

Author Hideki Kojima trace the footsteps of Yasujiro Ozu, also known as Auz-Sensei, who appears in the book.

AUZ-Sensei Walking Map



Footsteps of Ozu
Mezurashi Pass
Information Board
Sightseeing Signboard
Famous Place

A ~ F



Time required from/to litaka-Eki [★sign]

(approximate walking time)

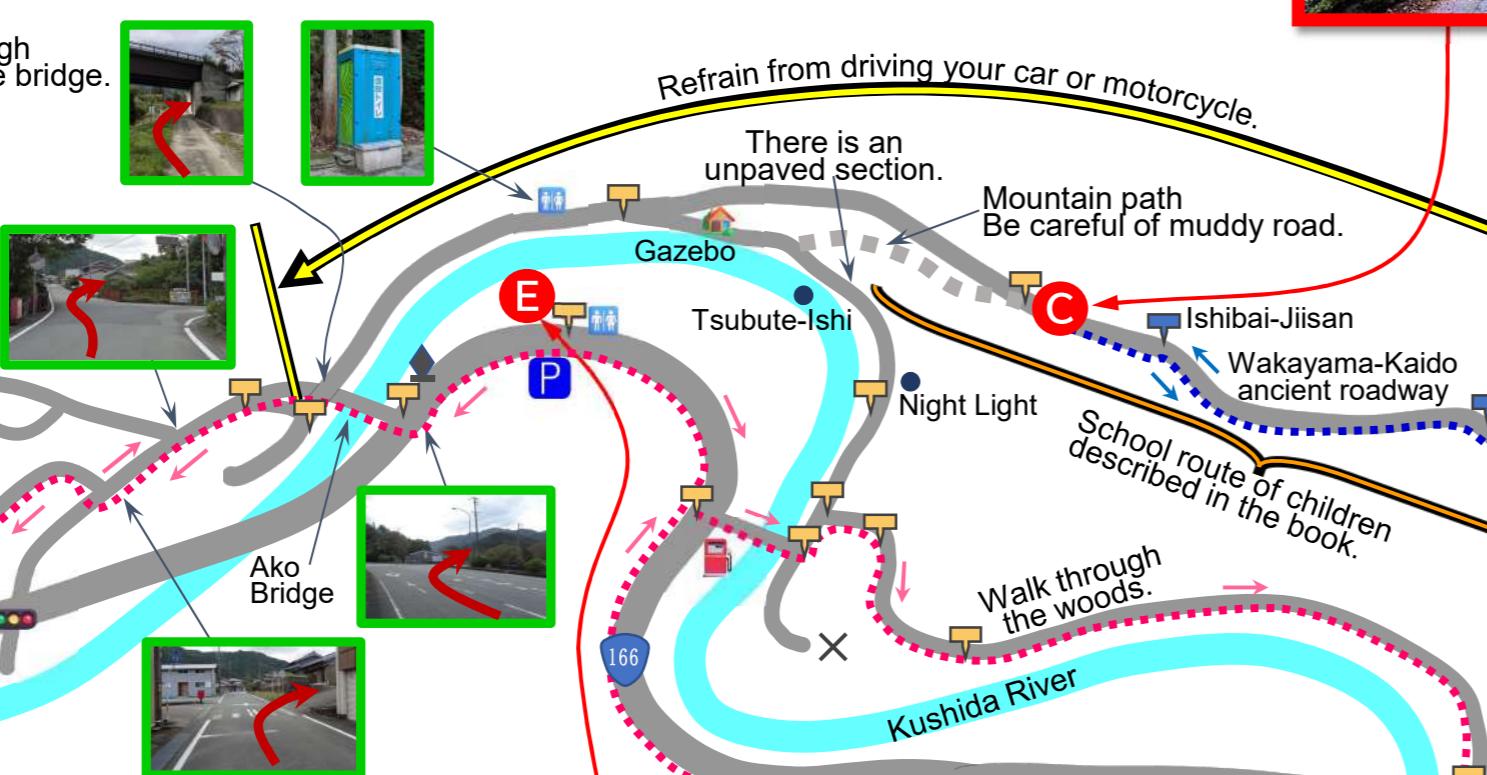
- ① **Kushida River Course (green):** about 1.8 km - about 40 min.
- ② **Mezurashi Pass Course (blue):** about 4.3 km - about 85 min.
- ③ **Ako Course (pink):** about 6.7 km - about 135 min.

*Please allow plenty of time for walking, including breaks and visits.

Go through under the bridge.



Vehicle access is difficult.
15min walk one way from Mizuya Shrine.



Ako Branch School Site



Mizuya Shrine

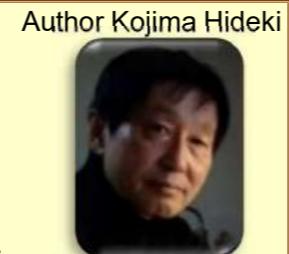


Kushida River



"Auz-Sensei", which was written by Hideki Kojima, vividly describes the year that Yasujiro Ozu spent as a substitute teacher at Miyamae Ordinary Elementary School (currently Matsusaka City litaka Senior Citizen Welfare Center) at the age of 19, before he joined Shochiku Kinema. Wasn't it during his time as a substitute teacher that the original landscape of Ozu's films, which are Japan's pride to the world?!

Production cooperation: Tokuma Shoten Publishing Co., Ltd.



Mezurashi Pass

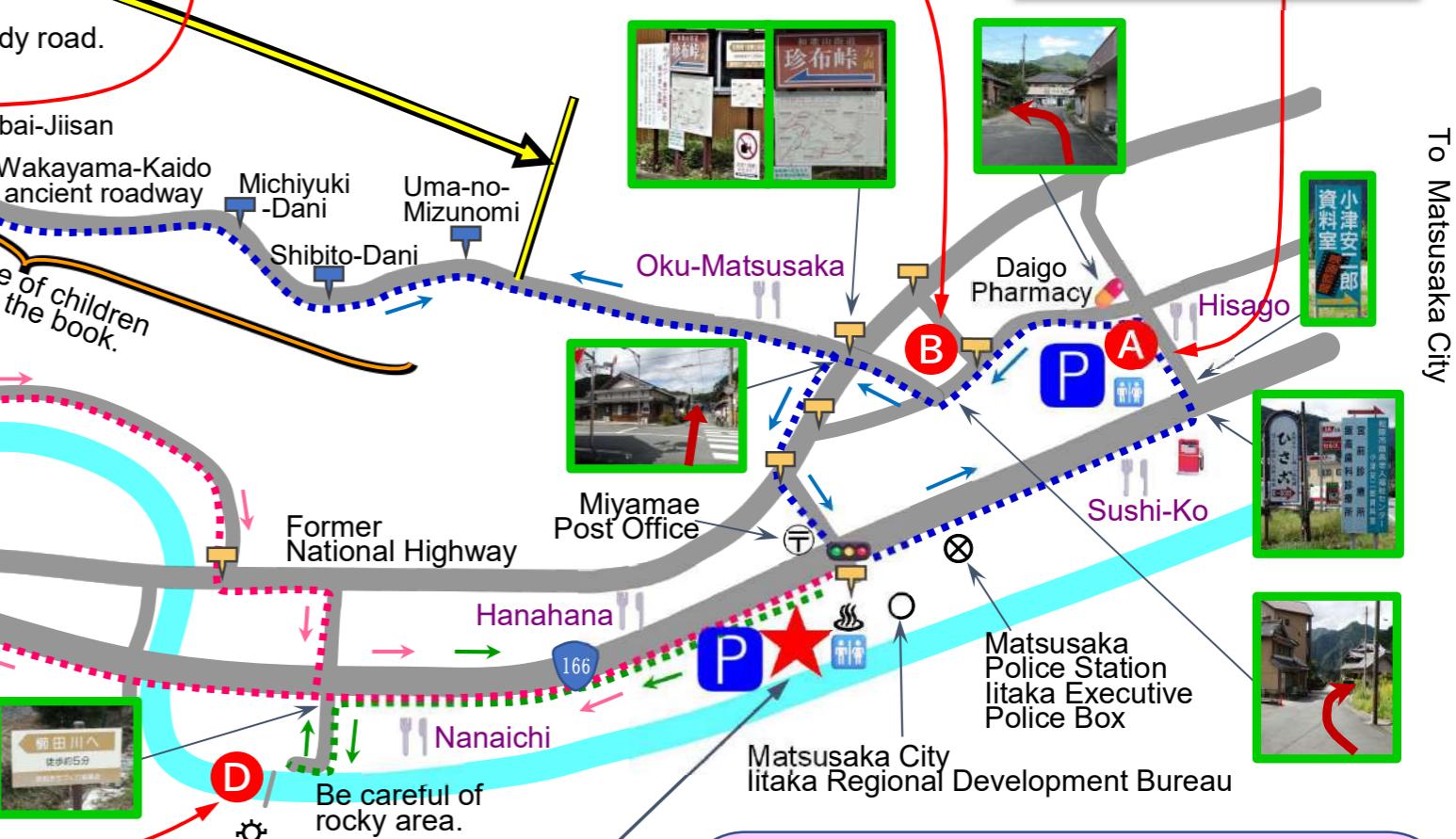


Hanaoka Shrine



Miyamae Ordinary Elementary School Site

(currently Matsusaka City litaka Senior Citizen Welfare Center)
[Yasujiro Ozu Archive]



Roadside Station "litaka-Eki"

You can enjoy walking starting from litaka-Eki.

Parking lot (P) and restrooms (WC) are available. It is recommended to use the restroom at litaka-Eki before starting your walk. Please use the restaurants, souvenir stores, and Kahada-kyo Hot Spring.

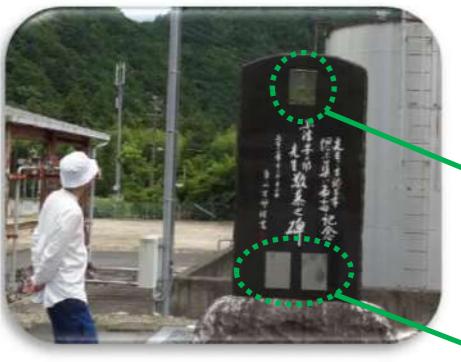
« Please note »

- Refrain from using vehicles when walking around the area.
- Park your car or motorcycle in the parking lot.
- Be considerate of local residents and pass quietly near people's houses.
- Do not enter private property.
- Do not defecate or urinate anywhere but in the restroom facilities.
- Do not litter and take your garbage home with you.
- Smoke in the designated smoking area.

A Miyamae Ordinary Elementary School Site

The site of the elementary school where Ozu worked as a substitute teacher for one year.

There is "Yasujiro Ozu Archive", where many of his memorabilia are on display.



"Keibo-no-Hi", the monument of admiration on the site, was erected to reflect Mt. Tsubonegatake, which Ozu climbed in clogs.

Ozu playing the mandolin at his lodgings.

A summer greetingcard to a student from his teaching days is inscribed on the monument.

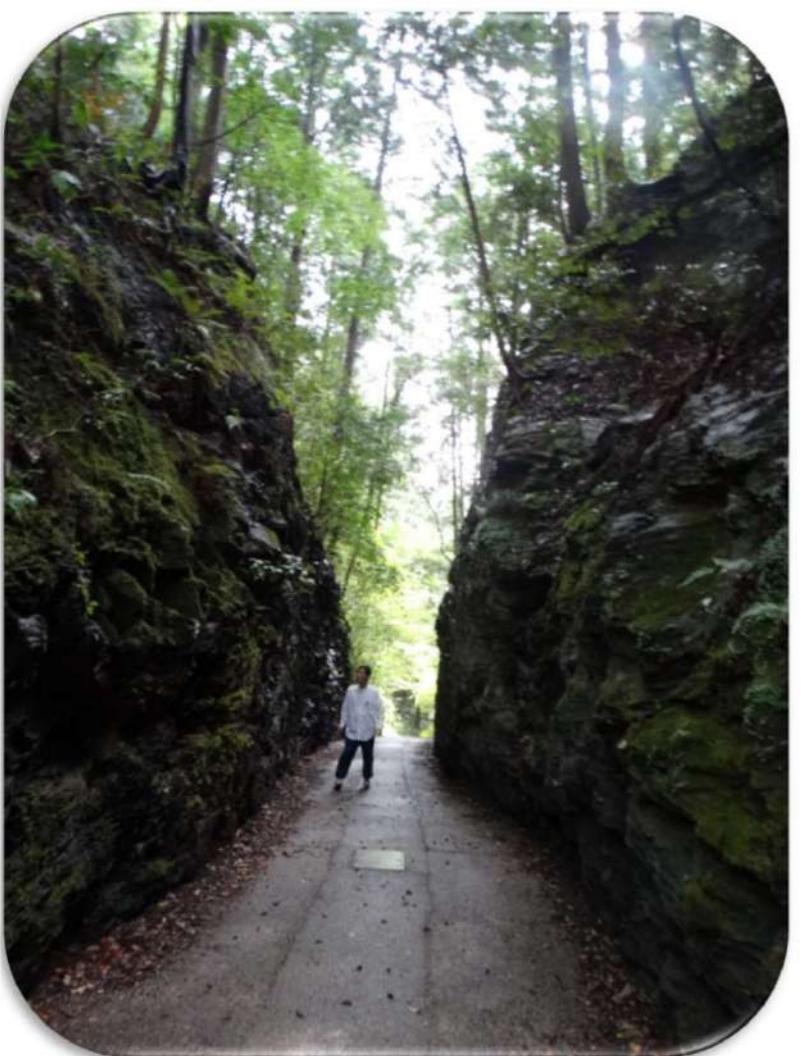
A model of Miyamae Ordinary Elementary School in the archive.



B Hanaoka Shrine

A shrine that was a popular playground for children. The neighborhood would flourish as an inn town on the Wakayama-Kaido ancient roadway.

It was close to the elementary school and Ozu often visited it on walks.



C Mezurashi-Pass

A pass that used to be a route for children living in Ako area to go to school. It is also the place where Genta and Tetsuo encountered a Tengu (a long nosed goblin) when they had a duel.

The large rock at the cut-through is worth seeing and Amaterasu Oomikami (the God of the Sun) and Amanokoyane-no-Mikoto (the God that appeared in Japanese mythology) are said to have met here.

D Kushida River

Ozu often enjoyed fishing in this clear stream that flows along Miyamae village.

It is also a memorable place where children searched for kappa (water imp) based on Ozu's stories.



Yasujiro Ozu Archive

704-2 Miyamae, Itaka-Cho, Matsusaka City, Mie Pref.
In Matsusaka City Itaka Senior Citizen Welfare Center

10:00-15:00

Closed on Mon~Wed and Fri except for national holidays, and 29Dec~3Jan.
In addition, closed on the days set by Matsusaka City Itaka Senior Citizen Welfare Center.

*The book "Auz-Sensei" is available for purchase.
Please forgive us if we run out of stock.



Free parking is available



Roadside Station "itaka-Eki"

177 Miyamae, Itaka-Cho, Matsusaka City, Mie Pref.

Souvenir Store "itaka-no-Mise" 9:00~18:00
Closed on the 2nd Wed of Jun and Dec, 31Dec~1Jan.

Restaurant Itaka 11:00~19:00
Closed on Wed (open if Wed is national holiday, closed on the following day), and 31Dec~1Jan.

*For more details, please visit our website "itaka-Eki".

E Mizuya Shrine

A shrine that used to be a playground for children living in the Ako area.

Sadakichi and his friends enjoyed the Mochi-Maki (rice cake scattering) ceremony at the shrine, after escaping of from school.



F Ako Branch School Site

This is the site of the branch school where the children of the Ako area studied until the 4th grade.



Currently, only the gate remains.