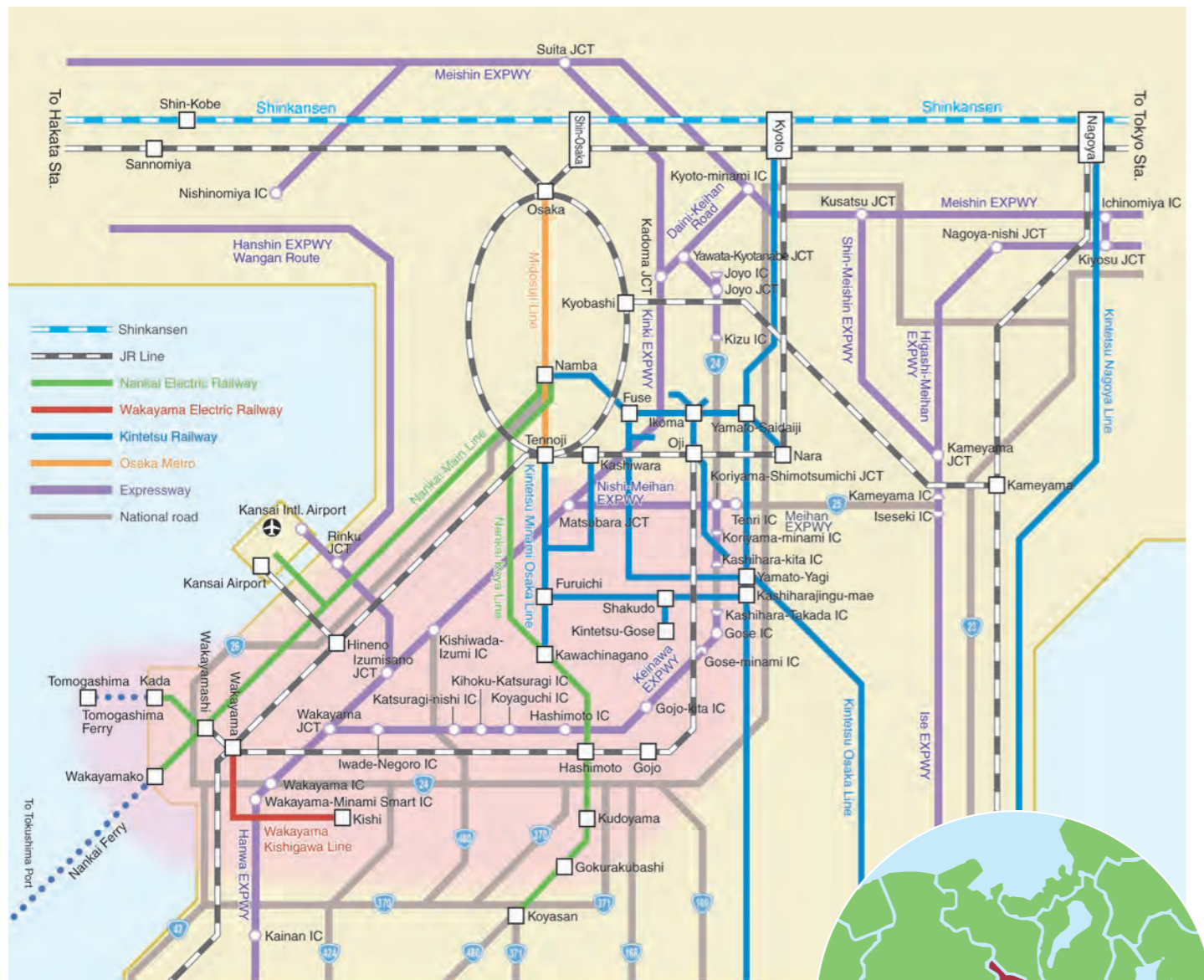




Japan Heritage Katsuragi Shugen Wide Area Access Map



See the website for details.

Read the story behind Katsuragi Shugen, key facts about it, and commentary on its cultural assets, along with tourist and event information.



Katsuragi Shugen website
<https://katsuragisyugen-nihonisan.com/en/>



Katsuragi Shugen Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/nihonisan.katsuragishugen>



Katsuragi Shugen Instagram
<https://www.instagram.com/katsuragishugen>

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KATSURAGI
— SHUGEN —



Wakayama
Osaka
Nara

修 葛 驗 城

A journey of prayer and discovery



The birthplace of Shugendo

A tradition passed down through generations of believers and villagers

Founded by En no Gyoja, a tradition passed down through generations

The birthplace of Shugendo

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The birthplace of Shugendo

Japan Heritage

Katsuragi Shugen



The birthplace of Shugendo, a tradition passed down through generations of believers and villagers

The Katsuragi mountains, which straddle the three prefectures of Wakayama, Osaka, and Nara, are where En no Gyoja, considered the founder of Shugendo, first practiced his ascetic training. This region is thus the birthplace of Shugendo. The 112-kilometer stretch of mountains has long been revered as a home to many deities. En no Gyoja, who trained here for years, buried each of the 28 chapters of the Lotus Sutra in sutra mounds across the area.

To make a pilgrimage to these sutra mounds, as well as to temples, shrines, waterfalls, megaliths, and other sites connected to En no Gyoja, is called Katsuragi Shugen. The area is also dotted with related cultural assets. Registered as a Japan Heritage in June 2020, Katsuragi Shugen not only remains an important training site for Shugendo followers, but is also a magnet for countless tourists who come to experience the history and allure of the region.



About Japan Heritage

A program of the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan Heritage recognizes stories of the traditions and cultures of Japan told through the allure and uniqueness of regional histories. It was established in 2015 with the goal of promoting local communities by utilizing the tangible and intangible cultural properties that are the basis of these stories. Katsuragi Shugen is one of the 104 stories that have so far been recognized as a Japan Heritage. (As of March 31, 2021)

The Katsuragi Shugen Story

Part 1

Ascetic training begins by the sea

The first sutra mound, Johon, is located on Torajima, one of the four islands of Tomogashima off the coast of Kada, Wakayama. Given that Shugendo is a mountain-focused religion, it's unusual that one of its sacred training sites is by the ocean.

From nearby Okinoshima Island—where regular tourists take a ferry to visit—Shugendo practitioners walk to Torajima across a rocky stretch that appears only at low tide. The Shugendo trail that starts from Tomogashima continues on to Kada, Wakayama.



Sutra mound #1 is found on Torajima of Tomogashima

Part 2

Training rooted in local communities

Because the mountains of Katsuragi Shugen are not very high and are relatively accessible, Katsuragi Shugen's ties with local communities are stronger compared to other Shugendo training routes. Shugendo practitioners have been deeply involved in the locals' faith in these places.

Local villages have households that have provided lodging and assistance for Shugendo practitioners. During Katsuragi Shugen training in the Edo Period, the Oku family of Izumisano, Osaka Prefecture provided lodging for Shugendo practitioners, as shown by documents related to Shogo-in Temple found in the household.



Oku family residence

Part 3

Katsuragi Shugen—today and tomorrow

To this day, many people go through Katsuragi Shugen training. While many of the destinations require you to clear difficult obstacles—for example, travel unmapped paths, climb cliffs, and cross streams—in recent years you can get close to some sites by car or public transportation. This is a convenient way to begin getting to know Katsuragi Shugen and to experience Katsuragi's beautiful nature, culture, and history.



The Diamond Trail leads to Shugendo training sites



Introduction to Katsuragi Shugen

En no Gyoja



Statue of En no Gyoja (photo courtesy of Shogo-in Temple, Shugendo headquarters)

Shugendo founder En no Gyoja, whose real name was En no Ozunu, lived in the 7th and 8th centuries. Many legends surround him; for example, he is said to have had supernatural powers that allowed him to move freely across the sky and mountains, and he had faithful demon servants. Two years after making the Katsuragi mountains an ascetic training ground, En no Gyoja moved to Mount Omine, which to Shugendo practitioners has become just as important as Katsuragi Shugen.

(See the following pages for more about En no Gyoja.)

Unique Shugendo attire



Shugendo costume from Shogo-in Temple (left) and Shipporyu-ji Temple

Because devotees climb wild, rugged mountains, they have come to wear highly functional attire—much like today's mountaineering wear. Besides being convenient and allowing easy movement, the Shugendo outfit also embodies the teachings of the Buddha in various forms. The outfit comprises clothing and tools. The main clothing items include an eight centimeter-wide black skullcap, a *suzukake* robe on top of a white base-layer robe, and a *yuigesa* sash over the shoulders. Tools include a *horagai* conch shell trumpet used to communicate in the mountains and a *shakujo* staff.

Katsurei-zakki



Katsurei-zakki (owned by Shipporyu-ji Temple)

Published in 1850, the *Katsurei-zakki* details things like the 28 sutra mounds and their locations and plays a key role in explaining Katsuragi Shugen to a modern audience. Shugendo almost ceased to exist when the Meiji government of the late 19th century passed a law to abolish it. Sacred sites fell into neglect, as did the paths leading to them. After World War II, a movement began to revive Shugendo.

The *Katsurei-zakki* and other books helped followers conduct surveys and locate sutra mounds and many other Shugendo sites. The book serves as a guide to today's Shugendo devotees. Its original printing blocks are preserved in Shogo-in Temple in Kyoto.

Sutra mounds and training sites



Sutra mound #20, Jofukyo Bosatsuhon at former Ishi-dera Temple

En no Gyoja likened the mountains of Katsuragi to the world of Buddhism. He put each of the 28 chapters of the Lotus Sutra in a dedicated container and buried them in various places in the mountains. The 28 places where the sutras were buried are called *kyozuka* (sutra mounds) and are sacred sites central to the Katsuragi Shugen belief system. A pilgrimage to these 28 sutra mounds is core to Katsuragi Shugen. The route is also dotted with other places associated with En no Gyoja; namely, places where he did his ascetic training. Major training sites can be found in *Meisho Zu-e* illustrated guidebooks published in the Edo Period.

A superman like no other Who Was En no Gyoja?

En no Gyoja traveled across mountains and devoted his days to ascetic training. Let's explore his mysterious life, as shared with us through ancient writings. Get to know En no Gyoja and dip into the world of Katsuragi Shugen.



Year

634 ... En no Gyoja was born on New Year's Day to the Kamo clan in Yabako Hamlet, Chihara Village, Katsuragi no Kami District, Yamato Province. His father was named Ohzunu, his mother Shiratoume.

Episode 1

651 ... At the age of 17, he established an ascetic training practice in the Katsuragi mountains.

671 ... After a thousand days of training, he had a vision of Zao Gongen, the principal deity of Mount Omine.

672 ... He reformed two demons of Mount Ikoma, who had been tormenting the locals, and made them his servants.

Episode 2

673 ... He established Kongosan-ji Temple at the foot of the Katsuragi mountains.

686 ... He converted his birthplace into a temple called Chihara-ji (or Kisshoso-ji).

Ascetic training, day and night

Legend has it that En no Gyoja had magical powers, such as the ability to command demons. He mastered the magic spells of the deity Kujaku Myo-o and used his supernatural powers to move freely across the mountains, engaging in ascetic practice. In so doing, he laid the foundations of the Shugendo religion.

He returned to his birthplace and left his last words with a disciple

After returning from Izu-oshima Island in 701, En no Gyoja gave his last words to his disciple, Hongyo, at Kisshoso-ji Temple in Chihara (present-day Chihara, Gose City, Nara Prefecture). These were his final words: "My life will end this year, but I bequeath the dharma to future generations. Those who experience the dharma will encounter me."

Episode

1 From the moment he is born, En no Gyoja has mysterious powers.

En no Gyoja's mother had a dream one night of swallowing a mysterious object resembling a brightly glowing vajra (a ritual weapon). The following year, in 634, she gave birth to a baby boy who was given the name Ozunu. As he grew up, the boy naturally mastered the spells of the deity Kujaku Myo-o and performed magical deeds on the locals. En no Gyoja was an extraordinary child. Instead of playing with other children, he crafted Buddhist pagodas and statues out of mud and spent his days worshipping them.



Episode

2 Two demons become servants of En no Gyoja. Their descendants still follow their master's teachings today.

A pair of demons living on Mount Ikoma had been kidnapping and devouring children from a nearby village. When En no Gyoja was 39 years old, the villagers pleaded with him to kill the demons. He went into the mountains, caught the demons' child, and hid it inside his clothing. The demons cried and begged to have their child returned, but En no Gyoja admonished them for their lack of empathy with the parents of the village. The creatures changed their ways and became En no Gyoja's servants. He made them promise they would support Shugendo followers even after his death and had them devote themselves to ascetic practice. The husband was named Zenki and the wife Goki. They are often depicted alongside En no Gyoja as objects of worship.

Nakatsugawa in Kinokawa hosts the Katsuragi Kanjo ritual (see page 15). To this day, a family based there manages the site and maintains the trail for Shugendo followers. Believed to be the descendants of one of the five children of Zenki and Goki, they have kept their ancestors' promise and continued to support Shugendo followers in their training.



Episode

3 Hitokotonushi hits back at En no Gyoja for ordering him to build a bridge to Yoshino. Conflict ensues.

Using his supernatural powers, En no Gyoja ordered Hitokotonushi of Katsuragi to "Go to Mount Kinpusen in Yoshino night and day and follow the deity Zao Bosatsu. Make a bridge out of mist, so we can travel between Mount Katsuragi and Mount Kinpusen." Hitokotonushi protested: "My face is ugly. I'm ashamed to be seen," and he would only work at night. According to legend, the boulders collected for this bridge-building are the Fudoyama no Kyoseki Boulders (see page 21).

Episode

4 En no Gyoja is banished to Izu-oshima Island on false charges, but travels around magically by night.

En no Gyoja had a disciple named Karakuni no Muraji Hirotari, who was struggling with his ascetic training and who blamed his master for giving poor guidance. He slandered En no Gyoja, telling the imperial court that he was misleading people and trying to destroy the nation. En no Gyoja was banished to Izu-oshima Island. During the day, he obeyed the ban on ascetic training. But at night, he magically transported himself to places like Hakone, Enoshima, and Mount Fuji to continue his training. Later, it was found that Karakuni's allegations were false. En no Gyoja was acquitted and returned to Katsuragi.



695 ... Using his supernatural powers, he ordered the deity Hitokotonushi to form a bridge made of mist between Mount Katsuragi and Mount Kinpusen in Yoshino. *1

Episode 3

699 ... He was banished to Izu-oshima Island based on the false allegations of Karakuni no Muraji Hirotari. *2

Episode 4

700 ... Following further false allegations shared with the emperor by Karakuni no Muraji Hirotari, he was sentenced to death. *2

701 ... On New Year's Day, he was acquitted of all charges and returned to the capital. After leaving his last words with a disciple, legend has it that around midnight on June 7, he either vanished without a trace or put his mother in an iron bowl and together left for Tang, China. He was 68 years old.

Episode 5

Episode

5 Even after En no Gyoja's death, Shugendo practitioners and locals pass on the Katsuragi Shugen tradition.

Before leaving this world, En no Gyoja left a message with his disciple to save the people. His teachings live on, and not only among Shugendo practitioners. They remain embedded in the faith and lives of local people. One example is the Mukai family in Kada, Wakayama, who provide lodging for Shugendo followers. Katsuragi Shugen is all about Shugendo practitioners and the locals preserving the tradition and passing it on to future generations.



Source: *1 *En no Gyoja Honki* ("Biography of En no Gyoja"); *2 *En no Gyoja Godenki Zu-e* ("Illustrated Biography of En no Gyoja")
There are many theories as to the dates and anecdotes relating to En no Gyoja. This booklet is based on a variety of folkloric and literary sources.
Reference: *Shoku Nihongi*; *En no Gyoja Honki*; *En no Gyoja Godenki Zu-e*; "A Collection of Life Stories of En no Gyoja" (author Buhei Zenitani, publisher Toho Shuppan); "An Introduction to Yamabushi" (editorial supervisor Tainen Miyagi, publisher Tankosha Publishing)

Questions about En no Gyoja

Did he really exist?

It's certain that En no Gyoja did exist, because he is mentioned in the *Shoku Nihongi*, an official record of the history of Japan compiled 1,300 years ago. He is described as a natural-born erudite, and many legends about him were created by later generations of followers. As to what kind of person he really was, we can only speculate. In 1799, Emperor Kokaku bestowed upon him the posthumous title Jinben Daibosatsu (Great Bodhisattva Jinben). Numerous sacred sites and objects related to him remain today. One example is a statue of the deity Juichimen Kannon Bosatsu that was supposedly carved by En no Gyoja as he prayed for his mother's recovery from illness (see page 20).

Who were En no Gyoja's family?

At the foot of Mount Katsuragi, there was a woman named Shiratoume who lived with a vassal named Kotokatsuragikimi, whose distant ancestor was the deity Susanoo no Mikoto. The family took Ohzunu, a son of Futoe of the Kamo clan in Izumo, as Shiratoume's husband. These are En no Gyoja's parents. Later, Ohzunu divorced his wife and went back to Izumo, and En no Gyoja took good care of his mother. On the place where he was born stands Kisshoso-ji Temple (see page 26).

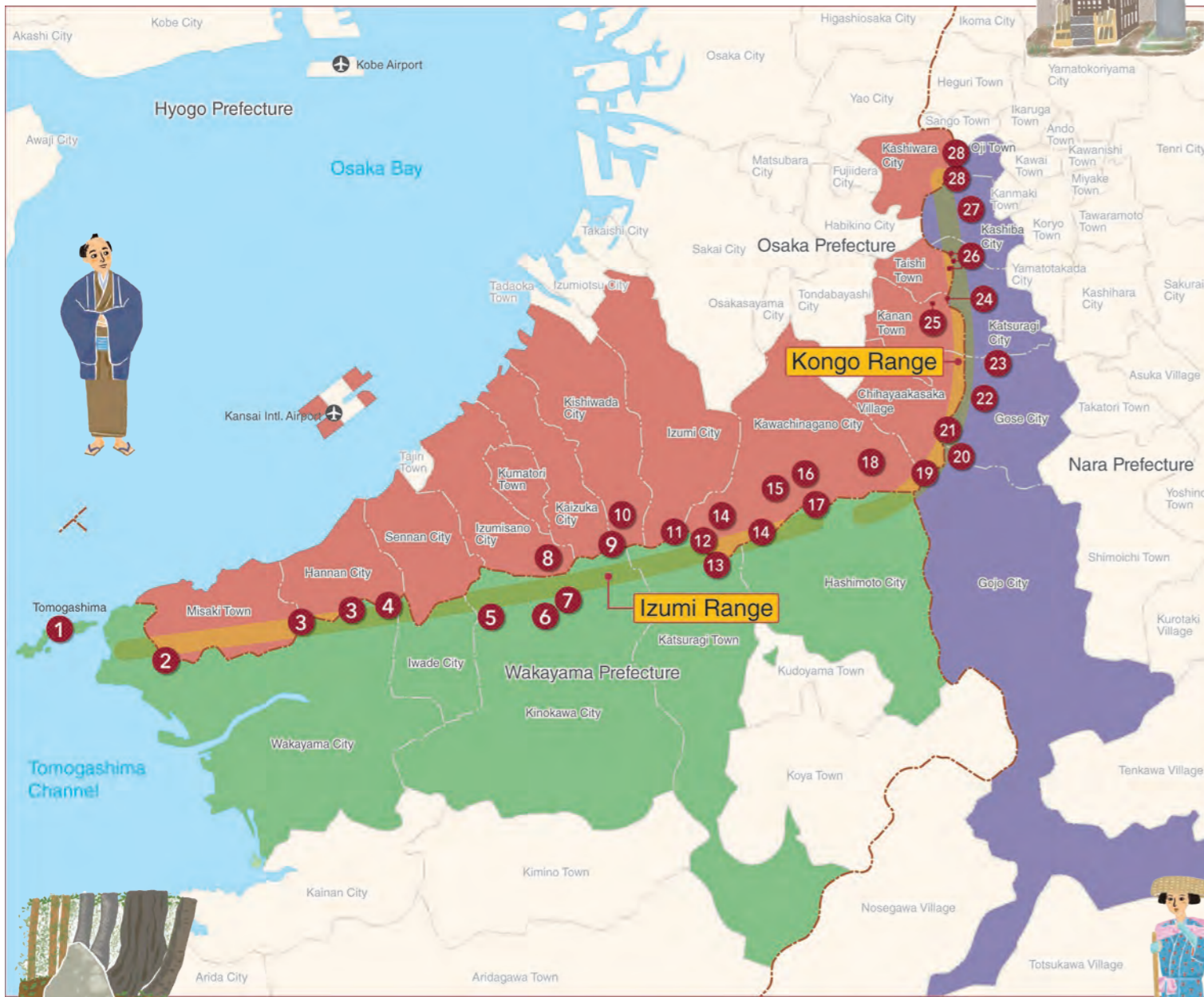
Why is he called the founder of Shugendo?

En no Gyoja was not officially ordained as a monk in the Buddhist monastic order. Rather, he committed himself to ascetic training as an *ubasoku* (a lay devotee of Buddhism) and passed what he acquired on to future generations. During the Heian and Kamakura periods (8th to 14th centuries), the many ascetic hermit followers gradually organized their religion. In the process, En no Gyoja came to be venerated as the founder of Shugendo.

Japan Heritage **Katsuragi Shugen**

Area Map

The Izumi Range runs east to west along the boundary of Osaka and Wakayama Prefectures. The Kongo Range stretches north to south, dividing Osaka and Nara Prefectures. This 112-kilometer stretch of mountains and Tomogashima in the west of Wakayama Prefecture are the birthplace of Shugendo. Why not make your own little pilgrimage to the many historical sites that remain to this day?



Note: Numbers ① to ②⑧ mark the locations of the 28 sutra mounds. See pages 38 and 39 for the exact locations.

Area 1 Izumi Range

- Wakayama City — P10
- Misaki Town — P12
- Hannan City — P13
- Iwade City — P13
- Sennan City — P14
- Kinokawa City — P15
- Izumisano City — P16
- Kumatori Town — P17
- Kaizuka City — P17
- Kishiwada City — P18
- Izumi City — P19
- Katsuragi Town — P20
- Hashimoto City — P21

Area 2 Kongo Range East, West, South

- Kawachinagano City — P23
- Chihayaakasaka Village — P24
- Gojo City — P25
- Gose City — P26

Area 3 Kongo Range North

- Kanan Town — P28
- Taishi Town — P28
- Katsuragi City — P29
- Kashiba City — P30
- Oji Town — P31
- Kashiwara City — P31

Area by color: ●Wakayama Prefecture ●Osaka Prefecture ●Nara Prefecture

Touring Katsuragi Shugen

Area ①
Izumi Range

- Wakayama Prefecture
- Wakayama City
- Osaka Prefecture
- Misaki Town
- Hannan City
- Wakayama Prefecture
- Iwade City
- Osaka Prefecture
- Sennan City
- Wakayama Prefecture
- Kinokawa City
- Osaka Prefecture
- Izumisano City
- Kumatori Town
- Kaizuka City
- Kishiwada City
- Izumi City
- Wakayama Prefecture
- Katsuragi Town
- Hashimoto City

- ☎ Inquiries
- 🏠 Address
- 🕒 Hours
- ⓧ Closed
- 🅇 Parking
- 🎫 Fee/admission

Note: Foreign language assistance may not be available for all inquiries and facilities.



Wakayama Prefecture
Wakayama City

The birthplace of Shugendo—
Training sites and cultural
assets dot the mountains east
of Tomogashima.



Kannen-kutsu Cavern

The second Shugendo training site established by En no Gyoja, on Tomogashima Islands. Located on an ocean-facing cliff on Torajima Island and formed by the action of waves over time, the cave contains a stone monument that is believed to have been carved by Doko-hosshinno, who served as chief priest of Shogo-in Temple, the head temple of Shugendo.

☎ Wakayama City Tourism Department 073-435-1234 📍 Kada, Wakayama-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🚶 Not easily accessible 📄 None 🗺 Map P38 A1

Kada Kasuga-jinja Shrine

The shrine is said to have moved to its current location by Kuwayama Shigeharu (a retainer of warlord Hashiba Hidenaga) during the Tencho era (1573 to 1592). Legend holds that En no Gyoja, who was using Tomogashima Islands as a sacred training site, prayed to the shrine's god as a guardian deity. For this reason, the head priest of Shogo-in Temple joins large numbers of Shugendo practitioners to make a pilgrimage here every April.

☎ Shrine office 073-459-0368 📍 1343 Kada, Wakayama-shi, Wakayama Prefecture 🕒 9:00 to 17:00 📄 5 spaces
🗺 Map P38 B2



A jigamine Gyoja-do

Gyoja-do played an important role as the place where Shugendo practitioners stayed before crossing to training sites on Tomogashima Islands, and many pilgrims continue to visit today. From its hilltop vantage point, it offers panoramic views of Kada and the Kitan Strait.

☎ Wakayama City Tourism Department 073-435-1234 📍 242 Kada, Wakayama-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Visit anytime 📄 None 🗺 Map P38 B2

Kishu Kadaura Saito Daigomaku Ritual

In the past, it was traditional in Kada to perform a Daigomaku ritual below Kada A jigamine Gyoja-do to coincide with the departure of monks to the mountains at Shogo-in Temple. In 2015 this historic practice was revived by a local group. It is extremely unusual for this ancient ritual to be performed with an ocean backdrop.

☎ Wakayama City Tourism Department 073-435-1234 📍 Kada, Wakayama-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Please inquire in advance 📄 None 🗺 Map P38 B2



Hakanotani Gyoja-do

Located in the mountains north of Musota and to the northeast of Hon'ei-ji Temple, Hakanotani Gyoja-do is believed by some to be sutra mound #3. The *Kii Zoku-Iudoki* describes the site as housing the tomb of En no Gyoja's mother. Pilgrims can still be seen at the site on the 7th day of each month to commemorate the anniversary of the mother's death. Many parents pray at this temple for their children's future.

☎ Wakayama City Tourism Department 073-435-1234 📍 Nougawa, Wakayama-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Visit anytime 📄 None 🗺 Map P38 C4

Daifukusan Hon'ei-ji Temple (Nougawa Kannon)

This temple was founded by En no Gyoja. It is popularly known as "Kannon-san of Nougawa." The statue of Senju Sengen Kannon Bosatsu in the main hall is said to be the work of En no Gyoja himself. The temple, which later became an official temple of the imperial court at the order of Emperor Kanmu, inspired broad faith among worshippers.

☎ Temple office 073-461-2715 📍 2436 Nougawa, Wakayama-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Visit anytime 📄 None 🗺 Map P38 B5



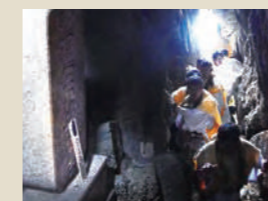
Narutakisan Enmyo-ji Temple (Narutaki Fudosen)

Located at the foot of Mount Fudatate on the border between Osaka Prefecture and Wakayama Prefecture, this temple belongs to the Myoshin-ji Temple branch of the Rinzaï Zen school of Buddhism. The temple began as a sacred training site, where En no Gyoja is said to have buried the third chapter of the Lotus Sutra. Numerous pilgrims from Wakayama Prefecture and beyond gather during a ritual on the 28th of each month. Here, Shugendo practitioners hold a Goma fire ritual and the chief priest performs a ritual known as Miso-fuji.

☎ Temple office 073-461-3085 📍 2 Sonobe, Wakayama-shi, Wakayama Prefecture (Fudo-do: 1637 Sonobe, Wakayama-shi, Wakayama Prefecture) 🕒 Wood for ritual offering: 200 yen each; amulets: 1,000 yen each, etc.
🕒 Visit anytime (The Narutaki Fudo Myo-o Ritual is held from 7:00 to 15:00 on the 28th of each month.)
📄 10 spaces 🗺 Map P38 B5

Sutra mounds in the area

Tomogashima Johon



Sutra mound #1. En no Gyoja established five training sites on Tomogashima Islands, a place that crops up in Japanese mythology. Johon on Torajima is the starting point of the 28-station Katsuragi Shugen trail.

☎ Wakayama City Tourism Department 073-435-1234 📍 Kada, Wakayama-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Not easily accessible 📄 None 🗺 Map P38 A1

Mt. Daifuku Hiyuhon / Mt. Unzan Hiyuhon



There are two theories as to the location of sutra mound #3. One is that it is near the summit of Mount Daifuku, as described in old documents like the *Katsurei-zakki* and the *Shozan-engi*. Mount Daifuku is associated with Hon'ei-ji Temple.

☎ Wakayama City Tourism Department 073-435-1234 📍 Nougawa, Wakayama-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Visit anytime 📄 None 🗺 Map P38 B4/C4

Other cultural assets

◆ **Site of Akai Well (Akai-ato)**



The site of Akai Well is one of five training sites remaining on Tomogashima Islands. The well is believed to have provided spring water with which Shugendo practitioners purified themselves before making the crossing to Torajima Island.

☎ Wakayama City Tourism Department 073-435-1234 📍 Kada, Wakayama-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Please inquire in advance 📄 None 🗺 Map P38 A1

◆ **Shinja-ike Pond**



Located in the center of Okinoshima Island, this place is one of the ascetic training sites that remain on the four islands of Tomogashima. According to legend, a dragon lives here.

☎ Wakayama City Tourism Department 073-435-1234 📍 Kada, Wakayama-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Please inquire in advance 📄 None 🗺 Map P38 A1

◆ **Tsurugino-ike Pond on Kamishima Island**



Located on Kamishima Island, this place is one of the ascetic training sites that remain on the four islands of Tomogashima. It gets its name ("Sword Pond") from a legend that says En no Gyoja obtained a sword from the pond on the island.

☎ Wakayama City Tourism Department 073-435-1234 📍 Kada, Wakayama-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Access limited to a spot on Okinoshima Island that allows worship from a distance 📄 None 🗺 Map P38 A1

◆ **Kada Awashima-jinja Shrine**



Legend has it that the history of this shrine can be traced back to Empress Jingu, who prayed for the deities Sukunahikona no Mikoto and Ooanamuchi no Mikoto, who resided on Tomogashima, to appear in Kada. Shugendo practitioners pray here before crossing to Tomogashima.

☎ Shrine office 073-459-0043 📍 Kada, Wakayama-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 9:00 to 17:00 📄 15 spaces (first 30 minutes free, then 550 yen per hour) 🗺 Map P38 B2

◆ **Ebi-matsuri Festival at Kada Kasuga-jinja Shrine**



The festival is held regularly at Kada Kasuga-jinja Shrine. Today, it consists of a procession with a portable shrine by town residents on the third Saturday of May.

☎ Shrine office 073-459-0368 📍 1343 Kada, Wakayama-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Please inquire in advance 📄 None 🗺 Map P38 B2

◆ **Jogyo-ji Temple**



Tradition holds that this ancient temple was rebuilt during the Tencho era. The principal image of Kada-ji Temple, a depiction of three Buddhas, was moved to Jogyo-ji after Kada-ji was destroyed by fire. Kada-ji was built at the order of Emperor Daigo (early 10th century).

☎ Wakayama City Tourism Department 073-435-1234 📍 1523 Kada, Wakayama-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Visit anytime 📄 None 🗺 Map P38 B2

◆ **Sainen-ji Temple**



This ancient temple belongs to the Seizan Jodo school of Buddhism. It is believed Shinpuku-ji Temple—the location of sutra mound #2—was transferred here. The Kannon-do hall contains statues of Juichimen Kannon Bosatsu and En no Gyoja.

☎ 073-455-1922 📍 905 Nishinosho, Wakayama-shi, Wakayama Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 📄 5 spaces (to the east of the temple) 🗺 Map P38 A5

◆ **Site of Nakayama-oji Shrine**



Nakayama-oji Shrine was one of the Kumano Kujukyo-ji shrines. Located at the entrance to the hamlet of Takihata, it's likely that long ago, people visited the shrine on their way back from pilgrimages to Kumano.

☎ Wakayama City Tourism Department 073-435-1234 📍 Takihata, Wakayama-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Visit anytime 📄 None 🗺 Map P38 C4

Tourist spots

🍴 Savor fresh local seafood

Fresh Fish Cuisine Inasa



Established in 1951, this restaurant is located in front of Kada port. Enjoy fresh seafood, including red sea bream—a local specialty.

☎ 073-459-0118 📍 196 Kada, Wakayama-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 11:00 to 14:30, 17:00 to 20:00 (order by 20:00)
🕒 Closed irregularly (open on Sat., Sun., public holidays). Please inquire in advance. 📄 10 spaces 🗺 Map P38 B2

🍴 Locally sourced, healthy seasonal flavors

Tsubura Cafe



An old Japanese house, renovated and turned into a cafe. Treat yourself to Japanese sweets, lunches, and more—all made with wholesome ingredients.

☎ 073-459-2611 📍 1070-91 Kada, Wakayama-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 10:00 to 17:00 (order by 17:00) 🕒 Thur., Fri. (Will be open on these days if you call in advance.) 📄 3 spaces
🗺 Map P38 B2

🍴 Enjoy the bounty of the sea at Kada port

Ebisuya



An eatery right by the ferry terminal for Tomogashima. Popular choices include rice bowls and set meals with fresh fish from Kada port.

☎ 073-481-2282 📍 211 Kada, Wakayama-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 10:30 to 17:00 (reservations required for 17:00 to 21:00)
🕒 Tues., Wed. (in line with Tomogashima Ferry timetable)
📄 3 spaces 🗺 Map P38 B2

Osaka Prefecture
Misaki Town

Home to statues of Kannon and Bosatsu believed to be the works of En no Gyoja. Even his mother's grave is said to be here.



Kosen-ji Temple (Kyoshi Kannon)

The principal object of worship is a statue of the Juichimen Kannon Bosatsu deity, which is believed to be the work of En no Gyoja. This statue is usually concealed from public view. So a mock Kannon Bosatsu statue has been placed in front of the *zushi*, the miniature shrine that houses the real statue. On the temple grounds are the Gyoja-do hall and a stone monument engraved with writing about the 28 Katsuragi sutra mounds. Behind the main hall is a stone mini shrine—which houses a statue of En no Gyoja—and a stone monument assumed to mark the grave of En no Gyoja's mother.

☎ Misaki Town Industry and Tourism Department 072-492-2730 📍 1464 Kyoshi, Misaki-cho, Sennan-gun, Osaka Prefecture
🕒 Visit anytime 📄 None 🗺 Map P38 B4



Jigen-in Temple (Kannon-ji Temple)

The temple is known to locals as "Kannon-ji". It's the second of the 28 prayer stations on the Katsuragi Shugen pilgrimage trail. The temple's Kannon statue is believed to be the work of En no Gyoja himself and is usually concealed from public view. The Jizo-do hall next to the main hall used to be the Kannon-do hall in the olden days. Inside is a statue of the deity Jizo Bosatsu from the Tensho era.

☎ Misaki Town Industry and Tourism Department 072-492-2730 📍 Tanagawa-nishibata, Misaki-cho, Sennan-gun, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 📄 None 🗺 Map P38 A5

Tourist spots

🍴🍷 Fresh seafood, moderately priced

Fresh Seafood Uotetsu



A fishmonger and restaurant all in one. For an incredibly low price, you can feast on any of the large array of freshly caught fish that the shop owner has bid on at the nearby fish market in Fuke port.

☎ 072-492-3811 📍 2326-8 Tanigawa, Tanagawa, Misaki-cho, Sennan-gun, Osaka Prefecture
🕒 Restaurant 11:00 to 14:00 (order by 14:00), 16:30 to 20:30 (order by 20:30); fish store 8:00 to 21:00 🕒 Mon. evening, Tue. 📄 9 spaces 🗺 Map P38 B4

🍴🍷 Try a soft and chewy bagel

Ouchipan



This shop is renowned for its soft and chewy bagels made from additive-free dough using domestic flour and soy milk. The more than 200 varieties of bagels change with the seasons. Try the weekly lunch specials that feature bagels.

📍 1423-44 Tanigawa, Tanagawa, Misaki-cho, Sennan-gun, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 11:00 to 14:30 (lunch 11:30 to 14:30) 🕒 Sun., Mon., Tues. 📄 20 spaces 🗺 Map P38 A4

🏠 A place to chill and unwind

Misaki Town Development Friendship Center



This old, traditional Japanese house is a former ryokan. A place for both locals and visitors to meet, it rents out space for events and shared kitchen projects. Make friends with the locals in this escape from the hurry of daily life.

☎ 080-4012-5482 📍 3400-6 Tanigawa, Tanagawa, Misaki-cho, Sennan-gun, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 10:00 to 17:00 🕒 Closed irregularly 📄 4 spaces. We encourage you to come by public transit. 🗺 Map P38 B4

Sutra mounds in the area



Hobenhon at former Shinpuku-ji Temple (Ninoshuku Kannondo)

According to the *Katsurei-zakki*, Shinpuku-ji Temple had a Juichimen Kannon Buddhist statue, a stone on which En no Gyoja meditated, a pond called Zennyoga-ike, and a building dedicated to the temple's priests. The old guidebook also noted that the temple was the location of sutra mound #2. A mini shrine of Izumi sandstone stands on the former site of the priests' quarters, and this is believed to be sutra mound #2.

☎ Misaki Town Industry and Tourism Department 072-492-2730 📍 Tanagawa-nishibata, Misaki-cho, Sennan-gun, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 📄 None 🗺 Map P38 A5

Osaka Prefecture
Hannan City

Yamanakadani, a scenic area in southern Osaka where the Kumano Kodo passes through. There's a stone monument near where an old sakura tree once stood.

Tourist spots

🍴 Freshly laid eggs, all you can eat!

Tamagoya Tamaco



The restaurant is one of the businesses inside an old, traditional Japanese house. Choose from an extensive menu featuring dishes made with freshly laid eggs. There are also desserts.

☎ 📍 246 Yamanakadani, Hannan-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Fri. 11:00 to 14:30; Sat., Sun., public holidays 11:00 to 16:00 🕒 Weekdays 📄 3 spaces 🗺 Map P38 C4

🍴 Bring your own food and drink barbecue

Salad Paku-paku BBQ Place



Just bring your own food and drinks. The table, chairs (6 per table), barbecue, wire mesh, tongs, charcoal (2 kg), and starter fluid are all here. Reserve at least three days in advance.

☎ 072-473-2100 📍 119-8 Yamanakadani, Hannan-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 10:00 to 16:00 (enter by 14:00) 🕒 3rd Wed. each month, and November through March 📄 140 spaces 🗺 Map P38 C4

🛍 A selection of Hannan's finest products

Takumi no Ippin

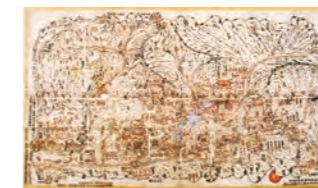


This store features all the best of items proudly made in Hannan. Enjoy shopping.

☎ 072-447-8908 📍 1F Hannan Commerce and Industry Association Bldg., 35-4 Ozaki-cho, Hannan-shi, Osaka Prefecture (3 min. walk from Ozaki Station) 🕒 9:00 to 17:00 on weekdays and 2nd and 4th Sat. each month. Check their social media for the latest information. 🕒 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sat. each month; Sun.; public holidays 📄 None 🗺 Map P38 C4

Wakayama Prefecture
Iwade City

Gyoja-do, which enshrines En no Gyoja, and other valuable cultural assets related to Katsuragi Shugen have been carefully preserved.



Old Drawing of Negoro-ji Temple

This drawing depicts the precincts of Negoro-ji Temple during the latter half of the Muromachi Period. The work is believed to date sometime after 1690, when the Daishi ("great master") title was conferred posthumously upon the priest Kakuban Shonin. The inclusion of a path leading into sacred mountains in the drawing indicates that the beliefs of Katsuragi Shugen had been accepted. The drawing has been designated a Cultural Property by Wakayama Prefecture. There is a replica on display at Negoro-ji Temple, and a photo panel exhibit at the Negoro Museum of History.

Tourist spots

🍴 Take an easygoing journey through history

Hatsuhana Kominka Cafe & Restaurant



The century-plus-old cherry-wood pillars help create a quaint atmosphere in which you can enjoy lunch or desserts made with seasonal ingredients.

☎ 0736-61-3899 📍 2185 Negoro, Iwade-shi, Wakayama Prefecture 🕒 Lunch 11:00 to 15:00, cafe from 10:00, dinner by reservation only 🕒 December 26 to 31 📄 10 spaces 🗺 Map P38 C5

🛍 Same-day freshly picked vegetables

Negoro Sakura no Sato Roadside Station



From the farm to you, freshly picked Iwade vegetables! Fresh produce you can trust—sold by the farmers themselves. This popular spot also sells local processed favorites.

☎ 0736-69-0210 📍 37-1 Oshigawa, Iwade-shi, Wakayama Prefecture 🕒 9:00 to 17:00 (closes at 17:30 in July and at 16:00 in January) 🕒 1st Tues. each month, Obon holidays, year-end/New Year holidays 📄 43 spaces 🗺 Map P38 C4

🛍 An extensive selection of Wakayama specialties

Negoro Rekishi no Oka Roadside Station



Besides the Iwade City specialties you expect, you'll also find all the major Wakayama Prefecture souvenirs. Visit the on-site museum to experience Iwade history and culture.

☎ 0736-61-1160 📍 2020-1 Negoro, Iwade-shi, Wakayama Prefecture 🕒 Product and food sales 10:00 to 18:00, museum 9:00 to 17:00 🕒 Product and food sales open year-round; museum closed Tues. (except on public holidays) and December 29 to January 3 📄 76 spaces 🗺 Map P38 C5

Negoro-ji Temple

Negoro-ji Temple, the head temple of the Shingi Shingon school of esoteric Buddhism, was founded by Kakuban Shonin (known posthumously as Kogyo Daishi), who is considered to have revived the Shingon sect. Considering its origin as Bufuku-ji, which was designated the 34th stop on the Katsuragi pilgrimage, the temple has deep connections to Katsuragi Shugen. The temple's expansive precincts are dotted with valuable cultural assets, including the Gyoja-do, which enshrines En no Gyoja (given the posthumous title Jinben Daibosatsu) and Daito Pagoda, a National Treasure and Japan's largest wooden two-story pagoda.

☎ Negoro-ji Temple office 0736-62-1144 📍 2286 Negoro, Iwade-shi, Wakayama Prefecture 🕒 500 yen 🕒 April through October 9:10 to 16:30; November through March 9:10 to 16:00 pm (Access may be restricted during Buddhist services and on other occasions.) 📄 80 spaces 🗺 Map P38 C5



Osaka Prefecture Sennan City

Temples and shrines remain where En no Gyoja summoned the deities Kinpu and Kumano, as mentioned in the *Katsurei-zakki*.



Kinyu-ji Temple

A temple of the Omuro sect of Shingon Buddhism, Kinyu-ji is located along the route to Kazefukigoe, one of the 28 mountain passes mentioned in the *Katsurei-zakki*. Records indicate that in the late Kamakura Period, the temple had multiple halls and towers. Today, the Kannon-in hall is the only one from the Kamakura Period. The temple's origins goes back to when En no Gyoja carved a statue of Nyoirin Kannon, built a hut, and prayed to Kinpu and Kumano to appear here as guardian deities. Thus the temple's name in kanji takes the kanji from Kinpu and Kumano. The principal object of worship is a Nyoirin Kannon statue that dates back to the late Muromachi Period.

☎ 072-482-3536 📍 813 Shindachi Kinyuji, Sennan-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🆓 Free 🕒 7:00 to 17:00 🗺 8 spaces 📍 Map P38 C4



Shindachi-jinja Shrine

Located next to Kinyu-ji Temple, this was called Kinyu-ji Gongengu as the temple's guardian shrine until the government's policy to separate Shinto and Buddhism in the late 19th century. There's also reference to the shrine in the *Katsurei-zakki*. Since medieval times, it served as the main shrine for the 13 villages of Shindachi. The shrine preserves notable historical structures, including a main hall in the five-ken nagare-zukuri style built in the early Edo Period, and a large *wari-haiden* (divided worship hall) from the mid-Edo Period.

☎ 072-483-3632 📍 795 Shindachi Kinyuji, Sennan-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🆓 Free 🕒 9:00 to 15:00 🗺 12 spaces 📍 Map P38 C4

Tourist spots

🍴 A cafe in a vintage trailer



Spartan Café HIDEOUT

The hamburgers here—sweet and savory 100% beef patties on a brioche bun—are like nothing you've ever tasted.

☎ 070-8555-7017 📍 455-1 Shindachi Kinyuji, Sennan-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 11:00 to 21:00 📅 Tues. 🗺 4 spaces 📍 Map P38 C4

☕ Freshly brewed coffee and homemade donuts



BARBARA COFFEE

Customer favorites are the homemade donuts and coffee made only with freshly roasted beans. The menu also features lunches and seasonal parfaits and tarts made with locally sourced vegetables and fruits. Takeout available.

☎ 072-442-1505 📍 202 Shindachi Makino, Sennan-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 8:00 to 17:00 📅 Sun. 🗺 None 📍 Map P38 C4

🍴 Home-style cooking with fresh seasonal ingredients



Shigesaku

Emphasizing seasonal foods and local production for local consumption, this restaurant serves dishes made with the best ingredients sourced daily. Enjoy specialties like eel in summer and oysters in winter.

☎ 072-485-2355 📍 51-1 Shindachi Kinyuji, Sennan-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 11:00 to 14:00 📅 Sun., may be unscheduled closings on other days 🗺 20 spaces 📍 Map P38 C4

Wakayama Prefecture Kinokawa City



Kumano-jinja Shrine

Home to the guardian deity of Nakatsugawa, this shrine is an important Shugendo training site. According to an account in the *Kii Shoku-fudoki* (an early 19th century geography record), Shogo-in Temple repaired the shrine after it was damaged: "Shogo-in made repairs when the shrine was damaged. Every year the leaders of Shogo-in Temple and Sanbo-in Temple pray before god and perform a Daigoma ritual." This ritual is currently performed only at Nakatsugawa Gyoja-do but an illustrated map reveals that it used to be held at Kumano-jinja Shrine.

☎ Kinokawa City Tourism Department 0736-77-0843 📍 Nakatsugawa, Kinokawa-shi, Wakayama Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🗺 None 📍 Map P38 D4

Ascetic training sites central to Katsuragi Shugen, such as Nakatsugawa Gyoja-do and Kokawa-dera Temple, can be found.



Kokawa-dera Temple

Kokawa-dera Temple was founded by a local hunter named Otomo no Kujiko in 770. The temple appears in the *Shozan-engi*, a record of Shugendo mountains compiled in the early Kamakura Period, and from this we see that the temple has long been a Shugendo training site. Even today, numerous Shugendo practitioners from Shogo-in Temple visit Kokawa-dera Temple every spring for their ascetic training. It is known as the third of the 33 temples of the Saikoku Kannon Pilgrimage.

☎ Kokawa-dera Temple main hall 0736-73-4830 📍 Kokawa, Kinokawa-shi, Wakayama Prefecture 🕒 Admission to the temple grounds is free of charge (although visitors must pay 400 yen to enter the main hall) 🕒 8:00 to 17:00 🗺 100 spaces (fee applies) 📍 Map P38 D5

Sutra mounds in the area



Mt. Kuratani Yakuso-yuhon

☎ Kinokawa City Tourism Department 0736-77-0843 📍 Nishi-yamada, Kinokawa-shi, Wakayama Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🗺 None 📍 Map P38 D4

Sutra mound #5. At the top of Mount Kuratani is a stone monument engraved with the *bonji* script representing the Buddhist deity Fudo Myo-o. According to a Shugendo training record of the Muromachi Period, the sutra mound was at Enmyo-ji Temple, a part of the Negoro-ji Temple complex. But another source, the *Katsurei-zakki* written in 1849 by the priest Chiko, notes that the sutra mound is on Mount Kuratani. Taken together, the evidence suggests that the sutra mound was transferred.



Shino-toge Pass Jukihon

☎ Kinokawa City Tourism Department 0736-77-0843 📍 Jinzu, Kinokawa-shi, Wakayama Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🗺 None 📍 Map P38 D4

Sutra mound #6. Shino-toge Pass is at the intersection of two routes: one going from Mount Kuratani to sutra mound #7 in Nakatsugawa, and the other going from Sakura-ike Pond to Kokawa-dera Temple. The sutra mound located near the pass is marked by a heap of rocks and a boulder engraved with the kanji for "sutra mound" and the *bonji* script representing the Buddha Shaka Nyorai.



Nakatsugawa Kejo-yuhon

☎ Kinokawa City Tourism Department 0736-77-0843 📍 Nakatsugawa, Kinokawa-shi, Wakayama Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🗺 None 📍 Map P38 D4

Sutra mound #7 is found on a ridge to the northwest of Nakatsugawa Gyoja-do and Kumano-jinja Shrine—two places that play a central role in Katsuragi Shugen. The stone that marks the sutra mound is engraved with a prayer for a bountiful harvest. A second engraving indicates the year of 1751.



Mine no Ryu-o Jugaku-mugaku-ninkihon

☎ Kinokawa City Tourism Department 0736-77-0843 📍 Kirihata, Kinokawa-shi, Wakayama Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🗺 Paid parking available nearby 📍 Map P39 E4

Sutra mound #9 is located at the top of Mount Izumi-Katsuragi. The mountain inspires reverence among the locals, as it is a water source for the crop-growing region across Kinokawa and Osaka. In the *Shozan-engi*, a record of Shugendo mountains compiled in the early Kamakura Period, the site is referred to as Ryu no Shuku. The *Kii Shoku-fudoki* (an Edo Period geography record) describes the place as a mountain ascetic training site located in the Katsuragi mountains at the border of the Senshu region, on the route for Ushitaki (Senshu) and Osaka. From these descriptions, we can infer that it was a Shugendo training site and was once a key transit point.

The best Scenic wonders worth visiting Katsuragi Shugen photo gallery

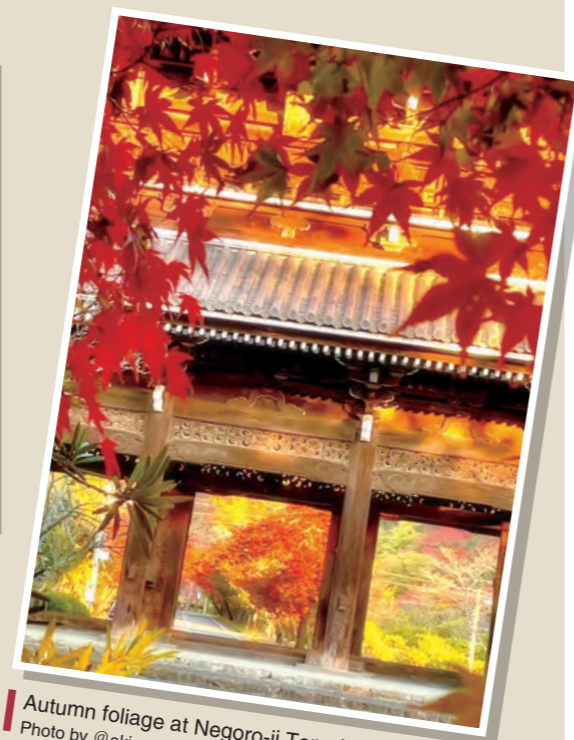


Autumn foliage at Daiitoku-ji Temple
Photo by @14.tenchan

Follow us! /



The official Katsuragi Shugen Instagram account shares real-time updates on daily life along the Katsuragi Shugen trail, event information, and more.
@katsuragishugen



Autumn foliage at Negoro-ji Temple
Photo by @aki_scenery

Spanning Wakayama, Osaka, and Nara, the Katsuragi Shugen trail boasts a history of over 1,300 years. To share its charm with a wider audience, we held an Instagram photo contest. Here are some of the award-winning works that captured the essence of this historic and spiritual path.

Tourist spots

🍴 A facility honoring the achievements of Hanaoka Seishu

Seishu no Sato Roadside Station Flower Hill Museum

This facility exhibits valuable documents related to Hanaoka Seishu, a Japanese surgeon whose accomplishments include the world's first breast cancer operation under general anesthesia. There's also a restaurant and a shop.

☎ 0736-75-6008 📍 473 Nishinoyama, Kinokawa-shi, Wakayama Prefecture 🕒 9:00 to 17:00 📅 Tues. (open public holidays, closed following weekday), year-end/New Year holidays 🗺 48 spaces (2 for disabled) 📍 Map P39 E5



Osaka Prefecture
Izumisano City



Hibashiri-jinja Shrine

Hibashiri-jinja Shrine is the head shrine of Hinenosho Iriyamada Village and was catalogued in an ancient shrine register. The shrine is dedicated to Kagutsuchi no Mikoto, a god of fire, and legend holds that its name derives from an ancient ritual in which priests would run through flames.

☎ 072-459-7511 🏠 Ogi, Izumisano-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 📄 None 📍 Map P38 D4

The location of one of the oldest monuments of the 28 sutra mounds, and a place where many women Shugendo practitioners train.



Inunakisan (Shipporyu-ji Temple)

Founded by En no Gyoja in 661, Shipporyu-ji Temple is the location of Katsuragi Shugen sutra mound #8. It is also a training site of central importance in Shugendo. The temple is also known as Nyoin Omine ("women's sacred mountain") and accepts female Shugendo trainees. Many people from across Japan visit the nature-rich temple for ascetic training.

☎ Shipporyu-ji Temple main hall 072-459-7101 🏠 8 Ogi, Izumisano-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 7:30 to 16:30 🗓 Open year-round 📄 50 spaces 📍 Map P38 D4

Oku Family Residence

The Oku Family Residence was the home of a wealthy farming family who came back to the area to resume a life of farming in 1616. The Oku family served as the headman of Kashii Village during the Edo Period. The buildings and site have all been designated Important Cultural Properties of Japan.

☎ 193 Minami-nakakashi, Izumisano-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Interior spaces are not open to the public 📄 None 📍 Map P38 C3



Sutra mounds in the area

Inunakisan Shipporyu-ji Reishogatake Gohyakudeshi-jukihon

Sutra mound #8 is found on the summit of Tomyogadake, a 558-meter-high mountain to the south of Shipporyu-ji Temple. On a stone altar you'll see a stone mini shrine and an *itabi* (stone tablet memorial). The *itabi* is engraved with the year 1459, making this one of the oldest monuments of the 28 sutra mounds. Along the trail are ascetic training sites, creating the kind of solemn air you'd expect in Shugendo mountains.

☎ Shipporyu-ji Temple main hall 072-459-7101 🏠 Ogi, Izumisano-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 📄 None 📍 Map P38 D4



Tourist spots

🛀 Osaka Prefecture's foremost hot spring: Inunakiyama Onsen

Inunaki Onsen Center



This hot spring is said to be effective against ailments such as rheumatism, neuralgia, gastrointestinal problems, and skin diseases. It also beautifies the skin; a bath in the gentle waters will leave you feeling smooth and silky all over.

☎ 072-459-7208 🏠 2238 Ogi, Izumisano-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 9:00 to 17:00 (open until 18:00 on Sun. and public holidays) 🗓 Open year-round 📄 30 spaces 📍 Map P38 D4

🍽️ 🛀 Hot spring inn amidst abundant nature

Minamitei



This inn sits amidst the Inunakiyama hot spring village. Day visitors can enjoy the inn's lunch, a tasty feast made with fresh, seasonal ingredients and meticulously presented.

☎ 072-459-7336 🏠 2236 Ogi, Izumisano-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Lunch 11:00 to 15:00 🗓 Open year-round 📄 30 spaces 📍 Map P38 D4

Other cultural assets

◆ The rural landscape of Hinenosho Ogi

The Ogi district of Izumisano is blessed with abundant nature. The area became the first site in Osaka Prefecture to be chosen as a nationally Important Cultural



Landscape in recognition of farmland and settlements that take advantage of the area's mountain-basin topography, the natural environment, shrines and temples connected to Hinenosho (a national Historic Site), and related historical documents.

☎ Ogi, Izumisano-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 📄 None

◆ Masamoto-ko Tabihikitsuke

Masamoto-ko Tabihikitsuke is a diary that records events during Kujo Masamoto's time as feudal lord in charge of the Hinenosho manor from 1501 to 1504. Authored by Masamoto himself and filled with specific records of what he saw and heard during his visit to the estate, the work is a rare historical source. The original belongs to the Archives and Mausolea Department of the Imperial Household Agency, and a replica can be found at the Izumisano History Museum. (Photo courtesy of the Archives and Mausolea Department, Imperial Household Agency)



◆ Seven waterfalls, including Gyoja no Taki Falls

Of the waterfalls in the mountains of Shipporyu-ji Temple, seven of them were named as a way to laud the miraculous success of Emperor Junna's prayers for rain. These seven falls figure into the temple's name, which literally means "temple of seven treasured waterfalls." People meditate under the Gyoja no Taki waterfall, where En no Gyoja and Kukai once did.



☎ Shipporyu-ji Temple main hall 072-459-7101 🏠 8 Ogi, Izumisano-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 7:30 to 16:30 🗓 Open year-round 📄 50 spaces 📍 Map P38 D4

◆ Katsurei-zakki

In 1850, the priest Chiko recorded his survey of the 28 sutra mounds of Katsuragi in an effort to revitalize Katsuragi Shugen. The book sought to define the names and locations of sutra mounds and training sites, which had been fluid until that time, through a series of comparative hypotheses.



Osaka Prefecture
Kumatori Town



Furui Family Residence

The Furui family served as the village administrator of the Kishiwada Domain in the Edo Period. According to records from the Oku family, in the late Edo Period, the Furui residence provided a place to rest for practitioners undergoing the Katsuragi Kanjo ritual led by Shogo-in Temple. The *shoin* building (upper photo) retains gold-leaf wall/screen paintings by a Kano school artist, which are designated an Important Cultural Property.

☎ 072-453-0391 (Lifelong Learning Department, Kumatori Town Education Board) 🏠 Okubo-naka, Sennan-gun, Kumatori-cho, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Open to the public only in early November 📄 None 📍 Map P38 D3

A town of devout believers that has been providing a welcoming place to rest for many Shugendo practitioners.



Tourist spots



🍴 An organic restaurant in the woods
Sobra no Mori Restaurant

A special retreat, available by reservation only. Recommended is the house specialty, a game meat hamburger steak. Pamper yourself by immersing body and soul in the soothing sounds of the river.

☎ 072-478-8770 🏠 722 Sobura, Kaizuka-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 11:00 to 16:00 🗓 Tues., Wed. 📄 Yes 📍 Map P39 E4



🍴 A cozy cafe at the foot of Mount Izumi-Katsuragi
Pole Pole

This intimate cafe-restaurant sits amidst rich nature at the foot of a mountain. Enjoy lunches featuring fresh vegetables and delectable cakes.

☎ 072-478-8588 🏠 405 Sobura, Kaizuka-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 9:30 to 16:30 🗓 Tues. to Fri. 📄 None 📍 Map P39 E4



🍴 Soil, greenery, sunlight, and breeze
Kaizuka Ibuki Village

This multipurpose facility features vegetables grown in the Senshu area's bountiful nature. The farmers' market lets you buy an abundance of produce—freshly harvested each morning—from local farmers.

☎ 072-479-8026 🏠 3081 Baba, Kaizuka-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 9:00 to 17:30 🗓 Tues. 📄 Yes 📍 Map P38 D3

Tourist spots

🍴 🛍 If you're in Kumatori, don't miss...

Ekishita Nigiwaikan

Tourist information, rental bicycles, temporary luggage storage, sales of local specialty products and original merchandise, and more.

☎ 072-451-2572 🏠 1-17-1 Okubo-naka, Sennan-gun, Kumatori-cho, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 9:00 to 17:00 🗓 Mon., Tues. (open public holidays), year-end/New Year holidays 📄 None 📍 Map P38 D3



🍴 🛍 A brick building with a charming retro vibe

Kumatori Community Center

This lifelong learning facility, reconstructed from a cotton mill dating back to the early 20th century, has a restaurant serving locally sourced ingredients and a shop featuring locally produced items.

☎ 072-453-0391 🏠 1-10-1 Gomon-nishi, Sennan-gun, Kumatori-cho, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 9:00 to 22:00 (restaurant 10:00 to 21:00; shop 10:00 to 15:00) 🗓 4th Wed. (restaurant and shop closed every Wed.), year-end/New Year holidays 📄 46 spaces 📍 Map P38 D3



🛍 Experience the Edo Period in a village administrator's house

Naka Family Residence (Important Cultural Property)

Built in the early Edo Period, this residence of a village administrator of the Kishiwada Domain is open to the public. Inside you can buy souvenirs such as postcards.

☎ 072-453-0391 (Kumatori Community Center) 🏠 1-11-18 Gomon-nishi, Sennan-gun, Kumatori-cho, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 10:00 to 16:30 (enter by 16:00) 🗓 Wed. (Mon. to Fri. in August, January, and February), year-end/New Year holidays 📄 46 spaces (Kumatori Community Center) 📍 Map P38 D3



Osaka Prefecture
Kaizuka City

Ascetic training sites amidst rich nature have been passed down through generations of the locals.



Sobura Tochinokidani

A valley in Mount Izumi-Katsuragi, known to this day as a *yamabushi* training site and also called Fudodani ("Fudo valley"). The *Katsurei-zakki* writes that En no Gyoja performed Goma fire rituals here. Deep within the steep valley is the 10-meter-high Fudo waterfall, a sacred training site. The area has been preserved and passed down by local residents, landowners, and Shugendo practitioners.

☎ 072-433-7126 (Cultural Assets Preservation Team, Education Department, Kaizuka City Education Board) 🏠 Sobura (Tochinokidani), Kaizuka-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 📄 None 📍 Map P39 E4

Osaka Prefecture
Kishiwada City

Villages at the foot of Mount Izumi-Katsuragi and Mount Konoyama carry on the tradition.



Amefuri no Taki Falls at Ogami-jinja Shrine

Amefuri no Taki Falls is located on the upper reaches of the Tsuda River where it flows past Ogami-jinja Shrine, which is situated at the foot of Mount Konoyama. When Emperor Yozei ordered Sugawara no Michizane to pray for rain during a severe drought in 884, it was found that making an offering of water from the falls consistently led to rainfall, despite the dry weather. As a result, the shrine is also known as Amefuri Daimyoin ("great god of rainfall"). The surrounding greenery, designated a Natural Monument by Kishiwada City, and the waterfall have together been chosen as one of the "100 Beautiful Green Spaces" of Osaka Prefecture.

📍 Kishiwada City Tourism Department 072-423-9486
🏠 Habutaki-cho, Kishiwada-shi, Osaka Prefecture
🕒 Visit anytime 📄 None 🗺️ Map P38 D3



Katsuragi-odori Dance

Katsuragi-odori originated in an Edo Period dance that was performed to pray for rain or express gratitude for rain. It was performed by people from five villages located at the foot of Mount Izumi-Katsuragi. The villages were inhabited by parishioners of Hachidai-ryuo Shrine, which was located at the peak of the mountain. The dance fell out of practice, before being revived in Tonohara Village and designated an Intangible Cultural Property by Kishiwada City in 1956 and an Intangible Folk Cultural Property by Osaka Prefecture in 1993. Late in the afternoon on August 14 every year, children dressed in beautiful festive clothing dance and festive music is played on the grounds of Miroku-ji Temple in Tonohara.

📍 Kishiwada City Tourism Department 072-423-9486 🏠 Tonohara-cho, Kishiwada-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 📄 None 🗺️ Map P39 E3

Sutra mounds in the area

Dai-itoku-ji Temple Hosshihon

Sutra mound #10. Dai-itoku-ji Temple is said to have been founded by En no Gyoja. On the temple grounds is a large stone engraved with *bonji* script. The *Katsurei-zakki* mentions that a stone believed to be sutra mound #10 is found within the temple gate. The *Izumi Meisho Zu-e* of the Edo Period tells how En no Gyoja first came here, trained under a waterfall, carved a statue of the Buddhist deity Fudosen, and enshrined it here. The two-story pagoda on the precincts has been designated an Important Cultural Property by the Japanese government.



📍 Kishiwada City Tourism Department 072-423-9486 🏠 1178 Ohsawa-cho, Kishiwada-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 8:00 to 16:00 (gate closed) *After the gate is closed, you cannot exit. Gate closing time may change depending on season and weather. 📄 Paid parking available nearby 🗺️ Map P39 E3

Osaka Prefecture
Izumi City

Since ancient times, historic figures such as En no Gyoja, Kukai, Emperor Kazan, and Toyotomi Hideyori have offered their prayers in this land.



Makiosan Sefuku-ji Temple

This famous temple was founded by order of Emperor Kinmei shortly after Buddhism came to Japan. On the temple grounds are a stone marker indicating the site of the Makiosan sutra mound and Kami-do, where legend holds that the great monk Kukai shaved his head upon converting to Buddhism. The temple is also home to two statues that are the only examples of their kind in Japan. One is a statue of the bodhisattva Bato Kannon that shows the soles of his feet. The other is a 4-meter-high seated statue of the deity Hochigai Daikannon.

📍 Temple office 0725-92-2332 🏠 136 Makiosan-cho, Izumi-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 500 yen each to enter temple grounds and the main hall 🕒 8:00 to 17:00 (December through February: 8:00 to 16:00) 🕒 Open year-round 📄 100 spaces 🗺️ Map P39 E3

Sutra mounds in the area



Nanakoshi-toge Pass Mt. Kyojuka Kenhotohon

Sutra mound #11. In days gone by, Nanakoshi-toge Pass was a major route connecting the Kii region and Osaka. To the west of the pass is Mount Kyojuka, and on its summit remains a heap of stone—a sutra mound. In the woods to the east of the pass is Shichidai-ryuo-sha Shrine, which was mentioned in the *Kii Shoku-Iudoki*. A Shugendo training site is believed to have existed nearby.

📍 Cultural Heritage Utilization Division, Izumi City Education Board 0725-99-8163 🏠 Chichioni-cho, Izumi-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Please refrain from visiting, as this is private property. 📄 None 🗺️ Map P39 E4

Matsuo-dera Temple

Matsuo-dera Temple is said to trace its roots back to a carving of the bodhisattva Nyoirin Kannon by En no Gyoja on a sacred camphor tree during his ascetic training and enshrined in the Hakuho era. Following the coming of the monk Taicho, the temple flourished from the Nanbokucho Period to the Muromachi Period. The temple buildings were demolished by warlord Oda Nobunaga but later rebuilt by Toyotomi Hideyori. The current main hall, which was constructed by dismantling and rebuilding Shitenno-ji Temple's Amida-do Hall, holds the temple's principal object of worship, a statue of Nyoirin Kannon in a seated posture. This statue is rarely revealed to the public.

📍 Temple office 0725-54-0914 🏠 2168 Matsuo-cho, Izumi-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 📄 Yes 🗺️ Map P39 E3



Sasa-odori Dance

Many traditional performing arts have been passed down in the Senshu region of southern Osaka Prefecture since Japan's medieval period. Belonging to the same lineage as artistic *taiko* drum dances, Sasa-odori is held to pray for rain. Characteristics include unique, complex lyrics, leisurely musical rhythms, and elegant dancing. Although the form disappeared for several dozen years at one point, it was revived as a local dance in 2003 and is being carried on by the region's children.

📍 Minamiyokoyama Sasa-odori Preservation Association 0725-99-8163 🏠 Chichioni-cho, Izumi-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 📄 None

Tourist spots

🍴 Treat your ears and tastebuds in a natural setting

Mukunoki Hall



The hall hosts concerts that take advantage of a state-of-the-art sound system. Also on the premises, you can enjoy popular home-baked bread at the cafe, or dine at the authentic Italian restaurant.

📍 072-493-6929 🏠 1643 Amagadaki-cho, Kishiwada-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 9:00 to 21:00 (inquiries taken until 17:00) 🕒 Please inquire in advance for the cafe and restaurant. (The hall is closed irregularly.) 📄 20 spaces 🗺️ Map P38 D3

🍴 A symbol of food and farming

Aisai Land Farmers' Market



Check out the wide, abundant selection of produce grown with love by trusted local farmers. Relax and enjoy yourself in this rural farm market.

📍 072-444-8002 🏠 3-6-18 Kishinoaka-cho, Kishiwada-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 10:00 to 18:00 (currently closes at 17:00 as a pandemic measure) 🕒 Wed., December 31 to January 5 📄 392 spaces 🗺️ Map P39 E3

🍴 Enjoyment for all seasons

Ushitaki Onsen Shikimatsuri



The lodging features a hot spring with water that is said to beautify the skin. On the same premises you'll find a restaurant, barbecue space, and areas for camping and glamping.

📍 072-479-2641 🏠 1156 Ohsawa-cho, Kishiwada-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Restaurant 11:00 to 21:00; barbecue 11:00 to 14:00 (April through October) 🕒 Open year-round (closed on certain days for facility inspections) 📄 150 spaces 🗺️ Map P39 E3

Tourist spots

🍴 Experience agriculture's changing seasons firsthand

Izumi Fureai No no Sato



A natural setting for people of all ages. Have a barbecue anytime of the year, or try picking strawberries—at one of Kansai's biggest pick-your-own orchards—or other fruits and vegetables of the season.

📍 0725-92-3310 🏠 2403 Butsunami-cho, Izumi-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 9:00 to 17:00 🕒 Mon. (open public holidays, closed following Tues.), year-end/New Year holidays 📄 60 spaces 🗺️ Map P39 E3

🍴 A cafe terrace next to a healing forest

Green Room



This cafe at the foot of Mount Makio has a terrace surrounded by greenery. The extensive menu features everything from a hamburger with original sauce and buns, to a range of desserts.

📍 0725-90-5325 🏠 86-1 Makiosan-cho, Izumi-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 11:00 to 17:00 🕒 Closed irregularly 📄 14 spaces 🗺️ Map P39 E3

🍴 Freshly picked local vegetables, and more

Izumi Yamaai no Sato Roadside Station



Whether it's fresh produce of the season grown right in Izumi City, or processed goods and local specialties, you'll find everything you need for sale here.

📍 0725-92-3888 🏠 398-1 Butsunami-cho, Izumi-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Farmers' market & local specialties store 9:00 to 17:00 (opens at 8:00 on Sat., Sun., and public holidays); Tsumugi restaurant 9:00 to 16:00 (order by 16:00) 🕒 Year-end/New Year holidays 📄 130 spaces Note: For operating hours and closures in 2022 and beyond, see the website. 🗺️ Map P39 E3

Wakayama Prefecture Katsuragi Town

Countryside where En no Gyoja walked and many Shugendo practitioners journeyed.

Niutsumi-jinja Shrine

Niutsumi-jinja Shrine is dedicated to Niutsumi no Okami, the younger sister of Amaterasu Omikami. The shrine's precincts are home to a miniature shrine to En no Gyoja and monuments to other Shugendo practitioners. Until the Edo Period (1603 to 1868), Shugendo practitioners would carry the shrine's *goshintai* (an object of worship in which a deity is believed to reside) along the Katsuragi Shugen route that took them to 28 sutra mounds and 49 temples. The Jinkan-sai Festival, which celebrates the return of the deity to the shrine, continues to be held each year on July 18. Fusing Shintoism and Buddhism, this shrine is also part of a World Heritage site.



☎ Shrine office 0736-26-0102
📍 230 Kami-amano, Katsuragi-cho, Ito-gun, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Visit anytime (shrine office: 8:45 to 16:30)
🚗 50 spaces (including space for large buses) 📍 Map P39 F5



☎ 0736-25-0001 📍 1360 Higashitani, Katsuragi-cho, Ito-gun, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Visit anytime 🚗 10 spaces
📍 Map P39 E4

Horikoshi Shaku-kannon Temple

Horikoshi Shaku-kannon Temple stands quietly in the mountains and is one of the training sites of Katsuragi Shugen. The temple's principal object of worship, the statue of Juichimen Kannon Bosatsu, is said to have been carved by En no Gyoja in the *itto-sanrai* manner, meaning each stroke with a chisel was followed by three prayers, as he prayed for his mother's recovery from a painful internal disease. Though the Kannon statue is rarely shown to the public, worshippers continue to come from afar to visit the temple and its Kannon, which is said to work miracles in curing such conditions. A statue of En no Gyoja is housed in the Kannon-do Temple.

Katsuragi Zao Gongen-sha Shrine

Katsuragi Zao Gongen-sha Shrine is an ancient shrine located on Zao-toge Pass on the border between Katsuragi Town and Kawachinagano City. The shrine's precincts enshrine Katsuragi Zao Gongen, which is the principal focus of worship of Shugendo, as well as En no Gyoja, Fudo Myo-o, and the monk Shobo (known posthumously as Rigen Daishi). The shrine's regular spring ritual is held each year on April 18.

☎ Katsuragi Tourism Association 0736-22-0300 📍 824 Ohata, Katsuragi-cho, Ito-gun, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Visit anytime 🚗 None 📍 Map P39 E4

Other cultural assets

◆Kono Amida-do Hall

The structure, which was built in 1686, houses objects including Buddhist statues and mandalas. It is a national Registered Tangible Cultural Property.

☎ Katsuragi Tourism Association 0736-22-0300 📍 Higashitani, Katsuragi-cho, Ito-gun, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Can only be viewed from the outside 🚗 None (Please refrain from visiting by car, as the area's roads are narrow.) 📍 Map P39 E4

◆Tennyosan Shoraku-ji Temple

Two large stones remaining in the precincts are thought to be Oitate-ishi and Koshikake-ishi, which are mentioned in the *Katsurei-zakki*.

☎ Katsuragi Tourism Association 0736-22-0300 📍 Higashitani, Katsuragi-cho, Ito-gun, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Can only be viewed from the outside 🚗 None (Please refrain from visiting by car, as the area's roads are narrow.) 📍 Map P39 E4

◆Shigo Senryo-odori Dance

The Senryo-odori is a performing art with deep connections to Shugendo practitioners, as illustrated by the characters' performances.

☎ Katsuragi Tourism Association 0736-22-0300 📍 Hirokuchi, Katsuragi-cho, Ito-gun, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Held on Sunday around October 18 every year 🚗 None

Wakayama Prefecture Hashimoto City

Sense the legend of En no Gyoja, and experience festivals and events passed down with care over the ages.



☎ Hashimoto City Sales Department 0736-33-6106 📍 629 Sudacho Yamauchi, Hashimoto-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Visit anytime 🚗 None 📍 Map P38 C2

Hachidai-ryuo/Katsuragi Myojin Spring Festival at Tokaku-ji Temple

Tokaku-ji Temple is an ancient Shugendo temple. It is believed to have originated with the enshrinement of a stone statue of Yakushi Nyorai carved by En no Gyoja while he was undergoing ascetic training in the mountains of Katsuragi. Yakushi Nyorai has inspired strong belief among local residents for its ability to ward off eye diseases and paralysis. At the Spring Festival, held to honor Katsuragi Myojin and Hachidai-ryuo, the god of water, pieces of burning wood are dedicated to Fudo Myo-o in a Saito-daigoma ritual.



Fudoyama no Kyoseki Boulders

According to legend, En no Gyoja had the deity Hitokotonushi gather these enormous rocks in order to build a bridge from Mount Katsuragi to Mount Kinpusen in Yoshino. The work only progressed as far as gathering the rocks because the deity, who had an ugly face, would not come out during the day so that he could avoid being seen by people. Located atop 635 stone steps, it is a Shugen training site. The landscape created by the stones, which stand 3 to 5 meters tall, tells the legend to visitors.



☎ Hashimoto City Sales Department 0736-33-6106 📍 Sugio, Hashimoto-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Visit anytime 🚗 Yes 📍 Map P38 C2



Omine-ji Temple

Said to have been founded by En no Gyoja, Omine-ji Temple is recorded as a sacred Shugen training site in the *Shozan-engi*, compiled in the Kamakura Period. In addition to the Gyoja-do, its precincts include a 13-tiered pagoda believed to be the tomb of En no Gyoja's mother. The grounds are also dotted with a number of historical artifacts, including a *hokyointo* pagoda, which has been designated a Cultural Property by Wakayama Prefecture. Every March, a Saito Daigoma fire ritual is held, and a statue of the Bato ("horse-headed") Kannon bodhisattva, which is rarely shown to the public, is made available for viewing.

☎ 0736-37-0250 📍 2-1 Ominedai, Hashimoto-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Visit anytime 🚗 Yes 📍 Map P38 C2

Sutra mounds in the area

Goma no Tawa Hodome Daiba-dattahon

Sutra mound #12. By a signpost on the trail is a sutra mound of split stones. It's mentioned in the *Shozan-engi* and the *Katsurei-zakki*.

☎ Katsuragi Tourism Association 0736-22-0300 📍 Higashitani, Katsuragi-cho, Ito-gun, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Visit anytime 🚗 None (5 spaces at a public restroom near Horikoshi Shaku-kannon Temple) 📍 Map P39 E4



Mukai Tawa Kanjihon

Sutra mound #13. The *Katsurei-zakki* calls this sutra mound "Kama no Tawa" or "Mukai no Tawa." Today, it is marked by an Izumi sandstone monument engraved with the kanji for Dainichi Nyorai—the Great Sun Buddha. The sutra mound sits at the foot of a pine tree on a mountaintop southeast of the Horikoshi Shaku-kannon Temple. It is believed to have once been at Tomyobu-ji Temple before being moved to its present location.

☎ Katsuragi Tourism Association 0736-22-0300 📍 Higashitani, Katsuragi-cho, Ito-gun, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Visit anytime 🚗 None (5 spaces at a public restroom near Horikoshi Shaku-kannon Temple) 📍 Map P39 E4

Sutra mounds in the area

Mt. Minami-Katsuragi Kagami no Shuku Anrakugyohon

The location of sutra mound #14 is thought to be in one of two places. One is here, close to the peak of Mount Minami-Katsuragi. (The other is in Kotakiji Temple.) This place, marked by two stones, was an ancient Shugendo training site called Kagami no Shuku. Despite no written records of a sutra mound being at Kagami no Shuku, many Shugendo practitioners make a pilgrimage to this spot. Legend has it that the great samurai Kusunoki Masashige, inspired by the view, buried a sacred mirror here.

☎ Hashimoto City Sales Department 0736-33-6106 📍 Kuju, Koyaguchi-cho, Hashimoto-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Visit anytime 🚗 None 📍 Map P39 F4



Other cultural assets

◆Miyanoko and Katsuragi-jinja Shrine New Year's Event

This New Year's event is held every year at Katsuragi-jinja Shrine in Hashimoto. Participants enter a basin fed by a waterfall to purify themselves. The ritual has been designated an Intangible Folk Cultural Property.

☎ Hashimoto City Sales Department 0736-33-6106 📍 270 Hashimoto, Hashimoto-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Visit anytime 🚗 None 📍 Map P38 C2

◆Gyoja-mairi Ritual

This traditional ritual is performed during New Year's at Nishi no Gyoja-do, which is located on a ridge between Kimi-toge Pass and Chihaya-toge Pass. The ritual has been designated an Intangible Folk Cultural Property.

☎ Hashimoto City Sales Department 0736-33-6106 📍 Hashimoto, Hashimoto-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Visit anytime 🚗 None 📍 Map P38 C2

Tourist spots

🍴 Specialties with 450 years of tradition

Kushigaki and anpagaki



Anpagaki are dried persimmons that are thick and sweet. The *kushigaki* of 10 dried persimmons on a skewer are considered a New Year's good luck charm. Both are sold all over town when in season.

📍 Sold in Taira, Hirokuchi, Taki, and Higashitani in Katsuragi-cho, Ito-gun, Wakayama Prefecture

🍴 Not far from Niutsumi-jinja Shrine, a World Heritage site

Yo-yotte Farm Shop



Here you can buy highland vegetables of the season, including wild vegetables in spring, tomatoes in summer, Amano rice in autumn, and black soybeans in winter. You can also sit down to enjoy mixed rice and udon noodles.

☎ 0736-26-0360 📍 786 Kamiyama, Katsuragi-cho, Ito-gun, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 8:30 to 16:00 Sat., Sun., and public holidays
🕒 Mon. to Fri. 🚗 6 spaces 📍 Map P39 F5

🍴 Roadside station in a large kushigaki producing region

Kushigaki no Sato Roadside Station



Here you'll find a large selection of locally grown fruits and vegetables of the seasons, including peaches, grapes, and persimmons. The parfait filled with seasonal fruits is also popular.

☎ 0736-25-0155 📍 53-1 Taki, Katsuragi-cho, Ito-gun, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 Farm shop 9:00 to 17:00; restaurant 10:00 to 16:30
🕒 Open year-round 🚗 78 spaces 📍 Map P39 E4

Tourist spots

🍴 Enjoy all the freshly laid eggs you want!

Ran-an Hashitama



Enjoy fresh eggs in a variety of dishes, such as raw over rice, or cooked along with renowned Kishu Umedori chicken on a bowl of rice. Savor the luxury of endless eggs!

☎ 0736-36-2223 📍 2-13-8 Ominedai, Hashimoto-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 11:00 to 14:00 🕒 Thurs., year-end/New Year holidays
🚗 20 spaces 📍 Map P38 C2

🏠 The place for Hashimoto souvenirs

Hashimoto Tourist Information Center



Choose from a large selection of local products including specialties and traditional crafts of Hashimoto. The many tourism pamphlets provide a wealth of information about where to go.

☎ 0736-33-3552 📍 1-6-9 Kosada, Hashimoto-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 9:00 to 17:00 🕒 Wed., year-end/New Year holidays
🚗 Public parking available nearby 📍 Map P39 G4

🏠 Take a breather at a traditional storehouse-style tourism center

Hashimoto Regional Industry Promotion Center



You'll find a large collection of local products, including ones made from high-quality Koyaguchi pile fabric that are only available here. With coffee for just 100 yen, it's a great place to take a break.

☎ 0736-44-1401 📍 288 Koyaguchi-cho Nagura, Hashimoto-shi, Wakayama Prefecture
🕒 9:00 to 17:00 🕒 Mon. 🚗 5 spaces
📍 Map P39 F4



Touring Katsuragi Shugen

Area 2

Kongo Range

East, West, South



Osaka Prefecture
Kawachinagano City
Chihayaakasaka Village

Nara Prefecture
Gojo City
Gose City

- Inquiries Closed
- Address Parking
- Hours Fee/admission

Note: Foreign language assistance may not be available for all inquiries and facilities.

Osaka Prefecture Kawachinagano City

A place of ascetic training deep in the mountains where the Kotaki waterfall flows.



Kotakiji Temple Sumiyaki Fudon

Tradition holds that in 943 the deity Fudo Myo-o took the form of an old man selling charcoal and taught the chief priest of the temple at the time, Joso, how to make white charcoal. A statue known as the Sumiyaki ("charcoal maker") Fudon is enshrined in the Sumiyaki Fudo-do in the temple's precincts. Takhata was known in the past for producing white charcoal, which was known as "Kotaki charcoal." The people of Takhata, who made their living producing charcoal, have strong faith in the Sumiyaki Fudon.

☎ 0721-64-9101 📍 1147 Takhata, Kawachinagano-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🚗 None 📍 Map P39 F3



Fukutamasan Kotakiji Temple

Kotakiji Temple is sometimes described as the inner sanctuary of Makiosan Sefukuji Temple. The area around the temple is dotted with the "48 Waterfalls of Takhata," where En no Gyoja practiced ascetic training. Kotaki Falls, for which the temple is said to have been named, is found behind the main hall. The temple has a deep connection to Shugendo. It is considered to be the location of sutra mound #14. During the Edo Period, the temple became a branch temple of Nyakuoji associated with Shogo-in Temple in Kyoto, the head temple of the Honzan branch of Shugendo.

☎ 0721-64-9101 📍 1147 Takhata, Kawachinagano-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🚗 None 📍 Map P39 F3

Yushutsuzan Iwakiji Temple

Situated partway up the north side of Mt. Iwakiji (elevation: 897 meters), which is known as a sacred Katsuragi Shugen training site, Iwakiji Temple is believed to have been founded by En no Gyoja at the order of Emperor Monmu during the Taiho era (701 to 704). Its honorific title "Yushutsuzan" derives from the title of chapter 15 in the Lotus Sutra and the appearance of the temple surroundings, which seems like rocks gushing forth.

☎ Temple office 0721-62-4000 📍 3824 Kagata, Kawachinagano-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🚗 50 spaces for passenger vehicles (scattered in several locations about 1.5 km on the way to the temple) 📍 Map P39 F3



Sutra mounds in the area

Kotakiji Temple Buttokutawa Anrakyogyohon

📍 1147 Takhata, Kawachinagano-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🚗 None 📍 Map P39 F3

Sutra mound #14 is thought to be in one of two locations. One possibility is that it is here at Kotakiji Temple in Takhata. (The other is Kagami no Shuku.) According to legend, En no Gyoja trained here and created a sutra mound in which to bury the 14th chapter of the Lotus Sutra. It is believed a pagoda was built on top of that mound.

Mt. Iwakiji Juji-yujuppon

📍 Kagata, Kawachinagano-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🚗 None 📍 Map P39 F3

According to ancient maps and Shugendo training records, sutra mound #15 was at one of two locations—either to the northwest of the main hall of Iwakiji Temple, or at a Shugendo training site to the south of the temple grounds. The sutra mound we see today is halfway up Mt. Iwakiji—at the end of a ridge and a short climb northwest from Iwakiji Temple.

Nagaredani Kongodoji Nyorai-juryobon

📍 Nagaredani, Kawachinagano-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🚗 None 📍 Map P39 F3

Sutra mound #16. The present sutra mound is a mini shrine reconstructed in 1978. A stone statue of Fudo Myo-o, which was recovered from the Nagaredani River flowing through the hamlet, is enshrined inside.

Amami-fudo Funbetsu-kudokuhon

📍 Amami, Kawachinagano-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🚗 None 📍 Map P39 F3

Sutra mound #17. The sutra mound is on a relatively flat area near the ridge. Inside the mini shrine are two stone Buddhist statues called Amami-fudo.

Iwaze Mt. Kyozyuka Zuiki-kudokuhon

📍 Iwaze, Kawachinagano-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🚗 None 📍 Map P38 C1

Sutra mound #18 is on the summit of Mt. Kyozyuka. You'll find several stone monuments there. One marks the sutra mound, while another commemorates past Shugendo leaders.

Tourist spots

Popular restaurant's dishes use locally grown food

Okukawachi Kuromaro Village Roadside Station



Here you'll find a restaurant serving up locally grown foods, a bakery, and a farmers' market. Get tourist information at the Okukawachi Visitors Center, or attend one of the periodic events.

☎ 0721-56-9606 📍 1218-1 Tako, Kawachinagano-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 9:00 to 17:00 (farmers' market opens at 9:30; restaurant 10:30 to 14:00) 🗓 Year-end/New Year holidays (farmers' market Thurs.) 🚗 302 spaces Note: Operating hours and closures are subject to change. See the website. 📍 Map P39 F3

Enjoy nature in a lakeside setting

Takhata Kohan Kankou



Eat at the restaurant, shop at the store, or enjoy a riverside barbecue. You can also immerse yourself in nature at the two nearby camp sites.

☎ Takhata Lakeside Agriculture and Forestry Association 0721-64-9285 📍 1588 Takhata, Kawachinagano-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 8:30 to 17:00 🗓 Wed. from January to mid-March, year-end/New Year holidays (camp sites closed December through March) 🚗 400 spaces 📍 Map P39 F3

Immerse yourself in local history

Takhata Furusato Bunkazai no Mori Center



There are books for sale on topics like Kawachinagano history. You can visit an old, traditional Japanese house unique to Takhata, and see an exhibit of Takhata history.

☎ 0721-63-0201 📍 483-3 Takhata, Kawachinagano-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 9:00 to 17:00 (10:00 to 16:00 December through March) 🗓 Mon., day following public holiday (open late July through August), year-end/New Year holidays 🚗 10 spaces 📍 Map P39 F3

Osaka Prefecture Chihayaakasaka Village

Even today, many followers stop by a mini temple, which was once a Shugendo training site.



Site of Tamon-ji Temple

This mini temple in Chihayaakasaka Village is said to stand at the site of Tamon-ji Temple, which was one of the seven great temples of Mount Kongo and a training site used by Shugendo practitioners. The mini temple enshrines the goddess Kishimojin, the bodhisattva Jizo, and the Buddha Amida Nyorai, among others, and it is still visited by Shugendo followers today.

📍 Chihayaakasaka Village Education Department 0721-72-1300
🏠 Chihaya, Chihayaakasaka-mura, Minami-kawachi-gun, Osaka Prefecture
🕒 Visit anytime 🚫 None 📍 Map P38 C1

Nara Prefecture Gojo City

Prayers live on in this place that was originally for ascetic training. There is also a sacred esoteric Buddhism site.



Sokoku-ji Temple

Tradition holds that this ancient temple was founded by En no Gyoja. A legend describes how he slew a dragon that lived in the area by cutting it into three pieces and then building three temples to mourn the creature's head, torso, and tail. Sokoku-ji Temple is said to have been founded by combining those three temples. The temple's principal object of worship, a seated statue of Yakushi Nyorai (the Medicine Buddha) that dates to the Heian Period, has been designated an Important Cultural Property.

📍 Daizen-ji Temple 0747-23-0418 🏠 906 Kitayama-cho, Gojo-shi, Nara Prefecture
🕒 Visit anytime 🚫 50 spaces 📍 Map P38 D2

Tourist spots

🍴 A log cabin-style cafe on Mount Kongo

Woody Heart



The extensive menu features house specialties like hot pot carbonara pasta, home-made pizza and curry, coffee, and desserts.

📞 0721-74-0911 🏠 71 Chihaya, Chihayaakasaka-mura, Minami-kawachi-gun, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 11:00 to 16:30 (order by 16:30) 🗓 Mon. (open public holidays, closed following Tues.) 🚪 15 spaces 📍 Map P38 C1

🍴 The only place to eat near the summit of Mount Kongo

Mount Kongo Summit Store



Established in the early 20th century, this shop serves Japanese dishes like soba, udon, and oden. The delicious coffee is made with water from a well associated with samurai Kusunoki Masashige.

📞 0721-74-0005 🏠 1009-2 Chihaya, Chihayaakasaka-mura, Minami-kawachi-gun, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 9:30 to 14:30 (Sun. and public holidays 8:00 to 15:30) 🗓 Fri. 🚪 Use parking lot at the foot of Mount Kongo 📍 Map P38 C1

🍴 Made the traditional way handed down through generations

Mount Kongo Yama no Tofu



This tofu shop was established in 1777. Originally a maker of *kori-dofu* (freeze-dried tofu), which took advantage of the area's cold winters, today it makes exquisite tofu by hand using Mount Kongo spring water and domestic soy beans.

📞 0721-74-0015 🏠 950 Chihaya, Chihayaakasaka-mura, Minami-kawachi-gun, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 9:00 to 17:00 🗓 Year-end/New Year holidays (also unscheduled closings on other days) 🚪 Paid parking (600 yen) 📍 Map P38 C1

Notice

Things to Remember When Walking the Katsuragi Shugen Trail

Point ①

Show respect

The sutra mounds, ascetic training grounds, sacred sites, and cultural assets are places where Shugendo practitioners have offered their prayers for over a thousand years, since the ancient days of En no Gyoja. Please visit and pray with reverence.



Point ④

Dress appropriately

Not all the paths along the Katsuragi Shugen trail are managed and maintained. Confirm the route you will take to your destination and have trekking shoes, rainwear, and other mountaineering gear, as well as some food and drinks.



Point ②

Plan ahead

Many places are inconvenient to get to and bus services are limited. There are also places where mobile phone signals are nonexistent or very weak. Be sure to plan thoroughly beforehand and allow plenty of time for your travels. When entering a mountain-climbing route, be sure to submit a mountain-climbing notification form to the relevant authorities.

Point ⑤

Follow rules

As a rule, it is strictly prohibited to collect plants and build a fire in many places along the Katsuragi Shugen trail. Be sure to follow these rules. Also, many sutra mounds and cultural assets are on private property. Do not act noisily or enter off-limits areas.

Point ③

Walk with someone

The Kongo-Katsuragi-Kisen mountains, where the sutra mounds and cultural assets are found, are popular mountain-climbing and hiking areas. But there are many rough paths along the routes. Be sure to travel with other people to be ready for emergencies.



Point ⑥

Meet the locals

Katsuragi Shugen is set in the mountains close to communities and is deeply rooted in the locals' faith and lives. The temples, shrines, mini shrines, halls, and other places associated with Shugendo have been carefully preserved and handed down over the generations by the locals. With this in mind, we encourage friendly exchanges with the locals.



Daitaku-ji Temple

Located at the foot of Mount Jinpuku, where sutra mound #19 is located, Daitaku-ji Temple is a sacred site of esoteric Buddhism. It has inspired deep faith among locals, who call it "Yakushi-san of Senodo." It was founded during the Hakuho era when En no Gyoja constructed a hut for use in ascetic training and prayed for the coming of Yakushi Nyorai (the Medicine Buddha). A pond popularly known as Mearai-ike ("eye-washing pond") draws numerous worshippers who pray for the pond's water to heal eye diseases.

📞 Temple office 0747-23-1744
🏠 581 Ozawa-cho, Gojo-shi, Nara Prefecture
🕒 Free (a donation is appreciated for the main hall)
🕒 8:00 to 17:00 🗓 Open year-round
🚪 10 spaces 📍 Map P38 C2

Jifuku-ji Temple

The temple took its current form when its principal object of worship, the Buddhist deity Hoki Bosatsu, was summoned from Kongosan Tenporin-ji Temple. It continues the tradition of holding the Lotus Festival, which was previously held at Tenporin-ji Temple on June 7 on the traditional calendar, the anniversary of En no Gyoja's death. The temple houses statues of En no Gyoja and the deities Fudo Myo-o and Daitoku Myo-o, as well as a jar, a treasured item that En no Gyoja is said to have used successfully to pray for rain at Amaga-taki Falls.

📞 Temple office 0747-22-4476 🏠 1161 Kuruno-cho, Gojo-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🚫 None 📍 Map P38 D2



Sutra mounds in the area



Mt. Jinpuku Hosshi-kudokuhon

Sutra mound #19 is found at the top of Mount Jinpuku, along with two mini shrines. Boundary stones mark the sacred area around the sutra mound. Three ancient bronze mirrors were unearthed near the sutra mound. The mini shrine nearby is affiliated with Satao-jinja Shrine of Mount Takama, which was listed in an ancient register of official Shinto shrines. The mini shrine is also dedicated to a rain-making deity and a guardian deity of Daitaku-ji Temple at the foot of Mount Jinpuku.

📞 Gojo City Tourist Association 0747-22-4001
🏠 Kamino-cho, Gojo-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🚫 None 📍 Map P38 C2

Tourist spots

🍴 Sit down and enjoy Gojo specialties and tastes of the seasons

Yamato-zushi Muso-an, Kakinoha-zushi Yamato Gojo Store



Gojo City is synonymous with *kakinoha-zushi* (sushi wrapped in persimmon leaves). This restaurant also sells boxed lunches, set meals, multi-course meals, hot pots, and other ways to fully enjoy the seasonal tastes of this area.

📞 0747-23-1955 🏠 3-2-2 Gojo, Gojo-shi, Nara Prefecture
🕒 8:00 to 21:00; restaurant open 11:00 to 21:00 (order by 21:00)
🗓 Open year-round 🚪 35 spaces 📍 Map P38 D2

🍴 Products include sweets made with persimmons

Kakinoha-sushi Honpo Tanaka Gojo Store



Besides kakinoha-zushi, a comfort food that is the pride of Gojo, you can buy seasonal sushi and local specialties such as sweets made with persimmons.

📞 0747-25-1010 🏠 1-1-15 Shimimachi, Gojo-shi, Nara Prefecture
🕒 8:00 to 19:00 🗓 Open year-round 🚪 8 spaces 📍 Map P38 D2

🍴 Additive-free bread made with local ingredients

Yum-yum Bakery



Buy bread made with local ingredients and containing no artificial preservatives or colorants. There's also a cafe where you can sit down to enjoy freshly baked bread.

📞 0747-23-5530 🏠 3-20-6 Den-en, Gojo-shi, Nara Prefecture
🕒 Mon., Thur., Fri. 9:00 to 19:00; Sat. and Sun. 8:00 to 19:00
🗓 Tues., Wed. 🚪 5 spaces 📍 Map P38 D2

Nara Prefecture
Gose City

Countryside where En no Gyoja walked and many Shugendo practitioners journeyed.



Kisshoso-ji Temple

This ancient temple is said to have been founded by En no Gyoja. It's also believed to be his birthplace. Its name derives from the tradition that En no Gyoja used a grass known as *kisshoso* to build a hut at the site. The temple's precincts include an ancient well from which En no Gyoja's first bath is said to have been drawn and a stone on which he sat during meditation. The Gyoja-do enshrines a statue of a 32-year-old En no Gyoja believed to have been carved by himself and a statue of Shiratoume, his mother.

☎ Temple office 0745-62-3472 📍 279 Chihara, Gose-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🅕 Yes 📍 Map P39 H2



Katsuragi Hitokotonushi-jinja Shrine

This ancient shrine enshrines the deity Hitokotonushi, who according to the mythology described in the *Kojiki* and *Nihon Shoki* appeared while Emperor Yuryaku was hunting on Mount Katsuragi. According to the *Kojiki*, Hitokotonushi had the power to make any wish that could be expressed in a word or two (*hitokoto* or *ichigon*) come true. The locals affectionately call this shrine "Ichigon-san."

☎ Shrine office 0745-66-0178 📍 432 Moriwaki, Gose-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🅕 Yes 📍 Map P38 D1

Sutra mounds in the area

Jofukyo Bosatsuhon at former Ishi-dera Temple



☎ Gose City Tourism Association 0745-62-3346 📍 Kamogami, Gose-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🅕 None 📍 Map P38 D1

Sutra mound #20. Ishi-dera ("Stone Temple") was named for a stone statue of Yakushi Nyorai, which was believed to have been carried by En no Gyoja from Baekje (a Korean kingdom). The temple complex no longer exists.

Mizukoshi-tawa Zokuruihon



☎ Gose City Tourism Association 0745-62-3346 📍 Sekiya, Gose-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 Please refrain from visiting, as this is private property. 🅕 None 📍 Map P38 D1

Sutra mound #22. At the foot of a large cedar tree is a copper-roofed wooden mini shrine sitting atop a granite foundation. Inside is a statue of the Jizo Buddhist deity.

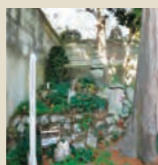
Mt. Kongo Nyorai-jinrikihon



☎ Gose City Tourism Association 0745-62-3346 📍 Takama, Gose-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🅕 None 📍 Map P38 D1

Sutra mound #21. Walk the trail from the *torii* gate of Katsuragi-jinja Shrine, where Hitokotonushi no Okami is enshrined, and you'll find a stone monument atop a stone foundation.

Kushira Yakuo Bosatsu Honjihon



☎ Gose City Tourism Association 0745-62-3346 📍 1371 Kujira, Gose-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🅕 None 📍 Map P39 G2

Three different places have been posited as the true location of sutra mound #23. One is a five-ringed pagoda on old temple grounds in Kujira, Gose.

Other cultural assets

◆ Mount Kongo



At 1,125 meters, Mount Kongo is the highest peak in the Katsuragi mountain range. Counted among the seven great mountains of Shugendo, it is known as a sacred site of Shingon esoteric Buddhism.

☎ Gose City Tourism Association 0745-62-3346 📍 Takama, Gose-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🅕 Parking available in the vicinity of the trailhead 📍 Map P38 D1

◆ Tenporin-ji Temple



The temple's origins go back to when En no Gyoja prayed to the guardian deity Hitokotonushi no Okami and summoned the Buddhist deity Hoki Bosatsu to Mount Kongo, where En no Gyoja was undergoing ascetic training.

☎ Temple office 0721-74-0873 📍 472 Takama, Gose-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🅕 Parking available in the vicinity of the trailhead 📍 Map P38 D1

◆ Lotus Festival at Tenporin-ji Temple



The Lotus Festival is the oldest festival at Tenporin-ji Temple. The event, held each year on July 7, includes offerings of lotus flowers, which are what give the festival its name.

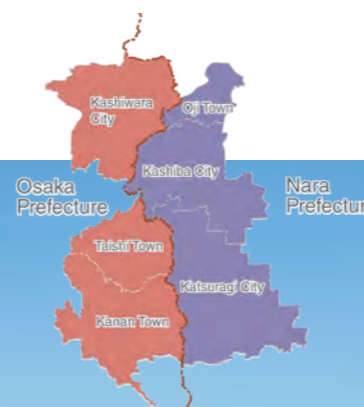
☎ Temple office 0721-74-0873 📍 472 Takama, Gose-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🅕 Parking available in the vicinity of the trailhead 📍 Map P38 D1



Touring Katsuragi Shugen

Area ③

Kongo Range North



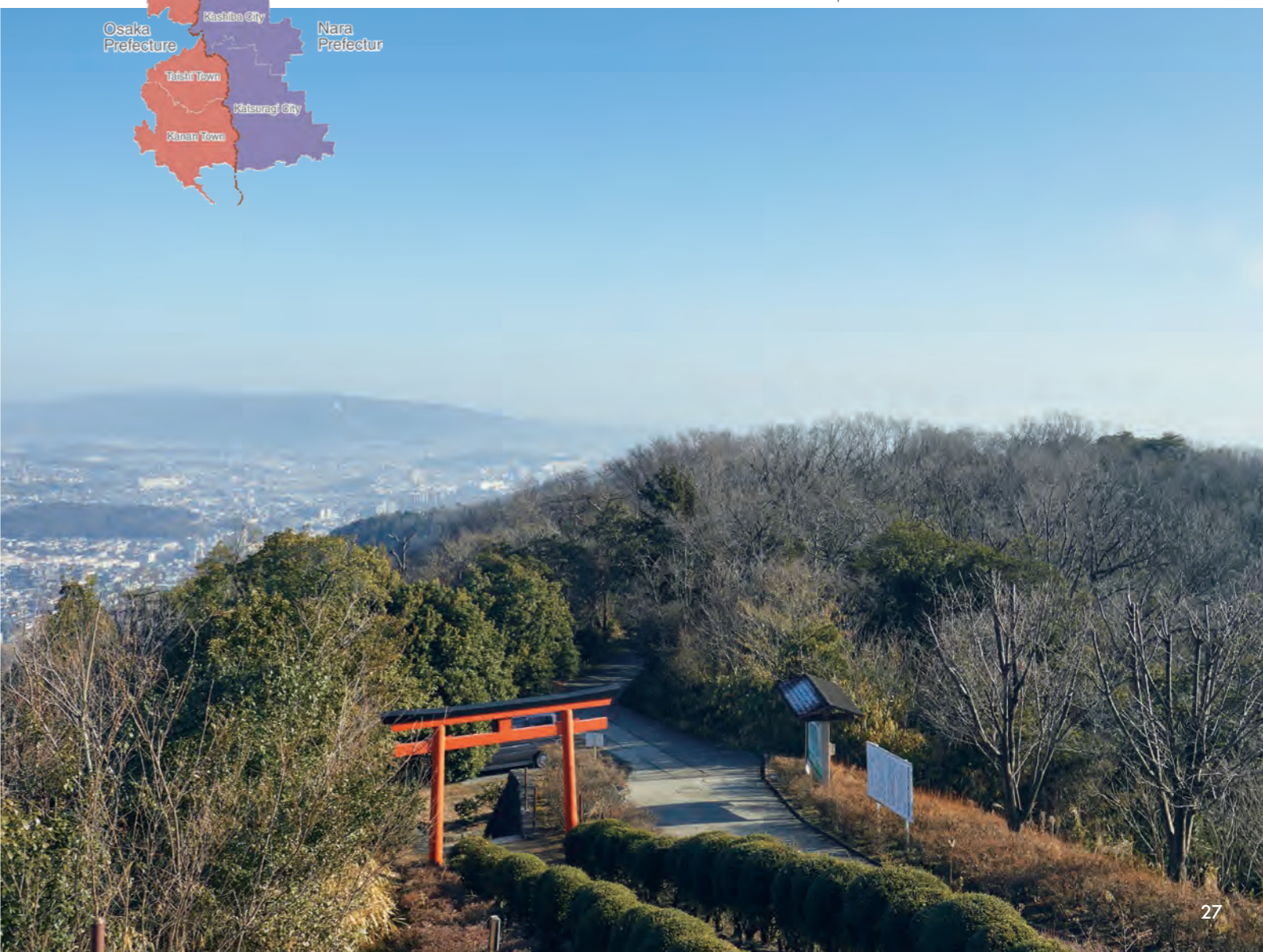
Osaka Prefecture
Kanan Town
Taishi Town

Nara Prefecture
Katsuragi City
Kashiwa City
Oji Town

Osaka Prefecture
Kashiwara City

☎ Inquiries 🚫 Closed
📍 Address 🅕 Parking
🕒 Hours 🅕 Fee/admission

Note: Foreign language assistance may not be available for all inquiries and facilities.



Tourist spots

🍴 Travel back to a simpler place and time

Tegami Cafe Nagara Postal Gallery and Cafe



A 100-year-old post office has been turned into a cafe decorated with historical artifacts. Enjoy lunch made using locally grown rice and vegetables, and home-made miso, followed by dessert.

☎ 0745-60-8386 📍 326-1 Nagara, Gose-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 11:00 to 16:00 🗓 Tues., Wed. 🅕 11 spaces 📍 Map P38 D1

🍴 Treat yourself to an elegant lunch and a spectacular view

Yamato Seasonal Dishes Byaku-un-an



This restaurant serving original cuisine opened in 2020 at the base of Mount Katsuragi. The menu centers on local ingredients prepared with a French flair.

☎ 0745-44-8551 📍 2440-7 Kujira, Gose-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 Lunch 11:30 to 14:00 (order by 14:00) 🗓 Mon. 🅕 20 spaces 📍 Map P39 H2

🍴 Winner of national hot pot competition

Katsuragi Kogen Lodge



Marvel at the views of the seasons from this lodge near the summit of Mount Katsuragi. It's known for its specialty, duck hot pot made with local duck and a secret broth.

☎ 0745-62-5083 📍 2569 Kujira, Gose-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 Lunch 11:00 to 15:00 🗓 Open year-round 🅕 230 spaces at public paid parking lot near Katsuragisan Ropeway Katsuragi-tozanguchi Station 📍 Map P39 G2

Osaka Prefecture
Kanan Town

A place where you'll encounter two sutra mounds and stories associated with En no Gyoja.

Tourist spots

Buy fresh-picked vegetables



Kanan Roadside Station

Take a break surrounded by nature. The adjoining farm shop has fresh local vegetables picked daily. A great place to buy fresh produce and processed foods.

☎ 0721-90-3911 📍 523-1 Kohyama, Kanan-cho, Minami-kawachi-gun, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 9:00 to 17:00 (opens at 8:30 on Sat., Sun., and public holidays) 🗓 Year-end/New Year holidays 📏 78 spaces Note: The parking lot and restrooms are always open. 📍 Map P39 G2

Osaka Prefecture
Taishi Town

Stone statues of En no Gyoja dot Takenouchi-kaido Road, Japan's oldest national highway.



Iwaya

Today, sutra mound #26 is on the Otake Peak of Mount Nijo, but according to the *Shozan-engi*, it was here at Iwaya in medieval times. Running from Mount Nijo to Eifuku-ji Temple is the Takenouchi-kaido Road. Along it you can find stone statues of En no Gyoja. At Eifuku-ji Temple, a grand Goma fire ritual is conducted by Shugendo practitioners every spring.

📞 Lifelong Education Department, Education Board, Taishi Town 0721-98-5534 📍 2044 Yamada, Taishi-cho, Minami-kawachi-gun, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 📏 Use parking lot at Mount Nijo Manyo no Mori Information Center 📍 Map P39 E2

Tourist spots

Conveniently located next to National Route 166



Chikatsu Asuka no Sato Taishi Roadside Station

This roadside station's offerings include local fresh fruit and vegetables, processed foods, wine, and sweet bean delicacies. There's also a tourist information section.

☎ 0721-98-2786 📍 2265-1 Yamada, Taishi-cho, Minami-kawachi-gun, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 9:00 to 17:00 🗓 Year-end/New Year holidays 📏 33 spaces Note: The parking lot and restrooms are always open. 📍 Map P39 E2

Take a break along the Takenouchi-Kaido



Takenouchi-Kaido Community Center

This tourist information center is along the Takenouchi-Kaido, called Japan's oldest national highway. It sells items like mikan orange sauce and souvenirs featuring Taishikun, the official mascot of Taishi.

☎ 0721-26-8051 📍 1799 Yamada, Taishi-cho, Minami-kawachi-gun, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 9:00 to 17:15 🗓 Mon., Tues. (open public holidays), year-end/New Year holidays 📏 2 spaces 📍 Map P39 E2

Sutra mounds in the area



Hiraishi-toge Pass Myo-on Bosatsuhon

Sutra mound #24. This mound is located on Hiraishi-toge Pass, to the north of Mount Iwahashi. Lying to the south of Mount Nijo, Mount Iwahashi is on the border between Kawachi (Osaka) and Yamato (Nara). On a mountainside right before the pass, you'll find stone steps leading to two stone statues—one of En no Gyoja and another of the Buddhist deity Fudo Myo-o. The area around Mount Iwahashi is dotted with sites related to Shugendo and remarkable rock formations.

📞 Agriculture, Forestry, Commerce, Industry, and Tourism Department, Kanan Town 0721-93-2500 📍 Hiraishi, Kanan-cho, Minami-kawachi-gun, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 📏 None 📍 Map P39 E2

Koki-ji Temple Kogebata Kanzeon Bosatsu Fumonhon

Sutra mound #25. This mound is located on the grounds of Koki-ji Temple, which was probably founded by En no Gyoja during Emperor Monmu's reign. At the base of a giant boulder is a mini stone shrine dedicated to Fudo Myo-o, a wrathful guardian deity. The temple's main hall houses the principal objects of worship—statues of Godai Myo-o. The lecture hall houses a wooden, seated statue of goddess Benzaiten. This is an Important Cultural Property and it's usually concealed from public view. The hall also houses a statue of En no Gyoja and one of Buddhist monk Shobo (Rigen-taishi).

📞 Agriculture, Forestry, Commerce, Industry, and Tourism Department, Kanan Town 0721-93-2500 📍 539 Hiraishi, Kanan-cho, Minami-kawachi-gun, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 📏 3 to 4 spaces (for visitors to Koki-ji Temple) 📍 Map P39 E2



Nara Prefecture
Katsuragi City

Taima-dera Temple, at the foot of Mount Nijo, stands where En no Gyoja donated private land.



Taima-dera Temple Takenobo

Takenobo is one of the five Shingon-school halls associated with Taima-dera Temple. Its principal focus of worship is En no Gyoja. It is noted in the *Katsurei-zakki* as serving as an important training site and as a source of overnight accommodations for ascetics seeking to train in the mountains of Katsuragi. One can imagine how they lodged at Takenobo before setting off for sutra mound #26, which was located at the peak of Mount Nijo.

☎ Taima-dera Temple Saina-in 0745-48-2202 📍 1263 Taima, Katsuragi-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 9:00 to 17:00 (admission is free) 📏 15 spaces 📍 Map P39 F2

Tourist spots

Yomogi mochi named after a legendary princess

Chujodo Honpo



This shop is known for a traditional Katsuragi treat called Chujo Mochi: a palm-sized piece of bean jam on top of a bite-sized *yomogi mochi* (mugwort rice cake) to resemble a peony flower petal.

☎ 0120-483-203 📍 55-1 Taima, Katsuragi-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 9:00 to 17:00 (closes when products are sold out) 🗓 July, mid-August to August 31, December 31 to early January Note: See the website for closures. 📏 11 spaces 📍 Map P39 F2

Taima-dera Temple

Taima-dera Temple is believed to have been built in 681 when Taima no Kunimi relocated Manpozo-in Temple, which had been built by his grandfather, to the eastern base of Mount Nijo. To facilitate the project, En no Gyoja donated private land and harnessed the power of Buddhist belief to summon the Four Heavenly Kings from Baekje (a Korean kingdom), the deity Hitokotonushi from Mount Katsuragi, and a dragon god from Kumano. A stone on which En no Gyoja sat when worshipping testifies to the legend. The temple's precincts are home to numerous invaluable treasures.

☎ Taima-dera Temple Nakanobo 0745-48-2001 📍 1263 Taima, Katsuragi-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 Required 🕒 9:00 to 17:00 🗓 Open year-round 📏 15 spaces 📍 Map P39 F2



Taima-dera Temple Nakanobo

Nakanobo was founded by En no Gyoja as a Shugendo training site during the Hakuho era. On the grounds is Ryuo-sha Shrine, which is dedicated to a dragon god summoned by En no Gyoja from Kumano. Nakanobo has served as the head of the subsidiary temples of Taima-dera Temple and as its oldest monastery. The principal object of worship is a statue of Juichimen Kannon, which is popularly known as the Guiding Kannon and attracts considerable faith among worshippers. The monastery is also known for Daranisuke, En no Gyoja's secret elixir.

☎ 0745-48-2001 📍 1263 Taima, Katsuragi-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 Adults 500 yen 🕒 9:00 to 17:00 🗓 Open year-round 📏 15 spaces 📍 Map P39 F2



Taima no le Futakami Park Taima Roadside Station

Here you can buy fresh vegetables lovingly grown by local farmers, fresh cut flowers, Taima no le specialty processed foods, and malted rice. There's also a restaurant.

☎ 0745-48-7000 📍 402-1 Shinzaike, Katsuragi-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 9:00 to 17:00 (restaurant 11:00 to 15:00) 🗓 Year-end/New Year holidays 📏 147 spaces 📍 Map P39 F2



Takao-ji Temple

Takao-ji Temple is said to have been built by En no Gyoja during the latter half of the 7th century. Rituals were performed at the temple on behalf of Emperor Gotoba and Emperor Goshirakawa. Despite its great prosperity, most of the temple's structures were lost to a large fire, and today only the foundation stone and repository remain. The repository houses a statue of En no Gyoja, which was created in the early Muromachi Period (14th century). This is believed to be the second-oldest statue of En no Gyoja.

📞 Commerce, Industry, and Tourism Promotion Department, Katsuragi City 0745-44-5111 📍 Shinzaike, Katsuragi-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 📏 None 📍 Map P39 F2

Sutra mounds in the area



Mt. Nijo Daranohon

Sutra mound #26. This mound is on the Otake Peak of Mount Nijo. The mound sits among sakaki trees. It is marked by an upright stone on top of a heap of natural stones. To the south on Iwaya-toge Pass is a cave. According to the *Shozan-engi*—a record of Shugendo mountains compiled in the early Kamakura Period—the sutra mound was here at this cave at Iwaya. It is believed to have been later transferred to Mount Nijo.

📞 Commerce, Industry, and Tourism Promotion Department, Katsuragi City 0745-44-5111 📍 Someno, Katsuragi-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 📏 None 📍 Map P39 E2

Quaint, old-fashioned atmosphere

Kazu Craft Shop



This shop on the path to Taima-dera Temple has been selling all the most popular Katsuragi souvenirs for generations. It also offers a comfortable space for temple visitors.

☎ 0745-48-4552 📍 178 Taima, Katsuragi-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 9:00 to 17:00 🗓 Open year-round 📏 None 📍 Map P39 F2

Nara Prefecture Kashiba City

Travel a Shugendo trail that leads from Mount Katsuragi and Mount Nijo to Kamenose.



Sekiya Jizoson

This seated stone image of Jizo Bosatsu is housed in a mini shrine that stands at the intersection of the route leading to Kamenose via Mount Myojin and the Nagao-kaido Road. There's evidence that the statue was repaired after being broken in two due to weathering, a result of its sandstone construction. The bodhisattva holds a staff in its right hand and a sacred gem in its left hand. According to tradition it was dedicated by the people of Hatsuse to ensure safe travel over the nearby pass.

☎ Kashiba City Nijyosan Museum 0745-77-1700 📍 8 Sekiya-kita, Kashiba-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🚗 None 📍 Map P39 E1

Donzuru-bo Peak

☎ Commerce, Industry, and Tourism Department, Kashiba City 0745-44-3312 📍 Anamushi, Kashiba-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🚗 5 spaces 📍 Map P39 E1

The oddly shaped rocks of Donzuru-bo were created by pyroclastic flows and volcanic ash from Mount Nijo's volcanic activity. The landscape was formed by weathering and erosion over a span of more than 10 million years. The place serves as a Shugendo training site and is located on the ancient Osaka-goe route that led from the 26th sutra mound on Mount Nijo to Kamenose.



Kannon-ji Temple and Miwa-jinja Shrine

Kannon-ji Temple is one of only a few esoteric Shingon-school temples in Kashiba. Its precincts contain a statue of En no Gyoja, and Shugendo practitioners have made offerings of *hide* (wooden plaques as proof of their visit) at adjacent Miwa-jinja Shrine. The temple's principal object of worship is a standing wooden statue of Juichimen Senju Kannon, which is believed to date to the Muromachi Period. Legend holds that the Kannon statue was damaged on behalf of Kusunoki Masashige when the samurai took an enemy's arrow. For this reason, worshippers believe in its efficacy in warding off evil.



☎ Temple office 0745-76-3469 📍 351 Tajiri, Kashiba-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🚗 10 spaces 📍 Map P39 E1



Bato Kannon of Anamushi-toge Pass

Anamushi-toge Pass, known in ancient times as Osaka-goe is on the border between Osaka Prefecture and Nara Prefecture, and on the shortest route from the 26th sutra mound on Mount Nijo to Kamenose. It was used by Shugendo pilgrims long ago. A mini shrine at the pass enshrines a stone statue of the Jizo Buddhist deity and a three-faced, eight-handed seated statue of Bato ("horse-headed") Kannon, another Buddhist divinity.

☎ Kashiba City Nijyosan Museum 0745-77-1700 📍 Anamushi, Kashiba-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🚗 None 📍 Map P39 E1

Sutra mounds in the area

Ousaka Myoshogon-no-honjihon

Sutra mound #27. According to the *Shozan-engi*, sutra mound #27 was located near Anamushi-toge Pass to the north of Mount Nijo. The *Katsurei-zakki* states that the mound was located in Ousaka, Kashiba. The existing sutra mound is a multi-tiered pagoda made of tuff (porous volcanic rock). Its four sides are engraved with *bonji* script representing the buddhas Shaka, Ashuku, Hosho, and Amida. The pagoda is a Kashiba City-designated cultural property, but it is not open for public viewing because it stands on private property.



☎ Kashiba City Nijyosan Museum 0745-77-1700 📍 Ousaka, Kashiba-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 Not for public viewing (private residence) 🚗 None 📍 Map P39 F1

Tourist spots

🍴 Authentic, delicious chanko hot pot made by a former sumo wrestler

Sumo-chaya Chanko Yoshi no Sato



Prepared by a former sumo wrestler, the chanko hot pot uses carefully simmered broth and is packed with plenty of hearty ingredients. There are also various seasonal dishes.

☎ 0745-76-3424 📍 943-2 Sekiya, Kashiba-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 11:00 to 14:00, 16:00 to 22:00 (order by 22:00) (11:00 to 22:00 [order by 22:00] on Sat., Sun., and public holidays) 🚗 Closed irregularly 🚗 10 spaces 📍 Map P39 E1

☕ Your own little coffee hideaway

Coco Coffee



This approximately 13 m² stand is only open on Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. It prides itself on quality, such as flavored coffees using home-made syrup.

☎ ☎ 6-736-1 Ousaka, Kashiba-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 9:00 to 16:00, 18:00 to 22:00 (order by 22:00) on Wed. and Thurs.; 7:00 to 18:00 on Sat. and Sun. 🗓 Mon., Tues., Fri. 🚗 6 spaces 📍 Map P39 F1

🍞 An oasis in the city

Natural Cafe Monstera



This bakery and cafe prides itself on authentic bread and sweets made with the very best ingredients. Why not take home some gluten-free rice flour wafers?

☎ 0745-51-7107 📍 1F Bonobo Bldg., 1-1057-3 Isokabe, Kashiba-shi, Nara Prefecture 🕒 9:00 to 17:00 (breakfast 9:00 to 10:30, lunch 11:00 to 14:00) 🗓 Sun., Mon., public holidays 🚗 7 spaces 📍 Map P39 F1

Nara Prefecture Oji Town

The 28th chapter of the Lotus Sutra is buried here in the land of a water deity.

Tourist spots

🍴 Japanese cafe specializing in *oyakodon*

Yukimaru-chaya

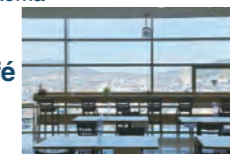


Located next to Daruma-ji Temple, the cafe's specialties are Japanese tea and oyakodon—a chicken-and-egg dish carefully prepared with local free-range chicken and other select ingredients. The *hojicha* parfait is also popular.

☎ 0745-31-4556 📍 2-5-2 Honmachi, Oji-cho, Kita-katsuragi-gun, Nara Prefecture 🕒 9:30 to 17:00 🗓 Closed irregularly (Please inquire in advance) 🚗 Use the Daruma-ji parking lot 📍 Map P39 G1

🍴 Enjoy pleasant views of Mount Shigi and Mount Ikoma

Yukimaru Café Poem



This cafe is themed on Yukimaru, the official mascot of Oji, Nara. There's also a shop that sells official Yukimaru items and works made by local artists.

☎ 080-9127-6955 📍 5F East Building, Liebell Oji, 2-2-1 Kudo, Oji-cho, Kita-katsuragi-gun, Nara Prefecture 🕒 11:00 to 16:00 (order by 15:30) 🗓 Wed. 🚗 Use the Liebell Oji parking lot (1-hour free parking available for purchases of 250 yen or more) 📍 Map P39 G1

🍰 Yukimaru cake brings a smile to everyone

CAKE hinata Oji Shop



A cake shop right outside the ticket gate of Kintetsu Oji Station. The Yukimaru cake, with its face drawn in chocolate, makes for a cute souvenir.

☎ 0745-54-0208 📍 3-4-20 Kudo, Oji-cho, Kita-katsuragi-gun, Nara Prefecture 🕒 11:00 to 21:00 (closes at 19:00 on Sun.) 🗓 Open year-round 🚗 None 📍 Map P39 G1

Osaka Prefecture Kashiwara City

Alternative location of a sutra mound found at an ascetic training site established by En no Gyoja.

Tourist spots

🍷 Wine flavors to tempt the tastebuds

Patisserie Ange Blanc



The shop's specialty is castella cake made with wine from Katashimo Winery. An official souvenir of Kashiwara City, this cake is delightfully moist and rich in flavor.

☎ 072-973-1010 📍 4-2-21 Hozenji, Kashiwara-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 10:00 to 20:00 🗓 Closed irregularly 🚗 Yes 📍 Map P39 G1

🍡 Beautifully shaped into grape leaves

Confectionery Katsuraya Kashiwara Shop



The shop's specialty, Kawachi monaka, packs white bean paste from Hokkaido and specially selected raisins into crisp wafers. Its refined sweetness and mouthfeel makes it highly popular. Certified as an official Osakamon ("made in Osaka") delicacy.

☎ 072-973-0620 📍 1-3-20 Kiyosu, Kashiwara-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 9:00 to 19:00 🗓 Tues. 🚗 None 📍 Map P39 G1

🍰 Stylish and healthy sweets

Ito-o Confectionery



The shop's Kamenose Renga Baumkuchen gets its inspiration from the bricks of the historical Osaka Railway Kamenose Tunnel. Featuring layers of two colors and two flavors, it's a treat for the eyes as well.

☎ 072-972-6555 📍 2-1-22 Hongo, Kashiwara-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 11:00 to 19:00 🗓 Wed. 🚗 None 📍 Map P39 G1

Sutra mounds in the area



Mt. Myojin Fugen Bosatsu Kanbotsuhon

Numerous ancient records place sutra mound #28 at Kamenose-shuku. According to the *Enkun Gyoshoki*, the 28th chapter of the Lotus Sutra was buried at a place called Sotoba no Mine. Since Sotoba no Mine was considered to be today's Mount Myojin, some people believe that Mount Myojin is sutra mound #28. At the top of Mount Myojin today stands Mizu-jinja Shrine. Affectionately called "Myojin-san of Nishiyama" by locals, the shrine is still frequented by pilgrims coming to offer prayers.

☎ Oji Town Tourism Association 0745-33-6668 📍 2640 Hatakeda, Oji-cho, Kita-katsuragi-gun, Nara Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🚗 35 spaces for passenger vehicles (Parking lot open 9:00 to 19:00) 📍 Map P39 E1

Sutra mounds in the area

Kamenose-shuku Fugen Bosatsu Kanbotsuhon

The rock "Kameishi" is in the Yamato River Called "Kamenose." It is said to be alternative location of sutra mound #28. That area was a Shugendo training site established by practitioner of austerities. This large granite rock, which has been eroded over millennia by the rapids, appeared as an illustration entitled "Kame-ishi" in the *Yamato Meisho Zu-e* of the Edo Period. It was also mentioned in the *Katsurei-zakki* as "the sutra rock of Kamenose." It is believed that letters were carved into the rock and that a mini pagoda "hou-gyoku-in-tou" was set up next to it in the Muromachi Period.

☎ Kashiwara City Cultural Assets Department 072-976-3430 📍 Toge, Kashiwara-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 Visit anytime 🚗 None 📍 Map P39 E1



Wakayama

The birthplace of Katsuragi Shugen Explore Tomogashima

Situated in the Kii Channel, Tomogashima is a group of four islands, boasting five ascetic training sites. This is where Katsuragi Shugen all began. On this trip, we tour Tomogashima and savor the seafood of Kada before ending the day soothing ourselves in a hot spring.

Note: Foreign language assistance may not be available for all inquiries and facilities.

START
(Nonaura Pier)

15 min. walk

From between the trees at Kamishima Yohaijo, you can see Kamishima Island in the distance

Get a view of Kamishima Island from a distance



Kamishima Yohaijo 1

Tsurugino-ike Pond is one of five ascetic training sites on the islands of Tomogashima. The pond is on Kamishima, an island that is off limits to visitors, but you can view the island from the *yohaijo* (a spot provided for worship at a distance) on Okinoshima. Legend has it that En no Gyoja obtained an all-powerful sword from the pond, hence its name Tsurugino-ike Pond ("Sword Pond"). A stone monument was erected there in the Edo Period. The name Kamishima ("Deity Island") comes from a legend that says a deity enshrined at Kada Awashima-jinja Shrine, Sukunahikona no Mikoto, had descended on the island.

Wakayama City Tourism Department 073-435-1234 | Kada, Wakayama-shi, Wakayama Prefecture | Visit anytime | None | Map P38 A1

Kamishima seen from a lookout on Okinoshima

Site of Gun Battery #3 3

After seeing the ascetic training sites, let's visit a former military site. During Japan's Meiji Period, the government built five gun batteries to protect the Kitan Strait. The largest of these is Gun Battery #3. The structure's aging red bricks recall a long-gone era and exude a solemn atmosphere. Gun mounts and ammunition storage areas are connected by tunnels which you can go inside. It's pitch dark, so be sure to bring a flashlight.

Wakayama City Tourism Department 073-435-1234 | Kada, Wakayama-shi, Wakayama Prefecture | Visit anytime | None | Map P38 A2

A popular photogenic spot



Above: You can almost sense the presence of long-gone soldiers in this ammunition storage
Left: The many trees contribute to the tranquil but somewhat eerie atmosphere

Tomogashima itinerary

15 min. walk from Nonaura Pier

- 1 Kamishima Yohaijo 45 min. walk
- 2 Site of Akai Well (Akai-ato) 60 min. walk
- 3 Site of Gun Battery #3 20 min. walk to Nonaura Pier, 20 min. ferry ride to Kada Port, and 5 min. walk
- 4 Fresh Fish Cuisine Inasa 3 min. walk
- 5 Kada Awashima-jinja Shrine Short walk
- 6 Uoichi Shoten Shop 10 min. walk
- 7 Kada Kasuga-jinja Shrine 10 min. walk
- 8 Hiina no Yu Hot Spring

Our starting point is Kada Station, the last stop on the Nankai Kada Line. Walk 15 minutes to Kada Port and take a 20-minute ferry ride to Tomogashima, docking at the island's Nonaura Pier. Ferries depart at 9:00, 11:00, 13:00, and 16:00. (Note: During long holiday periods, extra ferries are running. In January and February, ferries run only on Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays.) Some departures may be cancelled due to high winds, so be sure to check the ferry schedule on the day you plan to travel.

Site of Akai Well (Akai-ato) 2

Go north about 2 kilometers along the ridge from Kamishima Yohaijo to arrive at the seashore on the eastern edge of Okinoshima. There, you will find a stone monument marking the site of Akai Well. *Akai* means a well from which you get water to offer to Buddha. It is said that Shugendō practitioners would get spring water from this well to purify themselves before making the crossing to Torajima, the location of the training sites Johon-kutsu and Kannen-kutsu.

See page 11.



An ancient atlas noted of Akai Well that "The seawater reaches here so there is no longer a well"

The second floor dining area has a great view of the ocean



20 min. walk to Nonaura Pier, 20 min. ferry ride to Kada Port, and 5 min. walk

Kada Kasuga-jinja Shrine 7

Our next stop is Kada Kasuga-jinja Shrine, another of the Shugendō training sites on Tomogashima. The shrine is said to have been moved to its current location by Kuwayama Shigeharu (a retainer of warlord Hashiba Hidenaga) during the Tenso era (1573 to 1592). Legend holds that En no Gyoja, who was using Tomogashima Islands as a sacred training site, prayed to the shrine's god as a guardian deity. For this reason, the head priest of Shogo-in Temple joins large numbers of Shugendō practitioners to make a pilgrimage here every April.

See page 10.



At the shrine, you can try your luck with a paper fortune in a *tai* (red sea bream) mascot



The main hall has been designated an Important Cultural Property of Japan

Fresh Fish Cuisine Inasa 4

After exploring Tomogashima, savor a meal of red sea bream, a specialty of Kada. At Inasa, enjoy seafood right from the ocean to your plate, such as red sea bream from Kada port caught using the pole-and-line method. Try the popular red sea bream courses skillfully arranged by the proprietor, a Kada red sea bream expert. The courses let you try the fish prepared in a variety of ways; including as sashimi, simmered, and—to get the full flavor of red sea bream—hot pot.

See page 10.

Taste red sea bream prepared in numerous ways with the red sea bream mini course (3,850 yen)

10 min. walk

10 min. walk

GOAL

Hiina no Yu Hot Spring 8

What better way to unwind after a day of sightseeing than at Hiina no Yu hot spring? From the ocean-facing open-air bath you can see the peaceful, picturesque Kitan Strait in the daytime and gorgeous sunsets in the evening. Relax to your heart's content in the spacious bath and refreshing sea breeze. The hot spring's source, simple spring water that is mildly alkaline, has beautifying properties and makes your skin feel silky smooth after bathing.

073-459-1151 | 142 Kada, Wakayama-shi, Wakayama Prefecture | Adults 1,200 yen (includes a face towel) | 11:00 to 14:30, 15:00 to 19:00
Note: If the hot spring is crowded, the number of day visitors may be limited.
Open year-round | 50 spaces | Map P38 B2



Top: Located near the Kada fishing port
Bottom: You can enjoy sunsets from the west-facing open-air bath

Uoichi Shoten Shop 6

After a visit to Awashima-jinja Shrine, why not pick up some souvenirs at this shop founded more than 60 years ago? Located on the approach to the shrine, Uoichi Shoten is packed with seafood such as Tomogashima nori (dried seaweed), furikake nori (seaweed sprinkle), and Kada wakame seaweed. In the shop, you can eat fresh shellfish grilled right in front of you, such as *sazae no tsuboyaki* (turban shell baked in the shell) and *okugai* (hard clams).

073-459-0161 | Awashima-jinja grounds, 118 Kada, Wakayama-shi, Wakayama Prefecture | 8:30 to 16:30 | Closed irregularly | 3 spaces | Map P38 B2



Fresh seafood can be grilled right before your eyes

Buy souvenirs at a seafood store on the approach to the shrine



From left: Umenori (plum-flavored dried seaweed) (570 yen), furikake nori (seaweed sprinkle) (620 yen), Tomogashima nori (dried seaweed) (1,450 yen), and kurage uni (jellyfish and sea urchin) (from 900 yen)

Short walk

3 min. walk

Kada Awashima-jinja Shrine 5

After a satisfying meal, head over to Kada Awashima-jinja, an ancient shrine with a gorgeous vermilion main hall and a history that traces back to semi-legendary Empress Jingu. Countless *hina* dolls and *maneki-neko* (lucky cat figures) from all over Japan have been dedicated here, and the main hall is crowded with dolls. The shrine is reputed to be a magical and sacred site for women, answering their prayers for recovery from gynecological illness, safe childbirth, and romance. In the Hina-nagashi ritual held every year on March 3, the dolls that have been dedicated are ritually purified and then set out to sea in boats.

See page 11.

Right: The shrine's main hall is lined with many dolls
Below: Sukunahikona no Mikoto, a god of medicine, is enshrined here



Osaka

A key Katsuragi Shugen training site Tour Inunakisan

Inunakisan is a training ground of central importance in Katsuragi Shugen. At the heart of Inunakisan is Shipporyu-ji Temple, said to have been founded by En no Gyoja in 661. This itinerary takes you to sacred training sites as you enjoy hiking through the beautiful Inunakisan Valley.

Note: Foreign language assistance may not be available for all inquiries and facilities.

Inunakisan itinerary

- Short walk from Inunakisan bus stop
- 1 Inunakisan Valley 3 min. walk
 - 2 Cafe Terrace Ku 30 min. walk
 - 3 Gyoja no Taki Falls, Shipporyu-ji Temple Kiyotakido 40 min. walk
 - 4 Inunakiyama Barbecue niku-niku 12 min. walk
 - 5 Fudouguchikan

This route starts and ends at Inunakisan bus stop. To get there, take the Nankai Wing Bus from Nankai Izumisano Station (40-minute ride).

START
(Inunakisan bus stop)

Short walk

Inunakisan Valley 1

Let the mountains fill your senses as you walk through this valley of lush primeval forest. Besides a total of 48 waterfalls of varying sizes, you'll love the natural colors of the surroundings that change with each season, from fresh green in early summer to bright orange and yellow in autumn. With mountain-fresh air that fills your lungs and a mystical mood that wafts through the entire valley, it's no wonder this is known as a sacred place brimming with a special healing vibe.

☎ Izumisano City Tourism Association 072-469-3131
📍 Ogi, Izumisano-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🗺 Visit anytime 🚗 Yes (30 spaces near Inunakisan bus stop; 30 spaces near Inunaki Bridge) 📍 Map P38 D4



Changing seasons bring changing colors to the valley

Unwind in a hot spring surrounded by the beauty of the seasons

Top: Sesoragi no Yu, an open-air bath beside an idyllic stream
Bottom: If you're staying overnight, treat yourself to a *kaiseki* multi-course dinner with abundant seasonal ingredients



GOAL

Fudouguchikan 5

Fudouguchikan, a hot-spring lodging beside a peaceful stream in Inunakisan, is the ideal way to recharge your tired body. Gaze out on the fresh green forests of the valley from an open-air bath by a stream, and let your five senses absorb the natural beauty as a soothing breeze blows gently across your face. The baths have soap and shampoo, and there are towels for sale, so come as you are and relax.

Note: Hot spring for day visitors 900 yen; open 11:00 to 21:00 (enter by 20:00). If the hot spring is crowded, the number of day visitors may be limited.

➔ See page 16.

12 min. walk

Top: You can bring your own food if you like
Lower right: The Kashii River flows through the middle of the area
Lower left: The large sign lets you know you've arrived



Kajika no Yu, the large men's bath

Cafe Terrace Ku 2

The owner built this rustic mountain cafe on their own using a do-it-yourself approach. Just below the terrace flows the Inunaki River, and the surrounding forest draws you fully into the current season, be it spring cherry blossoms or fall colors. Against the gentle murmur of the stream, enjoy meals including Inunaki pork and Inunaki chicken, followed by home-made desserts.

☎ 072-459-7381
📍 7 Ogi, Izumisano-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 9:00 to 20:00 🚗 Thurs., Fri. 20 spaces 📍 Map P38 D4

3 min. walk

Take a sweets break on your hike



The 28 sutra mounds of Inunakisan

The mountainous area of Inunakisan, home to Shipporyu-ji Temple, is itself a large Shugendo training ground, dotted with training sites including the seven waterfalls. The area has a pilgrimage route covering 28 locations in the mountains, including training sites, waterfalls, rocks, halls, and mini shrines, where each of the chapters of the Lotus Sutra were buried and that mirror the 28 Katsuragi Shugen sutra mounds in comparative microcosm. Some parts of the route are treacherous. If you want to try some Shugendo training, how about taking part in one-day training (reservations required) at Shipporyu-ji Temple?

30 min. walk

The majestic waterfall cascading down the rocks will bring you peace

The sound of the waterfall amidst the quiet surroundings creates a soothing atmosphere



Gyoja no Taki Falls, Shipporyu-ji Temple Kiyotakido 3

If you walk about 300 meters past the Shipporyu-ji Temple main hall, you'll see the 10-meter-high Gyoja no Taki Falls beyond the small vermilion Kiyotakido hall. Here you can view the waterfall from up close. En no Gyoja and other historically renowned monks like Kukai are said to have meditated under this waterfall. It's a practice still popular among devout followers from all over Japan, and you can do it too if you make reservations in advance.

☎ 072-459-7101 📍 8 Ogi, Izumisano-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🕒 7:30 to 16:30 🗺 Open year-round 🚗 50 spaces 📍 Map P38 D4

40 min. walk

Inunakiyama Barbecue niku-niku 4

After a hike, come and enjoy a no-fuss barbecue next to a forest stream. There's nothing like the taste of barbecue in the fresh outdoor air. Satisfy your hunger with the all-inclusive barbecue set (from 3,280 yen) comprising 150 grams of beef, 100 grams of chicken, 50 grams of pork, five kinds of vegetables, frankfurter, and a rice ball. Enjoy swimming and splashing around in the nearby shallows of the Kashii River.

☎ 072-459-7259 📍 1772 Ogi, Izumisano-shi, Osaka Prefecture 🗺 All-inclusive barbecue: From 3,280 yen 🕒 10:00 to 18:00 (reservations required) 🚗 Closed irregularly 🚗 30 spaces 📍 Map P38 D4



Right: A 7-meter-tall statue of Migawari ("substitute") Fudo Myo-o
Left: The temple's main hall is at the top of the path within the expansive temple grounds

Take in the fresh mountain air on the terrace



The home-made apple pie (500 yen) is loaded with apple



1-Day Itinerary

Nara

An easy hike to the mountain top and a walk around the base Visit Mount Nijo

Mount Nijo's relatively moderate height and well maintained trail make it easy to walk up, even for novice hikers. On the Odake Peak of Mount Nijo is Daranihon, sutra mound #26 of Katsuragi Shugen. Here's an itinerary that lets you enjoy hiking in the mountains, visit Taima-dera Temple at the base, and drop in to shops popular with locals.

Note: Foreign language assistance may not be available for all inquiries and facilities.

START
(Kintetsu Taimadera Station)

15 min. walk

Taima-dera Temple dates back to the Asuka Period



Taima-dera Temple 1

This ancient temple dating back to the Asuka Period is believed to have been built when Taima no Kunimi relocated Manpozo-in Temple, which had been built by his grandfather, to the eastern base of Mount Nijo. There's plenty to see here as the temple precincts are home to designated National Treasures including a temple bell and main hall, as well as Nakanobo and other monastery buildings. Nakanobo is the oldest of the subsidiary temples of Taima-dera. From mid-April to early May, the peonies of the inner garden are in bloom.

→ See page 29.

Ryuo-sha Shrine is dedicated to a dragon god who En no Gyoja prayed for to come from Kumano

The cafe's specialty, panini, comes to you hot off the grill



Above: You can sit at the counter, or next to the large fish tank
Left: The panini set comes with a drink (1,200 yen)

Mount Nijo itinerary

15 min. walk from Kintetsu Taimadera Station

- 1 Taima-dera Temple 10 min. walk
- 2 Kasa-do 4 min. walk
- 3 Quadrifoglio Cafe 7 min. walk
- 4 Taima no Ie Futakami Park Taima Roadside Station 70 min. walk to Iwaya-toge Pass, 10 min. walk to Umanose, where the path splits to the Medake Peak and Odake Peak, and 5 min. walk to Odake Peak
- 5 Odake Peak, Mount Nijo (and walk to and from Medake Peak) 90 min. walk
- 6 Minca465 10 min. walk
- 7 Osaka Yamaguchi-jinja Shrine

Kasa-do 2

Kasa-do has been designated a Tangible Folk Cultural Property by the Nara prefectural government. Its distinct construction features a pyramid-shaped, clay-tile roof supported by one square central pillar measuring approximately 40 cm on each of its sides. Kasa means "umbrella" in Japanese. It was built in the early Edo Period after the death of Honda Masakatsu, lord of the Koriyama domain, who once ruled this area. There is a miniature shrine at the top of the east side of the central pillar that is said to have held an Amida Buddha statue. A temple bell used to hang under the eaves on the structure's north side.

Commerce, Industry, and Tourism Promotion Department, Katsuragi City 0745-44-5111 577 Someno, Katsuragi-shi, Nara Prefecture Visit anytime None Map P39 F2



Kasa-do utilizes a unique, single-post construction

Quadrifoglio Cafe 3

A short walk from Kasa-do you'll find an exposed concrete building that exudes a contemporary feel. The chic interior features Italian furniture chosen by the cafe owner and an aquarium with rare freshwater fish such as alligator gar and river stingray. Let the gently swimming sea creatures soothe your mind as you enjoy freshly brewed coffee and home-made sweets.

0745-43-9938 22 Shinzaike, Katsuragi-shi, Nara Prefecture 11:00 to 16:00 Thurs., Fri. 10 spaces Map P39 F2



The shrine sits in Anamushi, where remnants of an ancient highway still linger

Osaka Yamaguchi-jinja Shrine 7

A dignified shrine sits at the top of stone stairs. Locals know it as a sumo shrine, a place that years ago came alive with revelers at the annual autumn festival.

Commerce, Industry, and Tourism Department, Kashiba City 0745-44-3312 Anamushi, Kashiba-shi, Nara Prefecture Visit anytime None Map P39 F1



The shrine's main sanctuary is surrounded by trees

Taima no Ie Futakami Park Taima Roadside Station 4

If you're looking for souvenirs, check out this roadside station (rest area) at the base of Mount Nijo that is popular with hikers. It's all about local production for local consumption here: the many specialty goods and the huge selection of bread and sweets baked fresh on site make for a mind-boggling selection. The small cheesecake is a big seller; in fact, many people order it in advance before it sells out for the day.

→ See page 29.



A popular item is the bakery's cheesecake made with fresh eggs and plenty of cream cheese

The selection includes red shiso juice, pickled kikuimo (sunchokes), pea miso, mulberry leaf powder, and Kehaya pudding



A large selection of specialty processed foods

70 min. walk to Iwaya-toge Pass, 10 min. walk to Umanose, where the path splits to the Medake Peak and Odake Peak, and 5 min. walk to Odake Peak

GOAL

10 min. walk

Minca465 6

After your hike, take a walk down memory lane at this variety store that the owner has decorated with his favorite era: the mid-to-late 20th century. Inside you'll find nostalgic knick-knacks and toys, as well as artists' works everywhere you look. You'd be excused for thinking you've stepped into a bygone era. Drop into the cafe, or take off your shoes and enter a relaxing, homey atmosphere.

0745-27-8541 465 Hata, Kashiba-shi, Nara Prefecture 11:00 to 17:00 Wed., Thurs., Fri. 5 spaces Map P39 F1



It's like stepping onto a movie set



Daily lunch (1,000 yen). Today it's pan-cooked spaghetti Napolitan (ketchup-flavored)



Odake Peak, Mount Nijo (and walk to and from Medake Peak) 5

Walk approximately 10 minutes from Umanose to reach the top of the Odake Peak. At the summit and surrounded by sakaki trees is sutra mound #26 of Katsuragi Shugen. The mound is marked by an upright stone on top of a heap of natural stones. It's worth taking the 15-minute walk to the top of the adjoining Medake Peak, where you get a stunning panoramic view of not just the surrounding mountains but as far away as Osaka Bay.

Commerce, Industry, and Tourism Promotion Department, Katsuragi City 0745-44-5111 Someno, Katsuragi-shi, Nara Prefecture Visit anytime None Map P39 E2

The twin peaks of Mount Nijo: the 517-meter Odake and the 474-meter Medake



Cultural Assets Location Map



The cultural assets and tourist spots in this pamphlet can be viewed in detail on Google My Maps (in Japanese). You'll also find other information useful for your visit, such as recommendations and other things to watch for.



Step 1

Scan the QR code on the left and you'll be able to see an online map that shows all the places in this pamphlet.



Step 2

The spot you selected will light up on the map and an article about it will appear onscreen.

- The content is provided as a service of Google My Maps. Please be aware that the Katsuragi Shugen Japan Heritage Promotion Office is not responsible for any problems or loss incurred as a result of using this service.
- The service may not work on certain devices or operating systems.
- When using online, the normal internet provider usage fees apply.
- Note that things like the phone number and address of the places displayed on Google My Maps may differ from those in this pamphlet. Use such information only as an approximation.
- Note that this service is subject to change or termination without prior notice.

