



The post-town Konosu on Nakasendo

You can see a road running in front of this facility named “Nakasendo 中山道”.

It was one of the biggest and most historical highways built during “Edo period” (1603 ~ 1867) when the Shogun government settled in Edo, the old name of Tokyo. Nakasendo connected Edo to the cultural and symbolic heart of the country, Kyoto.

These highways were also used for ensuring official orders and dispatches between Edo and the provinces arrived quickly and helped in the developments of commerce, trade and travel.

Post towns were obliged to provide policing of the highways and also the services such as food, drink, accommodation, transportation for travelling officials of the shogunate government.

In return, Konosu was allowed by the government to hold big markets along Nakasendo highway. In those days people bought many kinds of merchandise, especially hina-dolls, from seasonal markets rather than shops. That is why the doll-making industry in Konosu developed so much because of the distribution advantages supported by the government.

Although shops and modern buildings were built along the railroad and other highways after the Edo period, Konosu still retains the ambiance of those early days when Nakasendo was the “center” of Konosu.