

## Tokaido Pine Tree Road

After Ieyasu Tokugawa (1543-1616) won the Battle of Sekigahara (1600), he set out to create 53 post stations along the Tokaido (a de-facto national road on the Japanese mainland linking Tokyo to Kyoto). The Tokaido was gradually developed following his long-term plan as a highway with pine trees planted alongside as landmarks. Those trees, many of which are more than 300 years old have been well preserved into the present.

Oiso was one of the busiest post towns along the Tokaido, where many travelers stayed at local inns and took a rest in small tea shops.



## Hirobumi Ito Residence



The first Japanese Prime Minister, Hirobumi Ito (1841-1909), who drafted the first Constitution of Japan picked this place to live as his permanent residence. The name “Soro Kaku” was presented by Chinese Lee Kosho of the Qing Dynasty, meaning a pavilion with a magnificent sea view.

After Ito died, Soro Kaku was sold to the Seibu business group with a popular Chinese restaurant by the same name which was loved by the Oiso residents and visitors alike for a long time. But now it all is sadly closed.