Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range

Kumano Kodo Ise-ji Route

~Path of the Pilgrims from Ise to Kumano~

Walking Guide Map

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UNESCO World Heritage, Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range

The Kii Peninsula is home to three ancient religious centers, Omine of Yoshino, The Three Grand Shrines of Kumano (or the Kumano Sanzan) and Koyasan, world headquarters of the Kōyasan Shingon sect of esoteric Buddhism. These centers and the network of pilgrimage routes which link them were recognized as UNESCO cultural world heritage sites on July 7, 2004.
Japan's native Shinto religion which originated from nature worship accepted Buddhism which was introduced from the Korean peninsula in the 7th century. Here, that acceptance lead to a blending of the two religions, which can be seen in the architecture of religious buildings and how they harmonize with the natural environment. This played a factor in The Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range being recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
The Kii Mountain Range has from times forgotten been considered to be a special place, a place inhabited by the divine.
In the case of Buddhism, pilgrims used the tough mountain paths as a training ground to become closer to Buddha. The Goddess of Kannon and the Amitabha Buddha have the ability of deliverance from sin and worldly passions believed to be the source of all human suffering. By undergoing this hard, arduous training, pilgrims hoped to gain this same ability.
Though the sacred centers of Omine of Yoshino, Kumano Sanzan and Koyasan differ in origin and belief, the network of paths that connects them was born and took on its own role linking this trinity.

The Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range which span Wakayama, Nara and Mie prefectures are blessed with deep remote mountains and raw nature without which the religious centers never could have been founded. It is the natural and cultural surroundings that emphasize the role of each of the three centers and the "PATH" linking them that shares their message with the world. This combination is like none other in the world. We hope you can sense this for yourself as you walk these holy routes.

An old saying goes, “Three out of seven trips to Ise, be sure to continue on to Kumano.”
The Iseji Route of the Kumano Kodo

The Iseji Route of the Kumano Kodo (“Ancient Pilgrimage Roads”) links Ise Shrine and the region of Kumano. This is the route which pilgrims from eastern Japan walked on their way to Kumano down the east coast of the Kii peninsula.

It is a mountainous route crossing many passes, but rewarding as you get a new view of the old stone path after each bend.

This path was already being used as a pilgrimage route from about a thousand years ago, however the route from Osaka (Nakahechi) was more popular then. It wasn’t until around the 15th century that Iseji surpassed Nakahechi when a new pilgrimage route gained popularity. First, visit Ise Shrine, then change into white burial robes of pilgrims seeking rebirth and come down the Iseji Route to the sacred Kumano Sanzan. After that, pilgrims would continue on to the 1000km Saigoku Kannon Pilgrimage through western Japan.

Paths of prayer
A new breath of life
Ise – Kumano
Pilgrimage to a sacred land

The idea that we are constantly surrounded by countless deities representing aspects of nature, sometimes even coming in contact with them, is an intrinsic part of the Japanese way of life. The native Shinto religion and imported Buddhism respect each other, and coexist as their various relations change through the ages. It came to be that there was no border between them as they merged into a harmonious coalescence, in their festivals and rituals. Most people here believed without question that something divine inhabited the ocean, forests and fields, mountains and rivers.

This tolerant benevolence is rooted at the base of how Japanese people perceive and sense new ideas like Buddhism.

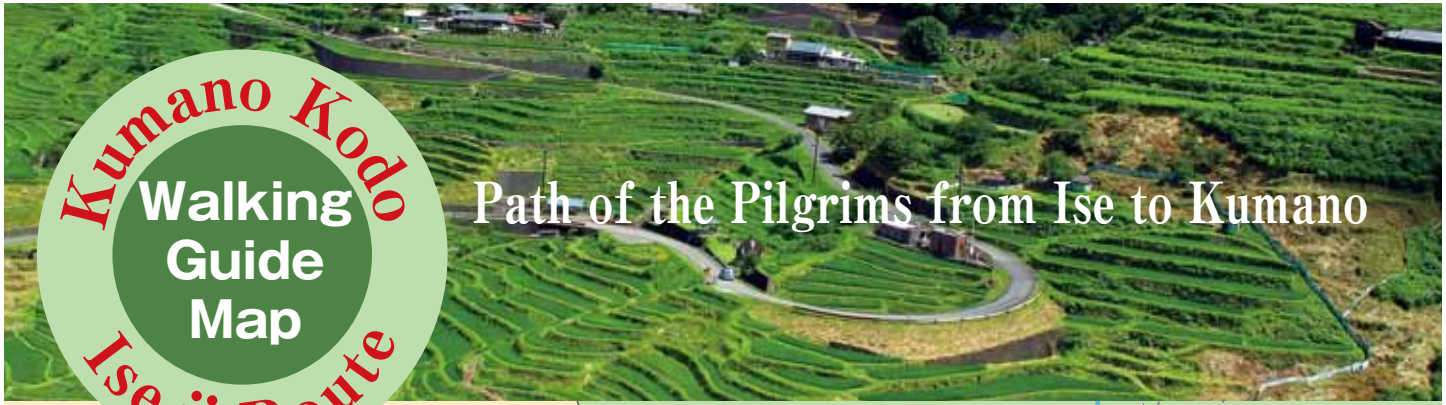
Though Mother Nature is sometimes severe, Kumano is blessed with great nature. From times of old, trees, big rocks and waterfalls have been worshiped, and we have received this legacy of nature worship.

So we hope that as you travel through this region, you can sense the source of our faith and to help with that, this booklet introduces you to the many stone statues, temples and shrines, famous sights and history which can be found alongside the Iseji route.

We invite you to feel the divine hiding within the mountains, rivers grass and trees as you walk through the Kumano region.

Kumano Kodo Ise-ji Route Walking Guide Map

Path of the Pilgrims from Ise to Kumano



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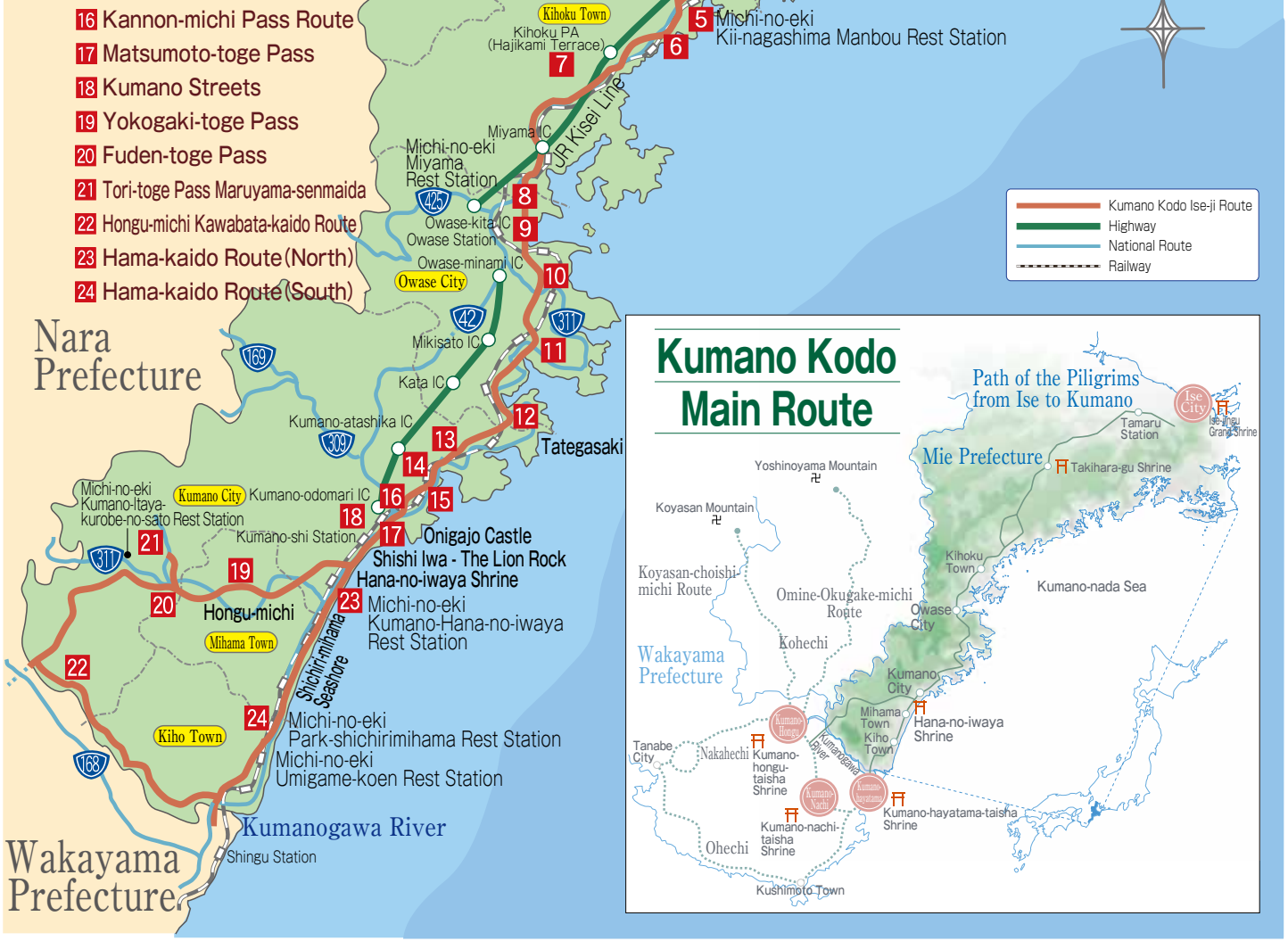
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Ise-Jingu Grand Shrine
Tamaru Station
Mie Prefecture
Takihara-gu Shrine
Yoshinoyama Mountain
Koyasan Mountain
Koyasan-choishi-michi Route
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Kihoku Town
Kumano-nada Sea
Owase City
Kohechi
Wakayama Prefecture
Kumano City
Mihama Town
Kiho Town
Hana-no-iwaya Shrine
Tanabe City
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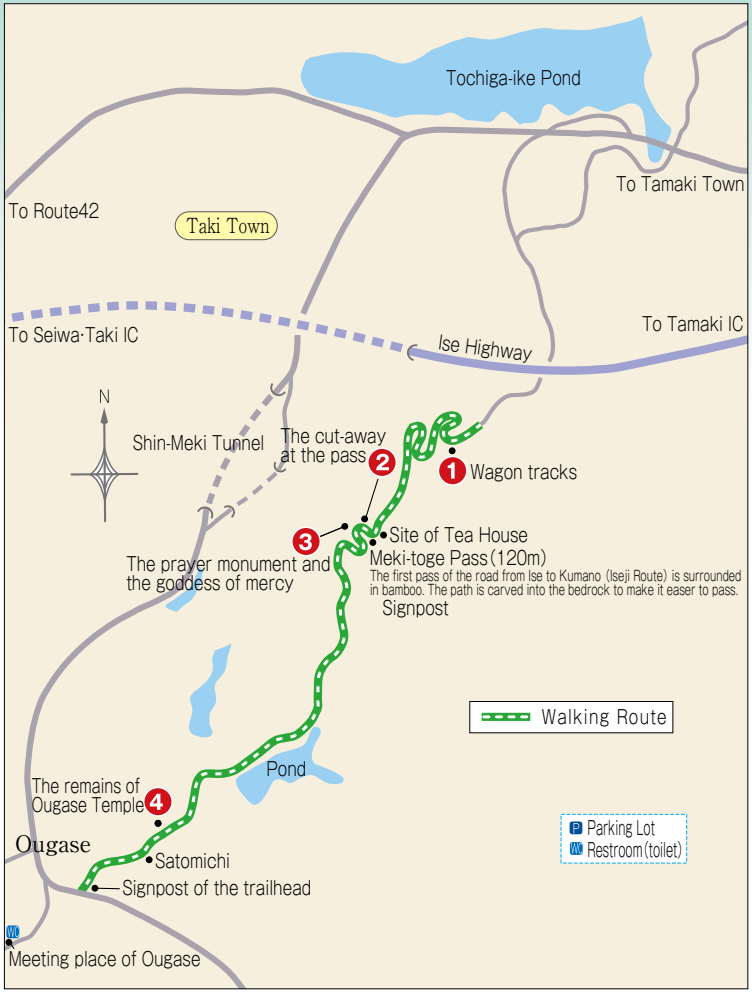
Kushimoto Town

1 Meki-toge Pass



Long ago, wagons used to use this part of the route. It is easy to see their tracks even now.

It is said that they carved out 1000 slabs of graphite to clear the way for this path. This must have been an enormous amount of work considering the limited tools they had for excavation at the time.

A prayer stone with the words, "Namu Amida Butsu" (a mantra repeated in order to never forget Buddha's grace). A statue of a guardian of mercy is enshrined inside the small shine.

The temple which stood here long ago was built by the order of Emperor Shotoku in the year 766. Roof tiles and other artifacts dating from the Nara period (710 to 794) were excavated from the area.

- **Distance** / Approx. 1.8Km
- **Walking time** / 45mins.
- **Level** / ★
- **The Course** / Pilgrims making their way to the Three Grand Shrines of Kumano would first pray at Ise Grand Shrine, after which they would make their way to Tamaru and change into pilgrimage clothes. This is the first pass they would cross after starting their journey to the Kumano San Zan. Even during the day it is quite dark and you can feel its long history.

2 Misesaka-toge Pass

Japanese mythology tells of the goddess Yamatohime crossing the Miyagawa river and was guided from there by Managono-kami. Her guide is enshrined here. The quiet atmosphere gives you a sense of the depth of the history of this place.

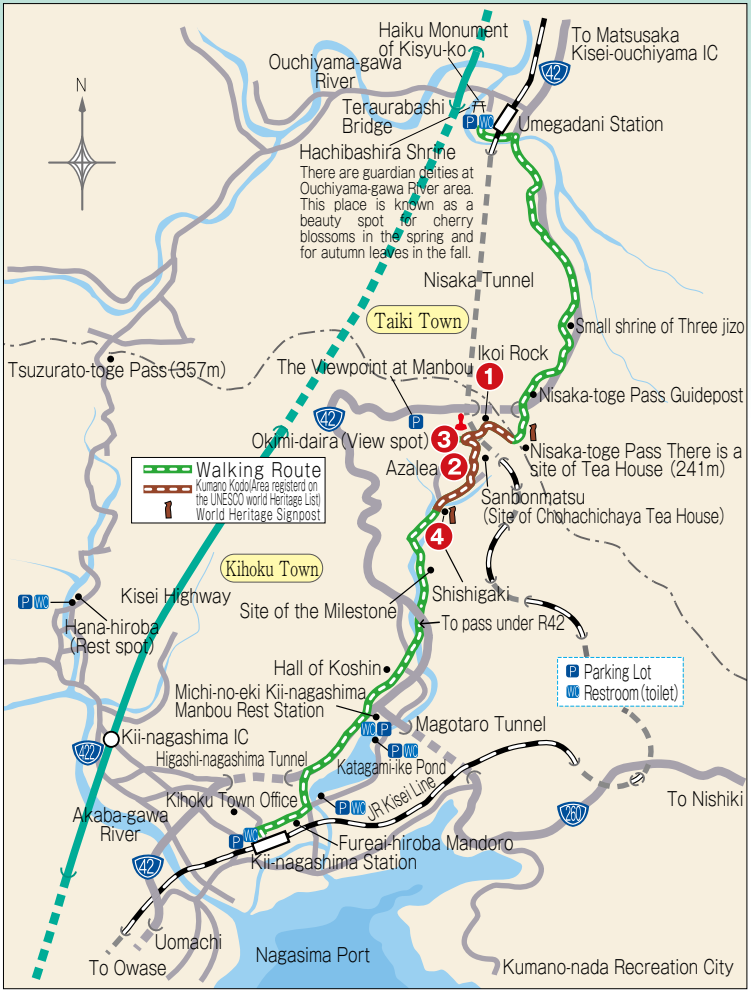
Some say that this statue of a guardian deity was put up and worshiped to protect travelers while another theory claims that there was an epidemic here and it was put up to keep the sickness from spreading. Which is true is lost in history.

The guardian statue in this enclosure was put up in the 1756.

They say that long ago that this was used as a road marker for travelers, while some believe these lamps marked holy places.

- **Distance** / Approx. 2.2Km
- **Walking time** / 1hr.
- **Level** / ★
- **The Course** / Pilgrims would cross the river at Mise and say goodbye to Miyagawa, then make their way towards Misesaka Pass. At 256m, it is not very high, but the path is quite steep. The sight of the old tea house and the guardian statue which is said to have been put up in 1756 help you feel the deep history of this route. The path is in good condition, making it a good choice for non-seasoned hikers.

3 Nisaka-toge Pass



Travelers always used this rock as a bench, so it got the name, "Ikoi Ishi" or The Rest Rock. The cool wind coming over this ridge makes it an excellent place to take a break.

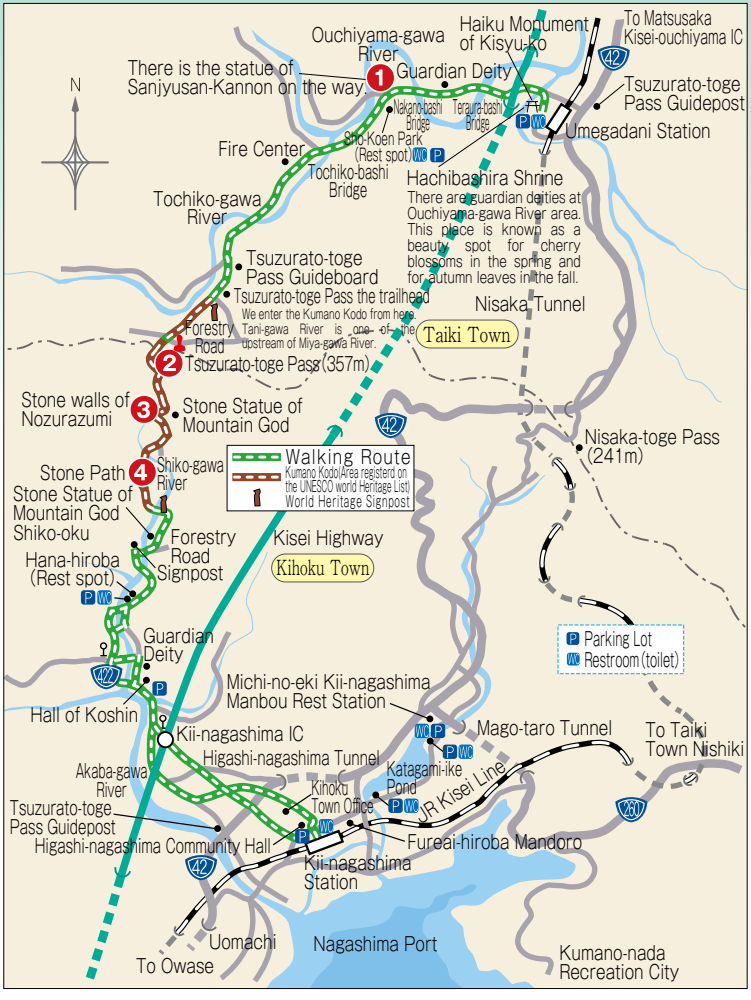
In April and May this grove of azaleas come in full bloom, accented by the young green leaves of spring. You can enjoy any season in this well-lit woodland with its many types of trees.

This is the perfect place to take a break with a spectacular view. Two poems written by the travel writer Suzuki Bokushi in the Edo period (1603 - 1868) are written on boards put up here.

Just after you leave the forestry road, you should see a short stone wall called a "shishigaki" paralleling the path. This was built to keep wild boar from ravaging the crops.

- **Distance** / Approx. 7.5Km from Umegadani Station to Kii-Nagashima Station
- **Walking time** / 2hrs. and 30mins.
- **Level** / ★
- **The Course** / About 300 years ago, these roads were being repaired and this route replaced the old steeper route, Tsuzura Pass making this the official entrance to the Kii Provence and Kumano. After crossing the pass, there is a deciduous forest, much like you would have seen 300 years ago.

4 Tsuzurato-toge Pass



The dethroned Emperor Kazan on a pilgrimage to Kumano came here and set up a miniature version of the Saigoku Kannon Pilgrimage of 33 Buddhist temples worshiping deities of mercy. The 33 statues of mercy here on this miniature version represent each of the temples on the official pilgrimage.

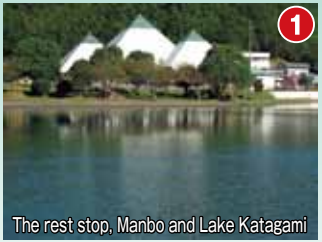
Elevation 357 meters. This is the first point where pilgrims heading to the Kumano Three Grand Shrines first get a look at the Sea of Kumano.

Along the valley, you can see stone walls here and there. Their history goes way back, and they have protected the road from years and years of wind and rain erosion.

The stone path zig-zags its way through the plush green of the ferns, it almost looks like stitching by a seamstress.

- **Distance** / Approx. 9.5Km from Umegadani Station to Kii-Nagashima Station
- **Walking time** / 4hrs.
- **Level** / ★★★
- **The Course** / This pass was at one point, the border between the province of Ise and the province of Kii. About 300 years ago when Nisaka Pass replaced this path as the main road and gateway to Kumano, this was only used by locals to get to the next village until the 1930s. The well preserved stonework makes the steep switchbacks worth the work.

5 Kiinagashima streets



The rest stop Manbo is at the base of both Tsuzurato and Nisaka Passes. Next to it is Lake Katagami. In winter, it is a great place to have a bite to eat while watching the ducks which have flown here for the winter.

This was the family temple for the Kato clan, who were the lords of this area. The family's hereditary succession was recorded on many written records found here. In the end of winter, the famous 270-year-old "ume" tree (Japanese plum) with red blossoms comes into full bloom.

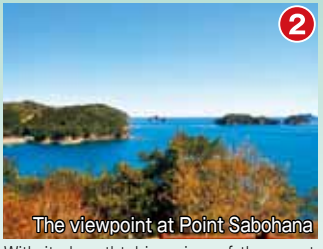
The huge trees here in this shrine have been designated as Japanese natural treasure. They include camphor, Japanese cedar, Japanese yew and oak. The huge 1000 year old camphor on your right as you enter is particularly marvelous.

This part of town is like a time capsule, preserving the old ways of life. Please enjoy the narrow lanes, the store fronts and the small shrine on the corner in this pleasant fishing village.

6 Ikkoku Hirakata Miura-toge Pass

The guardian statue at the trailhead of Ikkoku Pass has a round head and is very charming.

You can find this peaceful little shrine just before you reach Doze Beach.

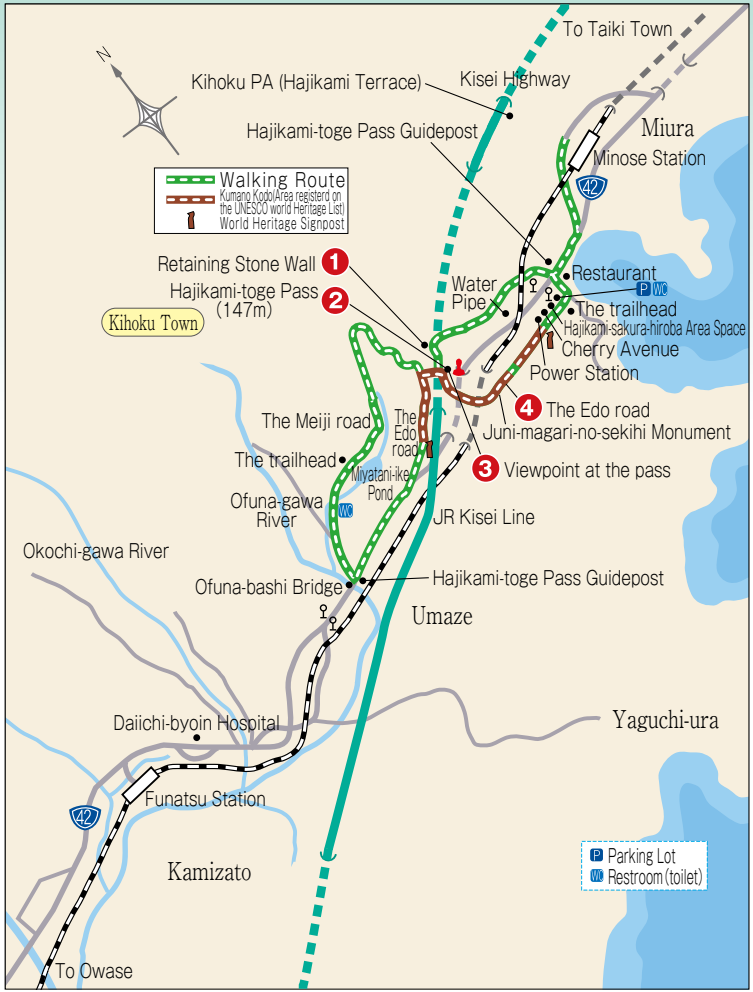


With its breathtaking view of the coast, ocean and islands and a gazebo, this is the best place to have lunch.

If you come in the right season, you can see a seaweed called "tengusa" being dried. This neighborhood gives you a glimpse into life in a small fishing village. Have your camera ready for the view of the islands floating on the horizon.

■ Distance／Approx. 7.6Km from Kata-kyokai-mae Bus Stop to Minose Station
■ Walking time／3hrs.
■ Level／★
■ The Course／You cross 3 passes on your way from Nagashima to Miura, Ikkoku, Hirakata, Miura Passes. The gentle slopes make this an easy course with stunning vistas of the coastline and intimate views into the way of life in traditional fishing villages. You can even enjoy a bath in a hot spring on the way.

7 Hajikami-toge Pass



Here and there along this road you can see excellent stonework from the Meiji era (1858-1912) .

Elevation 147 meters. There used to be a tea house here where travelers could take a break. All that is left now is the foundation.

The islands of Kii Matsushima seem be floating in the sea of Kumano makes for a spectacular view. On a clear day you can see all the way to the Shima peninsula 45km to the NE.

These steps are only paved with stone on the front edge. On a rainy day the road would get muddy and straw sandals (the common footwear of the day) would require periodic cleaning. In several places along the way, you can find drainage gutters crossing the path, which both protected these roads from erosion and provided a place to wash the mud out of your sandals.

- **Distance** / Approx. 3.5Km
- **Walking time** / 1hr. and 50mins.
- **Level** / ★★
- **The Course** / Hajikami-toge pass is the border of Kihoku-cho Nagashima and Miyama to the south. You have a choice between the Edo and Meiji routes, which meet at the pass. While the Edo route is a little harder, they are both comparatively easy routes, and the panoramic view of the islands on the Sea of Kumano on the Edo route will make it worth the extra effort.

8 Magose-toge Pass

This statue was originally put up for travelers to pray for a safe journey, but later became known as the place to pray if your child cries at night.

A big slab of stone serves as a bridge over this small stream. This is just one of many places to take a photo of the stone path.

At the pass stands a tall rock with a poem written by the famous poet, Karyoen Toitsu on his visit to Kumano in 1852. The poem reads,Blossoms of the night above a sound can be heard ahh, mountain water.

You can enjoy cherry blossoms and azaleas from spring to early summer, and other wild flowers in fall. This gazebo has a great view.

■ Distance／Approx. 5.2Km from Michi-no-eki Miyama Rest Station to Owase Station
■ Walking time／2hrs. and 45mins.
■ Level／★★
■ The Course／The city of Owase is one of the rainiest places in Japan but the large paving stones seemingly woven along this path protect it from water erosion. For those who have time and energy for an extra side course, you can make your way up to the peak, Tengura-san, about 30 min. from the pass, or Binshi-yama about 2 hrs. from the pass. They both command breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains and the Sea of Kumano dotted with islands.

9 Owase streets

Owase Shrine and Kongoji Temple

Here you can see a huge camphor tree estimated to be 1000 years old at the entrance to the shrine and the two Deva King statues guarding the gate of the temple next door. Owase's Ya Ya (quarreling) festival is held from February 1st to 5th. With loud shouts, groups of men violently ram into other groups. You can see it on YouTube.

Sodekata Bashi bridge and Yanohamado

The many stone sign posts that can still be found here attest to large numbers of pilgrims that came this way. Here at this gateway to Kumano is told a legend as old as the hills. When people first started settling this area thousands of years ago, two settlement appeared on each side of the harbor. Each sent a young emissary to investigate and they just happened to meet here. They talked and became friends, and when it was time to go home, they exchange a sleeve from their shirt as proof to the people back at their village of the encounter. And thus, Sodekata Bashi, "one sleeve bridge."

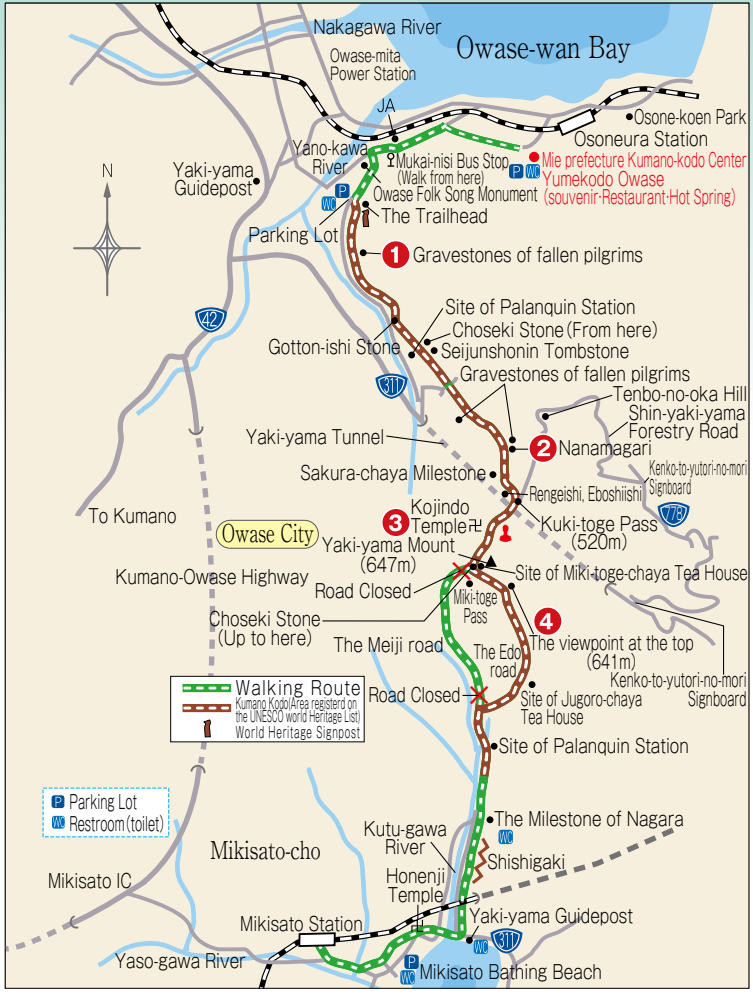
Doi-kodomo-kurasikan and Doike-satokura

The old western style building and the traditional storehouse are used to display one of Japan's leading exhibits of antique toys at the "Doi Kodomo Kurashikan" (by advanced reservation only). You can also enjoy the atmosphere of the streets of Owase and feel how things used to be back in the good old days. The Doi family built an emergency disaster relief warehouse on high ground safe from tsunamis.

Bezai-jima Island

Just off the coast from the Mie prefecture Kumano-Kodo Center is an island with a red gate called Benzai Jima Island. There is a shrine dedicated to Benzaiten. Sometimes on the low tide, you can walk out to the island and enjoy observing the tide pools on the way.

10 Crossing Yakiyama Mount



From these gravestones you can see how widely popular this pilgrimage route was. The first grave belongs to a man from Ibaraki (500km NE), the second from Nagasaki on the southern island of Kyushu (800km W) and the third from Hiroshima (500km W). Sadly, some of the pilgrims couldn't survive the journey, but local people generously gave them a proper burial.

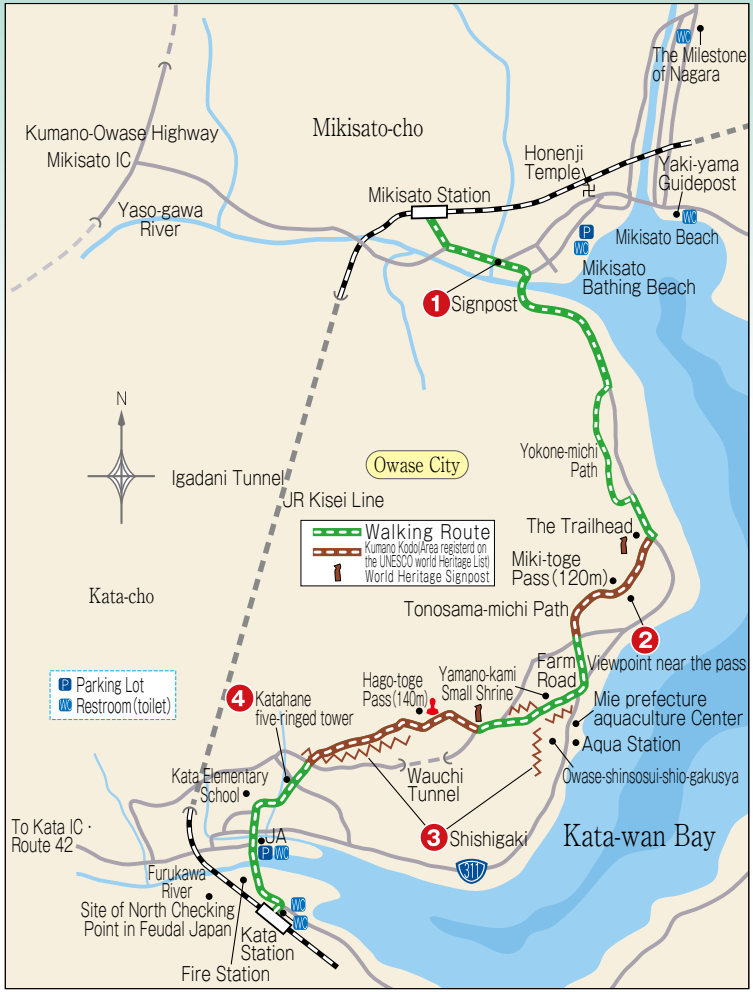
This is the steepest slope on this route, the most difficult on the route to Kumano from Ise. The stone steps seem to keep climbing on and on endlessly.

Many pilgrims came here to worship here before starting the Saigoku Kannon Pilgrimage of 33 Buddhist temples worshiping deities of mercy. Nearby stands the grave of an ascetic mountain priest who came to here to drive out the bandits on this stretch of the road.

On a clear day, there is a magnificent view up and down the coast. There is an arbor so you can have lunch out of the rain when the weather is bad.

- **Distance** / Approx. 10.1Km from Mie prefecture Kumano-kodo Center to Mikisato Station
- **Walking time** / 5hrs.
- **Level** / ★★★★
- **The Course** / This is the most grueling leg of the Iseji. It used to be feared by pilgrims because it was plagued with bandits and wolves. This route is has many Buddhist stone statues along the wayside. There are many historical spots and stunning views, but at a price. Both the ascent and decent are steep, and seasoned hikers can experience first hand how pilgrims felt on their way to Kumano. NOTE that the Meiji course is not safe as a hiking course. Please take the Edo route which is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. ※The Meiji Road is closed.

11 Miki-toge Hago-toge Pass



This stone signpost reads, "Left for the Kumano-michi."

Once you reach Miki-toge Pass, you can take the trail towards the sea to the viewpoint. There are some benches on the top with a view of the Sea of Kumano and the town of Mikiura.

The path crosses this stone fence built farmers about 300 years ago to keep wild boars from destroying rice paddies.

This Gorintō ("five-ringed tower") was put here about 400 years ago. In Buddhist thought, the five levels of this tower represent the five elements that make up the universe. It is thought that this is a grave of a local lord.

- **Distance** / Approx. 6Km from Mikisato Station to Kata Station
- **Walking time** / 3hrs.
- **Level** / ★★
- **The Course** / Thanks to the locals, this old road has been excavated in recent years. It is still broken up in places where the original road couldn't be found, but you can catch views of the ocean through the trees now and then. The stone fences stretches on and on from the pass. This and the abandoned terraced fields and rice paddies gives us a peek in to how life used to be.

12 Sone-jirozaka-tarozaka Pass

About 450 years ago, people in this village were at the end of their rope over the deterioration of public safety in this area. They asked Sasaki Uemon for help. After arriving from central Japan (Shiga) took on the name, Sone Danjo and he restored peace and law to the land.

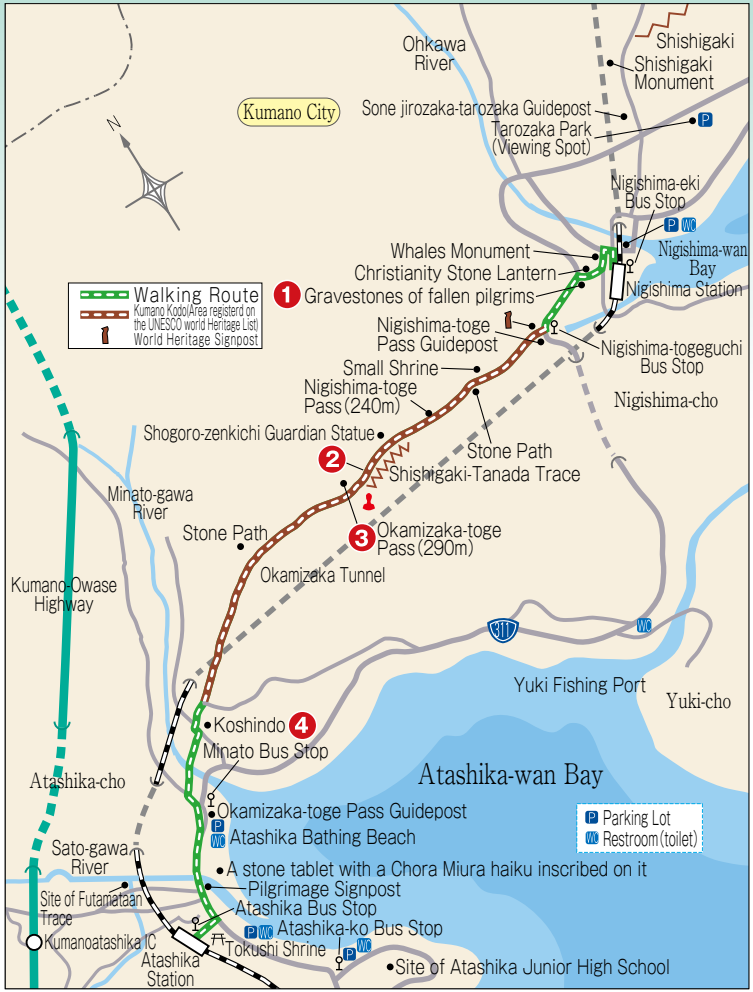
This stone fence was built to protect fields and paddies from wild boars. At the south end, there is a memorial stone commemorating its completion, something that is usually not seen in other parts of the country.

Not far from the trail, there is a quarry that provided some of the stone to build the grand Edo Castle in present day Tokyo. The Shogun demanded lords from all corners of Japan to provide the stone to build him the greatest castle in Japan and keep the lords busy. Idle hands are the devil's tools! They chiseled holes and used wedges to cut the huge stones, and scraps were used to pave this path. You can find chisel marks in some of the stones around here.

This teahouse got its name because this was the border between the kingdom of Shima to the north and Kii to the south in the middle ages (about 600 years ago.)

■ Distance ／ Approx. 5.7Km from Kata Station to Nigishima Station
■ Walking time ／ 3hrs.
■ Level ／ ★★★
■ The Course ／ This course takes you over Hobo-toge Pass, the border between Owase and Kumano. In addition to its historical significance, this route also offers beautiful stone paths and the wall to keep animals out amidst deserted terraced fields. This route is also lined with graves of pilgrims, perhaps already tired from Yakiyama, they reached here and couldn't go on anymore.

13 Nigishima-toge Okamizaka-toge Pass



Graves of fallen pilgrims

Near the milepost marker that used to stand here, there stand, 8 graves stones along the side of the path of pilgrims who died along the way.

Deserted fields and the stone wall

These used to be rice paddies, and the stone wall to keep the wild boars out still remains.

Okamizaka-toge Pass

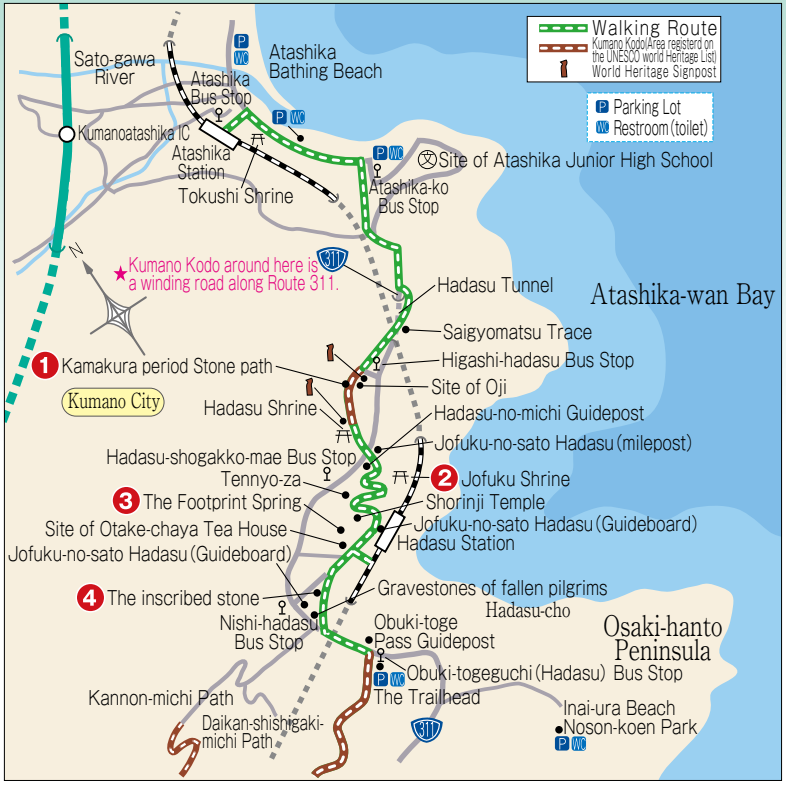
The pass (290m above sea level) is covered in a forest. Long ago there used to be a big pine tree with a teahouse standing under it.

Koshindo (The view of Atashika Beach)

Shortly after the pass, you can see Atashika Beach shining in the sun. There is a guardian stone to protect the community at the edge of town where pilgrims prayed and gave thanks for safe travels so far.

- **Distance** / Approx. 4.6Km from Nigishima Station to Atashika Station
- **Walking time** / 3hrs.
- **Level** / ★★
- **The Course** / Phonetically, one who knows some Japanese might think Okami-zaka (wolf-pass) got its name because wolves often appeared here. But a closer look at the Chinese characters reveals another meaning, "where deities meet" because this was the border between the deities of Kumano and Ise. Most of this route is covered with moss.

14 Hadasu-no-michi Pass Route



The oldest paving stones on the Iseji Route are from the Kamakura period (1185–1333). The stones use to pave paths in those days were much larger than those used in later periods, making it easy to distinguish from roads paved in the Edo period (1603–1868) .

2200 years ago, Emperor Qin's doctor, Jofuku came seeking the elixir of life and brought with him knowledge of the advanced civilization of China. The locals learned new techniques for farming, pottery, medicine and so on. Even when Japan went to war in China 100 years ago, the locals' reverence for Jofuku never wavered.

The famous Buddhist monk, Kobodaishi (founder of Koya-san) is said to have passed this way. He left a footprint in the stone here where this hole is, and magically, holy water sprang forth. They say this divine water will cure anything that ails you.

There is a big rock in front of the house of a lord that ruled here long ago. A couple who the lord had wronged before settling here had sought him out to seek revenge, but the lord's retainers cut them down when they attacked. The lord reflected on this tragedy and had these characters carved on this rock. Kin - diligence, Shin - prudence/moderation and Nin - patiently endure one humiliation after another.

- **Distance** / Approx. 4Km from Atashika Station to Hadasu Station
- **Walking time** / 1hr. and 30mins.
- **Level** / ★
- **The Course** / Hadasu is said to be the place where the illustrious Royal Doctor Jofuku came from China in search the elixir of life by order of Qin, the first emperor of China. The village is spotted with terraced rice paddies and houses hugging the slope, and with the many legends and historical spots here, you can really feel the timelessness of this small hamlet. A species of tree that Jofuku found to have medical properties now grows at Hadasu and Jofuku Shrines.

15 Obuki-toge Pass

Just before you get to the pass, you will see a wall put up about 300 to protect the rice paddies and fields from wild boars and deer.

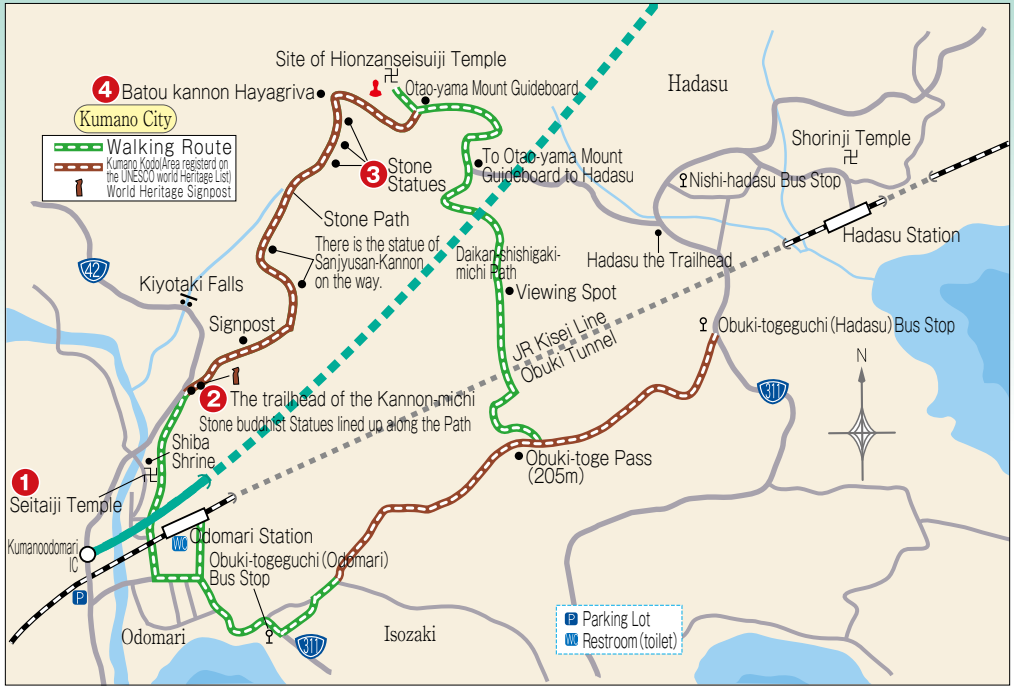
The Obuki Tea House was open for business here until about 1950. They would wrap rice balls and sushi in the leaves of plants called "baran" and "hanamyoga" which they planted here. The tea house is long gone, but the plants are still here.

From Obuki Pass, a gentle slope descends through a peaceful beautiful bamboo grove. In February and March you can see the new shoots and places where the wild pigs have dug up this delicacy among people and boars alike. The steps can be quite slippery, watch your step.

The beautiful sand beach, the islands off the coast and the rocky point called "Oni ga Jo" or Demon's Castle make for a breathtaking view.

- **Distance** / Approx. 4Km from Hadasu Station to Odomari Station
- **Walking time** / 2hrs.
- **Level** / ★
- **The Course** / This course provides rare view of the stone path descending through a extensive bamboo grove. The gentle slopes, wonderful views and a peaceful atmosphere make this an enjoyable course. After coming down from the mountain, the view of the coast will melt away any fatigue you may have from the walk.

16 Kannon-michi Pass Route



- Distance / Approx. 3.8Km
- Walking time / 1hr. and 40mins.
- Level / ★★
- The Course / Back when the Kannon Faith was popular, many travelers used this religious route with its 33 Kannon statues instead of Obuki Pass. On the anniversary of the Kannon's death, many came to pray. They had stands selling sushi and confections here and there and there was quite a bustle of activity.

At the top of this route stood Seisuiji Temple which closed around the time of WWII. Its beautiful thousand armed Kannon statue was brought here to Seitaiji Temple for safe keeping. The first four statues of this miniature replica of the Western Japan 33 Kannon Pilgrimage are in the grounds of this temple.

1 The Kannon statues of Seitaiji Temple

2 The trailhead of the Kannon michi

Statues number 5 through 15 of the miniature 33 Kannon pilgrimage are lined up here. From here on, you can find the statues along the side of the stone path as you make your way up. They are here to relieve your suffering.

3 The six stone statues

At the foot of what we call the Fukuro Iwa (Owl Rock), you can find 6 Kannon statues and an "Ojizosama," another type of guardian statue.

4 Batou kannon Hayagriva

In the small wood structure shelters an uncarved rock that represents the last of the 33 Kannon's, the Bato, or Horse Head Kannon. To the right is a Kannon statue from the last temple on the Western Japan Kannon Pilgrimage, Tanigumisankegon-ji.

17 Matsumoto-toge Pass

This section was repaved about 300 years ago by skilled masons. You can really appreciate their skill if you look at their work from the side. It looks like a stone wall. No mortar or cement are used in the traditional Japanese masonry.

Once you reach the pass, a large guardian statue is there to welcome you. Long ago, a hunter set out early in the morning just before this guardian statue was put up. On returning at dusk, he saw it in the waning light and mistook it for a phantom. He shot, and even today you can see the hole where the bullet hit the very day the statue was erected.

There is a viewpoint with a gazebo about a ten minute walk south from the pass. Shichiri Mihama Beach stretches 25km to Shingu, where Hayatama Grand Shrine is located. The view of the beach and the mountains is breathtaking.

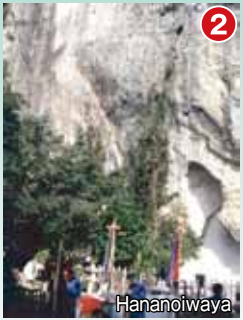
In 1868, the fishermen in this area were arrested after getting into a fight over fishing territories. Their punishment was to repave sections of the path in need of repair as community service. It took them two years to finish.

- **Distance** / Approx. 4.1Km from Odomari Station to Kumano-shi Station
- **Walking time** / 1hr. and 45mins.
- **Level** / ★
- **The Course** / The stone path is still intact for most of this route. The life-size guardian statue welcomes you at the pass, surrounded by bamboo. Beyond the pass, you can see Beach Route to Shingu, no more passes to go over. Pilgrims must have been excited with their goal in sight, the first of the Three Grand Shrines of Kumano, Shingu Hayatama Taisha. For a shorter (but scenic) course, you can continue on past the gazebo, down through the cherry trees to make your way back to Onigajo and back to Odomari station.

18 Kumano Streets

This is said to be the place where the above-mentioned Izanami gave birth to her children. From ancient times, religious ceremonies have been held here to pray for safe birth and child-raising.

Onigajo has been designated as a National Natural Treasure for its scenic beauty. This tuff, formed from hardened volcanic ash was raised up by earthquakes and then eroded by the sea and wind to form this magnificent rock formation that stretches for 1km. Legend has it that a general was sent here to drive out the demon pirates that held up here, and that he shot an arrow from an island just off the coast to slay their leader. This is registered as part of the Unesco World Heritage of the Kii mountain range.

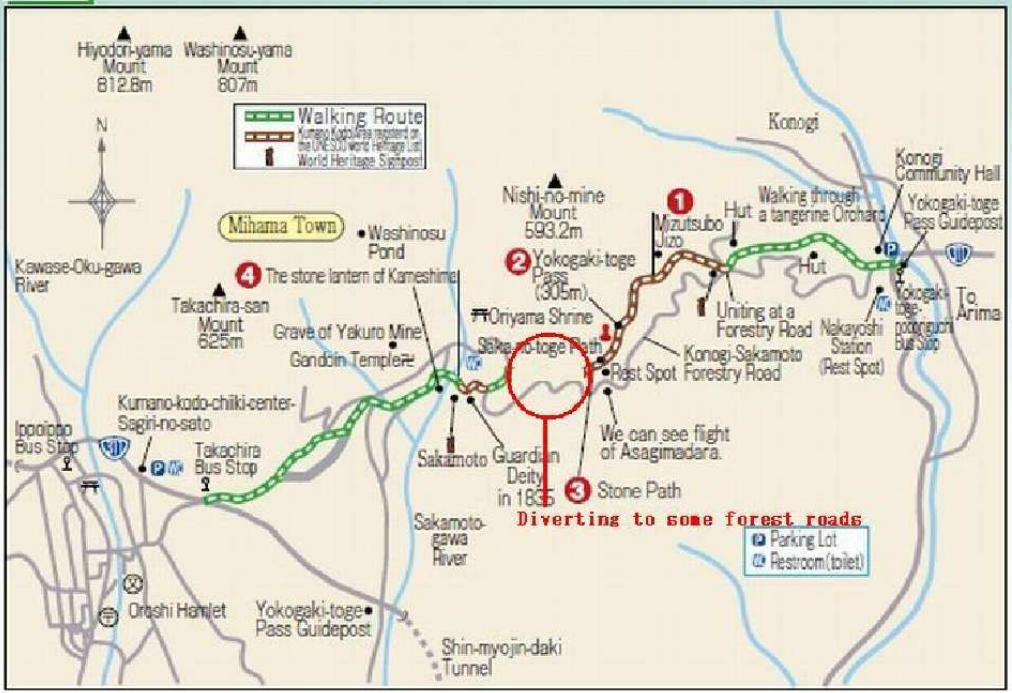


One of Japan's first written records of myth tells of the goddess, Izanami, who with her husband gave birth to the many Shinto deities. She burned to death when giving birth to Kagutsuchi, the fire god, and he also soon died. They are said to be laid to rest here. The 45 meter high rock is Izanami's grave stone, while the one opposite hers is the graves stone of Kagutsuchi. Because this predates Shinto, back to the days of Nature Worship, there is no shrine building. This is also registered as part of the Unesco World Heritage of the Kii mountain range.

This huge 25m high rock called "Shishi Iwa" is a designated National Natural Treasure for its scenic beauty and is registered as part of the Unesco World Heritage of the Kii mountain range. They say that this, along with another rock are the guardians of Kumano's Oma Shrine up in the mountains.

Built about 130 years ago by one of Kumano's timber tycoons, Kisaburo Okugawa for his private residence, it now serves as a culture center and a place to take a break and enjoy the chance to get an inside, close-up look at a traditional Japanese house.

19 Yokogaki-toge Pass



■ Distance / Approx. 5.4Km from Yokogaki-toge-noboriguchi Bus Stop to Takachira Bus Stop

■ Walking time / 2hrs. and 10mins.

■ Level / ★★

■ The Course / The Kumano ancient pilgrimage route from Ise forks at Hanano Iwaya Shrine. The fork that goes along the beach to Shingu is called Hamakaido and the fork which leads to Hongu is called Hongudo. This route on the Hongudo which goes over Yokogaki Pass is well paved with the Konogi Rhyolite stone characteristic to this area.

Mizutsubo Jizo and the spring

1 Just next to Mizutsubo guardian statue is a spring which magically sprang fourth when the famous Kobodaishi poked a hole in the ground with his walking stick here. Kobodaishi is Kukai's posthumous name. He is well known as the founder of Mt. Koya and there are many stories around Japan like this one about how he made a spring simply by poking a hole in the ground.

Yokogaki-toge Pass

2 There is a clear view to the east and the sea of Kumano can be seen on a clear day.

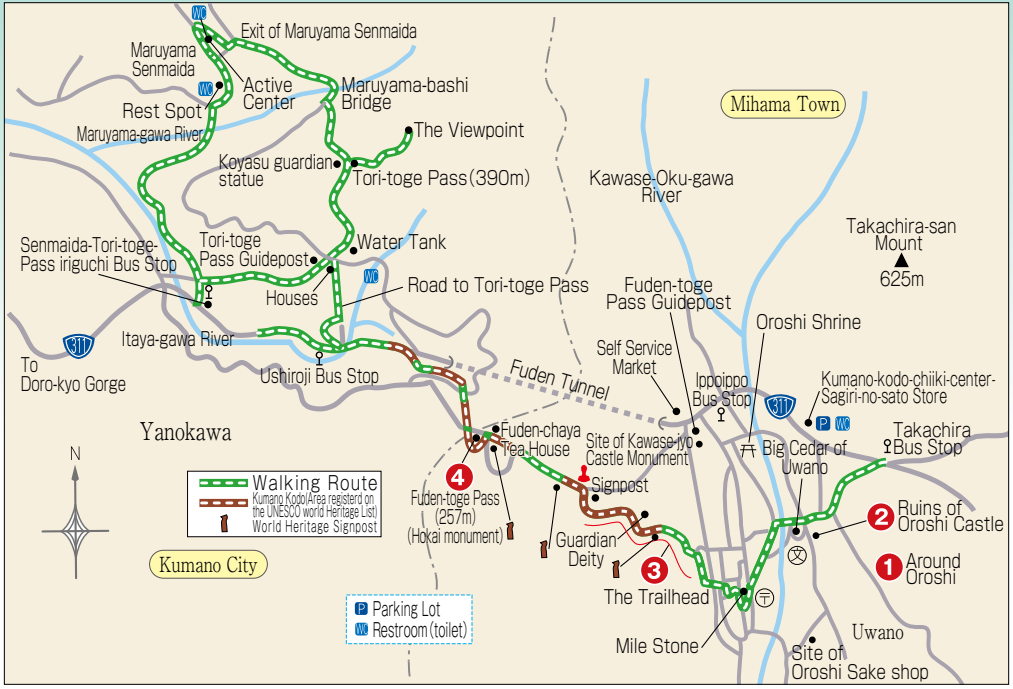
Stone path paved with Konogi Rhyolite

3 Tectonic activity caused the magma to harden with ripples producing Konogi Rhyolite, a type of stone unique to this area. Wild flowers add color to the stone path through all of the seasons.

The stone lantern of Kameshima

4 In the middle of terraced rice field stands a big rock called Kameshima (turtle island). It is 5 meters high and 25m in circumference. There is a stone lantern built on the top of it.

20 Fuden-toge Pass



■ Distance ／ Approx. 4.1Km from Takachira Bus Stop to Ushiroji Bus Stop

■ Walking time ／ 1hr. and 30mins.

■ Level ／ ★

■ The Course ／ This was the main road connecting the costal region with the mountain villages. The route starts among the rice paddies and views of the surrounding mountains in the quiet neighborhood of Oroshi. The moss-covered stone path makes its way up the slope. In addition to serving as a pilgrimage route, this road was also important for trade between the mountain villages and the fishing villages on the coast from long, long ago.

Fuden Oroshi

1 At the foot of Fuden Pass if you are lucky, you can see a natural phenomenon called Fuden Oroshi. It occurs between fall and spring early in the morning on days when there is a big difference in air pressure between the ocean side and inland side of this pass. This causes a thick fog that pours over the pass and on down the slope.

Ruins of Oroshi Castle

2 A local general named Oroshi built a castle here, but it was taken down and a school was built on the location. You can see remnants of the original castle here and there around the school like the one in this picture.

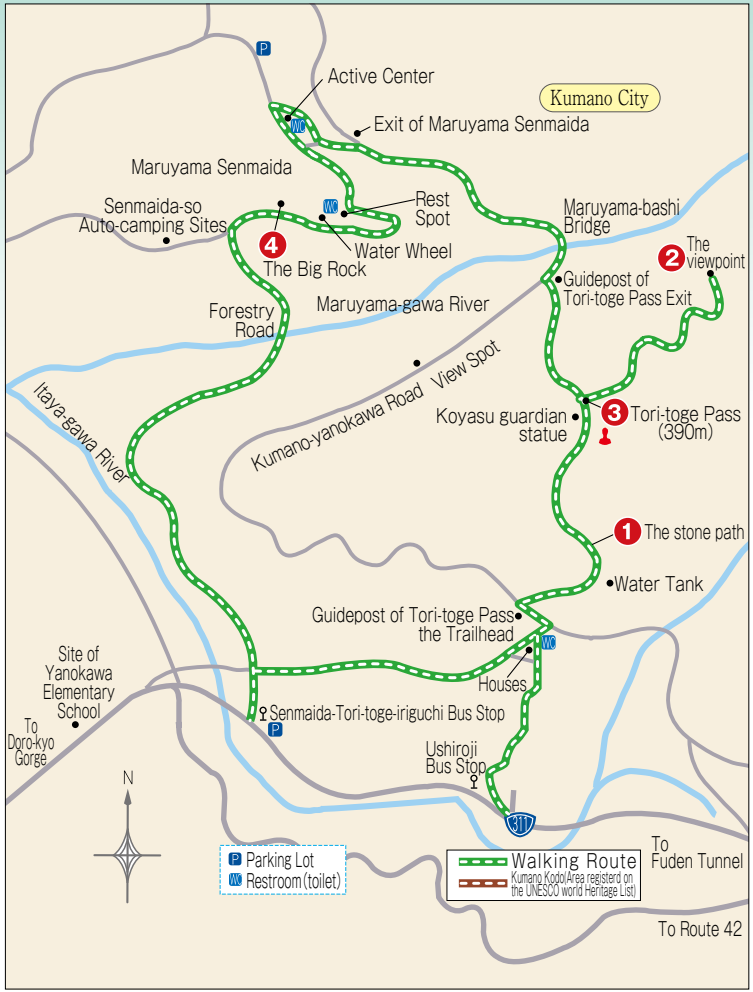
The stone path

3 The moss-covered stone path leads you through a cryptomeria forest. This is the same Konogi Rhyolite stone found on the previous route.

Fuden-toge Pass and the Hokai monument

4 Just a little way up from the road is the pass. This pass was a strategic place used many time through history from which to base a siege on Kumano. Among others, the famous Hideyoshi Toyotomi who built Osaka Castle used this point.

21 Tori-toge Pass Maruyama-senmaida



Though rather narrow, about 800 meters of the stone path remain intact. With things like the remnants of a charcoal kiln, you can get an idea of what life was like long ago.

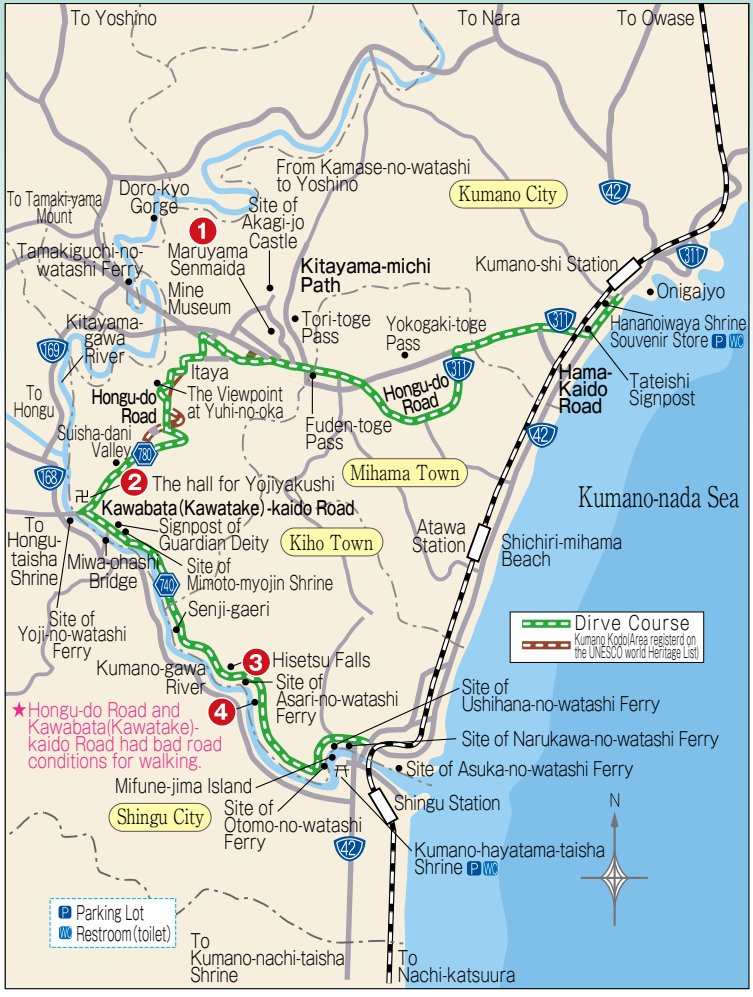
The view point which is perched on the steep mountain side looks down on 7.2 hectares of beautiful terraced rice paddies. Records from 1601 show that there were 2,240 paddies in all at that time.

Like most passes, there is usually a brisk wind here. This guardian statue was put here in 1851. The name "Koyasu" means "child safety."

Right in the middle of the terraced rice paddies of Maruyama Senmaida stands a huge boulder which accentuates the view.

- **Distance** / Approx. 6.0Km
- **Walking time** / 2hrs. and 20mins.
- **Level** / ★☽
- **The Course** / Once you come down from Fuden Pass, the road forks, left to take the road to Hongu, right to go through Maruyama, to Kitayama and on, all the way to Yoshino on the other side of the mountains. This route is not registered as part of the Unesco Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range, but has been used by the people in this area to get to the neighboring villages for many centuries. A walk through Senmaida will certainly satisfy your desire to see rice terraces and give you a feel for the Japan of yesteryear.

22 Hongu-michi Kawabata-kaido Route Drive Course



Built in the heart of the mountains, terraced rice paddies march up the slope, one after the other to form this splendid view covering 7.2 hectares. There is a viewpoint with parking looking down on this window to old Japan.

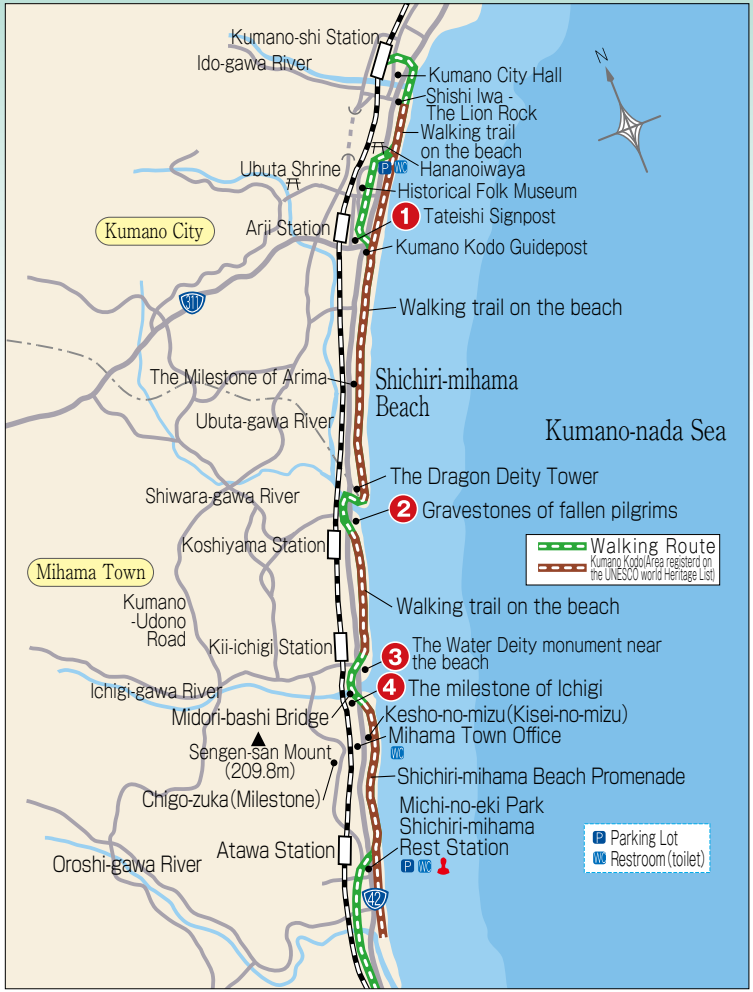
A big willow tree was cut down here to use in the construction of the Sanjüsangen-dō Temple in Kyoto. It is said that a dryad lived in the tree and later a memorial to her was built for the Dryad of the Willow.

For the people here, this waterfall is a place to find peace and solace. There used to be a tea house here for raftsmen who floated timber from up stream to the market down in Shingu. There were a lot of people passing by in the old days.

A thousand years ago, the imperial family and other royalty would travel between Hongu and Shingu in riverboats on their pilgrimages to the Three Grand Shrine of Kumano or Kumano Sanzan. This three-sailed riverboat was a thriving business about 100 years ago.

- **Distance** / Approx. 60Km from Hanano Iwaya Shrine to Kiho Town
- **Driving time** / from 2hrs. and 30mins. to 3hrs.
- **Level** / ★★
- **The Course** / Starting in Hanano Iwaya Shrine in Kumano, you head inland along the road to Hongu, then down along the Kumano River which you finally cross to reach Shingu. This course has many famous spots and historical places to visit on the way. You can also see some of the many faces of Kumano, views of the Sea of Kumano, the mountains, traditional villages and the Kumano river on this drive.

23 Hama-kaido Route (North)



There is a signpost here marking the fork in the road from Ise, "left for the Beach Route to Shingu, right on the Hongu Route, but the road is hard going up to Konogi."

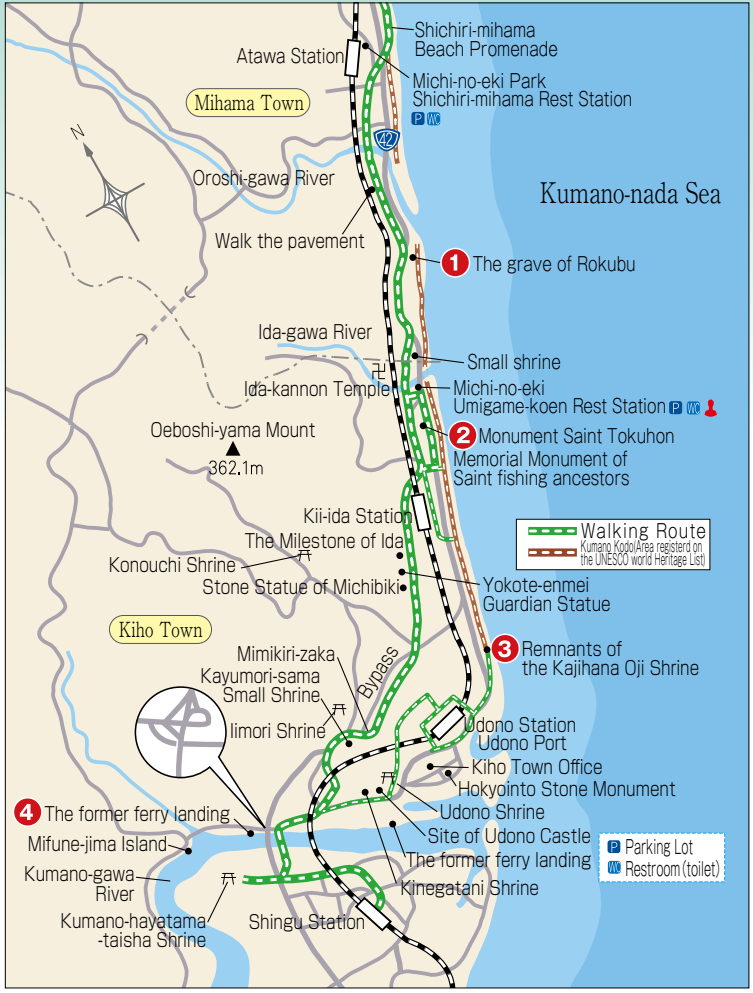
In the old days there were no bridges across the rivers flowing into the Sea of Kumano, so pilgrims had to dash across the shallows at the river mouth between waves. Here at Shiwara Gawajiri there stands a memorial monument to those who didn't make it across and were swallowed by the sea.

This area was very susceptible to the sea water flooding into the town and fields. To protect themselves from these natural disasters, they put up this monument honoring the Deity of Water. Later, floodgates were built for added security.

There used to be one of these milestones on each side of the path, but one of them went missing during the road construction in 1962.

- **Distance** / Approx. 12.2Km from Kumano-shi Station to Atawa Station
- **Walking time** / 4hrs.
- **Level** / ★★
- **The Course** / From the city of Kumano, along the Shichiri Mihama Beach, pilgrims made their way towards Hayatama Shrine in Shingu. There are no passes to cross on this flat stretch of road, but many pilgrims lost their lives on the treacherous river crossings on the beach. The distance is long, so it requires a degree of physical strength.

24 Hama-kaido Route (South)



In the woods running along the coast stands a grave put up in the Edo period (1603 to 1868) for lives lost on the way to pray at the Kumano Three Grand Shrines (Kumano Sanzan).

A monument to glorify Saint Tokuhon and another enshrined with Ebisu, the Japanese god of fishermen and luck. There used to be an inn and a tea house here where pilgrims and raftsmen would stop for a break.

While Oji shrines are quite common between Kyoto and Nachi, this is one of the very few Oji shrines on the road from Ise. The shrine used to be by the rock bluff from which it gets its name, but it was moved here after twice being washed away by tsunamis.

After their long journey, pilgrims took a ferry across the Kumano River to finally reach Hayatama Shrine, the first of the Kumano Sanzan.

■ Distance／Approx. 14.4Km from Atawa Station to Shingu Station
■ Walking time／5hrs.
■ Level／★★
■ The Course／This course offers some beautiful views of the hills and ends at the river that was registered as a part of the Unesco World Heritage Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range, Kumano River. Across the river is the holy land where Buddha manifests in the form of the indigenous "kami" or gods of Kumano. Pilgrims must have felt very excited to finally have Hayatama Shrine in view! After praying at Kumano Hayatama Taisha, they would continue their journey to the other two grand shrines of Kumano Sanzan, Nachi Taisha and Hongu Taisha.

Distance and walking time (Standard time with English Guide)

3 Nisaka-toge Pass

Approx. 7.5Km,2hrs. and 30mins. From Umegadani Station to Kii-Nagashima Station

Umegadani Station → 2.8Km 50mins → Nisaka-toge Pass → 1.5Km 45mins. → Starting Point → 1.9Km 30mins. → Michi-no-eki Kii-nagashima Manbou Rest Station → 1.3Km 25mins. → Kii-Nagashima Station

4 Tsuzurato-toge Pass

Approx. 9.5Km,4hrs. From Umegadani Station to Kii-Nagashima Station

Umegadani Station → 3.5Km 1hr. and 10mins. → Starting Point (Tochiko) → 0.6Km 30mins. → Tsuzurato-toge Pass → 1.2Km 1hr. → Starting Point (Shiko-oku) → 2.4Km 50mins. → R422 → 1.8Km 30mins. → Kii-Nagashima Station

6 Ikkoku Hirakata Miura-toge Pass

Approx. 7.6Km,3hrs. From Kata-kyokai-mae Bus Stop to Minose Station

Kata-kyokai-mae Bus Stop→ 0.8Km 25mins. → Ikkoku-toge Pass → 0.5Km 15mins. → Hirakata-toge Pass → 3.8Km 1hr. and 20mins. → Miura-toge Pass Starting Point (Doze) → 0.5Km 20mins. → Miura-toge Pass → 1.3Km 30mins. → Miura-toge Pass Starting Point (Miura) → 0.7Km 10mins. → Minose Station

7 Hajikami-toge Pass ①

Approx. 3.5Km,1hr. and 50mins. From Hajikami-sakura-hiroba Area Space to Hajikami-sakura-hiroba Area Space

Hajikami-sakura-hiroba Area Space → 0.5Km 10mins. → Edo-michi Road → 1.0Km 45mins. → Hajikami-toge Pass → 1.8Km 50mins. → Meiji-michi Road → 0.2Km 5mins. → Hajikami-sakura-hiroba Area Space

7 Hajikami-toge Pass ②

Approx. 4.8Km,2hrs. From Hajikami-sakura-hiroba Area Space to Ofune-bashi Bridge

Hajikami-sakura-hiroba Area Space → 0.5Km 10mins. → Edo-michi Road → 1.0Km 45mins. → Hajikami-toge Pass → 2.1Km 45mins. → Miyatani-ike Pond → 1.2Km 20mins. → Ofuna-bashi Bridge

8 Magose-toge Pass

Approx. 5.2Km,2hrs. and 45mins. From Michi-no-eki Miyama Rest Station to Owase Station

Michi-no-eki Miyama Rest Station → 0.6Km 10mins. → Washige Bus Stop → 1.6Km 1hr. And 10mins. → Magose-toge Pass → 0.9Km 40mins. → Magose-koen Park → 2.1Km 45mins. → Owase Station

Distance and walking time (Standard time with English Guide)

10 Crossing Yakiyama Mount

Approx. 10.1Km,5hrs. From Mie prefecture Kumano-kodo Center to Mikisato Station

Mie prefecture Kumano-kodo Center → 0.6Km 10mins. → Mukai-nisi Bus Stop → 0.4Km 10mins. → Starting Point → 3.8Km 2hrs. and 20mins. → Miki-toge Pass → 2.5Km 1hr. and 20mins. → Starting Point → 2.8Km 1hr. → Mikisato Station

11 Miki-toge Hago-toge Pass

Approx. 6Km,3hrs. From Mikisato Station to Kata Station

Mikisato Station → 1.9Km 45mins. → Starting Point → 0.5Km 25mins. → Miki-toge Pass → 0.3Km 15mins. → Starting Point → 1.6Km 35mins. → Starting Point → 0.2Km 10mins. → Hago-toge Pass → 0.7Km 25mins. → Starting Point → 0.8Km 25mins. → Kata Station

12 Sone-jirozaka-tarozaka Pass

Approx. 5.7Km,3hrs. From Kata Station to Nigishima Station

Kata Station → 1.3Km 30mins. → Starting Point(Sone) → 1.3Km 1hr. → Hobo-toge Pass → 2.6Km 1hr. and 15mins. → Starting Point (Junction of Route 311) → 0.5Km 15mins. → Nigishima Station

13 Nigishima-toge Okamizaka-toge Pass

Approx. 4.6Km,3hrs. From Nigishima Station to Atashika Station

Nigishima Station → 0.6Km 25mins. → Starting Point (Junction of Route 311) → 0.8Km 50mins. → Nigishima-toge Pass → 0.6Km 30mins. → Okamizaka-toge Pass → 1.6Km 1hr. → Starting Point (Atashika) → 1.0Km 15mins. → Atashika Station

14 Hadasu-no-michi Pass Route

Approx. 4Km,1hr. and 30mins. From Atashika Station to Hadasu Station

Atashika Station → 2.5Km 50mins. → Hadasu-no-michi Pass Route (World heritage part)→ 0.3Km 10mins. → Hadasu-jinjya Shrine → 1.2Km 30mins. → Hadasu Station

Distance and walking time (Standard time with English Guide)

15 Obuki-toge Pass

Approx. 4Km,2hrs. From Hadasu Station to Odomari Station

Hadasu Station → 1.5Km 40mins. → Starting Point(Hadasu) → 0.5Km 25mins. → Obuki-toge Pass → 1.2Km 45mins. → Starting Point(Odomari) → 0.8Km 10mins. → Odomari Station

16 Kannon-michi Pass Route ①

Approx. 3.8Km,1hr. and 40mins. From Odomari Station to Odomari Station

Odomari Station → 1.0Km 15mins. → Starting Point(Kannon-michi Pass Route) → 0.9Km 50mins. → Sensui-ji Temple → 0.9Km 20mins. → Starting Point(Kannon-michi Pass Route) → 1.0Km 15mins. → Odomari Station

16 Kannon-michi Pass Route ②

Approx. 5.2Km,3hrs. From Odomari Station to Odomari Station

Odomari Station → 1.0Km 15mins. → Starting Point(Kannon-michi Pass Route) → 0.9Km 50mins. → Sensui-ji Temple → 0.5Km 15mins. → Junction of Hadasu Otao-yama Mount Daikan-shishigaki-michi Path→ 0.8Km 45mins. → Obuki-toge Pass → 1.2Km 45mins.→ Starting Point(Odomari) → 0.8Km 10mins. → Odomari Station

17 Matsumoto-toge Pass ①

Approx. 4.1Km,1hr. and 45mins. From Odomari Station to Kumano-shi Station

Odomari Station → 1.0Km 15mins. → Starting Point(Odomari) → 0.4Km 25mins. → Matsumoto-toge Pass → 0.3Km 10mins. → Rest Spot → 0.3Km 10mins. → Matsumoto-toge Pass → 0.3Km 15mins.→ Starting Point(Kinomoto) → 1.8Km 30mins. → Kumano-shi Station

17 Matsumoto-toge Pass ②

Approx. 5.6Km,2hrs. and 30mins. From Odomari Station to Arii Station

Odomari Station → 1.0Km 15mins. → Starting Point(Odomari) → 0.4Km 25mins. → Matsumoto-toge Pass → 0.3Km 10mins. → Rest Spot → 0.3Km 10mins. → Matsumoto-toge Pass → 0.3Km 15mins.→ Starting Point(Kinomoto) → 2.3Km 1hr. → Hana-no-iwaya Shrine → 1.0Km 15mins. → Arii Station

17 Matsumoto-toge Pass ③

Approx. 4.9Km,2hrs. and 10mins. From Odomari Station to Odomari Station

Odomari Station → 1.0Km 15mins. → Starting Point(Odomari) → 0.4Km 25mins. → Matsumoto-toge Pass → 0.3Km 10mins. → Rest Spot → 0.6Km 25mins. → Site of Oni-ga-jyo Castle → 0.7Km 25mins.→ Oni-ga-jyo → 0.9Km 15mins. → Starting Point(Odomari) → 1.0Km 15mins. → Odomari Station

Distance and walking time (Standard time with English Guide)

19 Yokogaki-toge Pass

Approx. 5.4Km,2hrs. and 10mins. From Yokogaki-toge-noboriguchi Bus Stop to Takachira Bus Stop

Yokogaki-toge-noboriguchi Bus Stop → 1.2Km 30mins. → Starting Point(Junction of Forestry Road) → 1.5Km 30mins. → Yokogaki-toge Pass → 0.7Km 10mins. → Starting Point(Sakamoto) → 2.0Km 1hr. → Takachira Bus Stop

20 Fuden-toge Pass

Approx. 4.1Km,1hr. and 30mins. From Takachira Bus Stop to Ushiroji Bus Stop

Takachira Bus Stop → 2.0Km 45mins. → Starting Point(Oroshi) → 0.9Km 25mins. → Fuden-toge Pass → 0.6Km 10mins. → Starting Point(Junction of Route 311) → 0.6Km 10mins. → Ushiroji Bus Stop

21 Tori-toge Pass Maruyama-Senmaida

Approx. 6.0Km,2hrs. and 20mins. From Senmaida-Tori-toge-irigudhi Bus Stop to Senmaida-Tori-toge-irigudhi Bus Stop

Senmaida-Tori-toge-iriguchi Bus Stop → 1.0Km 10mins. → Starting Point(Yanokawa) → 0.8Km 30mins. → Tori-toge Pass → 0.4Km 25mins. → View Point → 0.4Km 15mins. → Tori-toge Pass → 0.4Km 10mins. → Starting Point(Maruyama) → 1.0Km 20mins. → Maruyama-senmaida Thousand Paddy Field(Big Rock) → 2.0Km 30mins. → Senmaida-Tori-toge-iriguchi Bus Stop

23 Hama-kaido Route (North)

Approx. 12.2Km,4hrs. From Kumano-shi Station to Atawa Station (Michi-no-eki Park Shichiri-mihama Rest Station)

Kumano-shi Station → 12.2Km 4hrs. → Atawa Station(Michi-no-eki Park Shichiri-mihama Rest Station)

24 Hama-kaido Route (South)

Approx. 14.4Km,5hrs. From Atawa Station (Michi-no-eki Park Shichiri-mihama Rest Station) to Shingu Station

Atawa Station(Michi-no-eki Park Shichiri-mihama Rest Station) → 5.0Km 1hr. and 50mins. → Michi-no-eki Umigame-koen Rest Station → 7.6Km 2hrs. and 45mins. → Kumano-hayatama-taisha Shrine → 1.8Km 25mins. → Shingu Station

Kumano kodo Iseji Tegata(draft) rally

Completely on foot Kumano kodo Iseji, and get the termination prize.

Prize

Keyring made by Japanese cypress from Kishu shaped like old style draft

Certification mark

How to apply

・Each Kumano kodo route have stamps there are located near by the pass. Please seal prescribed square on a grid. You don't care about the turn.
・Application is limited for One set, per parson. You must gather one imprinting ledger.
・If stamps are not sealed prescribed square or sealed another stamps of [Kumano kodo Iseji Tegata rally], that is of no effect.

Inquiry and Addressee

Higashi-Kishu regional organization
371 Ido-cho, Kumano City, Mie-pref,519-4393
TEL 0597-89-6172　FAX 0597-89-6184

■ mark on the map is location of stamps of each routes.
Kawabata(Kawatake) Kaido route is not located the stamp.
Stamp of Nisaka-toge Pass is located Okimidaira where side road from Kumano kodo.

■ Hama Kaido route approve either one.

■ We will send the brochure that you sealed stamps and sent us back to you.

About walking routes

Each walking routes in this map purpose that many people walk and experience in Kumano kodo. It is not provide and restriction for Kumano kodo routes that is based academic investigation and examine.Please understanding in advance, and utilized your travel.

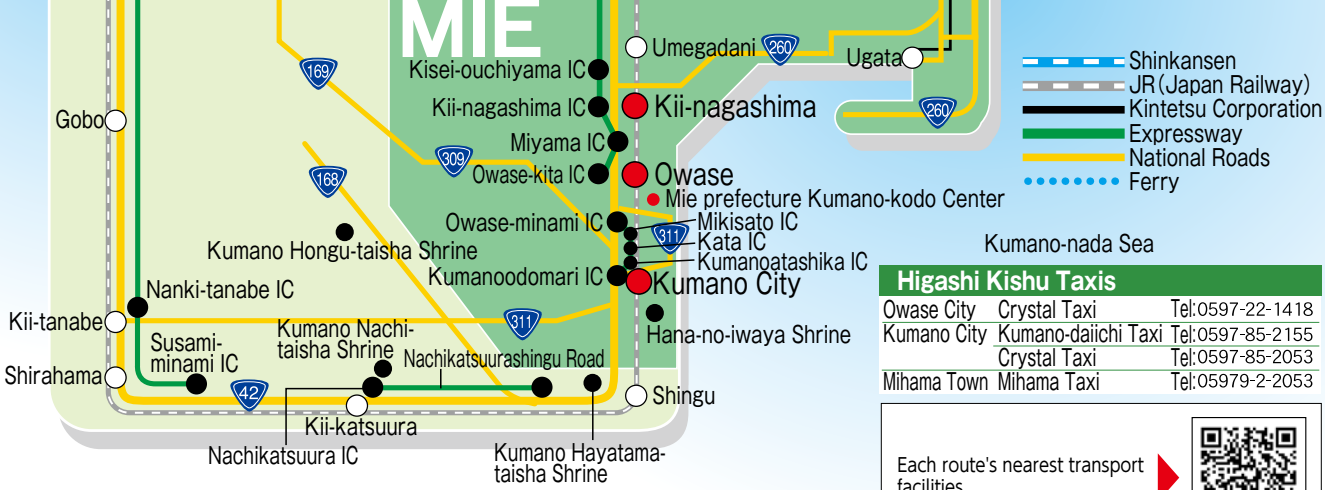
Tuzurato-toge Pass

Crossing Yakiyama Mount
Magose-toge Pass
Hajikami-toge Pass
Miura-toge Pass (Kumagaya-michi Road)
Nisaka-toge Pass
Hago-toge Pass
Sone-jirozaka-tarozaka Pass
Okamizaka-toge Pass
Obuki-toge Pass
Kannon-michi Pass Route
Hama-kaido Route
Tori-toge Pass
Fuden-toge Pass
Yokogaki-toge Pass
Matsumoto-toge Pass

Access Guide

For up-to-date information and further details, please contact the following

For all stations of JR Tokai, contact each station individually.
For Railways:Kinki Nihon Tetsudo Telephone Center (Nagoya) Tel:052-564-1604
For Buses: Miekotsu Nanki Office Tel:0597-85-2196



Higashi Kishu Taxis

Owase City	Crystal Taxi	Tel:0597-22-1418
Kumano City	Kumano-daiichi Taxi	Tel:0597-85-2155
	Crystal Taxi	Tel:0597-85-2053
Mihama Town	Mihama Taxi	Tel:05979-2-2053

Each route's nearest transport facilities

Access by Train

- Tokyo Station — Approx. 1hr. and 45mins. by JR Shinkansen (Nozomi) — Nagoya Station — Approx. 1hr. and 10mins. by Kintetsu Limited Express / Approx. 1hr. and 15mins. by JR Limited Express (Wide View Nanki)
- Kyoto Station — Approx. 1hr. and 50mins. by Kintetsu Limited Express
- Osaka-Nanba Station — Approx. 1hr. and 30mins. by Kintetsu Limited Express
- Iseshi Station — Approx. 13mins. by Kintetsu Limited Express / Approx. 23mins. by JR Rapid Train (Mie)

→ Matsusaka Station — Approx. 1hr. by JR Limited Express (Wide View Nanki) → Kii-nagashima Station — Approx. 20mins. by JR Limited Express (Wide View Nanki) → Owase Station — Approx. 30mins. by JR Limited Express (Wide View Nanki) → Kumanoshi Station — Approx. 20mins. by JR Limited Express (Wide View Nanki) → Shingu Station

Access by Bus

- Omiya, Ikebukuro — Approx. 8hrs. by Mie Kotsu or Seibu Bus Expressway Bus (one overnight bus per day)
- Nagoya — Approx. 2hrs. and 30mins. by Mie Kotsu Nagoya-Nanki Expressway Bus
- Tsu and Matsusaka — Approx. 1hr. and 40mins. by Mie Kotsu Nanki Expressway Bus

→ Kii-nagashima — Approx. 40mins. → Owase — Approx. 30mins. → Kumano

Access by Car

- Nagoya — Approx. 40mins. via Higashi-meihan Expressway → Kameyama Jct — Approx. 40mins. via Ise Expressway
- Kyoto — Approx. 20mins. via Meishin Expressway → Kusatsu Jct — Approx. 45mins. via Shin-meishin Expressway → Kameyama Jct — Approx. 40mins. via Ise Expressway
- Osaka — Approx. 30mins. via Nishi-meihan Expressway → Tenri IC — Approx. 1hr. and 10mins. via Meihan National road → Ise-Seki IC — Approx. 30mins. via Ise Expressway
- Iseshi area — Approx. 20mins. via Ise Expressway

→ Seiwa-Taki Jct — Approx. 30mins. via Kisei Expressway → Kii-nagashima IC — Approx. 15mins. via Kisei Expressway → Miyama IC — Approx. 8mins. via Kisei Expressway → Owase-kita IC — Approx. 10mins. via Route 42 → Owase-minami IC — Approx. 20mins. via Kumano-Owase Road → Kumano-Odomari IC — Approx. 40mins. via Route 42 → Shingu City

Rules of the Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range

The World Heritage, "Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range", is a cultural heritage symbolizing the spiritual culture of Japan, in which respect and awe towards nature and universe as the source of life and all things have been inherited in the shape of prayer-giving to deities and Buddhist gods dwelling in mountains or forests.
We hereby make the following promises in walking the pilgrimage routes in order to ensure that the blessings of this precious property can be shared by people around the world.

1. We promise to protect "Heritage of Mankind".
2. We promise to follow the spiritual footsteps of prayers that date back to ancient times.
3. We promise to exchange greetings and smiles for heart-to-heart communication.
4. We promise not to catch animals, pick plants, or bring them in from outside but to care for them.
5. We promise to plan our trip right and equip ourselves sufficiently to be on the safe side.
6. We promise not to stray off the roadway.
7. We promise to be careful of fire.
8. We promise to take trash back home and leave the pilgrimage routes clean.

Mie prefecture Kumano-kodo Center

The center commemorates the World Heritage listing of Kumano Kodo (Iseji) sacred sites and pilgrimage routes in the Kii Mountain Range. It was established by Mie Prefecture to inform visitors about Kumano Kodo and surrounding areas, mix with local people and in turn revitalize the region.

Higashi-Kishu regional organization

Kihoku Office
1-1 Sakaba-Nishi-Machi, Owase City, Mie-pref,
Kinan Office
371 Ido-cho, Kumano City, Mie-pref,
http://higashikishu.org/translate/e/

Information [English Speaking Guide]

Kumano-kodo Iseji Kataribe-tomonokai(Guide Association) At present (as of March 1, 2016), there are many registered english speaking guides who serve as guides along Kumano Kodo Iseji. If you think you need a guide to walk you through Kumano-Kodo Iseji, apply here.
http://higashikishu.org/translate/e/higashikishu/kataribe_irai.html

The following companies have contributed to conservation of Kumano Kodo Iseji

AEON Group
AEON RETAIL Co., Ltd
MAXVALU CHUBU Co., Ltd

The DAISAN BANK, Ltd.

UNY
Co., Ltd

2018.03