

# Mt. Nijo

[Katsuragi Sutra Mound #26 (Mt. Nijo)]  
[Katsuragi Sutra Mound #27 (Ousaka)]

Look around ancient temples related to En no Gyoja.  
Head to the Mt. Nijo sutra mound, and then  
continue on to the distinctively-shaped Donzuru-bo Peak

With its twin peaks, Odake and Medake, Mt. Nijo is a mountain the name of which has been familiar to many since the time of the Manyoshu, the 8th century poetry anthology. However, the existence of the sutra mound atop Odake is less well-known. Many old temples related to En no Gyoja sit along the eastern ridge.

Donzuru-bo Peak is the northernmost peak of the Diamond Trail and is also an ascetic training site for Katsuragi Shugen. It should be noted that the 27th sutra mound is located on private property, so offer a prayer from the neighboring Osaka Yamaguchi-jinja Shrine.

Start from Taimadera Station and head west straight ahead on the entrance path to Taima-dera Temple. There are some historic sites related to En no Gyoja within the precincts of Taima-dera Temple. Exit from the northern gate. Head for Kasa-do, a structure famous for its single column, via Sekko-ji and Takao-ji Temples, both of which are believed to have been established by En no Gyoja. Then the trail to Mt. Nijo begins. The trail splits in two at Yusen-ji Temple. Take the left path to climb through Iwaya-toge Pass. Directly beneath the pass stands the National Historic Site of "Iwaya," which used to be the 26th sutra mound in the Middle Ages, and is worth taking a look at.

From the pass, take the path on the western hillside of Medake Peak. Although the Diamond Trail branches off to the left, take the right path for now to climb up Odake Peak to pay a visit to the sutra mound. When you come back down to where the path branches, head north and gradually descend on the undulating trail until you reach the north end of Diamond Trail, then head east. Over the Anamushi-toge Pass, you will find the trailhead to Donzuru-bo Peak on your left. It is famous for its distinctive scenery with exposed tuff rocks.

Continue along the road eastward, take the northern road on the Anamushi crossroad, and head to Nijo Station via a farm road. Go past the station and cross over the railroad crossing, and continue on eastward along the road. Follow the direction board and turn left to visit Osaka Yamaguchi-jinja Shrine.

Walking Distance ◆ Approx. 13 km


Fitness Level ★★☆☆

Walking Time ◆ 4 hours 15 minutes


Skill Level ★★☆☆




## Course Information




Taima-dera Temple and Mt. Nijo



Looking up at Mt. Nijo from Diamond Trail



Walking under the cherry blossoms on the Medake hiking route



The name of Donzuru-bo comes from its white surface resembling a flock of cranes

## Access

◆ Outward Trip ◆

**Taimadera Sta. (Kintetsu Minami Osaka Line)**

◆ Return Trip ◆

**Nijo Sta. (Kintetsu Osaka Line)**

## Advice

Most of the route involves climbing, so be sure to wear proper hiking footwear. There is an admission fee for visiting the Taima-dera Temple Nakano-bo Hall. This includes access to the temple's garden, Reiho-den Hall, Gyoja's cauldron, well, and Ryu-o-sha Shrine. Sekko-ji Temple also requires an admission fee as well. Also, getting to the summit of Medake Peak where the sundial is takes 5 minutes from Umanose.

\*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.