

Mt. Minami-Katsuragi

[Katsuragi Sutra Mound #14 (Mt. Minami-Katsuragi Kagami no Shuku)]

A visit to a sutra mound in Ipponsugi on Mt. Minami-Katsuragi before a descent to Kimitoge Station

There are two places believed to be the location of the 14th sutra mound. The first sutra mound, "Kagami no Shuku," is located next to Ipponsugi, the solitary cedar tree, near the summit of Mt. Minami-Katsuragi. The other is Kotakiji Temple at the foot of the mountain. On this course, we will visit the sutra mound on the Ipponsugi Hiking Trail from Koyaguchi Station before descending to Kimitoge Station.

Heading south from Koyaguchi Station and walking the Yamato-kaido Road before starting your hike will make this course more enjoyable. Turn right at the Edo-period Maeda Residence and head west on the Yamato-kaido Road. At the kimono boutique, take the right path of the fork, and head north when you come to a corner with the fire brigade garage. Continue heading north after passing through the Meiji-era brick tunnel. You will see a large water tank and a waste disposal plant on your left. As you enter this scenic hilly area, you can see Mt. Minami-Katsuragi ahead. When you come to a wide road, turn left. At the next light, turn right and head for the mountains. You will eventually arrive at Shinoda-jinja Shrine, with its great camphor tree, which is said to be one of the places En no Gyoja prayed during his ascetic training. From here, follow the signposts for the Ipponsugi Hiking Trail.

Pass through the settlement of Kuju and beyond the orchard. After entering the forested area, climb the winding road. Just as you begin tire of walking on the road, you will finally enter the trail and cross a forest road once to reach the 14th sutra mound. Stop by the summit of Mt. Minami-Katsuragi just to the west before heading from the sutra mound toward the Diamond Trail/Kimi-toge Pass direction. Halfway there, the trail becomes a forest road before it joins the Diamond Trail near Mt. Amida. After passing Mt. Neko-mine, the trail eventually turns downward and takes you down to the third station of Mt. Iwawaki. Here, you will turn right and descend the trail. As you reach the forest road, you will come to Koshigataki waterfalls. Continue descending the forest road until you come to a settlement, then take a right turn and you will soon arrive at Kimitoge Station.

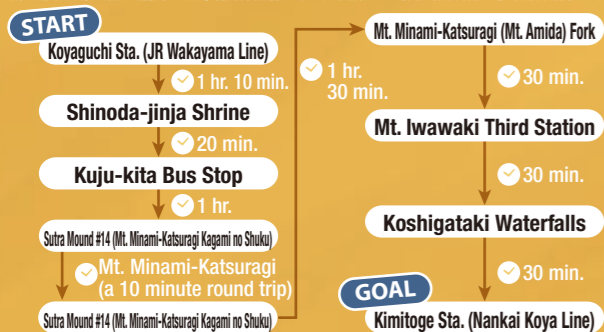
Walking Distance ◆ Approx. 19 km

Fitness Level ★★ ★

Walking Time ◆ 5 hours 40 minutes

Skill Level ★★ ★

Course Times



Course Information



Great camphor tree at Shinoda-jinja Shrine



Mt. Minami-Katsuragi, tallest of the Izumi Range



View of the Koyaguchi district from Kuju



Mt. Iwawaki Third Station on the Diamond Trail

Access

Outward Trip

Koyaguchi Sta. (JR Wakayama Line)

Return Trip

Kimitoge Sta. (Nankai Koya Line)

Advice

There are no places you are likely to get lost after turning north at the corner next to the fire brigade garage. The latter half of the course is mountainous, so proper hiking footwear is recommended. It is a long course, so bring plenty of drinking water. There are no places to buy drinks beyond Shinoda-jinja Shrine.

*Walking distance is the horizontal distance. Course times are reference times for walking at a typical pace, not including rests.

*This course does not exactly follow the training paths used by mountain ascetics.