

馬越峠

Let's Walk through
UNESCO World Heritage Sites!

Kumano Kodo Iseji 熊野古道 伊勢路

Magose-toge Pass

Matsumoto-toge Pass

Route Maps

松本峠

Mie Prefecture

“Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range” Registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List as “Roads”

There are three sacred sites, namely “Kumano Sanzan (Three Grand Shrines of Kumano),” “Koyasan” and “Yoshino and Omine,” in the Kii Mountain Range located roughly in the center of Japan, and different types of religion, such as Shinto based on nature worship, Buddhism introduced from China and developed in a unique way in Japan and Shugendo spread as a mixture of Shinto and Buddhism, have been fostered there.

In July 2004, the three sacred sites and the pilgrimage routes connecting them as well as their traditional cultures developed in harmony between nature and human beings over time were finally recognized by UNESCO as shared properties of all humankind and registered on its World Heritage List as “Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range.”



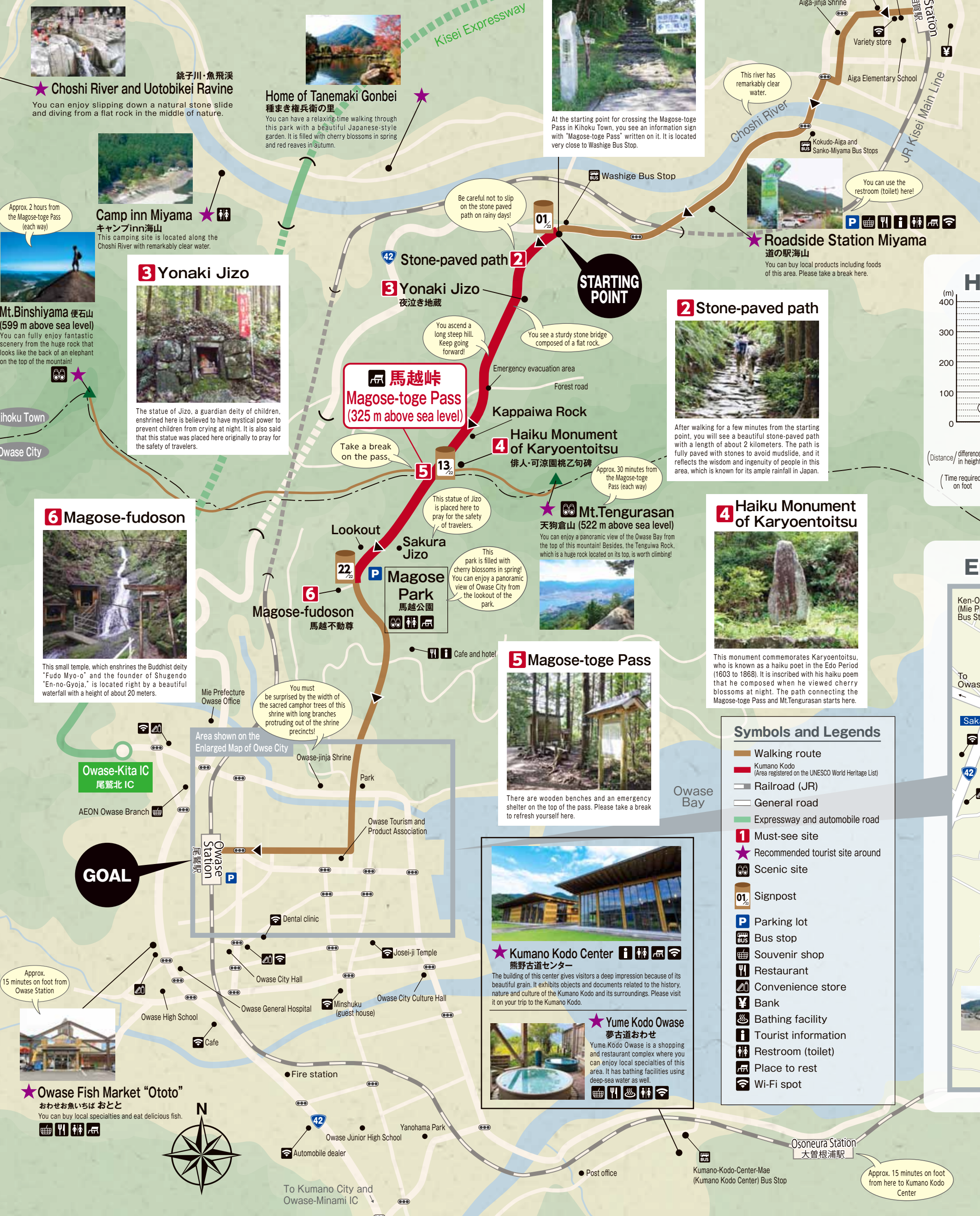
“Kumano Kodo Iseji Route” as the Path of Prayer to Connect the Two Major Sacred Sites

Kumano Sanzan consists of three grand shrines of Kumano, namely “Kumano Hongu-taisha Shrine,” “Kumano Hayatama-taisha Shrine” and “Kumano Nachi-taisha Shrine,” and the “Kumano Kodo Iseji Route” is the “path of prayer” to connect those shrines and Ise-jingu Shrine that is a very special sacred site for Japanese people through a lot of steep mountain passes. As the old proverb “Seven times to Ise, three times to Kumano” says, people in the past generally had a strong desire to visit them in their lifetime. Today, you can still enjoy the traditional landscapes and feel the rich history and culture of each area along the “Kumano Kodo Iseji Route.”

The Route Magose-toge Pass

The Magose-toge Pass is the most popular site on the Kumano Kodo Iseji Route. Its stone-paved path is worth seeing because it is blessed with traditional Japanese scenery and beautiful forest of hinoki (Japanese cypress). There is also a hiking trail that connects the pass and Mt.Tengurasan with beautiful scenery.

Magose-toge Pass Route
Starting point for crossing the Magose-toge Pass
→ JR Owase Station (approx. 5 km, approx. 2 hours 30 minutes on foot)



(Kihoku Town and Owase City, Mie Prefecture)

1 Starting Point for Crossing the Magose-toge Pass



At the starting point for crossing the Magose-toge Pass in Kihoku Town, you see an information sign with “Magose-toge Pass” written on it. It is located very close to Washige Bus Stop.

2 Stone-paved path



After walking for a few minutes from the starting point, you will see a beautiful stone-paved path with a length of about 2 kilometers. The path is fully paved with stones to avoid mudslide, and it reflects the wisdom and ingenuity of people in this area, which is known for its ample rainfall in Japan.

4 Haiku Monument of Karyoentoitsu



This monument commemorates Karyoentoitsu, who is known as a haiku poet in the Edo Period (1603 to 1868). It is inscribed with his haiku poem that he composed when he viewed cherry blossoms at night. The path connecting the Magose-toge Pass and Mt.Tengurasan starts here.

Symbols and Legends

- Walking route
- Kumano Kodo (Area registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List)
- Railroad (JR)
- General road
- Expressway and automobile road
- Must-see site
- Recommended tourist site around
- Scenic site
- Signpost
- Parking lot
- Bus stop
- Souvenir shop
- Restaurant
- Convenience store
- Bank
- Bathing facility
- Tourist information
- Restroom (toilet)
- Place to rest
- Wi-Fi spot

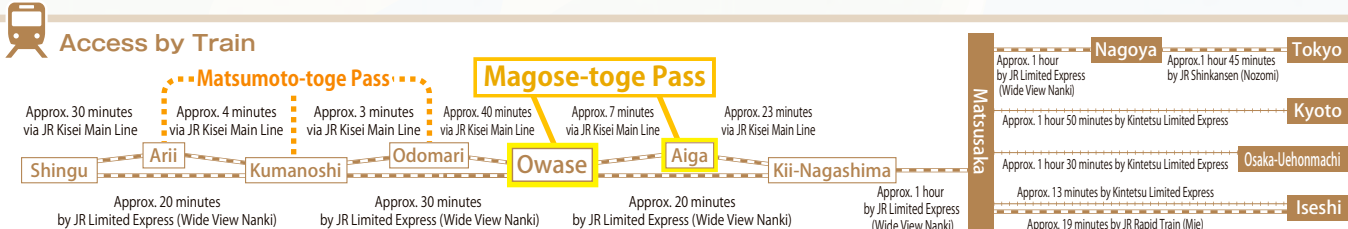
★ Kumano Kodo Center
熊野古道センター
The building of this center gives visitors a deep impression because of its beautiful grain. It exhibits objects and documents related to the history, nature and culture of the Kumano Kodo and its surroundings. Please visit it on your trip to the Kumano Kodo.

★ Yume Kodo Owase
夢古道おわせ
Yume Kodo Owase is a shopping and restaurant complex where you can enjoy local specialties of this area. It has bathing facilities using deep-sea water as well.

★ Owase Fish Market “Ototo”
おわせお魚いば おとと
You can buy local specialties and eat delicious fish.

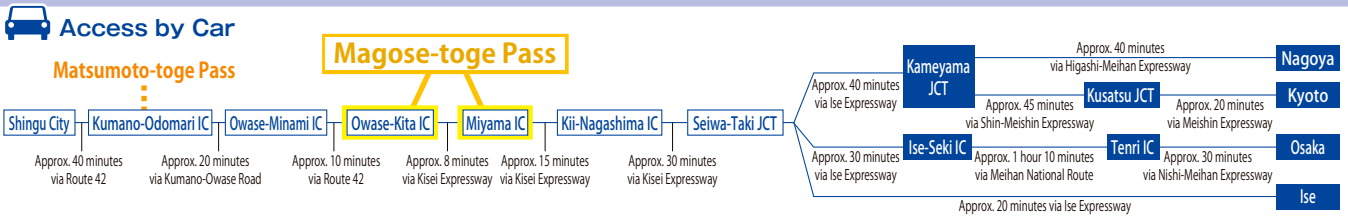
Access to the Magose-toge Pass

The nearest stations and interchanges to the Magose-toge Pass are circled in yellow. Please use these access maps for your trip. Note: it may take a little bit longer or shorter than estimated depending on the situation.

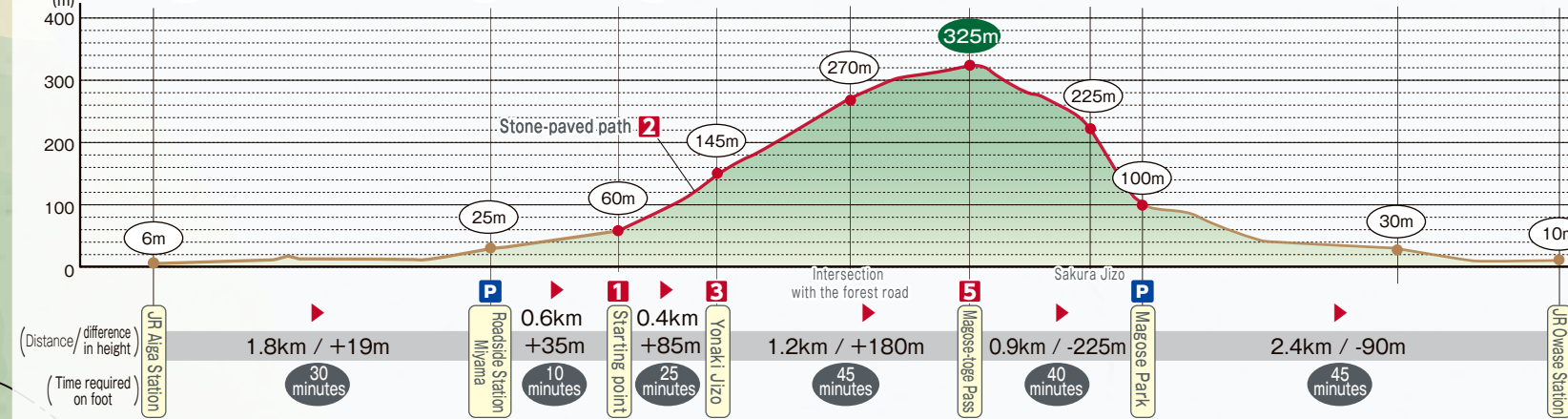


■ From Owase Station to the Starting Point for Crossing the Magose-toge Pass
Train: Approx. 7 minutes from Owase Station to Aiga Station by JR Kisei Main Line train for “Kameyama” and approx. 30 minutes on foot from Aiga Station
Bus: Approx. 13 minutes from “Owase-Eki-Guchi” Bus Stop to “Washige” Bus Stop by Mie Kotsu Bus for “Kii-Nagashima Station” or for “Shimakatsu” or approx. 12 minutes from “Owase-Eki-Guchi” Bus Stop to “Washige” Bus Stop by Mie Kotsu Nanki Expressway Bus for “Matsusaka”
Taxi: Approx. 10 minutes from Owase Station to the starting point for crossing the Magose-toge Pass

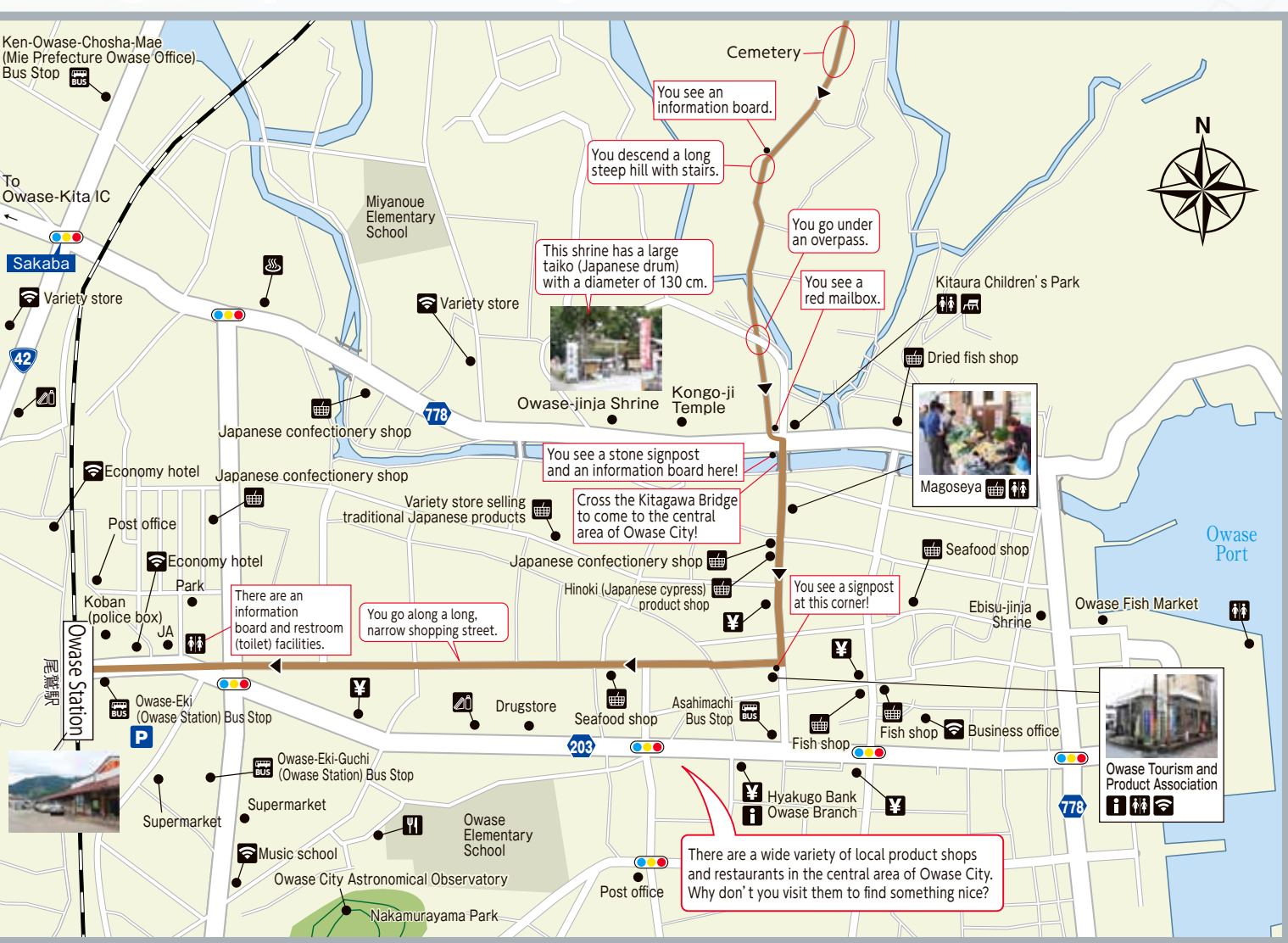
■ From Owase Station to Kumano Kodo Center by Bus
Approx. 12 minutes from “Owase-Eki (Owase Station)” Bus Stop by Fureai Bus for “Kii-Matsumoto” or approx. 8 minutes from the “Owase-Eki-Guchi” bus stop by Mie Kotsu Nanki Expressway Bus for “Kumano Kodo Center”
Note: please get off at “Kumano-Kodo-Center-Mae (Kumano Kodo Center)” Bus Stop.



Height of the Magose-toge Pass



Enlarged Map of Owase City



For more information on free Wi-Fi Spots

●FreeWi-Fi-MIE

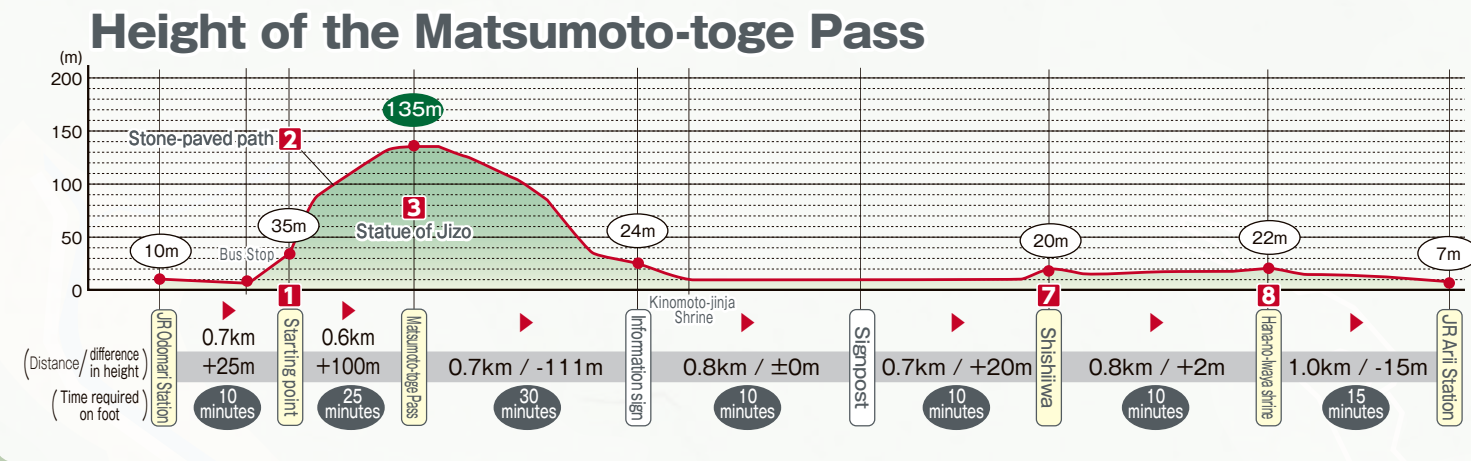
URL: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=znz6KnpwvYUkS-O3SRmN7U>

●Japan Connected-free Wi-Fi - NTTBP

URL: <http://www.ntt-bp.net/jcw/ta.html>



It is great fun to walk along the Matsumoto-toge Pass with a beautiful stone-paved path surrounded by bamboo forest. Unlike other passes, it is easy even for beginners of mountain climbing to cross the pass since it is located at a relatively low altitude. Besides, there are also many other must-see sites listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List around the pass, such as Oniga-jo and Hana-no-Iwaya shrine.



On the slope of a mountain, there are thousands of tanada (rice terraces) known as "Maruyama Senmaida," which are said to be the most beautiful rice fields in Japan.

Access: approx. 40 minutes from JR Kumanoshi Station to "Senmaida-Toritoge-Iguchi (Maruyama Senmaida and Entrance to ToritogePass)" Bus Stop by Kumano City Bus (Kumano-Kodo-Seiryuso Line) for "Seiryuso" and approx. 30 minutes on foot from the bus stop.

This park is a major base for educational activities for the protection of endangered sea turtles. You can learn about sea turtles and enjoy closeness with them. Access: approx. 20 minutes from JR Arii Station to JR Kii-Iida Station by JR train for "Shingu" and approx. 15 minutes on foot from JR Kii-Iida Station

The Kumano River has been registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List as a pilgrimage route through water. Sandanbo sail elegantly on the river before the wind. You can even enjoy a boat cruise if you make a reservation in advance.

Access: approx. 30 minutes from JR Arii Station to JR Shingu Station by JR train for "Shingu" and approx. 10 minutes from JR Shingu Station by taxi

The Shishiwa (literally "Lion Rock") is a huge uniquely-shaped rock with a height of 25 meters, which looks like a lion roaring at the Kumanō Sea. It is definitely a work of art created over thousands of years by ground uplift and wave erosion caused by the Kuroshio Current.

At this shopping and restaurant complex, you can fully enjoy the delicious flavors of local specialties, such as mitarashi dango (skewered rice dumplings seasoned with sweet soy sauce), rice cakes called "Otsunamochi," udon noodles, rice balls and mehari sushi. They are all made from the ancient rice called "Izanami Rice."

紀南ツアーデザインセンター
A 130-year-old kominka (traditional house) was remodeled as a visitor center here. It plans courses and tours to provide travelers to the Kinan Area with an opportunity to feel the nature and culture of the area. Please visit it as a base for your trip.

in Front of Kumanoshi Station
熊野市駅前特産品館

This shop is very easily accessible because it is located right in front of Kumanoshi Station. Local products, such as sweets made with a citrus fruit called "Niihime" and unrefined sake called "Senmaida Doburoku," are popular among tourists.

A blue banner with white Japanese text hangs over a stone staircase in a garden. The text on the banner reads "龍野山 龍野山 龍野山". The banner is positioned in the foreground, and the staircase leads up a hillside covered in green foliage.

(135m above sea level)

4 Arbor

Approx. 10 minutes from the Matsumoto-to-goe Pass

Approx. on foot the str

akimi-no-Oka Hill

You can see beautiful cherry blossoms in spring

鬼ヶ城センター
Tebasaki (deep-fried chicken wing),
Kumano Chicken (a "Mie Brand" product),
soft-serve ice cream made with a citrus
called "Niihime" (a local specialty of Kii
City) are very popular among tourists.

Lookout 鬼の見晴台
You can definitely feel refreshed if you see a panoramic view of the Kumano Sea from this lookout!

Oniga-jo (literally "Demon's Castle"), which extends for a distance of about 1.2 kilometers along the coast, consists of huge masses of tuff with sea caves created by the rough waves of the Kumano Sea. It is a magnificent work of art created by nature.

Annually held on August 17
Note: this event is postponed to a later date
in case of rain or high waves.

Access by Train

Matsumoto-toge Pass

Shingu (Approx. 30 minutes via JR Kosei Main Line) → Arii (Approx. 4 minutes via JR Kosei Main Line) → Kumanoshi (Approx. 3 minutes via JR Kosei Main Line) → Odomari (Approx. 40 minutes via JR Kosei Main Line) → Owase (Approx. 7 minutes via JR Kosei Main Line) → Aiga (Approx. 20 minutes via JR Limited Express (Wide View Nanki))

Magose-toge Pass

Shingu (Approx. 30 minutes via JR Limited Express (Wide View Nanki)) → Arii (Approx. 20 minutes via JR Limited Express (Wide View Nanki)) → Kumanoshi (Approx. 20 minutes via JR Limited Express (Wide View Nanki)) → Odomari (Approx. 20 minutes via JR Limited Express (Wide View Nanki)) → Owase (Approx. 20 minutes via JR Limited Express (Wide View Nanki)) → Aiga (Approx. 20 minutes via JR Limited Express (Wide View Nanki))

Train Approx. 3 minutes from Kumanoshi Station to Odomari Station by JR Kisei Main Line train for "Kameyama" and approx. 10 minutes on foot from Odomari Station to the starting point for crossing the Matsumoto-toge Pass

Bus Approx. 7 minutes from "Kumanoshi-Eki-Mae (Kumanoshi Station)" Bus Stop to "Odomari" Bus Stop by Kumano City Bus for "Yunotani and Momozaki" or by Mie Kotsu Bus for "Omatakuho" and approx. 5 minutes on foot from "Odomari" Bus Stop to the starting point for crossing the Matsumoto-toge Pass

Taxi Approx. 7 minutes from Kumanoshi Station to the starting point for crossing the Matsumoto-toge Pass

Matsumoto-toge Pass

Magose-toge Pass

Shingu City (Approx. 40 minutes via Route 42)

Kumano-Odomari IC (Approx. 20 minutes via Kumano-Owase Road)

Owase-Minami IC (Approx. 10 minutes via Route 42)

Owase-Kita IC (Approx. 8 minutes via Kise Expressway)

Miyama IC (Approx. 15 minutes via Kise Expressway)

Kii-Nagashima IC (Approx. 30 minutes via Kise Expressway)

Seiwa-Taki JCT

Kameyama JCT (Approx. 40 minutes via Ise Expressway)

Ise Seki IC (Approx. 30 minutes via Ise Expressway)

Tenri IC (Approx. 1 hour 10 minutes via Meihan National Route)

Kusatsu JCT (Approx. 20 minutes via Meishin Expressway)

Nagoya (Approx. 30 minutes via Nishi-Meihan Expressway)

Osaka (Approx. 30 minutes via Nishi-Meihan Expressway)

Ise (Approx. 20 minutes via Ise Expressway)

Sanma Sushi consists of lightly-pressed pieces of sushi rice topped with saury slices pickled with salt. This sushi is very easy to eat because of its firm-textured and odorless saury slices.

Kumano Chickens are raised very carefully in the great nature of Kumano. Their meat is moderately tough and rich in flavor.

Mehari sushi is a large rice ball rolled in lightly-pickled takana leaves. It is generally believed that the origin of its name can be traced back to a Japanese word meaning "eye-opening." That means people cannot help but open their eyes wide because they are very surprised by its size and fine flavor.

Basically, you are expected to wear long-sleeved clothes, pants (trousers) and a hat regardless of season. In summer, it would be better to wear a short-sleeved shirt as well so that you can put off long-sleeved clothes when it is warm. Please be sure to wear rigid-soled shoes to walk safely even on a slippery stone-paved path.

- Something to drink (to keep your body well hydrated) and eat
- Towels and extra clothes
- A raincoat

Note: please do not use an umbrella because you may walk through a very narrow path

- Sticking plasters and medicines for external and internal use

Please follow the following rules when you walk along the Kumano Kodo Iseji Route

- ① Protect the "shared properties of all humankind."
- ② Feel the traditional spirit of prayer handed down from generation to generation
- ③ Greet others with a smile to establish cordial relationships with them.
- ④ Cherish animals and plants. You should not take them home or bring them along from home.
- ⑤ Get well prepared for your trip so that you can fully enjoy walking as scheduled.
- ⑥ Be careful not to wander off course.
- ⑦ Be careful not to cause a fire.
- ⑧ Bring your waste home to keep the route clean.

While walking along any of the passes listed on the **TELECOM World Heritage List**, you may find **Isel Route Signposts** at intervals of about 100 meters. Those signposts help you to know exactly where you are and call for help in an emergency such as an injury and a sudden illness. When you call for help, please inform the police station or fire station of the **"Pass Number"** and **"Signpost Number"** indicated on the nearest signpost for a quick rescue.

Note: you may have very poor cell-phone reception in some areas when you walk along a pass.

Police station: 110
Fire station (fire and ambulance services): 119

Generally, coastal areas located at low altitudes may face a risk of tsunamis caused by an earthquake. Please be sure to evacuate immediately to any of the designated shelters with the sign of "Tsunami Evacuation Area" or "Tsunami Evacuation Building" or the like.

Tsunami Evacuation Area

Tsunami Evacuation Building

You will see the sign on the upper part of the utility pole (shown the photograph) in the area facing a risk of tsunamis caused by an earthquake. Meanwhile, the sign on the lower part of the pole indicates the altitude of the area.

The nearest stations and interchanges to the Matsumoto-toge Pass are circled in orange.
Please use these access maps for your trip.
Note: it may take a little bit longer or shorter than estimated depending on the situation.

Kumano Kodo Routes and other tourist sites using Google Maps.

Kumano Kodo Iseji Navigator

URL <http://www.kodo.pref.mie.lg.jp/navi/index.html>

information on accommodation, events and so on!

URL <http://www.kankomie.or.jp/>

●FreeWiFi-MIE
URL <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=znz6KNqpwuYU.KS-O3S7vmN7U>

●Japan Connected-free Wi-Fi – NTTBP
URL <http://www.ntt-bp.net/jcfw/ja.html>

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