

# Shigo and Horikoshi to Kotakiji Temple

[Katsuragi Sutra Mound #12 (Goma no Tawa Hodome)]

[Katsuragi Sutra Mound #13 (Mukai Tawa)]

[Katsuragi Sutra Mound #14 (Kotakiji Temple Buttokutawa)]

A stroll around Shigo, famous for its kushigaki, before a descent to Kotakiji Temple.

Shigo is best known for its kushigaki, the skewered dried persimmons it produces in the late fall each year. First, you will tour the many points of interest related to Katsuragi Shugen in and around the communities of Kono and Horikoshi. You will then visit Kotakiji Temple, which is believed to be the location of the 14th sutra mound.

After getting off at the Horihata Bus Stop, cross the bridge, and walk upstream of the Dogawa River. Follow the signposts off the road and to Bunzono-taki waterfalls. After viewing the waterfall, turn back to Kono before heading up the trail again. Located at the center of the community is the Kono Amida-do Hall, a national tangible cultural property. Just outside of the settlement, you will find Shoraku-ji Temple as well as the place of worship for the Shichidai-Ryuo-sha Shrine, where visitors worship its enshrined deity from afar.

Continuing north, you will reach one end of the Kinki Nature Trail where there are benches. Turn right here and follow the nature trail toward Horikoshi and Zao-toge Pass. To reach the 12th sutra mound, turn left immediately after reaching the pass and take the dirt road that goes up the ridge.

A little south of the pass, the forest road splits in two. There is a trail up the ridge between the fork in the road, which you can take to the peak of Mt. Higashino-tomyogadake, where a mini shrine to En no Gyoja stands. If you change direction 90 degrees to the west and go down the trail, you will find an observation deck. Further down from there, you will rejoin the nature trail. Follow the signposts to Horikoshi Shaku-kannon Temple. From there, take the road that extends east of the temple's parking lot to the 13th sutra mound. The sutra mound is located off the road, but there are signposts to guide you. Return to the road and continue east to Zao-toge Pass. The Katsuragi Zao Gongen-sha Shrine is located on the Wakayama side of the pass. Return to Zao-toge Pass and descend toward Takihata for a while before visiting the 14th sutra mound, Kotakiji Temple.

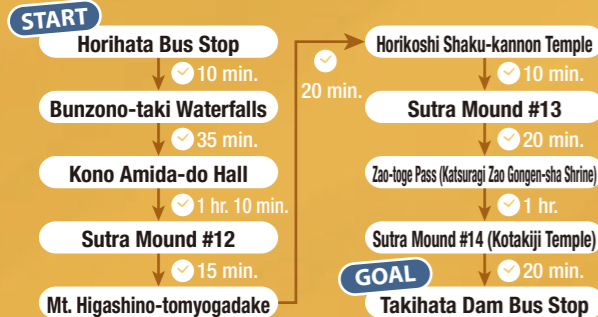
Walking Distance ◆ Approx. 16 km

Fitness Level ★★☆☆

Walking Time ◆ 4 hours 20 minutes

Skill Level ★★☆☆

Course Times



## Course Information



Kono district in Shigo settlement (a.k.a., Homeland of Kushigaki)



Zao-toge Pass, location of the Katsuragi Zao Gongen-sha Shrine

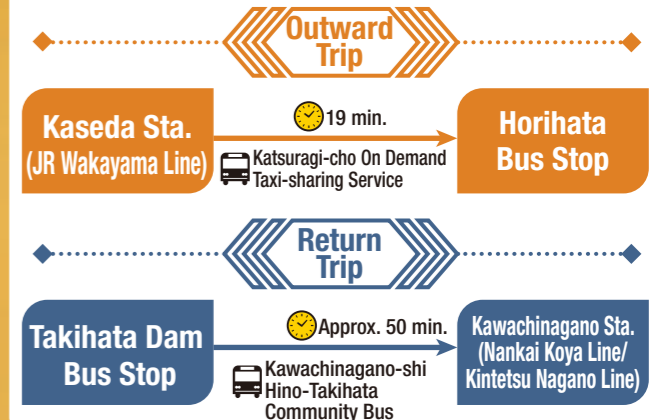


Horikoshi Shaku-kannon Temple, which venerates the Juichimen Kannon



Kotakiji Temple, believed to be the location of Sutra Mound #14

## Access



## Advice

The two sutra mounds are a little hard to find, because they are located off the road. The course can be divided into an out-and-back course from Takihata Dam to Kotakiji Temple (for #14) and a touring course from Horikoshi Shaku-kannon Temple (for #12 and #13). Katsuragi-cho On-demand Taxi-sharing Service operates on weekdays only and require a reservation. You must use a regular taxi on weekends and holidays.

\*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.