

The 3rd Practical Tourism Study Tour Report Visit to Oiso

In conjunction with the “Tourism Strategy Project”, which learns the big view and expertise in tourism from prominent lecturers, the Tokyo Metropolitan Public University Corporation occasionally conducts "Practical Tourism Study Tours" aimed at visiting and touring actual sightseeing spots.

This year, which is the final year of the project, the influence of COVID-19 unprecedentedly blows the tourism industry which has been still in a tough situation. Under these circumstances, we will conduct three tours to explore the possibility of micro-tourism and technology, which are attracting attention as a new opportunity in the tourism industry.

Micro-tourism was proposed early by Mr. Yoshiharu Hoshino, CEO of Hoshino Resorts, who will be invited as a lecturer at the 3rd Tourism Strategy Project and is attracting attention as a way of tourism that strike a balance between the prevention of infection and the local economy. The ideal way of tourism in COVID-19 period is that “tourism should not be the cause of pandemic”, and there has been a movement in various places to make local residents and neighbors enjoy areas where the risk of infection is low.

On Thursday, December 10, 2020, we visited Oiso Town in Kanagawa Prefecture. Oiso Town faces the Pacific Ocean and has a temperate climate. During the Meiji era, the opening of Oiso Station coincided with the opening of the railroad, many famous people built villas and residences for the purpose of long-stay recreation and/or recuperation.

In addition, since eight prime ministers have built villas and residences in this area, it has been called the "Inner Sanctum of Meiji political arena". In November 2020, the Meiji Memorial Oiso Garden was opened to hand down the achievements of those who contributed to the establishment of constitutional government during the Meiji period to posterity.

Jifukuji Temple

Jifukuji Temple is the temple where the grave of the literary master Shimazaki Tōson and his wife is placed.

Every year on August 22, the anniversary of Tōson’s death, the Oiso Town Tourism Association holds "Shimazaki Tōson Memorial”, and people related to Tōson and many Tōson fans visit the temple to offer flowers.

The grave of Tōson is surrounded by about 20 plum trees that he loved throughout his life, and around every February, the plum blossoms bloom all over the temple grounds.

Jifukuji Temple Main Hall



Meiji Memorial Oiso Garden (Residences and Gardens)

The garden preserves villas and residences associated with people who played an important role in the establishment of constitutional government, such as Ito Hirobumi, Okuma Shigenobu, Saionji Kinmochi, and Mutsu Munemitsu.

The garden's first phase opening was on November 3, 2020, as a place to convey the history of the Meiji era and its significance to posterity, as well as to serve as a base for cultural dissemination, interaction and exchange.

The name "Garden (Teien)" comes from the "Teien Cultural Area Revitalization Plan" promoted by Kanagawa Prefecture, and the residences and gardens are called "Teien" together.

In the first phase, the Shigenobu Okuma Old Villa, the Furukawa Old Villa, the Ruins of the Mutsu Munemitsu Old Villa, and the Garden of Furukawa Old Villa have been opened to the public.

In the future, the Old Souroukaku (the Old Residence of Ito Hirobumi and the Old Villa of the Lee Ou family), the Ruins of Saionji Kinmochi Old Villa, and the Ikeda Shigeaki Old Residence will also be developed and opened to the public.

Mutsu Munemitsu Old Villa



Former Residence of YOSHIDA Shigeru

The Former Residence of YOSHIDA Shigeru was a private residence of Yoshida Shigeru, who served as the Prime Minister after the second world war. Yoshida's foster father, Kenzo, bought the land in Oiso in 1884, and built a villa. Yoshida inherited the villa from his father. After serving as a diplomat, he made his villa within his main residence in Oiso in 1945 when he became Minister of Foreign Affairs and lived there until his death in 1967.

Unfortunately, the residence was burned down after Yoshida's death and the current building, which was built in 2017, is the restoration. The dining room and the reception room for distinguished guests, characterized by the Art Deco style represented by geometric patterns, have been reconstructed and are open to the public.

Former Residence of YOSHIDA Shigeru



Dining Room “Rose Room”



Reception Room “Golden Room”



It was a half-day tour and short time, but we were able to rediscover the charm of Oiso with a local guide. We explored the possibilities of micro-tourism in Oiso where we can learn the spirit of the Meiji era and rediscover the strengths of Japan.