

Walkers' Map of the Odoi Ruins



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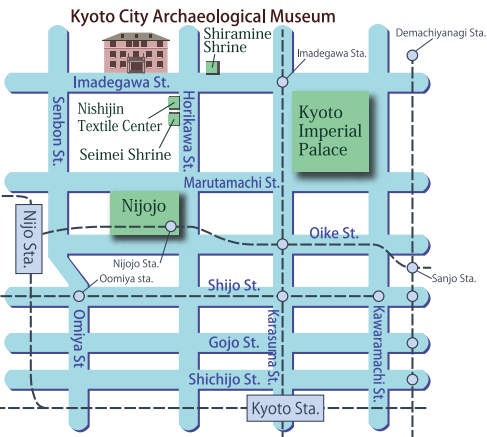
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Kyoto City Archaeological Museum

With the aim of announcing and exhibiting the results of excavation studies in Kyoto, this museum was established in 1979 in a renovated building that was the former Nishijin textile center designed by the architect Seigo Motono in 1914. The building is designated a tangible cultural property by Kyoto City in 1984. The museum offers special exhibitions and a permanent exhibition, showcasing some 1,500 pieces. Apart from the relics on display, videos and computers are used to pass on Kyoto's historical knowledge from the paleolithic age to modern times.

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http://www.kyoto-arc.or.jp/museum/
Admission is free / Closed on Mondays (following day if Monday is a National Holiday)
Opening hours : 9:00-17:00 (entry by 16:30)
15-minute walk from Subway Imadegawa Station
Very close to Imadegawa-Omiya Stop of City Buses 101, 102, 201, 203 and 59



Outline of the Odoi Ramparts and Moats

After the Honnoji Incident (1582), in which the powerful leader Oda Nobunaga died, Hashiba Hideyoshi moved quickly to become effectively the ruler of Japan and bring an end to the prolonged hostilities of the warring states. In 1585, Hideyoshi received the position of Kanpaku (chief advisor to the Emperor) and then was granted the prestigious family name of "Toyotomi" in 1586, paving the way for him to become Daijo-daijin (Grand Minister) and establish political power. He proceeded with the unification of Japan and a major reformation of Kyoto, the capital city of Japan at the time. Things seem to have been hectic in central Kyoto: Hideyoshi was building Jurakudai, his headquarters in Uchino (ruins of the Heian Palace, lost to a fire in 1227); placing the residences of his subordinate samurai around it; renovating the Imperial Palace and forming Kugemachi (a residential area around the Imperial Palace reserved for court nobility); conducting land surveying and ownership investigation in inner Kyoto (known as rakuchu kenchi); changing the grid street plan of the city (a process known as tensho jiwari); and forming Teramachi and Teranouchi, districts where Buddhist temples were moved to. As a finale to all of these came the grand project of building the Odoi earthwork.

The Odoi earthwork, comprising ramparts and moats, surrounded the city of Kyoto. With a total length of approximately 22.5 kilometers, its northern rim ran from Kamigamo to Takagamine, the southern rim was adjacent to To-ji Temple, the eastern rim ran along the Kamogawa River, and the western rim was along the Kamiyagawa River.

It extends 8.5 kilometers long from north to south, 3.5 kilometers wide from east to west. The Odoi likely had multiple roles including defense, flood prevention and public safety.

To form the earthwork, the moat was dug and the excavated soil piled up on the city side of the moat in a trapezoid shaped rampart, with bamboo planted on top. Although there are variations, the width of the moat tended to be about 20 meters and the depth some three to four meters. The earthen rampart was approximately 20 meters wide at the base and five meters wide at the top, and the height was about five meters. According to historical documents, construction began in January 1591 and was completed in March of the same year, clearly signifying a great rush.

As a result, a visually and structurally definitive border between the inner city (Rakuchu) and outer city (Rakugai) was created for the first time. It is said that the Odoi originally had ten entrances/exits, including the seven entrances to Kyoto (Kyo-no-Nana-kuchi), the seven junctions with major roads. The Odoi was strictly controlled by the Suminokura family and the Kyoto Shoshidai (deputy of the Shogun to govern Kyoto) during the Edo era. However, with time, the need for fortifications waned, and the ramparts blocking infrastructural development and hindering traffic were removed. This removal continued after the Meiji period. Then, in 1920, the Kyoto Prefecture Committee for Studies on Historical Sites and Scenic Spots undertook studies of the state of the Odoi, designating nine sections as National Historic Sites (eight of them in 1930 and another one in 1965).

4 Murasakino Kitahananobo-cho Kita-ku
Moat and base section of earthen rampart



4 Murasakino Kitahananobo-cho Kita-ku
Culvert across the rampart



4 Murasakino Kitahananobo-cho Kita-ku
Berm path on the Odoi



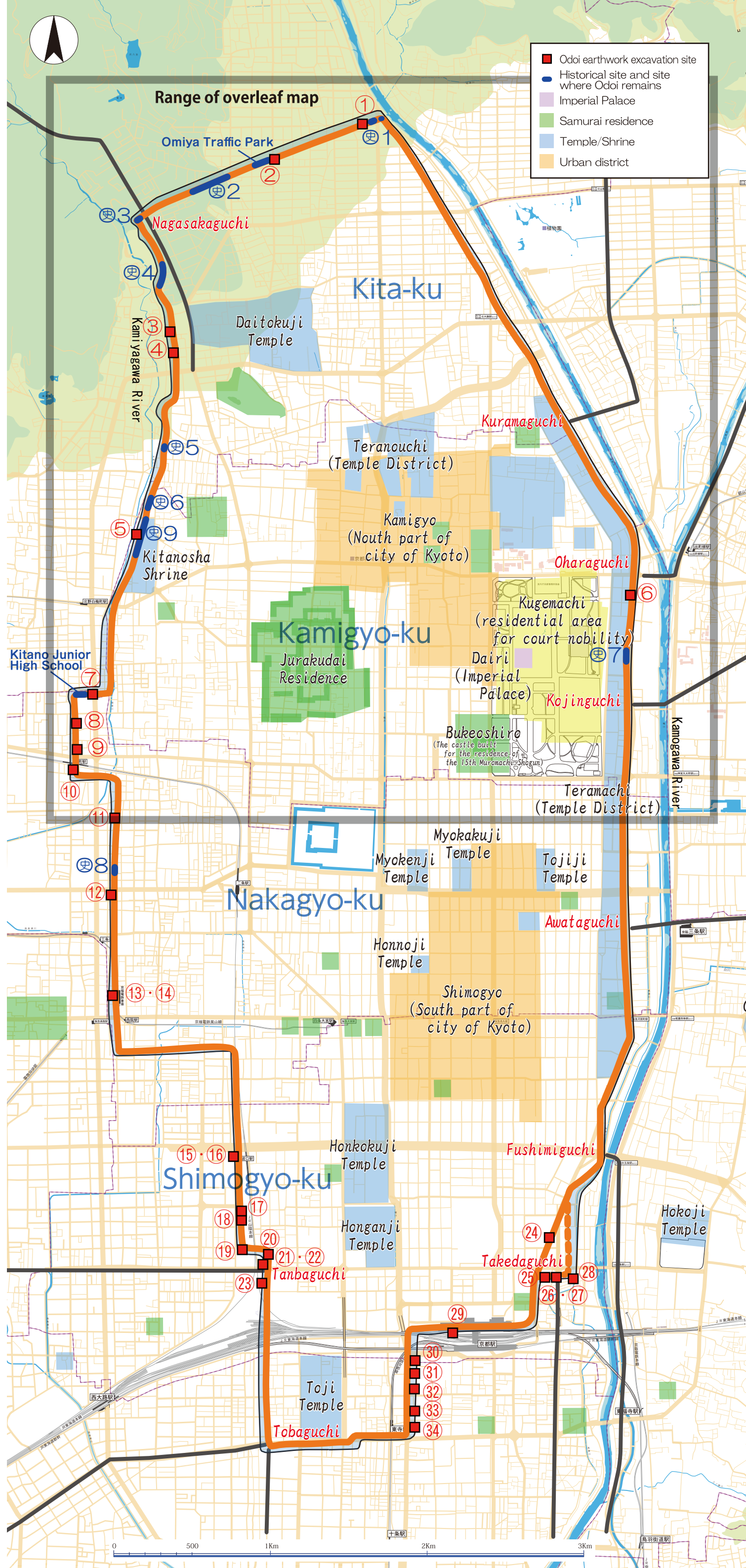
5 Bakuro-cho Kamigyo-ku (precinct of Kitano Tenmangu Shrine)
Stone-built culvert inlet



5 Bakuro-cho Kamigyo-ku (precinct of Kitano Tenmangu Shrine)
Stone-built culvert outlet



5 Bakuro-cho Kamigyo-ku (precinct of Kitano Tenmangu Shrine)
Path across the rampart in east-west direction



Studies on the Odoi Ruins

After the Meiji Restoration, the Odoi earthwork was subject to development that was leading to its destruction. Concerned with the situation, the Kyoto Prefecture Committee for Studies on Historical Sites and Scenic Spots conducted the first academic study of the Odoi from 1918 to 1920. How much of the ramparts and moats were surviving then was thoroughly investigated, and the findings were published in Volume 2 of the Report of Kyoto Prefecture Committee for Studies on Historical Sites and Scenic Spots (1920). Later, the Department of Shrines and Temples of the Kyoto Prefecture conducted studies in 1929 and recommended eight sites where the Odoi was in a well preserved state to the Ministry of Education, with these becoming National Historic Sites in July 1930. The Odoi ruins surviving in the northwest part of the grounds of the Kitano Tenmangu Shrine were additionally recognized in 1965, making nine ruins recognized as National Historic Sites today. In addition to these, there are two more sites where the ramparts are preserved fairly well: one in the Omiya Traffic Park, Kita-ku, and the other within the grounds of Kitano Junior High School, Nakagyo-ku.

Archaeological studies have been conducted mainly at the 34 sites shown in the map, showing that the Odoi ramparts were externally surrounded by moats, with berms configured at the skirts of the ramparts. Size differs between sites, but the ramparts have a height of four-to-five meters, and a base width, including the berms, of about 20 meters. The moats are said to be about 20 meters in width and two-to-three meters in depth. The eastern rim along the Kamogawa River does not show any signs of a moat having been included in the earthwork.

Earthen Rampart Except the nine historic sites and the two others mentioned above, there are hardly any traces of the earthen rampart left now. However, the archaeological studies have confirmed rampart remains at map excavation points ④, ⑤, ⑧, ⑨, ⑪, ⑬, ⑭, ⑰, ⑱ and ⑳. The ramparts discovered in studies were in a state of destruction, so all that could be confirmed was just the piled up earth or base formed from natural ground. The best-preserved earthen rampart (excavation ⑰) is approximately 2 meters thick. Also, two-to-three-meter-wide berms were made between the rampart and the moat (excavation points ④ and ⑪). The soil dug from the moat was used for banking the earthen wall and to build a bank on the inner side of the moat, which was made to function as an earth retainer by being made up of alternate layers of clay and gravel (excavation points ③, ⑭ and ⑰).

At the southeast rim of the Odoi, the Shosei-en garden was landscaped in the middle of 17th century. It is said that the rampart originally running in the northeast-southwest direction was replaced to the east-west direction following the creation of the garden. At excavation point ⑳, the base of a rampart running in the east-west direction was discovered. At this point, the south side of the rampart had not been dug to make a moat.

Moat The remains of the Odoi moat is only clearly recognizable at historic site 2. At historic sites 3, 4 and 9, records in the Kitano Shake Nikki (diary of a Kitano Shrine priest) show mention of the Kamiyagawa River being called Oohori (the big ditch). At all other sites, the moat has been filled in. The buried moat has been found at excavation points ④, ⑪, ⑬, ⑭ to ⑰, ⑱ to ㉓ and ㉔ to ㉖. At excavation point ④, the east shoulder of the moat was discovered. It was on the west bank of the rampart using the eastern cut-off of the fluvial terrace of the Kamiyagawa River. At excavation point ⑪ the moat was discovered. It measured more than 14 meters wide and 2.5 meters deep. Gravel had accumulated at the bottom, which means the Kamiyagawa River might have flowed through the moat. At this point, the moat remained until the end of the Meiji era (early 20th century); however, it was filled in with rampart earth in 1910. Conversely, at excavation points ⑮ to ⑰ and ㉔ to ㉖, the studies clearly confirmed that clayey soil had accumulated at the bottom of the moat, denoting that water stagnated in the moat. The artefacts designated as cultural assets by the City of Kyoto in FY2018 were unearthed at excavation points ㉔ to ㉖ (Nishikujo areas).

9 Nishinokyo Enmachi Nakagyo-ku
Base of rampart and inner gutter



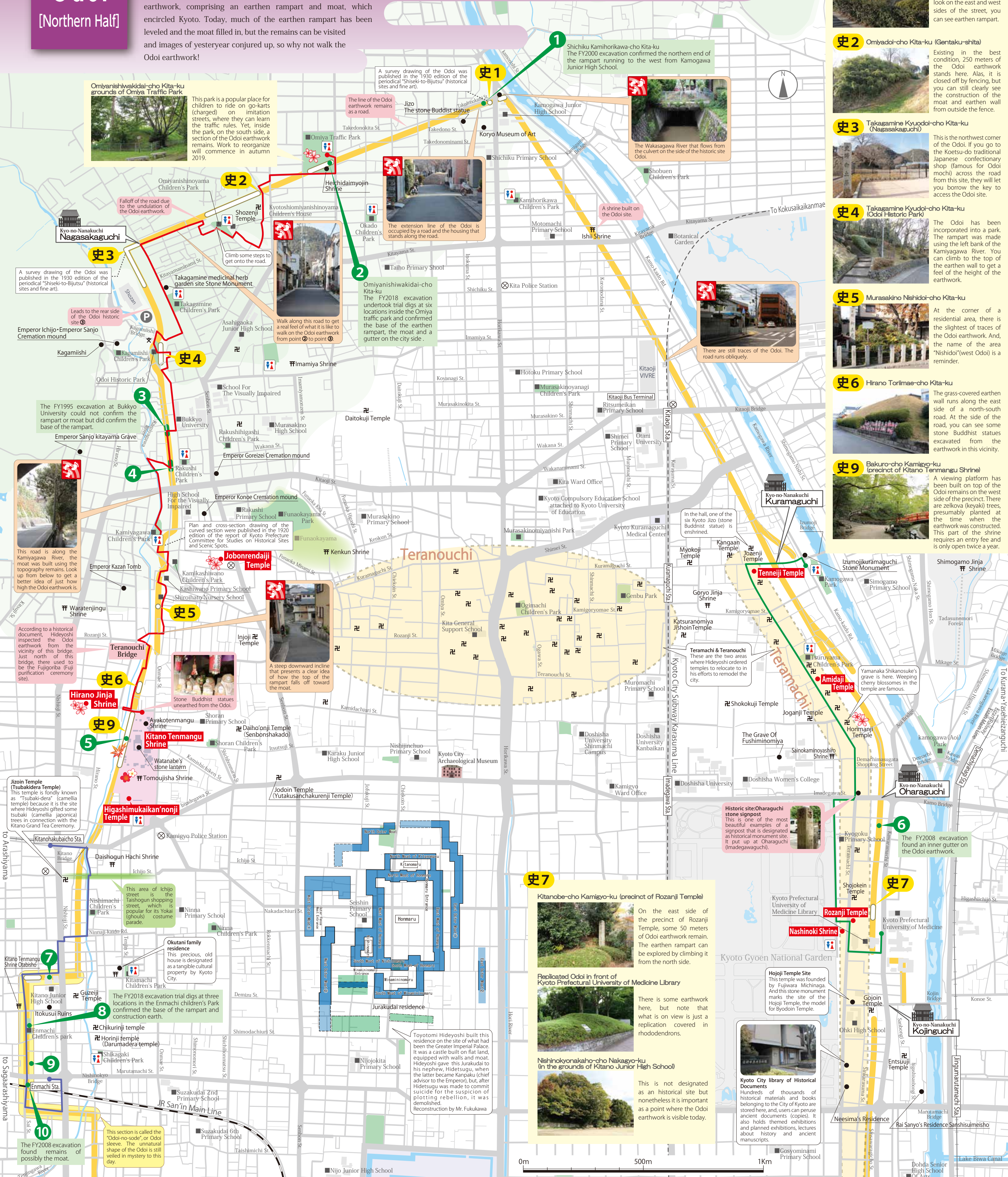
Source : Provided by Kyoto City Archaeological Research Institute

Odoi

[Northern Half]

—Walking The Odoi Earthwork Historical Sites and Its Other Remains—

Having unified the country, Toyotomi Hideyoshi undertook some massive remodeling projects in Kyoto, including the creation of temple districts, rearranging streets and residential areas and the building of a castle palace, Jurakudai, with the work culminating, in 1591, in the construction in just a few months of the Odoi, a large-scale earthwork, comprising an earthen rampart and moat, which encircled Kyoto. Today, much of the earthen rampart has been leveled and the moat filled in, but the remains can be visited and images of yesteryear conjured up, so why not walk the Odoi earthwork!



- 史1** Shichiku Kamihorikawa-cho Kita-ku (near Kamogawa Junior High School)
This is the northeast corner of the Odoi, intersected by Horikawa street. However if you look on the east and west sides of the street, you can see earthen rampart.
- 史2** Omiyadoi-cho Kita-ku (Gentaku-shita)
Existing in the best condition, 250 meters of the Odoi earthwork stands here. Alas, it is closed off by fencing, but you can still clearly see the construction of the moat and earthen wall from outside the fence.
- 史3** Takamine Kyuodoi-cho Kita-ku (Nagasaki-ku)
This is the northwest corner of the Odoi. If you go to the Koetsu-do traditional Japanese confectionary shop (famous for Odoi mochi) across the road from this site, they will let you borrow the key to access the Odoi site.
- 史4** Takamine Kyuodoi-cho Kita-ku (Odoi Historic Park)
The Odoi has been incorporated into a park. The rampart was made using the left bank of the Kamogawa River. You can climb to the top of the earthen wall to get a feel of the height of the earthwork.
- 史5** Murasakino Nishidoi-cho Kita-ku
At the corner of a residential area, there is the slightest of traces of the Odoi earthwork. And, the name of the area "Nishidoi"(west Odoi) is a reminder.
- 史6** Hirano Torimae-cho Kita-ku
The grass-covered earthen wall runs along the east side of a north-south road. At the side of the road, you can see some stone Buddhist statues excavated from the earthwork in this vicinity.
- 史9** Bakuro-cho Kamigyō-ku (precinct of Kitano Tenmangu Shrine)
A viewing platform has been built on top of the Odoi remains on the west side of the precinct. There are zelkova (keyaki) trees, presumably planted at the time when the earthwork was constructed. This part of the shrine requires an entry fee and is only open twice a year.

- 4** Murasakinokitanahanabo-cho Kita-ku
In the FY2016 excavation, the west bank and rampart culvert intersecting the Odoi were excavated. At the slope of the bank, a berm was made, and the culvert was packed full of gravel.
- 5** Bakuro-cho Kamigyō-ku (precinct of Kitano Tenmangu Shrine)
The FY2013 excavation unearthed the remains of a stone-built culvert intersecting the Odoi. The photo on the right shows the water inlet on the shrine side and the photo on the left shows the outlet on the exterior of the Odoi.
- 7** Nishinokyonakaho-cho Nakagyo-ku (grounds of Kitano Junior High School)
The FY1987 excavation found the Odoi's gutter culvert running east-west. The clump of trees in the distance in the photo is where the Odoi is still visible today. However, this site is not open to the public.
- 9** Nishinokyo Enmachi Nakagyo-ku
The FY1999 excavation confirmed the base (approximately 15 meters wide) of the rampart and an inner gutter on the east side.