

Toyama Umezawa-cho Temple Map

History of Umezawa-cho

In 1639, Maeda Toshitsune, the Third Lord of Kaga Domain (today's Kanazawa area), divided his fiefdom and gave Toyama to his second son, Maeda Toshitsugu. Toshitsugu reconstructed Toyama Castle and moved in as the First Lord of Toyama Domain. His descendants ruled this castle town for 13 generations.

Similar to the layout of other castle towns in Japan that placed temples on their outskirts as a shield from outside attacks, the Maeda Clan gathered temples and built a *tera-machi*, a temple town, at the southeast corner of Toyama Castle to defend the town spreading to Niikawa Plain.

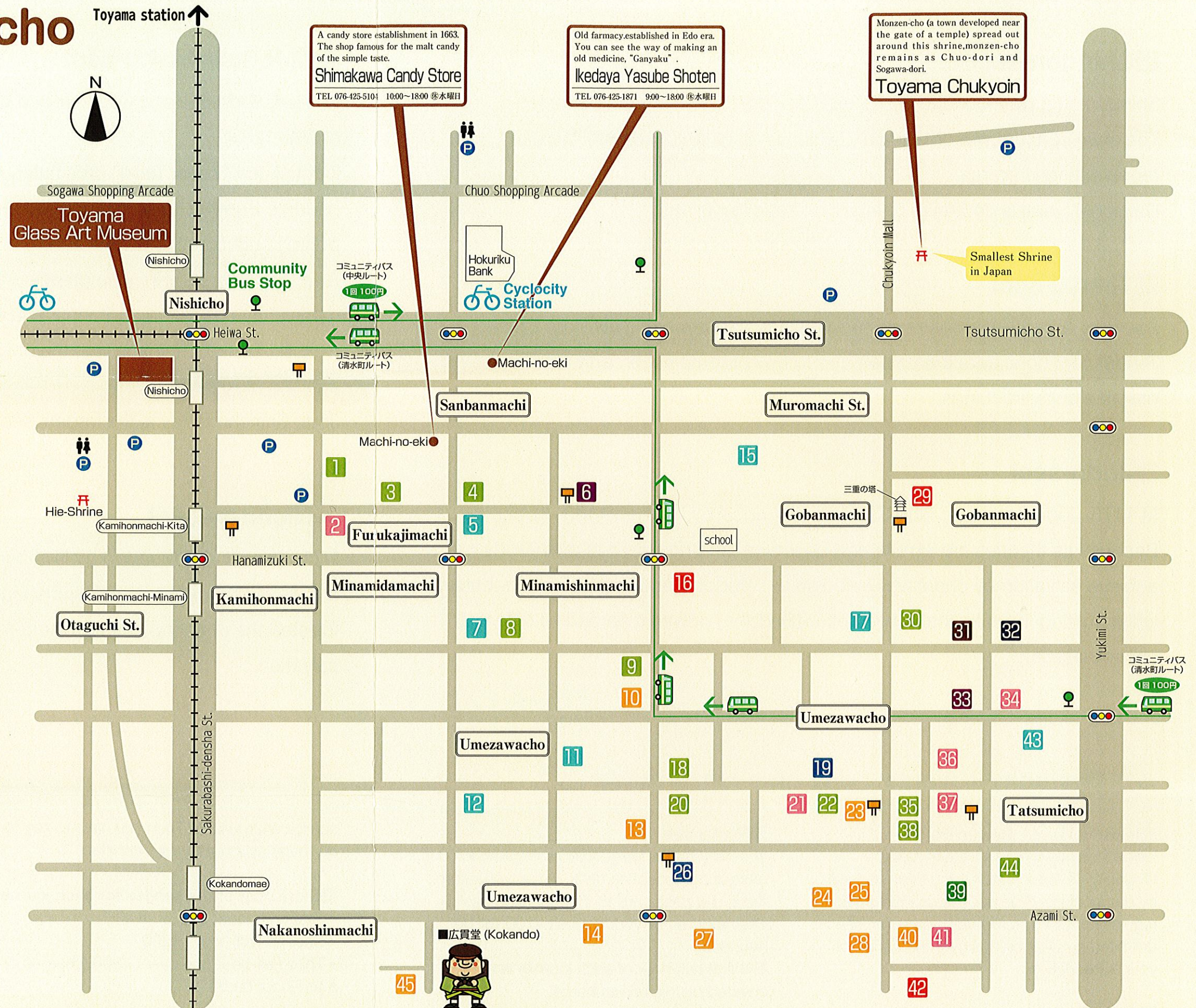
In 1870, Toyama Domain, prior to any other domain in the country, issued *Gojirei* (合寺令), a directive to consolidate Buddhist temples based on Shinbutsu Bunri, which refers to the policy of separating Shintoism and Buddhism pursued by the new Meiji government. *Gojirei* aimed at consolidating 205 temples that existed in Toyama at that time into just seven temples in according with Buddhist denominations. Its objective was twofold: To weaken the strong influence of the religious institution as part of the new government's effort to accelerate modernization; and to elevate the status of Shintoism as a national religion. These seven temples were: *Raiko-ji* (Jōdo-shū); *Enryu-ji* (Tendai-shū); *Shinko-ji* (Shingon-shū); *Daiho-ji* (Nichiren-shū); *Kogon-ji* (Zen-shū); *Jozen-ji* (Ji-shū); and *Jisen-ji* (Jōdoshin-shū). It is said that the name of the *tera-machi* changed to *Umezawa-cho* (梅沢町) at that time after *Jisen-ji*, *Baitakusan* (梅沢山), which was the processing office of *Gojirei*.

When *Gojirei* was issued, monks from about 400 temples were ordered to move to their designated temples by the evening of the next day with all their belongings and assets, including religious artifacts, from their original temples. Those 7 main temples were so packed that 2 or 3 people had to share one tatami mat to sleep. Their property left at the sub temples was confiscated or destroyed. It was in fact religious persecution. After *Gojirei* was lifted in 1876, people in Toyama built two conflicting temples, *Nishi-hongan-ji* and *Higashi-hongan-ji*, side by side. The end of *Gojirei* gave a chance for these two temples to cooperate and rebuild Buddhism in Toyama.

凡 例	
	Shrine
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sect	
	JodoShinshu-sect 本願寺派
	Jodo-sect
	JodoShinshu-sect 大谷派
	Shingon-sect
	Nichiren-sect
	Soto-sect
	Hokke-sect
	Jisyu-sect
	Tendai-sect
	Rinzai-sect

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- 1 Kyouhouji, 2 Saiyouji, 3 Mantokuji, 4 Jyounyuuji, 5 Senpukuji, 6 Fusenji, 7 Kyonenji, 8 Toukakuji, 9 Daiunji, 10 Honsyouji, 11 Syougakuji, 12 Myokyuji, 13 Zensyouji, 14 Ryuzouji, 15 Gatsuaen, 16 Seigenji, 17 Yofukuji, 18 Unseiji, 19 Honjyuuji, 20 Gansyouji, 21 Rendaiji, 22 Oushuji, 23 Myoukokuji, 24 Myoudenji, 25 Risyoudji, 26 Honyouji, 27 Daihouji, 28 Hokkeji, 29 Kougonji, 30 Manjyouji, 31 Jyouzenji, 32 Enryuji, 33 Shinkouji, 34 Gokurakuji(Moriyama), 35 Shinsyouji, 36 Gokurakuji(Senda), 37 Raigouji, 38 Koudenji, 39 Rengeji, 40 Choseiji, 41 Raigoji, 42 Kaiganji, 43 Senrinji, 44 Myotokuji, 45 Jyokouji

■Shingon-sect

Shingon-sect was founded by Kukai(774~835AD) in early 9th century.

The main concept was “Mandala” ,which is a spiritual and ritual symbol , representing Universe.

Dainichi-Nyorai is central to Shingon esoteric teachings.

■Tendai-sect

Saichou(767~822) introduced Tendai-sect to Japan which was born China.

Tendai-sect considers the Lotus Sutra to be supreme sutra , and teaches practice of its teachings.

■Jodo-sect

In 1175, Jodo Sect(pure land Sect) was founded by Hounen(1133~1212).

Because its theories are simple and based on the principle that everybody can achieve salvation by chanting Nenbutsu to Buddha Amida (Namuamidabutsu), while trusting in Tariki, that means other(Buddha) power, it spread all different social classes.

■JodoShinshu-sect

In 1224, Jodo Shinshu was founded by Hounen' s successor Shinran (1174~1263).

It consisted “Zettai Tariki” (absolutely Other-Power), whice means one with can become Buddha 'only' by Tariki Hongwan(strong belief of Other-Power/ Budda' s power) , not by self-power.

And what makes Shinshu greatly different from other Buddhist sects is that monks have no commandments and are allowed to eat meat and to get married (Nikujiki-Saitai). (Shinshu was the only sect that allowed monks to get married until the Meiji period.)

Jodo Shinshu today is the largest sect in Japan.

■Nichiren-sect

Nichirensect was founded by Nichiren(1222~1262) in 1253.

It believed Lotus sutra as suitable teachings for Mappo, the end of the world, and insisted the chanting mantra(Namu-myo hou-renge-kyo) is the right way to salvation.

🚲 Cyclocity-Toyama 1-day bike rental guide

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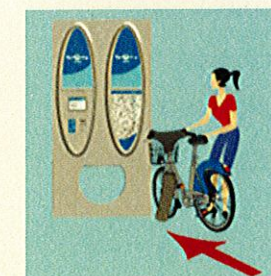
■Using the Bikes

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Returning a bike

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