

From Iwaze Mt. Kyozuka to Mt. Jinpuku

[Katsuragi Sutra Mound #18 (Iwaze Mt. Kyozuka)]
[Katsuragi Sutra Mound #19 (Mt. Jinpuku)]

Visit Shugen ascetic training sites along the Diamond Trail

This area has an ambience that reflect the fact that the Kongo-Katsuragi Range has been an important ascetic training site in the Shugen tradition.

From Chihayaguchi station, cross the railroad line to the south and head east. Following the signpost, take the path on the right along the valley at the fork that you will see right after seeing a café/restaurant on your right. Just off the road, there is a stone mini shrine to Sai-no-kami, the guardian deity of borders, at the other side of the valley. Continue walking along the trail through an open valley, and you will soon enter a wooded area. Though the trail forks twice, keep to the main trail. After reaching the end of the woodland path, you can ascend the trail on the right-hand valley to get to a low pass. The 18th sutra mound is located at the top of the steep slope (with rope a fixed to assist in the ascent) on the right side of the pass.

Descend the pass carefully and proceed straight ahead until you reach the ridge, then turn left and cross Mt. Fucho. Shortly after the trail joins a woodland path, you will reach Juji-toge Pass. Continuing beyond the pass, the woodland path curves to the left. Take the narrow path that branches off to the right. Leave the narrow path and proceed along the woodland path again, and when the slope becomes flatter, the path starts running parallel to the main ridgeline and joins the Diamond Trail.

Once on the trail, head west. The mini shrine of Nishi no Gyoja sits beyond the large signboard. Return the way you came and head east. After crossing Sugio-toge Pass and walking past the Gyoja-sugi cedar, you will descend slightly to reach the downward path that leads to the Kongo Tunnel. Go straight ahead on a rocky trail to visit the 19th sutra mound on the summit of Mt. Jinpuku. Proceed on the decline to the tunnel, and this will lead you to a point slightly south of the tunnel. Proceed toward the tunnel and you will find a trailhead opening to your left. Take this trail and cross a small ridge, then descend on the path to Daitaku-ji Temple. Descend along the river and take the left turn when you reach a wide road, then you will be at Denen-gochome-minami Bus Stop.

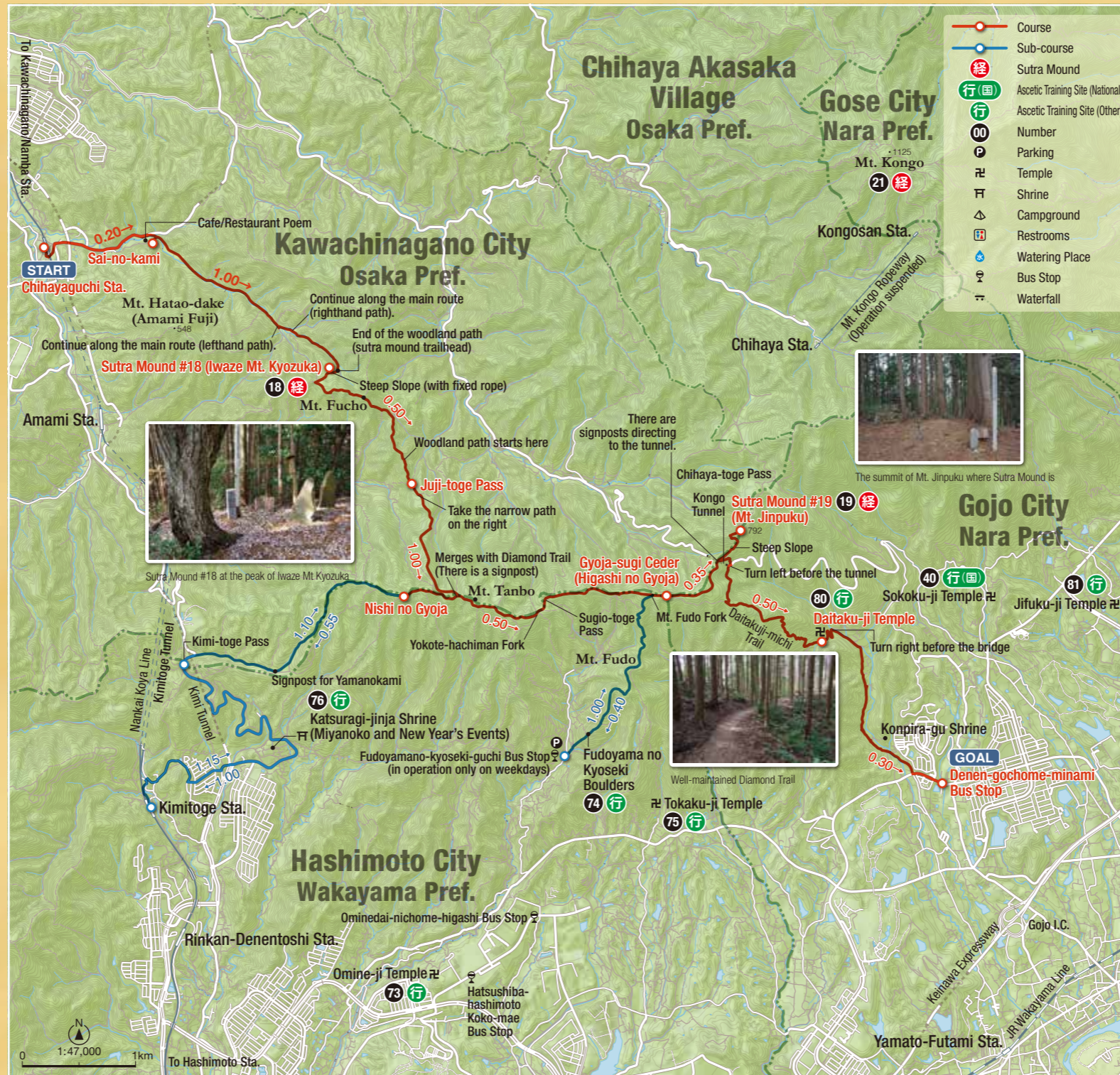
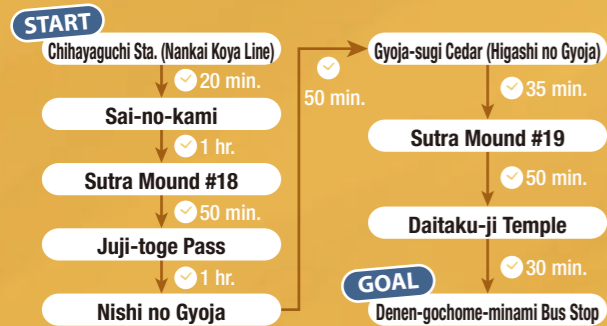
Walking Distance ◆ Approx. 16 km

Fitness Level ★★☆☆

Walking Time ◆ 5 hours 55 minutes

Skill Level ★★☆☆

Course Times



Course Information



A steep slope equipped with a rope takes you to Sutra Mound #18



Gyoja-sugi cedar, also known as Higashi no Gyoja

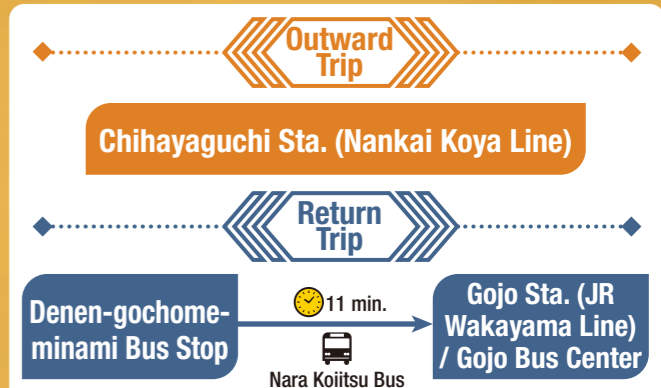


Natural forest around Mt. Tanbo



Daitaku-ji Temple is believed to have been constructed on the site of En no Gyoja's thatched hut

Access



Advice

This route involves climbing from beginning to end, so be sure to wear proper hiking footwear. Going up and down the 18th sutra mound will require extra caution, even though the slopes have ropes to help you. The bus service from the finishing point of the hike is infrequent. Be sure to check the timetable, including the service for Gojo Bus Center.

*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.