

Kurazukuri-no-Machinami, (the historic street lined fireproof storehouses)

As Kawagoe flourished by trades with Edo, old Tokyo in the past, the city was under the influence of Edo culture. That's why it is suitable for the name of "Little Edo".

At around 1720, merchants started to build fireproof storehouses, Kurazukuri. In the golden days there were more than 200 of these buildings. However in 1893, a big fire in Kawagoe burned down one-third of the town and today only a few dozen are lined up along the main streets.

Since Tokyo has lost its classic atmosphere, the thick black walled stores that still remain in Kawagoe show the old style storehouses of that age and allow us to imagine the streets of the Edo era. It is comparable to Nikko and Kamakura!!



By Shioji Todokoro