

Jinzu to Negoro-ji Temple

[Katsuragi Sutra Mound #5 (Mt. Kuratani)]

A visit to a sutra mound deep in the mountains and a crossing of a mountain pass to the ancient Negoro-ji Temple

The fifth sutra mound, located in a secluded location in the mountains, is the most conspicuous of many sutra mounds.

Head west from the Jinzu Bus Stop. Immediately after crossing the bridge to the settlement of Jinzu, you will find Urakami-jinja Shrine, one of the ascetic training sites and a hanging place for *hide* (wooden plaques that serve as proof of a visit). Next, walk along the Futase-gawa River, passing through the settlement of Nakahata. You will eventually come to an unpaved forest road, but keep going until you will see a cedar tree with *hide* plaques tied to it on your left. The fifth sutra mound is located on the mountain across the river, but the trails to it are treacherous, so offer your prayer from here. Continue straight on the forest road and you will arrive at Umawakare. Turn left and hike up and over Tsuchibotoke-toge Pass. When you arrive at the sign for the parking lot of Negoroyama Genkinomori Park, check your route on the signboard before entering the trail. Head for the park office via the walking trail.

When you arrive at the park office, check the park map and go to the west observation plaza before descending to Negoro-ji Temple. After eventually reaching the temple grounds, continue your descent until you reach the bell tower of Negoro-ji Temple. Head for the center of the temple via its Fudo-do Hall. Negoro-ji Temple is an ancient temple originating at the end of the Heian period (794-1185) with the priest Kakuban's establishment of Enmyo-ji Temple at the site of Bufuku-ji Temple, which had been a temple of mountain worship in Katsuragi. The temple is known for having been a major religious power during the Warring States period, as well as for having been devastated in Toyotomi Hideyoshi's attack on Kishu. Gyoja-do hall is in the west side of the grounds, on the side of Shoten-ike Pond.

To return to the station, you can take the bus from the Negoro-ji Bus Stop located in front of the temple's parking lot. However, if you walk to the Negoro-rekishino-oka Bus Stop, you can use the shopping and dining at the nearby roadside station.

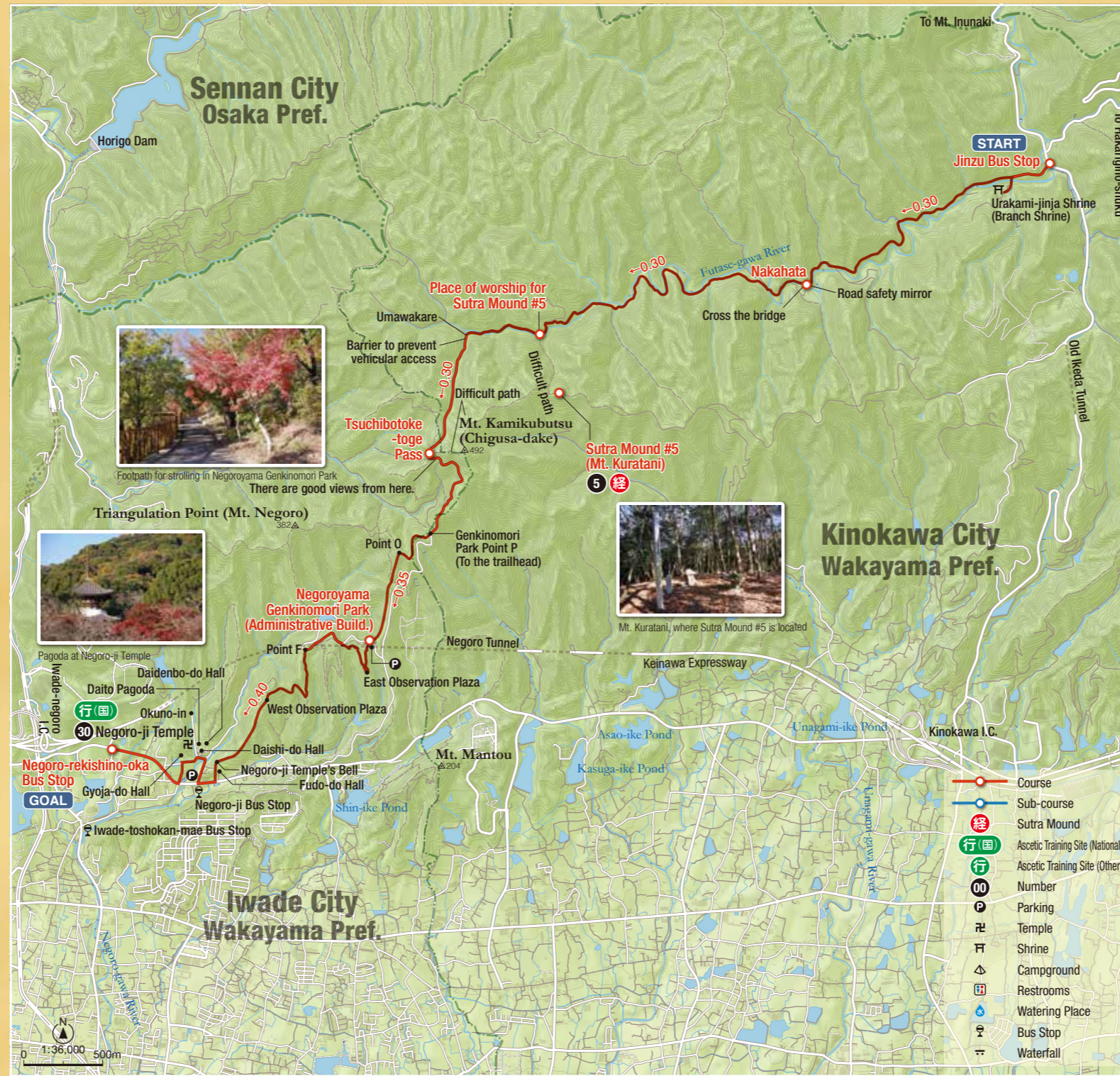
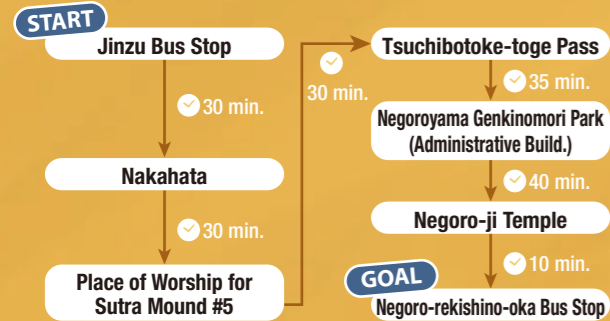
Walking Distance ◆ Approx. 14 km

Fitness Level ★★☆☆

Walking Time ◆ 3 hours 5 minutes

Skill Level ★★☆☆

Course Times



Course Information



Visiting Urakami-jinja Shrine in the settlement of Jinzu



Mt. Ryumon seen from the east observation plaza in Negoroyama Genkinomori Park

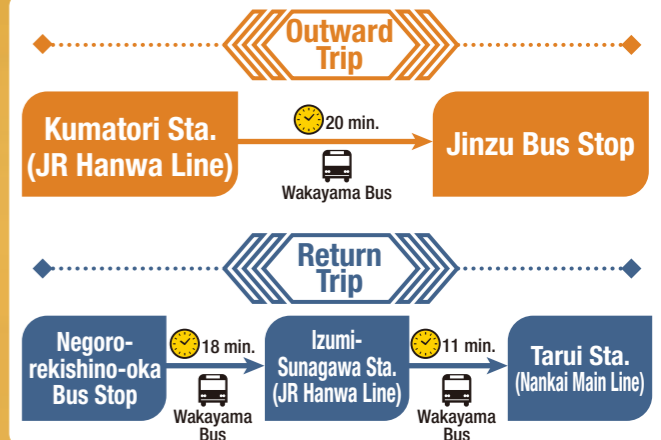


Crossing Tsuchibotoke-toge Pass on the way to Negoroyama Genkinomori Park



Arriving at Negoro-ji Temple from the west observation plaza

Access



Advice

Proper hiking footwear is recommended, as the trails after entering Negoroyama Genkinomori Park are quite mountainous. Head to the park's office building first, as its walking trails are fairly complicated. Bus service back to the station is also limited, so check the bus schedule in advance.

*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.