

# Yanaka Map for Cat Lovers

## 1 Yadorigi cafe 宿木カフェ&レストラン

A cafe and restaurant where you can spend time with rescued cats.

## 2 TIM & SAILOR

Imported vintage cat items selected by cat-loving owner.

## 3 WAKUWAKU YANAKA

Colorful Daruma doll featuring cats.

## 4 DEKOBOKODOU 凸凹堂

Accessory shop. The hot item is original cat earrings made of glass.

## 5 Yanaka Shippoya やなかしっぽや

The shop offers adorable stick-shaped donuts inspired by cat tails.

## 6 Nuno Fusen 布風船

Cat goods everywhere! You may have a chance to see the owner's black cat.

## 7 yanaka753

Handcrafted goods shop with motives of Kappa, Japanese water imp, cat, etc.

## 8 NEKO ACTION ねこあくしょん

Completely cat-themed, with cat goods lined up everywhere.

## 9 Asakura Museum of Sculpture 朝倉彫塑館

You can enjoy the world of ASAKURA Fumio (1883-1964), a leading sculptor of modern Japan, and might meet cats he loved.

\*The cat artworks may not be available depending on the event.

## 10 PAPER & CLOTH 紙と布

Curated shop with paper and fabric crafts including items with cat motif.

## 11 Sweden Grace

Swedish accessories including glass with cat illustration, cat key holders, etc.

## 12 Manekineko yanakado 招き猫 谷中堂

Specialized in Manekineko, a traditional Japanese figurine of a cat, believed to bring good luck and fortune to its owner.

## 13 Cafe Necoemon カフェ猫衛門

Housed in a renovated over 90-year-old Japanese home. Visitors can paint their own maneki-neko.

## 14 coccia

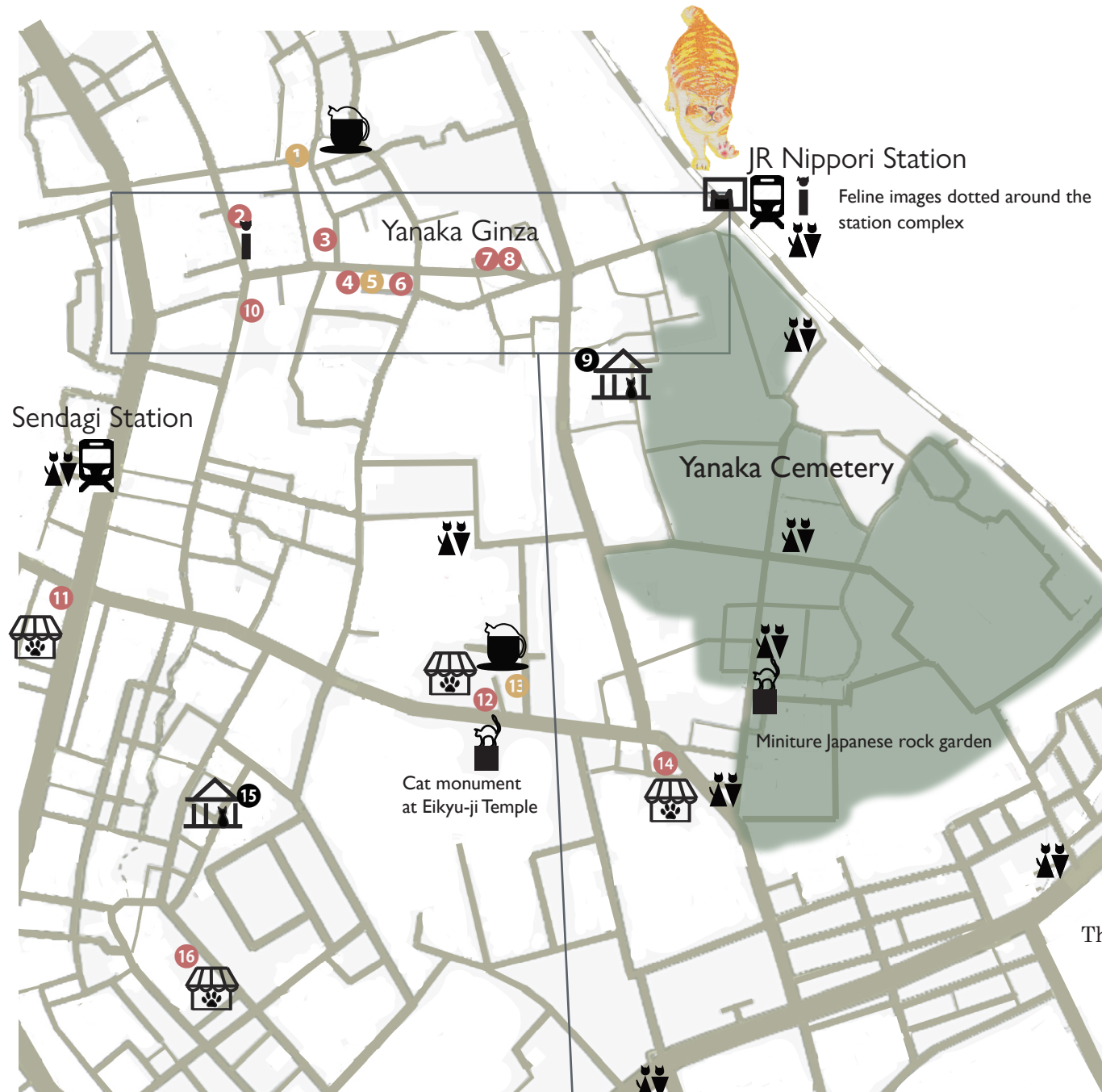
Handicrafts from Italy and Aomori including cat goods.

## 15 Gallery Nekomachi 猫町ギャラリー

Exclusively cat themed exhibitions which regularly changes.

## 16 Hiruneko Books ひるねこBooks

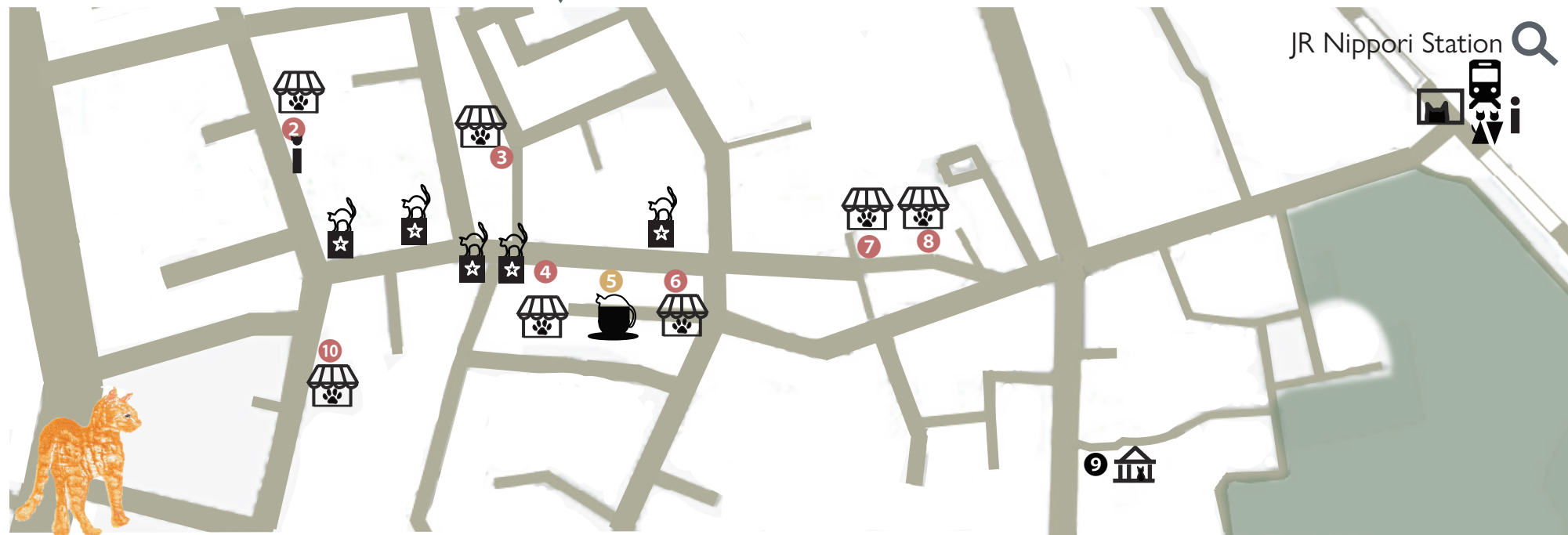
Cat-related books and accessories, children's books from Nordic countries.



- Cat art gallery/ Museum
- Cat goods shop
- Cafe/ Cat cafe
- Cat monument/object
- Seven Lucky Cat
- Cat graphic
- Train station
- Toilet
- Tourist information



This map is a course project from students of Diversity on the Arts Project, Tokyo University of the Arts.  
Potato prints and pictgram design: Aya Kubota





# Why is Yanaka called “Cat Town”?

Yanaka is often referred to as “Cat Town.” It is known for a unique blend of old-world charm and cat culture. Lots of stray cats used to live in this area, and the ones relaxed on the steps in Yanaka Ginza shopping street attracted tourists. Thanks to cat rescue activities, real cats roaming on the streets have decreased, but cat culture which has descended from Edo period still deeply exists. Why don't you explore Yanaka cat culture; cat monuments, cat themed shops, cat cafes, cat art museums? Here are some information that cat lovers should know.

## Seven Lucky Cats - Symbol of Yanaka Ginza

The Seven Lucky Cats, seven wooden cat sculptures are said to be somewhere in the shopping street, and if you find one, good luck will come.

The name "Seven Lucky Cats" has its origin in the traditional Japanese folk belief of the "Seven Lucky Gods " who bring good fortune.

The cat sculptures originated from the Yanaka Ginza Shopping Street Promotion Association's desire to have a "symbol of the town." Students at Tokyo University of the Arts, one of Japan's top art universities in this area, fulfilled the request creating the seven wooden cats in 2009.



## Robun Kanagaki and the Cat Monument

There is a historical cat monument known among cat lovers in Eikyūji temple. It was founded by Robun Kanagaki (1829-1894), a fiction writer and journalist who expressed the people's lives in the Bunmei Kaika period, and was a leading figure in the popular literature world in the Meiji era. He passionately loved cats, wrote cat stories, and had a huge collection of cat arts and goods. He held an exhibition of the cat arts and goods which more than two thousand people attended. The drawings on the right are the illustrations of his books by Hiroshige Utagawa, the third, well known Ukiyo-e artist.



Hiroshige Utagawa III  
From the book, *Hyakubyo Gafu* (Pictures of One Hundred Cats)

## Cat Arts in Edo: Cats As Most Popular Animal Motif in Ukiyoe

### Bakeneko

(a cat with supernatural powers, sometimes capable of shape-shifting or cursing humans)



Utagawa Kuniyoshi “Fifty-three Stations of the Tōkaidō Road: Okazaki” Private Collection

Utagawa Hiroshige “One Hundred Famous Views of Edo: Asakusa Ricefields and Torinomachi Festival”  
Ota Memorial Museum of Art

### A woman and a cat



Utagawa Kuniyoshi “Famous Products of the Provinces with Women's Postures: Looking Painful”  
Private Collection

### Personified cats



Utagawa Kuniyoshi  
“Fashionable Cats Juggling Balls”  
Private collection



Utagawa Yoshifuji  
“Hotspring Spa for Cats”  
Private Collection

## How to fold an Origami Cute Cat?

Check the following QR cords!



Easy version.



Challenge version.

