•••• Model Course **9** ••••

Mt. Izumi-Katsuragi

[Katsuragi Sutra Mound #9 (Mine no Ryu-o)] [Katsuragi Sutra Mound #10 (Dai-itoku-ji Temple)]

A sutra mound on a mountain summit covered with a monumental beech forest, and Dai-itoku-ji Temple, known for its autumn foliage

The summit of Mt. Izumi Katsuragi is the site of Takaokami-jinja Shrine, which is dedicated to rainmaking rituals, and the ninth sutra mound. We will take the trail from Tonohara, which has the flavor of a worship trail, before descending the Jizo-san Trail to visit Dai-itoku-ji Temple.

There is a trail map at the Tonohara Bus Stop. Head toward the mountains and enter the trail by going right at the branch with the stone marker. After passing Biwa-daira, where the remains of stone lanterns lie, climb until you come to a paved road, then walk this road for a while. Follow the signpost and enter the path on the right. There, you will find an informational sign about the beech forest. Once the path turns to trail again, the surrounding area is increasingly covered with bamboo grass. After coming to the torii gate and climbing the stairs, you will arrive at the summit. Once you have visited the Takaokami-jinja Shrine and the sutra mound, turn right at the summit to find a circular observation deck with a panoramic view of Osaka Bay.

Take a left and descend the road before taking a left at the intersection past the restrooms. Descending the road for about 30 minutes, you will find the Nijuiccho Jizo statue (the 21st distance indicator). From there, you will turn off the road and onto the Jizo-san Trail, where you will find Choishi Jizo statues placed every 109 m along the way and each serves as a distance indicator. Take a right down the trail at the Shichicho Jizo statue (the seventh distance indicator) and head toward Dai-itoku-ji Temple. The rock engraved with a Sanskrit character to the left of the temple gate is believed to be the tenth sutra mound.

The course from Sobura to Mt. Izumi Katsuragi is also popular. Marked with a blue line, this pleasant alternate course takes you along the canyon and follows paved roads until Hashikakeno-taki waterfall. A guidepost to Sobura Tochinokidani can be found in front of Sobra no Mori Restaurant. Take the Kaizuka City Community Bus from Sobura Bus Stop to Mizuma Kannon Station.









The Choishi Jizo statues of the Jizo-san
Trail watch over hikers

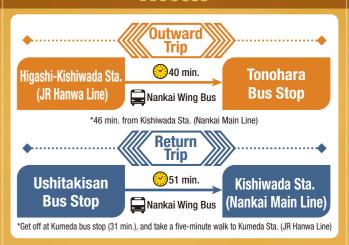


View of Osaka Bay from the observation deck atop Mt. Izumi-Katsuragi



The famous fall foliage of Dai-itoku-ji





Advice

This course involves climbing, so proper hiking footwear is recommended. The trails are well marked, but return bus service is infrequent.