山の辺の道 ハイキングコース

Yamanobe no Michi Hiking Course

Isonokami Jingu Shrine

A shrine with a deep tradition of worship by successive generations of the emperor, with many weapons housed in the shrine's storehouses and numerous traditions regarding weapons. It is also said that the Nanasaya no Tachi (Seven-Pronged Sword; a Japanese National Treasure) presented by an emissary of Baekje to the Empress Jingu in the 52nd year of her reign is housed here. The worshipped deity is a deification of the sword called Futsu no Mitama no Ookami. Prior to the Nara Period, the only places that were allowed to use the designation "Jingu" (Grand Shrine) were Ise Grand Shrine and here.

Ruins of Uchiyama Eikyu-ji Temple

Established by Yorizane of Kofuku-ji Daijo-in at the Emperor Toba's behest in Eikyu 2 (1114). In its heyday it boasted 52 monk houses, but it was closed during the anti-Buddhism movements. Now, only the main hall pond and the ruins of Kaya no Gosho from when Emperor Godaigo stayed here during the relocation of the capital to Yoshino in the Nanbokucho Period remain.

Takenouchi / Kayo Moated Settlements

Although there are many moated settlements in the Nara Basin, Takenouchi is located approximately 100m above sea level, and is the highest such settlement in the prefecture. It is one of the villages created for self-defense during the troubled times of the Warring States in Yamato from the Nanbokucho Period until the unification under Tsutsui Junkei. The moat surrounding the settlement also served as a reservoir, and they cultivated bamboo groves within the moat. In addition to Takenouchi, another similar settlement called Kayo also remains.

Yatogi Shrine

A rare thatched-roof house of worship that enshrines the four deities of Kasuga Taisha Shrine. On the path to the bus stop stands a torii that was moved from Kasuga Wakamiya in the 6th year of Kaei.

Ooyamato Shrine

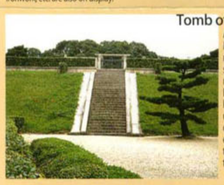
Located to the west of Yamanobe no Michi, Ooyamato Shrine is reached by following a 350m approach path through lush forest. On April 1, Ooyamato Shrine holds the Chanchan Matsuri as an early announcement of spring. And on September 23, the Benshide Dance, which is recognized as a Municipal Intangible Folk Cultural Asset, is held as an offering to pray for rain.

Kurozuka Kofun

One of the Yanagimoto kofun, it is a keyhole-shaped kofun with an overall length of 130m. In Heisei 10 (1998), 33 Sankakubuchi Shinjukyo (Triangular-rimmed mirrors), also known as mirrors of Himiko, were excavated from the kofun. In the adjacent Kurozuka Kofun Exhibition Hall, there is a full-sized replica of the pit-type stone burial chamber, and replicas of mirrors, ironwork, etc. are also on display.

Chougaku-ji Temple

An old temple which according to temple tradition was established in the 9th century by Kobo Daishi at the Emperor Junna's behest, it is also known as the Kamaguchi Daishi because it is located on top of Mt. Kamaguchi. In its heyday it is said to have had as many as 42 temple buildings, but many have been destroyed by fires of war on numerous occasions as well as anti-Buddhism movements.



Tomb of Emperor Sujin

Also known as Yamanobe no Michi no Magari no Oka no e no Misasagi (Tomb atop a sloping hill on the Yamanobe no Michi), like the tomb of Emperor Keikou, it is a keyhole-shaped tomb that uses the tip of a hill with an overall length of 242m, and is enclosed by a moat. It is said to be the oldest emperor's tomb.

Tomb of Emperor Keikou

Also known as Yamanobe no Michi no e no Misasagi (Tomb on the Yamanobe no Michi), it is a keyhole-shaped three-tiered tomb that uses the tip of a hill. It is an imposing kofun with an overall length of 300m, and a moat of approximately 1km dug around it.

Sumo Shrine

Located along the approach road to Hyozu Shrine, it is traditionally said to be where sumo originated. The historic ruins of Katayakeshi are here, and the legendary sumo wrestler Nomi no Sukune is enshrined here.

Hibara Shrine

One of the auxiliary shrines of Oomiwa Shrine, it does not have the main hall of worship since its object of worship is the God seat inside Mt. Miwa. Amaterasu Oomikami is enshrined here, and it is also referred to as the Original Ise. Around Idera Lake are inscriptions of Man'yo tanka by Kawabata Yasunari, Higashiyama Kaii, etc., creating an elegance which blends into the space.

Hashihaka

A large keyhole-shaped kofun. It has an overall length of 272m, with the round part having a diameter of 157m and height of 23m, and the slot part having a width of 25m and height of 13m. It is the tomb of Yamatototohi-momoso Hime no Mikoto, the imperial princess of Emperor Korei and the aunt of Emperor Sujin. Part of the moat around it still remains today.

Mt. Miwa

A mountain said to be composed of 48 peaks, its shape like a conical hat is beautiful. It is said to be the most sacred mountain from ancient times. Mt. Miwa is formed of hanreigan (gabbro), which is rare in the Kasuga Mountain Range, and numerous huge boulders are exposed on the mountain. Groups of these rocks are called the Okitsu Iwakura near the summit, Nakatsu Iwakura on the middle of the mountainside, and Hetsu Iwakura at the foot of the mountain, and each of the Iwakura (God seats) are where the gods Oomono Nushi no Kami, Onamuchi no Kami, and Sukunahikona no Kami respectively are said to descend to earth.

Oomiwa Shrine

Also referred to as Miwa Myojin, it is Japan's oldest shrine with the object of worship being Mt. Miwa behind it. As the oldest sacred mountain, Mt. Miwa is also called Mimoro Mountain or Shintai Mountain, and is revered as the mountain of the Gods, and there are many myths about Mt. Miwa in the historical records.

Genpian Temple

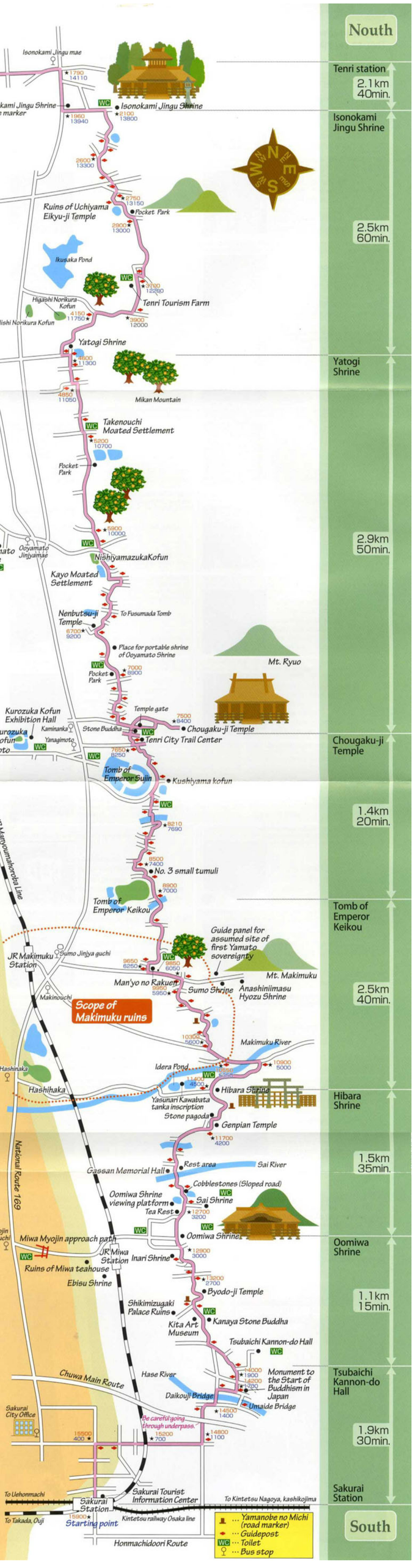
The hermitage of Buddhist Priest Genpi. It was originally in the Hibara Valley of Mt. Miwa and flourished as a Buddhist temple in the mountains, but it fell into ruin and was restored by Bikuenko in Kanbun 7 (1667). It was moved to its present location as part of the separation of Shinto and Buddhism during the Meiji Restoration.

Kanaya Stone Buddha

Two stone Buddha images stored in a storehouse on the outskirts of Kanaya. They are two pieces of shale 2.14m tall, 83.5cm wide, and 21.2cm thick, with the image of the Shaka Nyorai carved in relief on one (on the right) and the image of the Miroku Nyorai carved on the other. They are thought to have been carved in the late Heian Period.

Byodo-ji Temple

Completely destroyed during the Meiji anti-Buddhism movement. In Meiji 13 (1880), the area around the temple gate of the former Byodo-ji Temple was reconstructed as Suisho-ji Temple, and in Showa 52 (1977) it was restored as the previous Byodo-ji Temple. In addition to the Main Hall and Fudo-do Hall, there are stone feet of Buddha from the Edo Period, etc.

Monument to the Start of Buddhism in Japan

An envoy from Seimeio (Seong) of Baekje visited here during the reign of Emperor Kinmei, presenting him with a Kongo image, Kyoron scrolls, etc., and it is said that Buddhism in Japan started here. In addition, this region including Tsubaichi Kannon-do Hall is referred to as the ruins of Tsubaichi, the oldest market in Japan, and is the southern starting point of the Yamanobe no Michi.