

●●● Model Course 10 ●●●

# Nanakoshi-toge Pass to Sefuku-ji Temple through Hibaragoe Route

[Katsuragi Sutra Mound #11 (Nanakoshi-toge Pass Mt. Kyozyuka)]

Follow an old mountain pass and take the Hibaragoe route, part of the Saikoku Kannon pilgrimage route, to one of its amulet-issuing temples, Sefuku-ji Temple

This course will take an approach up the challenging pass from Chichionoi toward the 11th sutra mound on the main ridge of the Izumi Range.

After getting off at the Chichionoi Bus Stop, you will find the Yasaka-jinja Shrine as well as Kannon-ji Temple, an ascetic training site. Start walking upstream the Chichionoi-gawa River. Continue past the Chichitaki Fuduson and the statue of En no Gyoja at the top of the area with fixed chains to the left of the entrance to the shed. Next, take the path on the left before the lumber mill. Eventually, the road narrows and becomes a forest road that takes you into a thickly wooded area. After walking down this concrete road for some time, take the path that appears on your right, and you will soon come to the trailhead of Nanakoshi-toge Pass.

You will immediately come upon an old stone distance indicator. After climbing for a while, the road surface changes to dirt. After rounding the ridge, take the path that goes off to the right from the forest road. You will be walking on what appears to be an ancient highway for a while. This path will take you into and out of the woods several times. As you continue to climb, you will reach the top of Nanakoshi-toge Pass, where you can find a jizo statue serving as a signpost, as well as a monument engraved with a poem by Saigyō. The sutra mound is located on Mt. Kyozyuka to the southwest. However, the mountain is private property and off-limits to the public, so just offer your prayer from here.

Continuing the gentle ascent from the pass, you will come to a roadside shrine to the Shichidai Kongo-doji, where you will find a descending path to the Shichidai-Ryuo-sha Shrine on the right. Continue walking on the road until the Ushizaka trailhead, where you will start up the mountain trail. Along the trail, you will find Jizo statues and stone signposts indicating the way to Mt. Makio, as well as other elements that give the trail the atmosphere of an ancient highway. There are forks in the road, but the signposts will point you to Sefuku-ji Temple.

Walking Distance ◆ Approx. 14 km

Fitness Level ★★ ★

Walking Time ◆ 5 hours 5 minutes

Skill Level ★★ ★

Course Times



## Course Information

The Chichitaki Fuduson is a short walk uphill from the Chichionoi Bus Stop

One of Jizo statues serving as road markers on Nanakoshi-toge Pass

Stone signpost on the old Nanakoshi-toge Pass highway

Hibaragoe, part of the Saikoku Kannon pilgrimage route

## Access

**Outward Trip**

Izumi-Chuo Sta. (Semboku Rapid Railway) → 44 min. Nankai Bus → Chichionoi Bus Stop

\*Via JR Izumi-Fuchu Sta. from Izumiotsu Sta. (Nankai Main Line)

**Return Trip**

Makiosan Bus Stop → 12 min. Orange Bus → Makiochugakko-mae Bus Stop → 26 min. Nankai Bus → Izumi-Chuo Sta.

\*There is also a bus via JR Izumi-Fuchu Sta. bound for Izumiotsu Sta. (Nankai Main Line)

## Advice

This course involves climbing, so wear proper hiking footwear. The forest roads before Nanakoshi-toge Pass intersect and diverge many times, so follow the yellow forest fire prevention signs put up by Izumi City. Bus service to Chichionoi is extremely limited. Bus service from Mt. Makio is also limited on weekdays.

\*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.