

Tomogashima and the Kada Area

[Katsuragi Sutra Mound #1 (Tomogashima Islands)]

Strolling around the Tomogashima Islands and the port town of Kada The first step in exploring the land of Katsuragi Shugen

The Tomogashima Islands are a cluster of four uninhabited islands in the Kitan Strait: Jinoshima, Torajima, Okinoshima, and Kamishima. The first sutra mound, Johon, is located on one of these islands, Torajima.

Head west from Kada Station and take the alley from the stone marker pointing toward Kada Awashima-jinja Shrine. Along the way, stop by Jogyo-ji Temple, with its towering Chinese juniper tree, and Kada Kasuga-jinja Shrine, the main shrine of which is designated as a National Important Cultural Property. Cross the canal and continue west until you can see the ferry terminal on your right. You will eventually arrive at the stairs to the Ajigamine Gyoja-do. After visiting the Gyoja-do, which enshrines a statue of En no Gyoja, continue further west until you arrive at Awashima-jinja Shrine. This shrine is famous for its doll funeral services and hina doll floating ritual.

After visiting the shrine, take the ferry to the Tomogashima Islands. After disembarking at Nonaura Pier, head west to Mt. Takanosu, the highest point in the islands, and the Tomogashima Island Third Weapons Battery remains. Continue along the coast past the beach huts and you will find the trailhead to Mt. Takanosu. From the clearing at the peak of Mt. Takanosu, the Third Weapons Battery remains, an Imperial Japanese Army historic site, are just a short distance away. Continuing down the trail, you will take the low pass between Minami-Tarumi and Kita-Tarumi, with a clearing just to the south. There is a campground at the clearing in Minami-Tarumi. Nearby is the Otaki Fudo Myo-o, one of the islands' ascetic training sites.

From Kita-Tarumi, take a round trip to the Site of Akai Well (Akai-ato). The crossing to Torajima is too dangerous unless the conditions are perfect, so just offer your prayer from here. Shinja-ike Pond, another one of the islands' ascetic training sites, can be found along the way to the Site of Akai Well.

After completing the walk, take the ferry from Nonaura Pier back to Kada Port.

Walking Distance ◆ Approx. 10 km

Fitness Level ★★☆☆

Walking Time ◆ 3 hours 40 minutes

Skill Level ★★☆☆



Course Information

Access

Round Trip

Kada Sta. (Nankai Kada Line)

Advice

Ferry service to the Tomogashima Islands is subject to weather conditions, so check with the operator ahead of time. The ferry only operates on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays in winter. The Kada walk and Tomogashima walk can be done in either order. The crossing to Torajima Island is dangerous if it has partially collapsed and disappears at high tide.

*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.