

## < The Edo Period>

Oiso was one of the busiest post stations of the 53 along the Tokaido National Road.

## < The Meiji Era>

The German Dr. Belz (then resident in Japan) recommendation for sea bathing prompted the army surgeon Jun Matsumoto to choose Oiso, with its mild climate, as the best location to open the first bathing beach in the country.



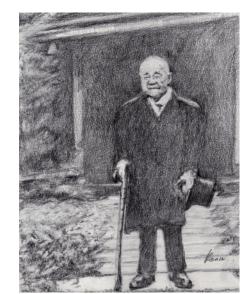
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<From the Meiji through the Showa Era>

Oiso became a fashionable seaside resort where business tycoons, politicians and celebrities built their opulent seaside villas.

Such personages included Japan's 1st Prime Minister, Hirobumi Ito, post-war Prime Minister, Shigeru Yoshida, as well as Aritomo Yamagata, Kinmochi Saionji, Shigenobu Okuma, Munemitsu Mutsu, Yanosuke Iwasaki, Zenjiro Yasuda, ... All together around 150 villas were built.



Shigeru Yoshida

