



A National Historic Site and Important Cultural Property

# 弘道館 KO DO KAN

## Recommended Walking Route

Title "Kodokan": from "Kodokan Stele Rubbing Inscription Monument" by Tokugawa Nariaki

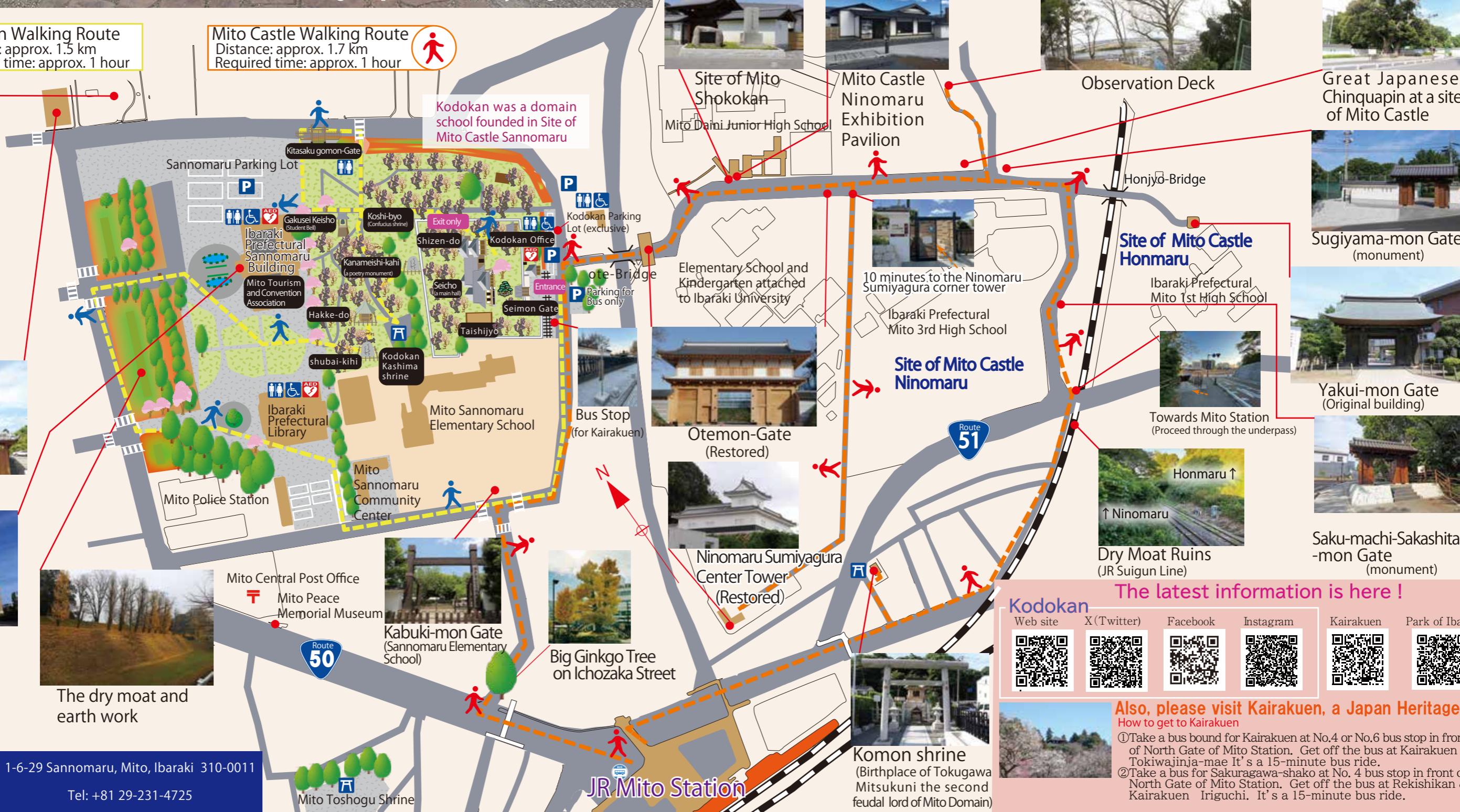


1850 Map of Samurai Pathways Under Mito Castle (copy)

The feudal lord's palace was located in Mito Castle's Ninomaru, and the domain school, Kodokan, was located in Sannomaru. At that time, Senba Lake was 4.88 times the size of the present lake, and the feudal lord and his chief vassals crossed from Mito Castle to Kairakuen by boat.

**Kodokan Walking Route**  
Distance: approx. 1.5 km  
Required time: approx. 1 hour

**Mito Castle Walking Route**  
Distance: approx. 1.7 km  
Required time: approx. 1 hour



Mito Low District Water Tower (built in 1932)



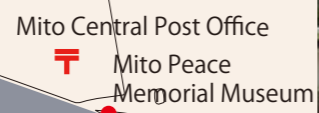
Mito-tobukan



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



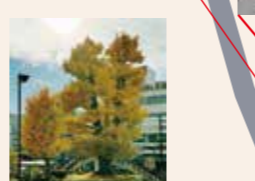
The dry moat and earth work



Mito Central Post Office



Kabuki-mon Gate (Sannomaru Elementary School)



Big Ginkgo Tree on Ichozaka Street



Site of Mito Shokokan



Mito Castle Ninomaru Exhibition Pavilion



Observation Deck



Great Japanese Chinquapin at a site of Mito Castle



Sugiyama-mon Gate (monument)



Yakui-mon Gate (Original building)



Saku-machi-Sakashita-mon Gate (monument)

**Kodokan** The latest information is here!

Web site	X (Twitter)	Facebook	Instagram	Kairakuen	Park of Ibaraki

**Also, please visit Kairakuen, a Japan Heritage.**  
How to get to Kairakuen

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

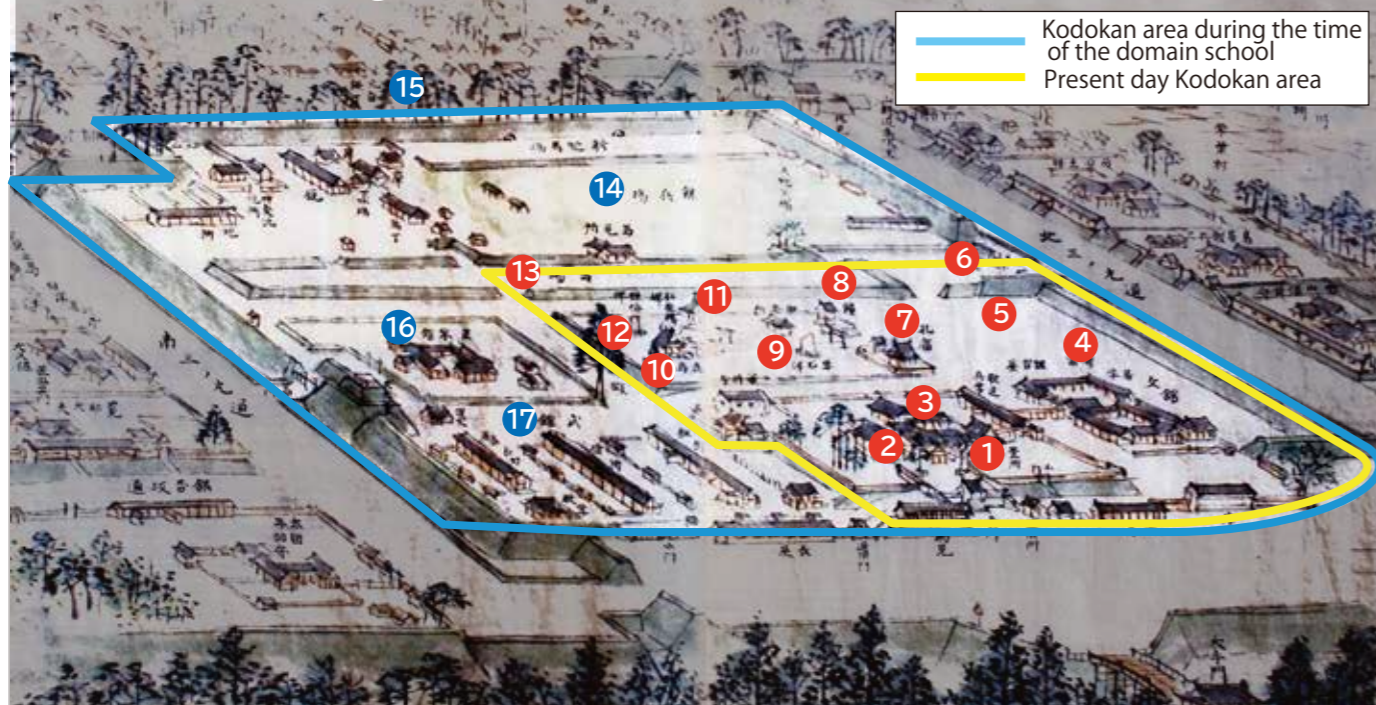
# An overview of Kodokan

This is an old feudal domain school established in 1841 in the Edo period by Tokugawa Nariaki, the 9th feudal lord of Mito domain. Its area used to be 17.8 hectares located in the Mito Castle ground, and this school was Japan's largest at that time. The school had various halls and facilities such as Sei-cho, Shizen-do, Bun-kan, Bu-kan (a martial arts training room), a medical room, Kashima shrine, Confucius shrine, Hakke-do, a riding ground, and a training room. The layout of them was elaborately planned on the basis of the spiritual legacy of the Kodokan's foundation. Now a 3.4-hectare-area is designated as a special historic site in the name of "Kyu-Kodokan," (the former Kodokan).



**Tokugawa Nariaki**  
the 9th feudal lord of  
Mito Domain

## Kodokan during the time of the domain school



From the collection of the Mito City Museum, "Shobutsukaiyou". kept at Mito City Museum

## Kodokan at present



Photographed on April 22, 2015

### 1 Seimon Gate (Important Cultural Property)



A four-legged gate with a hongawarabuki (traditional roof tile) roof constructed entirely of zelkova wood. The gate was opened only when feudal lords visited or on formal occasions.

### 2 Seicho (Important Cultural Property)



This is the central building of Kodokan, also called Gakko Goten (the school court). Examinations and various ceremonies were held in the presence of the feudal lord.

### 3 Sizen-do (Important Cultural Property)



It was a resting place for the feudal lords and a place of study for various officials, including Tokugawa Yoshinobu. The Goza-no-Ma (Nobility Hall) is the room where Tokugawa Yoshinobu stayed under house arrest after the Meiji Restoration.

### 4 Bunkan-ato (Currently plum grove)



It was a school building for academic studies and also had a dormitory. \*Destroyed by fire during the Battle of Kodokan in the first year of Meiji Era.

### 5 Earth work / street (Restored)



The earthen mound is a structure called a "kuichigai koguchi," and is unique to fortresses. \*Restorative maintenance in December 2019

### 6 Kitasaku-gomon (Restored)



Only teachers and domain officials were allowed to pass through. \*Restorative maintenance in December 2019

### 7 Koshi-byo (Restored)



Confucius, the founder of Confucianism, is enshrined here in the founding principle of the Unity of Shinto and Confucianism.

### 8 Gakusei Keisho



The bell that tells time for students studying at Kodokan.

### 9 Kanameishi-kahi



A waka poem written by Tokugawa Nariaki himself teaching the way forward as a Japanese.

### 10 Kodokan Kashima shrine (Cultural property designated by Mito City)



The deity Takemikazuchinokami, which was moved from the Kashima Jingu Shrine, is enshrined here.

### 11 Hakke-do (Restored)



It houses the Kodokan Inscription Monument, which is inscribed with the founding principle of the school.

### 12 Shubai-kihi



It describes the reason why many plum blossom trees were planted in Kodokan and Kairakuen

### 13 Baba-ato



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

### 14 Chorenjyo-ato

(Ibaraki Prefecture designated cultural property and others)



There were facilities such as canon emplacements, bow gun emplacements, and stables.

### 15 The dry moat and Earth work

(Ibaraki Prefecture designated cultural property)



Mito Castle Sannomaru's dry moat and earthen mound.

### 16 Igakukan-ato

(Mito Sannomaru Community Center)



In addition to lectures on medicine, pharmaceuticals, vaccinations, etc. were also offered.✳

### 17 Bukan-ato

(Mito Sannomaru Elementary School)



There were three school buildings where martial arts were practiced.✳

✳The building were burned down at the Kodokan Battle in 1867,the first year of the Meiji era.