

## Quote 1

The flourishing of the Gokaidō [five major highways] was largely supported by the alternate residence system (*Sankin kōtai*) whereby feudal lords (*daimyō*) were compelled to travel annually to Edo, where they kept their families and residences. The formal travelling procedure required many followers and a display of wealth demonstrating their high status. Various categories of inns . . . were built at each station to accommodate the *daimyō* processions. Many local merchants and carriers were employed to serve them. Consequently, the regions close to the roads benefited economically from the flow of people and trade. The Gokaidō, and especially the Tōkaidō, became sites of social diversity, where people from different classes and regions met.

From Jilly Traganou, "The Tōkaidō—Scenes from Edo to Meiji Eras," *Japan Railway and Transport Review* No. 13, [http://www.jrtr.net/jrtr13/f17\\_tra.html](http://www.jrtr.net/jrtr13/f17_tra.html).

## Quote 2

In this prospering commercial center [Edo], economic power resided with the wealthy townspeople. Artistic patronage and production no longer belonged only to the ruling elite but reflected diverse tastes and values. A new urban culture developed, valuing the cultivation of leisure that was celebrated in annual festivals, famous local sites, the theater, and pleasure quarters. The rich urban experience and the landscape of the time were documented by *ukiyo-e*, or "pictures of the floating world," including woodblock prints like Hiroshige's *One Hundred Famous Views of Edo*. Since they could be purchased inexpensively—one print cost the same as a bowl of noodles—refined images became accessible to a wide audience.

. . . The series, actually comprising 118 prints, remains not only the last great work of Japan's most celebrated artist of the landscape print but also a precious record of the appearance, and spirit, of Edo at the culmination of more than two centuries of uninterrupted peace and prosperity.

From *Exhibitions: Hiroshige's One Hundred Famous Views of Edo*, Brooklyn Museum, <http://www.brooklynmuseum.org/exhibitions/online/edo/places/>

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