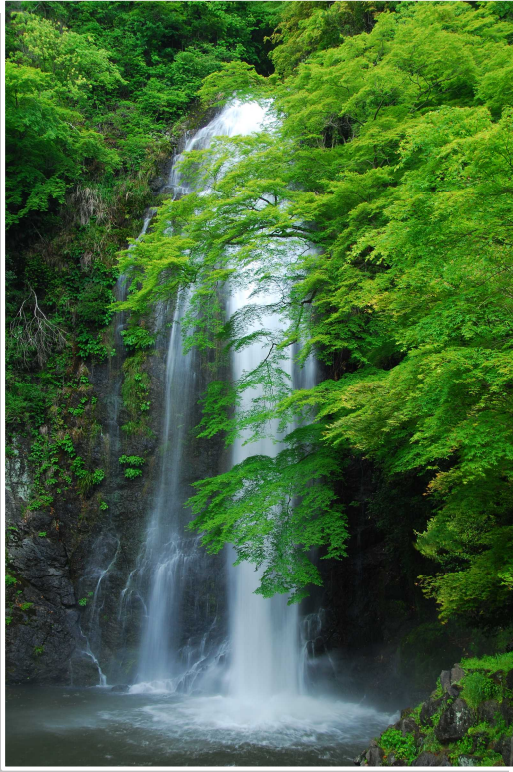




About Minoh



Origins of the name "Minoh"

箕面 is the kanji used for Minoh. This kanji was chosen because of the Minoh waterfall (one of the Top 100 Waterfalls of Japan, measuring 33 meters in height). It is said that the surface (面) of the water cascading down from the cliff top resembled a traditional farming tool called a winnow (箕). As a result, the waterfall was named "Minoh" and following that, the surrounding area as well.

The person who created the drink Calpis was from Minoh!

Mishima Kaiun was born to the family of the chief monk of Kyogakuji Temple in Minoh and went on to become the founder of Calpis, a drink beloved by all. When he went to Inner Mongolia as a trader he came across the acidic milk (cow's milk fermented with lactobacillus) that the nomads were drinking. He found that drinking it improved his physical condition and upon returning to Japan he used it as an idea to start manufacturing and selling 'Calpis', Japan's first fermented milk drink.





Lottery

"Tomikuji" is a type of lottery that became popular in the Edo Period. At the time, a showman sold tags with numbers inscribed on them. Wooden tags with corresponding numbers were put in a wooden box and someone would use an awl to stab through a small opening in the box and draw out a tag. The person with the winning number was said to receive good fortune. This type of lottery originated in Minoh's Ryuanji Temple. Even now, Minoh Tomikuji lottery is done in the same way every year on the 10th of October.



The original Benzaiten

Deified in the main temple building of Ryuanji Temple, Benzaiten is a god of water, just like the ancient Hindu goddess Sarasvati. Benzaiten of Ryuanji Temple is known as one of the four Benzaiten along with those of Chikubushima, Enoshima and Itsukushima (commonly referred to as Miyajima) but is the older of the four and is only unveiled once every 60 years.

The space between the spiritual and secular world

The Naka no Saka slope was the only path that led to Ryuanji Temple until the path to the waterfall was created. It demarcated the boundary between the spiritual world inhabited by the gods and the secular world inhabited by





humans. "Minoh is ahead, Kyoto to the right, Nakayama to the left" is inscribed on the south face of the guidepost at the intersection below the Naka no Saka. Opposite is the Ooizeki water distribution channels (the water utilization association). The four large characters written there are Hirao, Nishishoji, Sakura, Makiochi, the four areas that the water was divided between. A long time ago it was also used to wash seed rice.

Minoh was the home of Japan's 3rd zoo

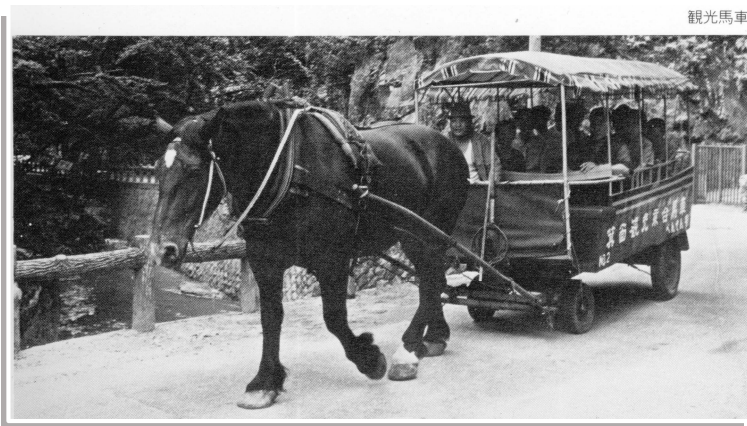
In 1910 the 3rd zoo in Japan was opened in Minoh along with the establishment of the train line. It was a top class zoo that covered about 24.5 acres of ground (2.5 times the size of the Koshien Baseball stadium) with



a 5km esplanade viewing platform. Dotted around were rare animals such as lions, elephants, tigers and Australian cassowaries. At the entrance was a gate called the Furomon (Gate of Everlasting Youth) which was modelled after Ryugu Castle (a dragon's undersea castle in Japanese folklore). The grounds within the gates were dotted with gazebos and the year after it was established, in 1911, a large ferris wheel was constructed (the name of which directly translates to 'Sky Rotator'). Famous author Kawabata Yasunari visited the Minoh Zoo on a school trip and later wrote about it in his literary work *Shonen* (Boy).

In 1916 the zoo was closed and the large animals such as elephants and tigers were taken to Takarazuka Zoo and Tennoji Zoo. The Oedo Onsen Monogatari 'Minoh Kanko Hotel' 'Minoh Onsen Spa Garden' is located on the former site of the zoo. You can no longer go to see the animals, but you can go and see other things instead. The long passageway up to the Minoh Onsen Spa Garden building follows the same path as when the zoo was there. Around the vicinity of the high rise elevator you can see what remains of the red brick monkey enclosure that was excavated into the mountain.





Horse carriages in Minoh

Sight seeing carriages used to run from a famous traditional Japanese style

restaurant that is currently a mansion

building called Tsuruya about a 3 minute walk from Minoh Station. The

sightseeing carriages were pulled by horses up to the bridge overlooking the Minoh Waterfall. The carriages were filled with customers and the drivers whipped the horses with a switch to get them up the slope past the Shigenokoba rest stop, sparks flying from their horseshoes. Sometimes there were so many sightseers on the weekends that the carriages didn't pass through the waterfall path. If this happened they would go from in front of the station to the Dainichi car park instead. Use of the carriages was abolished in 1983 due to animal welfare and hygiene concerns. Harking back to the old days, the trough close to the waterfall that the horses used to drink from still remains.

