that if you keep one of these labels given to you by a geisha in your wallet, extra money will come to you. This lucky charm originated in the Edo period, when visitors to shrines and temples posted votive slips bearing their names on the pillars and gates to receive divine favor. \*Now it is not allowed to post them on there.



Listed in order of the Japanese syllabary

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(Listed in a random order)

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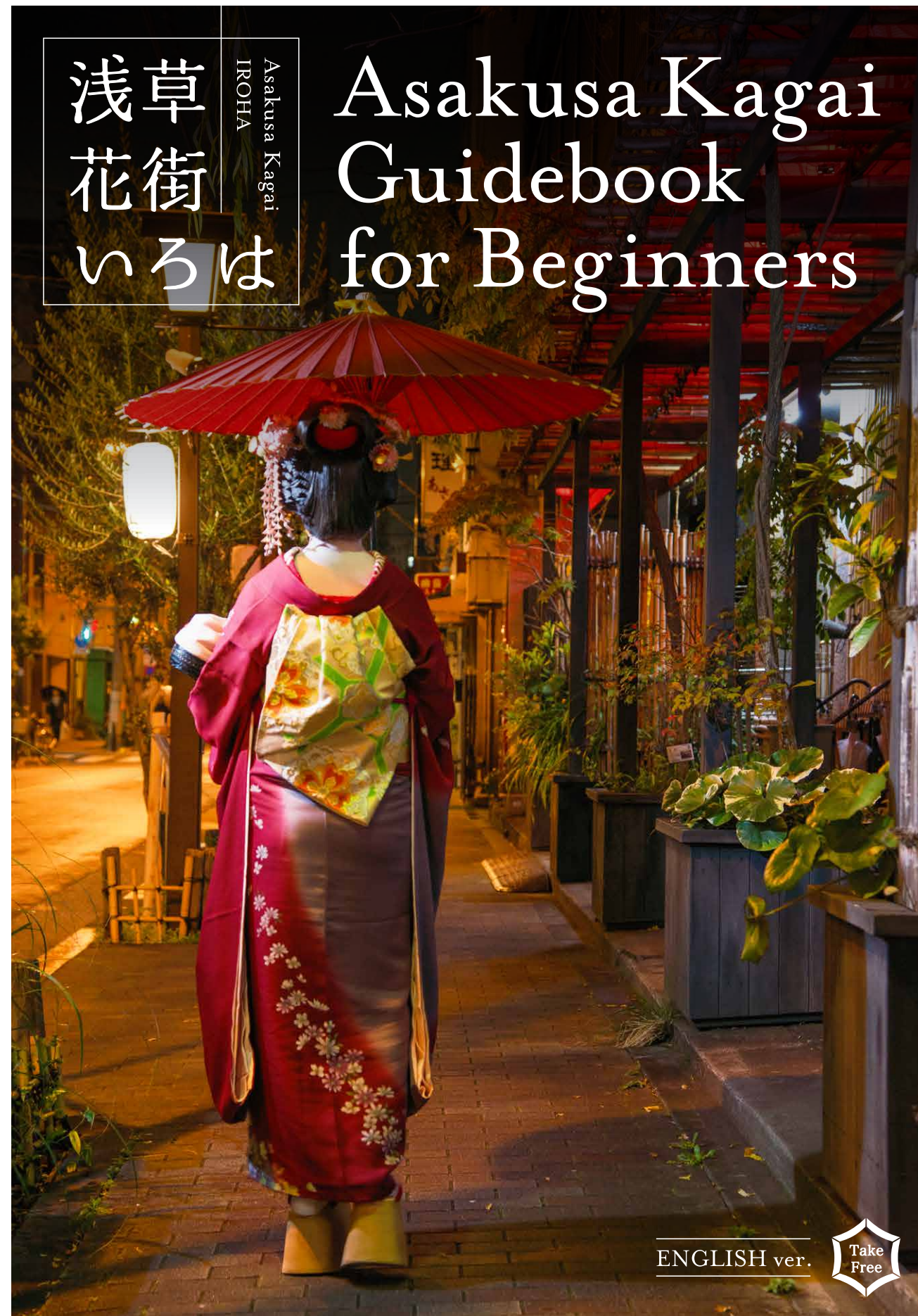
\*Information provided in this guidebook is correct as of January 2019.

Taito Chapter, The Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Published in February 2019

## 浅草 花街 いろは

Asakusa Kagai  
IROHA

# Asakusa Kagai Guidebook for Beginners



ENGLISH ver.







# Greetings

## Asakusa Kagai District-Home to Geisha

The first Kagai district in Asakusa was established near Sensoji (Asakusa Kannon Temple) during the Edo period. At the end of the Meiji period, the geisha-related facilities were relocated to the north of the present location of Sensoji. The number of geisha, *ryoriya* restaurants and *machiai-jaya* teahouses reached a peak in the Taisho period, with about 1,060 geisha, 50 restaurants and 250 teahouses. At that time the facilities were dotted across several districts in Taito City. Now, however, there is only one Kagai district left, namely, in and around the Asakusa 3-chome and 4-chome area, which you can reach from Sensoji by crossing Kototoi-dori Avenue.

This guidebook was created to help protect, pass down and further develop the traditional culture nurtured in Taito City since the Edo period, particularly the arts of the geisha still cherished in the local Kagai district. Presently all geisha, *hokan* and *ryotei* restaurants in the Asakusa Kagai district are working together to lead the revitalization of Taito City for the future. In response, Taito City is promoting the Edo Renaissance project to pass down the attractive local culture and art of Edo for a brighter future for local citizens.

We will continue to share information both inside and outside Japan about the wonderful Edo culture, tradition and craftsmanship, while making further efforts to protect and pass down the arts of the geisha, for which we would ask for your kind support and cooperation.

The Industrial Policy Committee  
Taito Chapter, The Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Q.

What is Asakusa Kagai?

A.

The Asakusa Kagai district located to the north of Sensoji is one of Tokyo's leading geisha districts. Boasting an impressive tradition and high social status, the district's appeal stems from its old-town atmosphere and friendly locals, as well as the captivating sounds of drums and other musical instruments that can often be heard in its precincts.

Q.

What are geisha?

A.

Geisha are professional entertainers who perform songs and dances for guests at parties. They practice dancing and playing the drum, flute and shamisen daily to hone their artistic skills. Geisha are also very learned about Japanese traditional culture and hospitality, including the tea ceremony.

### COLUMN

## Six Kagai districts remaining in Tokyo

In Tokyo, there are six remaining Kagai districts where you can see geisha dance and perform. These are: Shinbashi, Akasaka, Yoshicho (around Ningyocho in Nihonbashi), Kagurazaka, Mukojima and Asakusa. The districts are home to *okiya* (geisha dwellings), *machiai-jaya* teahouses and *ryoriya* restaurants. Each of the districts plays the role of preserving and passing down aspects of old Japanese culture, including the attire of geisha, the atmosphere of *ryotei* restaurants, the beauty of Japanese cuisine, and antiques and paintings displayed in *tokonoma*, and they continue to attract many people both from within and outside Japan.



# Asakusa Kenban Supports the Local Geisha Industry

Asakusa Kenban is funded by the associations of *ryotei* restaurants, geisha and *okiya* in the district and plays an important role as an "office" for geisha. In the Asakusa Kenban building there is a space where geisha practice dancing and shamisen. Asakusa Kenban also holds events at which you can meet geisha. If you would like to interact with geisha and see them perform, you are most welcome to attend one of these events.



▲On the second floor of the Kenban building there is a large Japanese room where events are held and geisha practice together.

Annual events held in the Kenban building	March : Yuyutei in Spring	Participants can dance and play games with geisha.
	May : Sanja Matsuri (festival) Kumiodori	Participants can watch geisha dance at this event held concurrently with the Sanja Festival.
	July and Aug. : Beer Zashiki	Participants can watch geisha dances and <i>hokan</i> performances while enjoying a beer.
	Nov. : Yuyutei in Fall	Participants can dance and play games with geisha.

You need to pay a fee to participate in these events, and the date and program are subject to change.

## Geisha wear items that symbolize Japanese culture

Geisha wear items that embody Japanese culture. In Taito City, industries have been developed based around this. Even now, items worn by geisha in Asakusa and related items are made locally in Taito City.

1 Wagasa 和傘 (Janomegasa 蛇の目傘)

Japanese umbrella made of bamboo ribs and oil-soaked *washi* paper. Even now geisha use *wagasa* when it rains.

2 Obi 帯

When wearing *kurumontsuki*, which is their formal attire, geisha tie the *obi* (sash) in such a way that the hanging part swings as they walk. When they entertain guests at *ozashiki* parties the sash is tied in a large flat bow at the back.

3 Kimono 着物

Geisha have their own kimono. In different months they wear different kimono, which usually have patterns suitable for the season. Older geisha wear kimono that have more subdued colors and patterns.

4 Tabi 足袋

For geisha, who spend most of their time on tatami mats, *tabi* socks are a must-have item. They wear custom-made *tabi*.

5 Kanzashi かんざし

*Kanzashi* are hair ornaments that make the black hair of geisha look even more attractive. Different kinds of *kanzashi* are used by geisha according to the season and their age. Only *hangyoku* (young apprentice geisha) can wear the more elaborate *hana-kanzashi*.

6 Katsura かつら

Geisha wear *katsura* (wigs) to achieve the typical geisha hairstyle. In pre-war Japan, some geisha had their own hair styled in this way, but there are few hairdressers now who have the required skill, so wigs are widely used instead.

7 Sensu 扇子

Geisha always carry *sensu* folding fans and use different fans for different purposes, including for dancing and playing *ozashiki* games.

8 Zori and geta 草履・下駄

Geisha wear *geta* sandals (*koma-geta* for official attire) when they have a traditional Japanese hairstyle and wear *zori* sandals when they have a Western hairstyle.



# Tracing the History of Asakusa Kagai

The Asakusa Kagai district has continued to develop and change with the times since the Edo period.

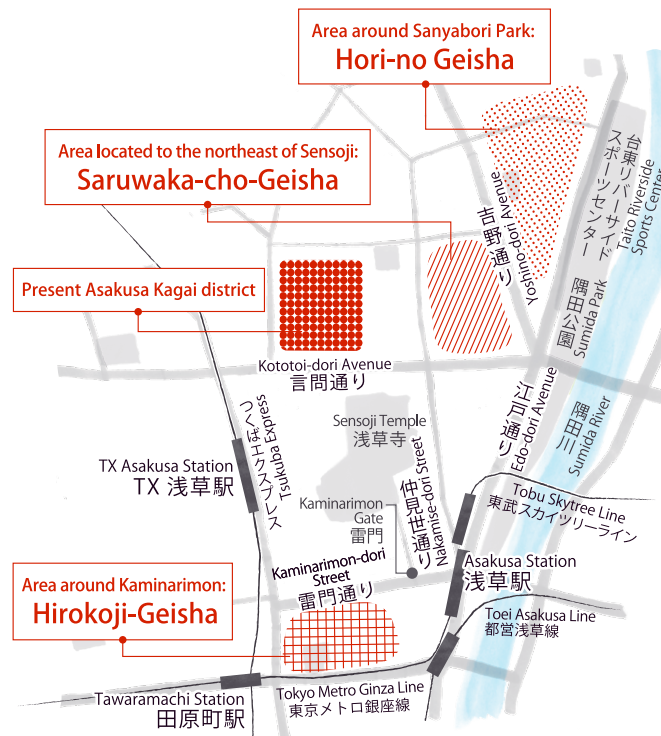
Overcoming hardships such as the Great Kanto Earthquake and the Pacific War, the district prospered most during Japan's period of rapid economic growth. Let us go back and trace the history of the district.



## Episode 1 壱

### From the middle of the Edo period Beginning of Asakusa Kagai

In 1752, a red-light district approved by the Tokugawa Shogunate government was relocated to the northern part of Asakusa, giving birth to Hori-no-Geisha, who entertained guests at *chaya* and *funayado* facilities located near Sanyabori. During the same period, Hirokoji-Geisha began to entertain guests at prosperous *chaya* teahouses located near the Kaminarimon gate. Subsequently, following the Tenpo Reforms, Sanza Kabuki and other theaters were also relocated to Saruwaka-cho, giving birth to Saruwaka-cho-Geisha. In 1885, after experiencing a temporary decline in popularity, some members of these three geisha groups gathered together to form a group known as Asakusa-Koen-Geisha. In 1896, Koen (park) Kenban was established by integrating the Kenban facilities of each restaurant for the management and dispatch of geisha and for the smooth operation of geisha activities in the district.



#### TOPICS

The number of geisha exceeded 1,000 during the Taisho period!



Photo courtesy of Kappoya Ichinao

The number of geisha, *ryoriya* and *machiai-jaya* reached a peak at the end of the Taisho period, increasing to about 1,060, 50 and 250, respectively.

## Episode 2 弐

### Around 1900 Kagai relocated to the north of Sensoji Temple

The Kagai facilities located around the park were relocated to the north of Sensoji at the end of the Meiji period as a result of urban development and changes made to geisha. At that time, Nakamise-dori street, which extended from the Kaminarimon gate to the Hozomon gate was lined with stores. Areas around this street and Shinnakamise-dori street formed a temple town and prospered as Japan's No. 1 shopping and amusement district.

## Episode 3 参

### From the beginning of the Showa period (1926) Geisha working outside the Kagai district

In 1931, when the record and radio industries were developing, Ichimaru made her debut as an Asakusa Geisha singer and her Chakki-ri-bushi song sold well nationwide, drawing considerable attention to geisha singers. Subsequently, another geisha, Fumiko Miura, became an actress and performed in a range of movies, TV dramas and theater productions, such as "NHK Geijutsu Hyakusen" and "Ooku."



Ichimaru

Later won a Special Award at the 1980 Japan Record Awards.



Fumiko Miura

Famous for the TV commercial for Kizakura, in which she appeared as a geisha.



▲Geisha in Tekomai attire for the Sanja Festival



Ryotei in the Kagai district visited by Kitaoji Rosanjin and other celebrities

Photo provided by Kappoya Ichinao

## Episode 4 四

### Around 1955 Toward the peak period of Kagai

In 1946, the Kagai district recovered from the war devastation ahead of other districts in the area. In 1950, Asakusa Sangyo-kai was organized and geisha began to participate in the Sanja Festival and other local events. The Kagai district entered its most prosperous period in around 1955.

#### TOPICS

### Yuko Asakusa - Legend of the geisha industry in Tokyo



Photo courtesy of Eiro Kawamura

Began working in the industry at the age of 13 and made her debut as "Satogiku" at 16. Over the course of her career as an Asakusa Geisha, she entertained a range of celebrities including politicians and businessmen before retiring at the age of 94 in February 2018. She was frank, charming and well liked among customers and local alike.

## Episode 5 五

### From 2018 Passing down the geisha culture

At present there are 22 geisha, six *hokan* and six *ryotei* in the Kagai district and the number of incoming successors has been decreasing. Geisha participate in a range of events to publicize the existence of geisha and geisha culture. Among Kagai districts in Japan today, only the Asakusa Kagai district has *hokan*, and the local geisha industry is continuing to take on challenges to pass down the treasured culture to future generations. The numbers above are as of January 2019.

▶ Photo of Yuko Asakusa (third from left) taken at the Sanja Festival





GEISHA

# Successors of Tradition

In the Asakusa Kagai district, there are geisha and *hokan* who are strongly committed to entertaining guests with their artistic performance and passing down the traditional culture to future generations. We interviewed four such people, who are making efforts to hone their unique skills.



Dedicated to improving skills used by geisha, a task that is difficult but that offers many opportunities for encounters

千華

Chihana

Chihana wanted to become geisha as early as junior high school and finally made her debut in Asakusa, thereby making her dream come true. She has been trained in the world of geisha, and the training will continue for several decades. Although she often faces difficulties, she works hard and practices every day, being guided by senior geisha who are strict but also kind. After she had made efforts for seven years as a geisha, her parents, who had initially objected to her choice of career, finally came to see her perform at the National Theatre. Chihana wants to be a role model for younger geisha, and so she is devoted to improving her skills to provide guests with worthy entertainment.



▲ Practicing dancing with older geisha. Chihana is on the far left.

## Profile

Born in Saitama. Wanted to become a geisha after seeing the glamorous attire and elegant manner of *maiko* of Kyoto on TV. Finally took the first step to become a geisha in Asakusa, which was a familiar place for her, with a strong commitment to her career and to protecting this traditional Japanese culture.



Putting on an artistic performance to people as a woman and as a geisha

紫沙

Shisa

Shisa began playing the shamisen when she was a junior high school student, being attracted to classical Japanese music and art. However, she began a career as an office worker and after three different jobs finally chose to become geisha instead, recognizing how it was wonderful to be able to perform for people with the artistry of a geisha. Because of her experience as an office worker, she sometimes feels embarrassed at the culture unique to Kagai, but now she has 30 students learning her performance in addition to working as a geisha herself. Shisa says that geisha in the Asakusa Kagai district are frank and kind and very hospitable. She wants to use her power as a geisha to contribute to the revitalization of the Kagai district.

## Profile

Graduated from the Tokyo University of the Arts. After stints working in an office, she is now a *jikata* geisha in the Asakusa Kagai district and teaches songs and shamisen to other geisha.



Pursuing a unique *hokan* style by mixing a range of comedic skills

八好

Hachikou

Hachikou wants to make people laugh because when he is laughing, he feels happy. A pantomime artist for more than 20 years, he also engaged in comedy and *rakugo* performance. He later began to work as a *hokan*, being inspired by the wonderful performance of his present teacher. His unbridled passion combined with demanding customers and the difficulty of gaining the understanding of his predecessors led him to fail at first. But after four years he began to feel comfortable in the world of *hokan* and now wants *hokan* to be his last job. It is a job that lets him express himself freely while also being part of the Kagai history and brand. He has established his unique style by mixing traditional *hokan* skills with his pantomime skills. He wants to make the job of *hokan* more widely known and attract more people to the world of geisha.



▲ Practicing under the instruction of his teacher

## Profile

After working as a comedian and pantomime artist, he made his dream a reality by becoming a *hokan*. He utilizes his unique career to conduct a range of activities.



Loving her job and working to become an admirable geisha

千晴

Chiharu

Chiharu began practicing the Ginkenshibu dance soon after she saw it performed in her hometown, being attracted by the dancers in their stylish *hakama* trousers. She later began to work in the geisha industry after graduating from senior high school. She is now a *hangyoku* and is practicing hard to be a good dancer and drummer, wanting to become a full-fledged geisha and wear the black kimono, the official attire of geisha. A lot of events are held in Asakusa and people have many opportunities to see geisha in the district. She wants more and more people to see and get interested in geisha and is working hard to improve her artistic and communication skills.

## Profile

Born in Tochigi. Began to practice Ginkenshibu dance with her friend, wanted to be a kimono dancer and subsequently started to work in the geisha industry. She is the only *hangyoku* in Asakusa at present.







DANCE

# Passing down the Tradition of Asakusa Odori



The first round of Asajikai was held at the Sumida theater in 1950, where the dance that would later become Asakusa Odori was performed. In 1995, the event began to be jointly organized by Asakusa Kenban/Asakusa Geisha Union and The Asakusa Tourism Federation, and the dance was named "Asakusa Odori," being supported by Taito City Office. Since then the event has been held as a major event in Asakusa. At this historical event, geisha show the results of their daily training and demonstrate the "Kagai spirit" passed down through the generations since the Edo period.



▲ Geisha play the shamisen, drum, tsuzumi and flute in addition to dancing.



▲ Not only geisha but also hokan perform on stage at the event.

▲ On stage, unlike at ozashiki parties, jikata geisha are divided into shamisen and song groups.

## COLUMN

### Major events in the six Kagai districts

In addition to the Asakusa Odori event held in the Asakusa Kagai district, there are also major events held in other Kagai districts, at which the audience can enjoy watching enchanting geisha dances, such as Azuma Odori in Shinbashi, Akasaka Odori in Akasaka and Kagurazaka Odori in Kagurazaka. In each Kagai district, geisha dance to the same music in a different manner because they belong to different schools of Japanese dancing. Please enjoy the different dances.



PLAYING GAMES

# Enjoyable Ozashiki Games

There are various kinds of *ozashiki* games that guests can enjoy playing with geisha, and geisha choose the best one for the guests of the day. The following three are popular *ozashiki* games.

Game

## 1 金毘羅ふねふね Konpira Fune Fune

**Explanation** Listening to the shamisen music played by *jikata* geisha, the two players take turns touching the *tokkuri* sake bottle stand, called a "*hakama*." They have to open their hands when the stand is on the small table and close their hands when the stand is not on the table. The player who fails to obey this rule is the loser. The *jikata* geisha play the music faster and faster as the players continue the game until one of them loses.



▲ Open your hand and touch the stand if it is on the table.

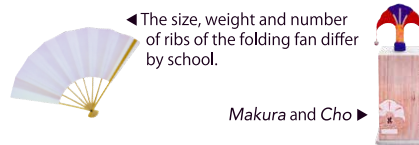
▲ Close your hand and touch the table if the stand is not on it.

♪ "Konpira Fune Fune  
Oite-ni Ho-kakete  
Shura Shu Shu Shu" ♪

Game

## 2 投扇興 Tosenkyo

**Explanation** Tosenkyo is a game played by using a folding fan. A target ("*Cho*") is placed on a box made of paulownia wood ("*Makura*") and the players throw the fan at the target in turn. The players try to shoot down the target by using the skills named after the Tale of Genji and Hyakunin Isshu and get points according to the difficulty level of the skills.



◀ The size, weight and number of ribs of the folding fan differ by school.

Makura and Cho ▶

Geisha will teach you everything about the game, including how to hold the fan.



▲ Your score can vary from one point to several dozen points per throw, and you can recover from a losing position to win with the last throw.

Game

## 3 とらとら Tora Tora

**Explanation** Tora Tora is a gesture game similar to "Rock-paper-scissors." The game is played along to the songs and music of *jikata* geisha. Each player strikes the pose of Watonai (samurai) with a spear (photo ① on the right), tora (tiger) on all fours (photo ②) or an old woman with a cane (photo ③). The samurai defeats the tiger, which defeats the old woman, who defeats the samurai.



♪ "Tora tora tora tora" ♪

◀ Pose of Tora (right in the photo) and pose of Watonai (left in the photo) and the winner is Watonai!



① Watonai with a spear

② Tora (tiger) on all fours

③ Old woman with a cane



## Need to Know!

# Terms Used in Asakusa Kagai

The Kagai districts have their own culture and lingo, and the terms can be difficult to understand and may differ by district. Some of the Asakusa Kagai terms that you need to know are listed on this page.



地方  
Jikata

Geisha who are tasked with singing and playing the shamisen, drum and flute.



立方  
Tachikata

Geisha whose major role is dancing.



半玉  
Hangyoku

Apprentice geisha (aged 20 or younger in Asakusa)



幫間  
Hokan

Entertainers or male geisha, who are also called "Taikomochi"



花代  
Hanadai

Also called "Gyokudai." Charges to be paid for *ozashiki* entertainment by geisha



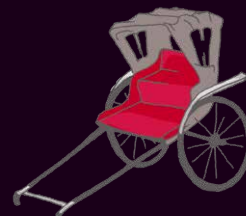
置屋  
Okiya

Lodging house where geisha live and receive training. The proprietress of an *okiya* is called "Oka-san" (literally "mother") by the geisha.



料亭  
Ryotei

Restaurants where guests can be entertained by geisha. *Ryotei* include both *ryoriya* where meals are prepared and served and *machi-ai-jaya* where meals are catered.



遠出  
Tode

The visits made by geisha to hotels and restaurants that do not belong to Kenban to entertain guests of the facilities.



お化け  
Obake

Getting into disguise for the Setsubun festival. This custom unique to geisha was started by older geisha pretending to be *hangyoku*.



お供  
Otomo

Taxis called to pick up geisha, souvenirs given after *ozashiki* parties, and people accompanying the guests



後口  
Atokuchi

Geisha go to the next *ozashiki* party after one ends, or a second party held with the same guest(s) after the first party.



OZASHIKI

# Basic Knowledge Required to Enjoy *Ozashiki* Parties

In the past, Kagai facilities were open to members only but some facilities are now beginning to welcome first-time customers as they want to introduce the culture of Kagai more widely to the public. You can enjoy an *ozashiki* party with geisha by making a reservation at Kenban or a *ryotei* or hotel/restaurant that offers "Party with geisha" plans.



We are looking forward to seeing you.

## Basic flow of an *ozashiki* party

The basic flow is explained below. If you know the flow of the party, you will enjoy it more.

More than one week before	On the day				
Reservation	Opening	Talking with geisha while enjoying <i>kaiseki</i> cuisine and drinking	<i>Ozashiki</i> dance by geisha	<i>Ozashiki</i> game	Closing
First, make a reservation with Kenban or an <i>ozashiki</i> party planning company.	The party doesn't start until all guests arrive so you need to be punctual.	Geisha do not eat but do drink. Guests drink and talk with geisha. Taking photos of geisha at the party is not prohibited but guests need to ask for their approval as a courtesy.	When geisha begin to dance, stop talking or eating and watch the dance.	Enjoy <i>ozashiki</i> games according to the instructions given by Geisha.	If you want to spend more time with the geisha, you can invite them to <i>atokuchi</i> .

★ If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask a geisha, who will be happy to answer them!

## Cost of being a guest at an *ozashiki* party

### If you want to experience an *ozashiki* party for a beginners price

If you want to experience an *ozashiki* party as a special part of your company's corporate event, such as a New Year's party, you can do it at a place other than a *ryotei* in Asakusa.

**Example** If you want to hold a year-end party for 10 people at a place other than a *ryotei* with three geisha, it will cost at least 15,000 yen per person, including the cost of the geisha, meals and drinks for a period of two hours, during which time you can enjoy geisha dances and *ozashiki* games.

\*Hanadai: About 30,000 yen per geisha

\*Note: The cost of meals and drinks differ by party venue.

\*The cost of interpreter/travel agency services and so on is not included.

If you have a party with geisha in which at least 10 people participate, the cost per guest will be reasonable!

A group of women can also have a party with geisha and have fun talking with them.

### If you want to enjoy full-scale geisha entertainment

You are advised to have an *ozashiki* party at a *ryotei*, where you can talk with geisha privately and learn much about their culture. You will be able to have a special time with geisha in a relaxed atmosphere.

**Example** If you have a party of five including guests from outside Japan with three geisha at a *ryotei*, the cost of the geisha, *kaiseki* cuisine and drinks will be at least 50,000 yen per person for a period of two hours, during which time you can talk intimately with geisha.

\*Hanadai: About 30,000 yen per geisha

\*Note: The cost of food & drinks and cover & service charges differ by *ryotei*.

\*The cost of interpreter/travel agency services and so on is not included.

List of restaurants where you can have an *ozashiki* party on the next page

## Hints for enjoying an *ozashiki* party with geisha

### ご祝儀 Tip

You tip geisha by putting the money in an envelope called "Goshugi bukuro."

\*Note: The average tip is said to be 2,000 to 3,000 yen per geisha.



### お酌 Oshaku

Geisha do not eat but do drink at an *ozashiki* party, and so guests are expected to pour sake for geisha as a matter of courtesy, which also helps break the ice and creates a friendly atmosphere.



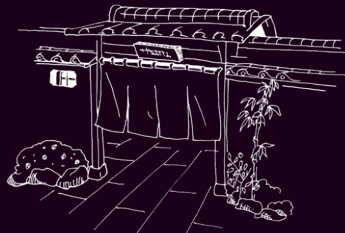




FACILITIES

# Facilities Where *Ozashiki* Entertainment Is Provided

In the Asakusa Kagai district, there are facilities where you can have your first experience of *ozashiki* entertainment in a more casual way as well as *ryotei* where you can experience the quintessence of *ozashiki* entertainment privately. From among these facilities in Asakusa, you can choose the one most suitable in terms of your participants and budget.



## Have your first hands-on experience of *ozashiki* entertainment

Recommended for people who are hesitant to have an *ozashiki* party at a *ryotei* but want to experience the entertainment.

Symbolic building located at the entrance to the Kagai district across the Kototoi-dori Avenue

### Kaminari 5656 (Gorogoro) Kaikan 雷 5656 会館

This tourism center was established to the north of Sensoji by Tokiwado, which is a company that has a history of more than 200 years and is famous for its *kaminariokoshi* (traditional Japanese sweets). It offers both table seats and *ozashiki* seats and is welcoming to all visitors. In the *ozashiki* entertainment plans provided at the center, geisha pour sake for guests, dance elegantly with the music, and play games with guests for an enjoyable time.



📍 3-6-1 Asakusa, Taito-ku  
🕒 9:00-17:30  
☎ 03-3874-5656  
🗓 Differs by month



### Luxurious stay in Asakusa

#### Asakusa View Hotel 浅草ビューホテル

This hotel has 28 floors aboveground and three underground and is the only skyscraper in Asakusa, which has a traditional old-town atmosphere. In the restaurant located on the upper floors, you can enjoy eating Japanese, Chinese, French and other cuisines. You can also experience *ozashiki* entertainment while taking in the view. Enjoy an elegant experience with Asakusa Geisha in this hotel.

📍 3-17-1 Nishi-Asakusa, Taito-ku  
Contact ☎ 03-3842-2121  
🕒 9:00-18:00 (10:00-18:00 on Saturday, Sunday and holidays)  
🗓 Opened throughout the year

There are many other places where you can experience *ozashiki* entertainment by geisha.

For details about the restaurants that provide the entertainment, please contact Asakusa Kenban/Asakusa Geisha Union by emailing to [attractive.japan@chibra.co.jp](mailto:attractive.japan@chibra.co.jp).

## Long-established *ryotei* where you can experience the quintessence of *ozashiki* entertainment

If you want to enjoy an *ozashiki* party to the fullest in a private space, a *ryotei* is the best place for it.



### Kappoya Ichinao 割烹家 一直

Founded in 1878. It was the fifth- and sixth-generation proprietors who incorporated some elements of Kansai cuisine, and this *ryotei* has been serving dishes in which elements of both Kansai and Kanto cuisines appear ever since.

📍 3-8-6 Asakusa, Taito-ku  
☎ 03-3874-3033  
🕒 Lunch: 11:30 - 13:30  
Dinner: 17:00 - 23:00  
(Reservation required)  
🗓 Sunday and holidays

Proprietress:  
Keiko Ehara



### Miyakodori 都鳥

Only *machiai-jaya*-style *ryotei* in Asakusa. The proprietress, who used to be a geisha, offers guests a cordial welcome. There is a bar next to the restaurant, which is suitable for *atokuchi* with geisha.

📍 3-23-10 Asakusa, Taito-ku  
☎ 03-3874-2175  
🕒 18:00-22:00  
\*Opening hours negotiable depending upon availability  
🗓 Saturday, Sunday and holidays

Proprietress:  
Chikage Kawamura



### Hisagoan 瓢庵

Named after "Hyotan-ike," a pond that used to exist in Asakusa and was popular among locals. The name indicates the commitment of the proprietress, who wants to make the restaurant one that is loved by all.

📍 3-34-11 Asakusa, Taito-ku  
☎ 03-3876-8811  
🕒 11:30-22:30  
🗓 Obon holidays and the year-end and New Year holidays

Proprietress:  
Yoko Otaki



### Kappo Asakusa 割烹 あさくさ

Founded in 1941 and presently managed by the son of the founder. The restaurant serves seasonal Japanese dishes, attributing importance to customer satisfaction. In winter, you can enjoy *fugu*.

📍 3-37-1 Asakusa, Taito-ku  
☎ 03-6458-1932  
🕒 17:00-22:00  
🗓 Sunday

Proprietress:  
Michiko Kamei



### Kusatsutei 草津亭

Founded in 1872. This long-established restaurant serves Edo cuisine by using carefully selected ingredients. It also serves Western dishes.

📍 3-18-10 Asakusa, Taito-ku  
☎ 03-3874-0171  
🕒 Lunch: 11:30 - 13:30 (Tuesday to Sunday)  
Dinner: 17:00 - 19:30 to 22:00 (Closed)  
🗓 Obon holidays and the year-end and New Year holidays



### Kappo Fukuhachi 割烹 福八

The restaurant was launched by the parents of the proprietress and is now managed by her and her brother. The dishes have been made based on their parents' recipes for more than 90 years since its opening.

📍 3-3-4 Asakusa, Taito-ku  
☎ 03-3874-0171  
🕒 17:00-22:00  
🗓 Sunday

Proprietress:  
Kazue Yamada

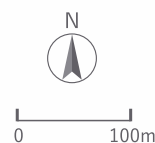
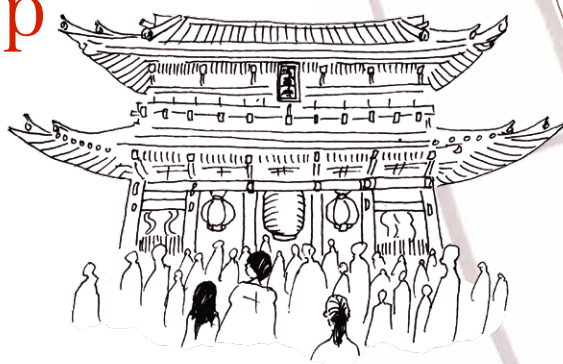




WALKING

# Asakusa Kagai Map

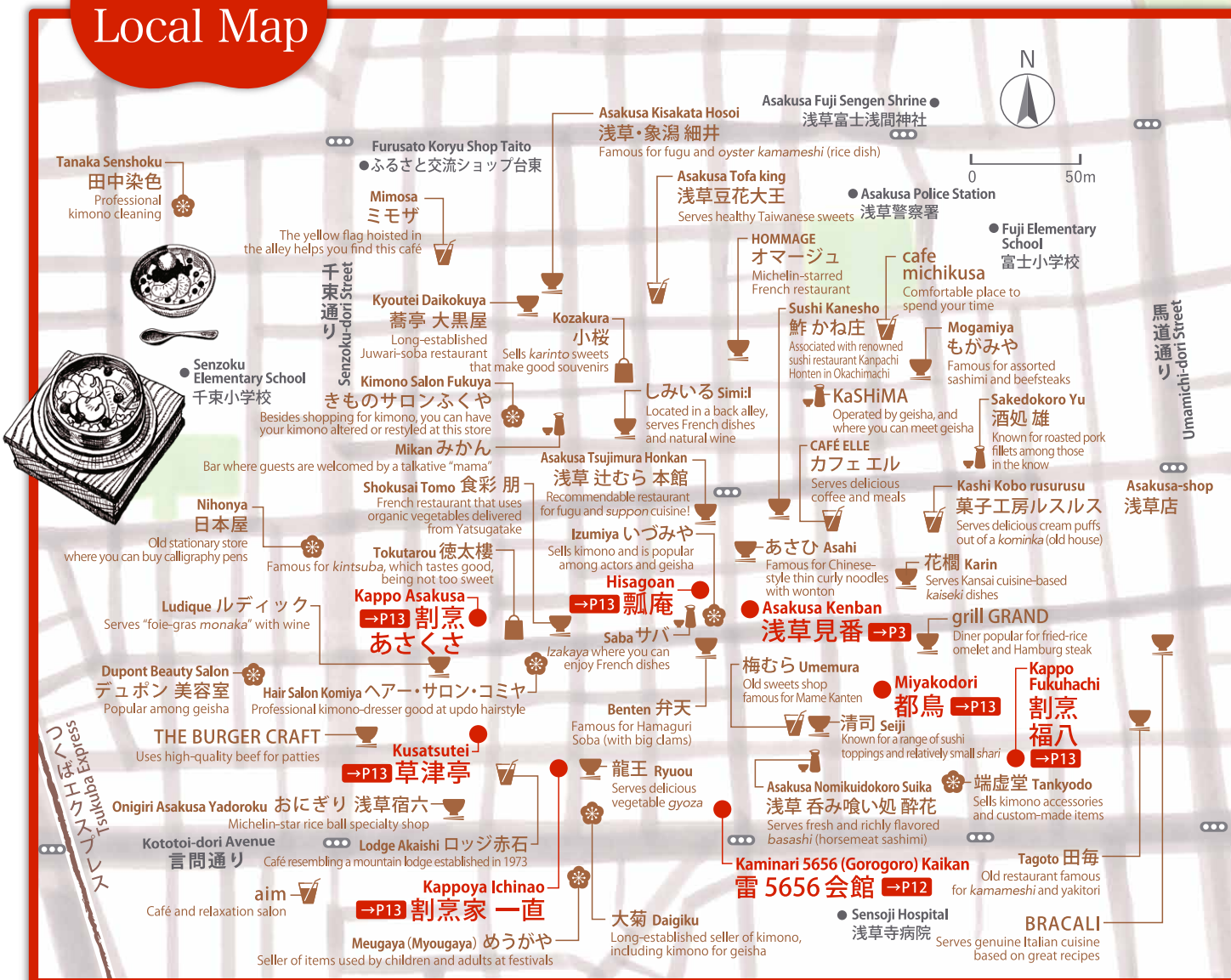
The Asakusa Kagai district extends in and around the areas of Asakusa 3-chome and 4-chome. The map shows the stores and restaurants particularly recommended by Asakusa Geisha. The Kagai district has an atmosphere that is different from that found in other areas in Asakusa. Wandering around the district is a great way to discover new aspects of the local culture and local industries. You might even encounter geisha on your meanderings.



Wide-area Map

## Asakusa Kagai Local Map

- ☕ Restaurants
- ☕ Cafes
- 🍺 Bars and Izakaya (Japanese pubs)
- 🛍️ Souvenir stores
- 🌸 Stores selling goods for geisha



## Area in and around the Asakusa Kagai district (Asakusa 3-chome to 4-chome)

