

Nagaredani to Iwakakiji Temple and the Amami-fudo

[Katsuragi Sutra Mound #15 (Mt. Iwakaki)]
 [Katsuragi Sutra Mound #16 (Nagaredani Kongodoji)]
 [Katsuragi Sutra Mound #17 (Amami-fudo)]

A tour of three sutra mounds around Mt. Iwakaki

Mt. Iwakaki, one of the most famous peaks of the Izumi Range, is best known for its plateau-like peak covered with silvergrass. Its name is derived from its steepness, which was likened to rocks pouring out of its cliffs. Even now, you can find traces of when the area around Iwakakiji Temple flourished as a center of ascetic practice.

Head west from the Amami Station. Cross National Route 371 at the Deainotsuji intersection and enter the settlement of Nagaredani. Across the river is the ancient Hachimanjinja Shrine. Heading up the road while looking to your left at the Toishi Valley, which you will use during your descent, you will find a signpost. Cross the river here and pass along the edge of the field to the bamboo thicket where you will find the first of the three sutra mounds you will visit on this course.

From here, you will ascend a mountain pass called Takeno-tawa before taking the long walk on the road through Katatsumuri Tunnel. From the Gyoji-gawara fork, continue south to Iwakakiji Temple. After passing the No. 2 parking lot, you will see the trailhead for the Inishie no Michi trail. Enter the trail, before immediately turning on to the Ochiba no Komichi trail to the right. Take this trail to Iwakakiji via the Iwakaki-no-mori Shikisaikan information center. Follow the path located just beyond Iwakakiji Temple to the 15th sutra mound. As it curves up the hill, you will find a signpost on your right, indicating the trail to the sutra mound. Take this trail and you will find the sutra mound just beyond a small peak.

Head back toward the temple and take the Iwakaki no Michi trail. The course joins the Diamond Trail just before the Itsutsu-tsuji crossroad. From here, head in the direction indicated by the sign for Kimi-toge Pass. The trail stays flat for a while, but becomes quite steep after the third station. When the trail turns flat again, continue past the fork to Toishi Valley and on to the 17th sutra mound. Return to the fork and retrace your steps to Toishi Valley. Once you reach the road you walked on your outbound trip, proceed back to the Amami Station.

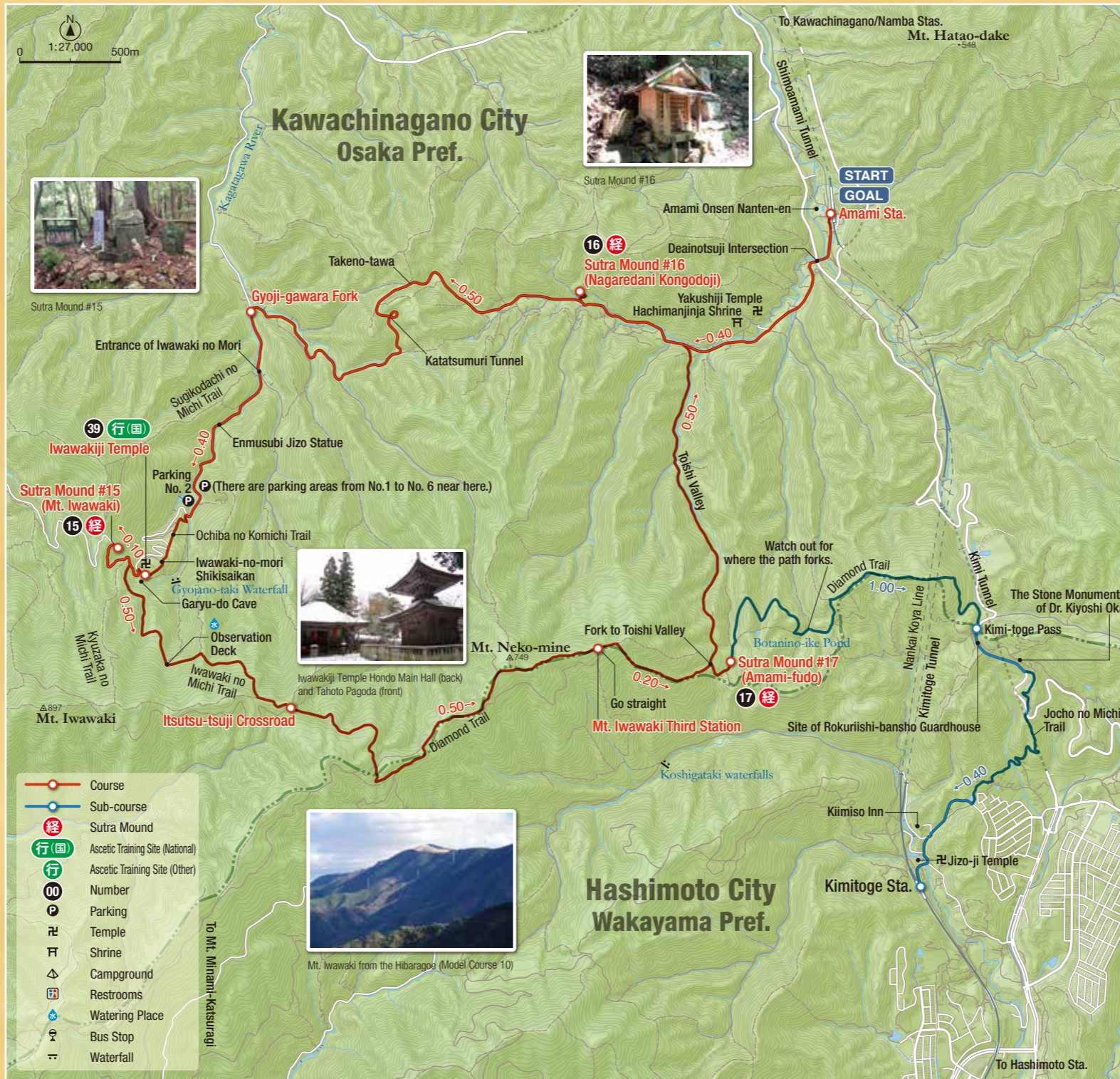
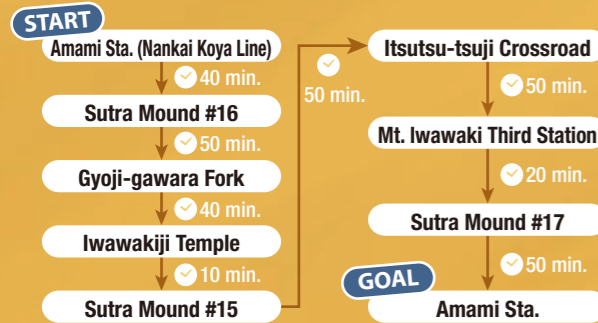
Walking Distance ◆ Approx. 16 km

Fitness Level ★★☆☆

Walking Time ◆ 5 hours 10 minutes

Skill Level ★★☆☆

Course Times



Course Information



View of Mt. Hatao-dake from near the Hachimanjinja Shrine



Head up the Ochiba no Komichi trail to Iwakaki-no-mori Shikisaikan



Garyu-do Cave at Iwakakiji Temple



Benches can be found at the Diamond Trail's Itsutsu-tsuji crossroad



Sutra Mound #17 on the Diamond Trail

Access



Advice

All of the sutra mounds on this course other than the 17th sutra mound are somewhat hard to find. The course involves climbing past Iwakakiji Temple, so wear proper hiking footwear. If you have the energy to spare, we recommend taking the Diamond Trail to Kimi-toge Pass.

*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.