

Ryogoku ~inheriting the tradition of Edo period (1603-1867) ~



↑ a map in Edo period around JR Ryogoku Station



↑ a current map of the same area(2017)

※▲ shows the same place.

- ▲ : the Ryogoku Bridge ▲ : Ekoin Temple
- ▲ : a sumo stadium ▲ : Edo-Tokyo Museum

The blue line shows the Sumida River. It flows from north to south, not having changed its rough shape near Ryogoku. In the map in Edo period, yellow shows samurais' houses and gray shows merchants' area.

What is so attractive in Ryogoku ?

Until 150 years ago, Japanese had completely different lives from the present day. They were wearing Kimono every day and lived in a one or two-story wooden apartment.

Ryogoku inherits the tradition of Edo period. It has other attractive things;

- facilities concerned with Edo around the station
- to feel tradition and development at the same time (Ryogoku is near to Sky Tree and Tokyo Station)

I marked 4 places related each other with ▲.

▲Ekoin Temple

This was built in 1657 to mourn more than 100,000 victims of a fire in the same year. Sumo as we can watch at ▲ now started at this temple to raise funds for repairing the buildings. It means a sumo wrestler became an occupation.



↑ the present sumo stadium (▲)

▲Ryogoku Bridge

This was built in 1661 since many people failed to escape from the fire because of no bridge. Both ends of the bridge were open to prevent the bridges from burning. But in fact, people built many temporary stalls and the area always bustles with people. We can see diorama of that in ▲.

Fireworks display at the Sumida River

This is started near the Ryogoku Bridge in the Edo period and has been one of the charms of summer. While the fireworks are shown in 1897, the railings of the Bridge collapsed. At the time of the reconstruction after that the bridge was moved a little from its original and had no open space.



↑ Ukiyo-e (a picture) of the Ryogoku

Traffic access to JR Ryogoku Station

From Haneda Airport: about 50 minutes by train.

From Tokyo Station: about 15 minutes by train.