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Mt. Iimori to Mt. Fudatate

A tour of ascetic training sites from Kosen-ji Temple to the scenic Mt. Iimori and Mt. Fudatate, before a descent to the Narutaki Fudoson

Though there are no sutra mounds along this course, there are many ascetic training sites important to Katsuragi Shugen. The first of these is Kosen-ji Temple, known for the Kyoshi Kannon. One of the tombs on its grounds is said to be that of Shiratoume, the mother of En no Gyoja.

Leave Kyoshi Station, turn left, continue along the railroad tracks, and then cross the railroad crossing. You will see a large stone marker that reads "Kan-onmichi." Follow the road and you will see a signpost for the Kyoshi Kannon, which will lead you to the base of the mountain. Reaching the ridge, you will see the main gate to the temple and the stairs. The grave of En no Gyoja's Mother is located further into the mountain path on the left of the main hall. The trail begins to the right of the main hall. It is a straight climb to Mt. Takano, but after Mt. Fujito, the trail ascends and descends repeatedly until it reaches the Mt. Fudatate branch.

When you come upon the Mt. Fudatate branch, you are near the summit of Mt. Iimori. As you start to climb, you will see the ruins of Sengen-ji Temple, which was the fourth ascetic training site of Katsuragi Shugen, on your left. In front of the observatory at the summit there is a stone shrine with a *hide* (wooden plaques as proof of the visit) inside. Return to the branch and head for Mt. Fudatate. The summit of Mt. Fudatate offers a good view.

Following the signposts, head south to the Narutaki Fudoson. After 500 m, enter the ridge on the left, making sure not miss the signpost. After passing Mt. Fudo and crossing one peak, the trail becomes steep and descends to an unpaved forest road. Go right on the forest road, and you will come to a proper road. Go left, and you will reach the Narutaki Fudoson, or more properly, Narutakisan Enmyo-ji Temple.

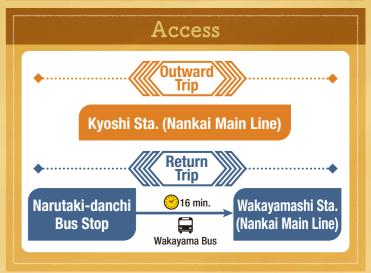
Proceeding from the temple, you will come to a well-lit road. Walk along the river, go straight at the crossroads, turn right at the next corner, and walk up the gentle slope. After passing the pond, you will arrive at the Narutaki-danchi Bus Stop.





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

Course Information Kosen-ji Temple, the trailhead of Mt. limori Ridge trail connecting Mt. limori and Mt. Fudatate The observatory on Mt. limori offers a view of Osaka Bay



Enmyo-ji Temple, the Narutaki Fudo, has a

Advice

This course involves climbing, so proper hiking footwear is recommended. The area between Mt. Takano and Mt. Fujito has intersecting forest roads, so make sure to check the signposts. The same applies to the signposts for entrance to the ridge trail to Mt. Fudo on the ridge south of Mt. Fudatate. Bus service from the Narutaki-danchi Bus Stop to Wakayamashi Station is relatively frequent.