

Shubi no Matsu Pine Tree

The pine tree here marks the location of a venerable tree that became a famed landmark in the Edo period (1603–1867) that was considered a good omen by travelers and residents alike. Near the end of the Kuramae Bridge, the Shubi no Matsu may have gotten its name, which means “beginning and end,” as marking the opening or closing of an exploit or journey. Before there was a bridge across the river, crossings could be perilous and the great pine on the riverbank served as a goalpost. It may also have been a kind of good-luck talisman and boundary marker for visitors traveling by boat to and from Asakusa’s pleasure quarters. After the original Shubi no Matsu pine died around 1770, it was replanted over and over, and the current tree, the seventh, is identified by a stone monument erected in 1962.