

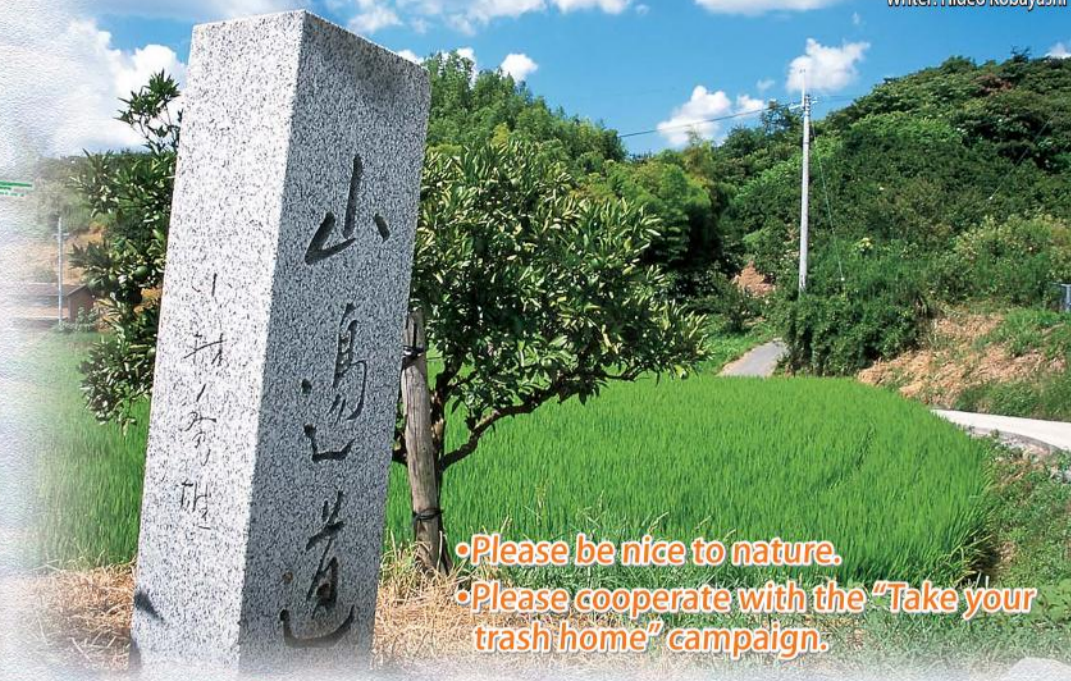
山の辺の道

Yamanobe no Michi (Yamanobe Road)



Uchiyama-Eikyūji Temple Ruins

Stone marker along Yamanobe no Michi
Writer: Hideo Kobayashi



•Please be nice to nature.
•Please cooperate with the "Take your trash home" campaign.

To the world of ancient romance

Yamanobe-no-michi, or Yamanobe Road, is an ancient road connecting Miwa and Nara. Three government roads created in the beginning of the 7th century and called Upper, Middle, and Lower roads run from north to south in the Yamato basin. Yamanobe Road extends north from Mt. Miwa further to the east from the Upper road, curving gently through the foothills. Although it's not possible to exactly trace the road's history, it is believed to have started from Tsubaichi, a marketplace famous in traditional courtship songs, and continue through Miwa, tomb of emperors Keiko and Sujin, and then northward from Isonokami-jingu shrine. Much of the road is designated as part of the Tokai Nature Trail. It runs for 12km from Kanaya in Sakurai to Isonokami shrine in Tenri, providing well-kept glimpses of the past and conveying the spirit of the ancient poems. Old shrines and temples, kofun tumuli, stone monuments inscribed with poems and historical places appear along the way, inviting travelers into an ancient illusionary world.



- 

未通女等が 袖布留山の瑞垣の 久しき時ゆ 思ひき吾は
otomera ga / sodofuru yama no / mizugaki no / hisashiki toki yu / omoiki ware wa wa
Just like Isonokami-jingu shrine has stood at the foot of this mountain for a long time, so I have long loved you.
Man'yōshū, poem 4-501 by Kakinomoto no Hitomaro
- 

石上 布留の神杉 神びにし 我やさらさら 鹿にあひにける
isonokami / furu no kamusugi / kamubini shi / ware ya sarasara / koi ni ai nikeru
When I was young, I fell in love a few times, and it was painful. I grew old like the cedar that has stood at Isonokami-jingu shrine for so many years, and I thought I wouldn't love anymore, but I've fallen in love again.
Man'yōshū, poem 10-1927 by unknown poet
- 

さはあれて 人はふりにし やどなれや 庭もまがきも 秋ののらなる
sato wa arete / hito wa furi ni shi / yado nare ya / niwa mo magaki mo / aki no nora naru
Is it because the village is falling into ruins, and the people who live here have gotten old? Gardens and fences look desolate, like an autumn field.
Kokin Wakashū, part 4, poem on autumn by Sojo Henjo
- 

うち山や とどまらずの 花ざかり
uchiyama ya / tozama shirazu no / hana zakari
Today, when I visited Uchiyama-Eikyūji temple, it was wonderfully filled with cherry blossoms. Only local people know about this cherry tree, not the outsiders.
Yamato Pilgrimage, by Matsuo Basho
- 

月待て 嶺へけりて聞くまに あはれよふかき はつかりの 声
tsuki machite / mine koe keru to / kiku mama ni / aware yo fukaki / hatsukari no koe
Walking down the mountain path waiting for the moon to appear, my companion said, 'I've crossed that peak.' The moon hasn't come out yet, but the voice of a wild goose is faint in the night.
in Furuhraku 30shū, by Toichi Tootada
- 

山の辺の道ははるけく野路の上に 乙木の鳥居 朱に立つ見ゆ
yamanobe no / michi wa harukeku / nomichi no ue ni / otogi no torii / ake ni tatsu miyu
Yamanobe Road continues forever. Is it the bright scarlet torii gate of Yatoji-jinja shrine in Otogi village that can be seen so far away?
By Hirose Toho
- 

あしひきの 山川の瀬の 響るなべに 弓月が嶽に 雲立ち渡る
ashihiki no / yamakawa no se no / naru nabe ni / yutsuki ga take ni / kumo tachi wataru
As the sounds of the rapids in the river that flows down the mountain gets louder, a cloud arises and moves past Yutsukigatake Peak.
Man'yōshū, poem 7-1088 by Kakinomoto no Hitomaro
- 

余道を 引手の山に 鉢を置きて 山路を行けば 生けりともなし
fusumaji no / shikiri no yama ni / imo o okite / yamaji o ikeba / ikeri tomo nashi
After leaving my wife's corpse buried at Ryo Mountain, as I return home by the mountain road, I feel sad and empty of life.
Man'yōshū, poem 2-212 by Kakinomoto no Hitomaro
- 

えにしあれや 長岳寺の法の水 むすぶ庵も ほど近き身は
enshi are ya / chogakuji no / nori no mizu / musubu tori mo / hodo chikaki mi wa
I have a special affinity for the Buddha of Chogakuji temple, and I am glad to live so close to it.
Hyakugojuban Jika Awase, by Toichi Tootada
- 

天下おさまる時を朝夕の 月にも日にも 先いのる哉
tenka osamaru / toki o / asa yuu no / tsuki nimo hi nimo / mazu inoru kana
After taking part in numerous battles, peace is my heartfelt desire. I pray for it to the morning and evening moon and to the sun.
Hyakuban Jika Awase, by Toichi Tootada
- 

玉かざる 夕さりれば 獵人の 弓月が嶽に 霞たなびく
tama kaguru / yuu sari kureba / satsuhito no / yutsuki ga take ni / kasumi tanabiku
As evening light glimmers, clouds drift over the moon in a shape of a hunter's bow.
Man'yōshū, poem 10-1816 by unknown poet
- 

二古陵に 一人の衛士や ほどとぎす ひとりの 衛士や ほどとぎす
nii koryo ni / hitori no eji ya / hototogisu nii koryo ni / hitori no eji ya / hototogisu
One guard protects two mausoleums from long ago. It is a quiet place where cuckoo cries.
by Takeda Mugaishi
- 

あまくもに ちかくひかりて なるかみの みればかしく みねばかなしも
amakumo ni / chikaku hikarite / narukami no / mireba kashiko / mineba kanashimo
Like lightning and thunder that rumbles through the clouds, meeting that person makes me feel anxious and I shouldn't get close, but if we cannot meet, I feel sad.
Man'yōshū, poem 7-1369 by unknown poet
- 

うま酒三輪の山青丹より奈良の山のまに 隠るまで道のくまのさからまで につばらにも見つつ行かむをしばし見せけむ山を心なく雲の隠さふべしや
uma sake / miwa no yama / aoni yoshi / nara no yama no / yama no mani / ikakuru made / michi no kuma / isakuru made ni / tsubarano nimo / mitsutsu ikamu o / shibashiba mo / misakemu yama o / kokoro naku / kumo no kakuso beshi ya
My Dear Mt. Miwa! The mountain that I often think of because I long to see it again, searching for it hidden among the numerous mountains of Nara, with the road to it turning and twisting continually, it seems to have been hidden so mercilessly by the clouds.
Man'yōshū, poem 1-17 by Princess Nukata
- 

三諸のその山なみに子らが手を巻向山はつぎのよろしも
nimoro no / sono yamanami ni / koraga te o / makimuku yama wa / tsugi no yoroshimo
Mt. Makimuku is near the mountain range of Mt. Miwa, and the way they are lined up is truly beautiful.
Man'yōshū, poem 7-1093 by Kakinomoto no Hitomaro
- 

めばたまの夜より来れば巻向の川音高しもあらしかも疾き
nubatama no / yoru sari kureba / makimuku no / kawaoto takashimo / arashi kamo toki
When the night came, the sounds of Makimuku River have become so loud. I wonder if the mountain storm has intensified.
Man'yōshū, poem 7-1101 by Kakinomoto no Hitomaro
- 

巻向の松原も未だ雲いねば小松が来ゆ淡雪流る
makimuku no / hibara mo imada / kumo ineba / komatsu ga ureyu / awayuki nagaru
Even though the clouds have not yet reached the cypress plateau of Makimuku, light snow on the tips of pine branches falls as if flowing.
Man'yōshū, poem 10-2314 by Kakinomoto no Hitomaro
- 

巻向の山邊よりみて行く水のみなあわの和し世の人われは
makimuku no / yamae to yomite / yuku mizu no / mina awa no gotoshi / yo no hito ware wa
Just like water flows confidently and noisily down the river along the foothills of Makimuku, that is what we are as living beings.
Man'yōshū, poem 7-1269 by Kakinomoto no Hitomaro
- 

あしひきの山かも高き巻向の岸の小松にみ雪降りけり
ashihiki no / yama kamo takaki / makimuku no / kishi no komatsu ni / miyuki furi keru
Oh, snow is starting to fall on the small pine trees on the cliffs of Mt. Makimuku. It must be because it is higher here than on the plain.
Man'yōshū, poem 10-2313 by Kakinomoto no Hitomaro
- 

あしひきの山川の瀬のなるなべに弓月が嶽に雲立ち渡る
ashihiki no / yamakawa no se no / naru nabe ni / yutsuki ga take ni / kumo tachi wataru
As the sounds of the rapids in the river that flows down the mountain gets louder, a cloud arises and moves past Yutsukigatake Peak.
Man'yōshū, poem 7-1088 by Kakinomoto no Hitomaro
- 

鳴神の音のみ聞きたる巻向の松原の山を今日見つるかも
narukami no / oto nomi kikishi / makimuku no / hibara no yama o / kyo mitsuru kamo
I had only heard of its thunderous reputation, but today, at last, I saw the mountain on the cypress plateau of Makimuku.
Man'yōshū, poem 7-1092 by Kakinomoto no Hitomaro
- 

神山の山邊真珠綿木みじか木綿かくのみ故に長くと思ひき
miwa yama no / yamabe maso yufu mijika yufu / kaku nomi yue ni / nagaku to omoiki
The length of fabric made from ramie of the mountains around Mt. Miwa is short. In the same way, the life of Princess Toochi was short, even if I had believed that her life would continue on forever.
Man'yōshū, poem 2-157 by Prince Takechi
- 

痛足河、河波立ちぬ巻目の由根が嶽に雲流立てらし
anashi gawa / kawa nami tachinu / makimuku no / yutsuki ga take ni / kumo i tateru rashi
The waters of Anashi River are rippled. It seems that clouds are gathering around Yutsukigatake Peak of Mt. Makimuku.
Man'yōshū, poem 7-1087 by Kakinomoto no Hitomaro
- 

大和は國のまほろばたなづく青垣山ごもれる大知しうらし
yamato wa kuni no mahoroba / tatanazuku aogaki / yama gomoreru yamatoshi uruwashi
Yamato is the best place in the country. Surrounded by a blue hedge of overlapping mountain layers, it is truly beautiful.
Kojiki, by Prince Yamatotakeru
- 

かぐ山は火をせど耳と相あそび神代りかくならしいへしめかぬれにやつせみもつをあらふふし
kagu yama wa / uebi oshu to / miminashi to / ai arasoki / kamiyo yori / kakunaru rashi / inishie mo / shika nare koso / utsusemi mo / tsuma o arasou rashiki
In the area around Three Mountains of Yamato, Mt. Kagu, Mt. Unebi and Mt. Miminashi, the relationship between men and women has long been complicated. It seems that the tradition of two men fighting for the hand of one woman has been going on since ancient times.
Man'yōshū, poem 1-13 by Emperor Tenchi
- 

三諸は人の守る山木辺はあしひ花咲き末辺は梅花咲くらくは山ぞ泣く見守る山
nimoro wa hito no mamoru yamanobe wa ashihana saki urabe wa tsubaika hana saku uragawashi yama zo naku to moryu yama
Mt. Miwa is a place where people do not enter without reason, and a mountain which carefully protects each tree and blade of grass. Near the foot of this mountain, Japanese anemone blooms, and towards its summit, camellia blooms. This mountain truly makes you feel heavy from the bottom of your heart and takes care of your emotions, like calming a crying child, carefully protecting all.
Man'yōshū, poem 13-3222 by unknown poet
- 

山吹きの立ちしげみたる山清水酌みに行かめど道の知らなく
yamabuki no / tachi shigemi taru / yama shimizu / kumi ni ikamedo / michi no shiranaku
Near the grave of Princess Toochi, there is a mountain spring flowing among kenta flowers. The spirit of the princess must pass through them to draw the water from the spring. I would like to go and meet her, but I don't know the way.
Man'yōshū, poem 2-158 by Prince Takechi
- 

古の人の植えけむ杉が枝に霞たなびく春は来ぬらし
inishie no / hito no ue kemu / sugi ga e ni / kasumi tanabiku / haru wa kinurashi
A haze is drifting through the branches of the cedars planted by people long ago. Spring has finally arrived.
Man'yōshū, poem 10-1814 by Kakinomoto no Hitomaro
- 

いにしへにありけむ人むが如か三輪の松原にかざし折りけむ
inishie ni / ari kemu hito mo / waga goto ka / miwa no hibara ni / kazashi ori kemu
I wonder if the people of long ago did what I'm doing now, breaking off a branch to use as an ornate hairpin on the cypress plateau of Mt. Miwa.
Man'yōshū, poem 7-1118 by Kakinomoto no Hitomaro
- 

やまとはくにのまほろばたなづく青がき山こもれる大知しうらし
yamato wa kuni no mahoroba / tatanazuku aogaki / yama gomoreru yamatoshi uruwashi
Yamato is the best place in the country. Surrounded by a blue hedge of overlapping mountain layers, it is truly beautiful.
Kojiki, by Prince Yamatotakeru
- 

狭井河よ雲立ちわたり欽火山木の葉騒ぎぬ風吹かむとす
sai gawa yo / kumo tachi watari / uebi yama / konoha sayaginu / kaze fukamu to su
Rain clouds have been hovering over the Sai River, and on Mt. Unebi the leaves are rustling in the trees. Strong wind rises.
Kojiki, by Isukeyorihime
- 

あし原のしけし小屋にすがだ、みややさや敷きてわが二人寝し
ashihara no / shikeshiki koya ni / suga datami / iyasaya shikite / waga futari ne shi
In the humble hut on the plain which grew full of reeds, several fresh rugs of woven bamboo were laid, and the two of us slept there.
Kojiki, by Emperor Jimmu
- 

織城島の日本の国に二人ありとし思はば何か嘆かむ
shikishima no / yamato no kuni ni / hito futari / ari to shi omowaba / nanika nagekamu
In this country of Yamato, if there were two people that I hold dear, how I would lament about this and that. But since there is only one person that I love, there are so many things here and there that I have to take care of.
Man'yōshū, poem 13-3249 by unknown poet
- 

わが衣色に染めぬむうまき三空の山はもみぢしにけり
waga koromo / iro ni some namu / umasake / mimuro no yama wa / momiji shi ni keru
The leaves on the trees on Mt. Miwa have changed their colour into beautiful autumn yellow. I think I'll dye my clothes in the same beautiful colour.
Man'yōshū, poem 7-1094 by Kakinomoto no Hitomaro
- 

うま酒三輪の祝(社)の山照らす秋の黄葉散らまく惜しむ
umasake / miwa no haburi no yama terasu / aki no momiji / chiramaku oshimo
On the mountain where Miwa shrine stands, the vividly coloured autumn maple leaves that shine brightly will be missed when they fall.
Man'yōshū, poem 8-1517 by Prince Nagaya
- 

こむりの泊瀬の山青峰の尾版の山は走出のよろき山の出入のわかし山ぞあたらし山の荒れは惜しむ
komoriku no hatsuse no yama aohara no osaka no yama wa hashiride no yoroshiki yama no idetachi no kuwashiki yama zo atarashiki yama no aremaku oshimo
Mt. Hatsuse and Mt. Osaka are splendidly beautiful mountains that I can see when I run out of my house when I leave my doorway. I want to protect these majestic mountains forever, but unfortunately they get more rugged year by year.
Man'yōshū, poem 13-3331 by unknown poet
- 

夕さらば河鯉鳴くなる三輪川の清き瀬の音を聞くは良し
yuu saraba / kawazu naku naru / miwa gawa no / kiyoki se no to / kikakushi yoshi mo
When evening comes, hearing the sounds of the pure waters of Miwa River and the cries of the frogs always gives me an indescribable feeling.
Man'yōshū, poem 10-2222 by unknown poet
- 

紫は灰(灰)さすものぞつば市の八十のちまたに逢へる見や誰
murasaki wa / hono sashita mono zo / tsubaichi no / yaso no chimata ni / aeru ko ya dare
The lady that I met on the road to Tsubaichi marketplace, what is her name?
Man'yōshū, poem 12-3101 by unknown poet

Publisher Yamanobe no Michi Beautification Promotion Association
Affiliated groups
Nara Prefecture; Tenri City; Sakurai City; Tenri City Tourism Association; Sakurai City Tourism Association; Kintetsu Corp.; West Japan Railway Co.; Nara Kotsu Bus Lines Co., Ltd.; Tenri Lions Club; Sakurai Lions Club

Contact:
Tenri City Tourism Association Tel.0743-63-1001
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山の辺の道 ハイキングコース Yamanobe no Michi Hiking Course



Isonokami-jingu Shrine

This shrine deeply revered by successive generations of emperors boasts many weapons housed in its treasure repository and numerous legends regarding weapons. It is also said that the Nanatsusaya no Tachi (Seven-Branded Sword, a Japanese National Treasure) presented by an emissary of the ancient Korean kingdom Paekche to the Empress Jingu in the 52nd year of her reign is housed here. The god Futsu-no-mitama-no-okaami enshrined here is the dedication of a sword. Prior to the Nara period, the only places that were allowed to use the designation "jingu" (Grand Shrine) were Ise Grand Shrine and this shrine.



Uchiyama-Eikyuji Temple Ruins

Established on the orders of Emperor Toba in 1114. In its heyday, the temple boasted 52 monks living here, but was closed due to the anti-Buddhism movement at the beginning of Meiji era. Now, only the pond of the main hall and the ruins of the Thatched-Roofed Imperial Palace, where Emperor Godaigo stayed during the relocation of the capital to Yoshino in the Nanbokucho period, remain.



Takenouchi and Kayo Moated Settlements

Although there are many moated settlements in the Nara Basin, Takenouchi is the highest of them in the prefecture (approximately 100m above sea level). It is one of the villages created for self-defense in Yamato region during the troubled times of the Warring States from the Nanbokucho period until the unification under Tsutsu Junki. 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-jinja Shrine

The main hall of this shrine that honours the four deities of Kasuga Taisha Shrine has a thatched roof, which is quite unusual. On the path to the bus stop stands the torii gate that was moved here from Kasuga Wakamiya shrine in 1848.



Oyamoto-jinja Shrine

Located to the west of Yamanobe Road, Oyamoto-jinja shrine is reached by following a 350m approach path through lush forest. On April 1st, the shrine holds the Chan-cha festival as an early announcement of spring. And on September 23rd, the Benishide Dance, which is recognized as a Municipal Intangible Folk Cultural Asset, is held as offering to pray for rain.



Kurozuka Kofun

One of the Yanagimoto Kofun Cluster, it is a keyhole-shaped tumulus with an overall length of 130m. In 1998, 33 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 a pit rock burial chamber and copies of mirrors, ironwork, etc. on display.



Chogakuji Temple

Chogakuji Temple was dedicated in 824 by Monk Kukai, who is also known posthumously as Kobo-Daishi. The temple is well-known for its flower gardens and cultural features. Passing through the Daimon gate and walking down the pebbled path, you reach the bell tower gate, the oldest in the country. The principal image of the temple Amida Triad is also the oldest in Japan among crystal-eyed Buddhist statues.



Tomb of Emperor Sujin

The burial mound of the 10th Emperor Sujin was constructed in the first half of the 4th century, and it is also known as Andon-yama Tumulus. The neighboring site, Kushiya Tumulus, has a rarely-seen "candy-wrap" shape, but the identity of the person buried there is unknown.



Tomb of Emperor Keiko

This burial mound of the 12th Emperor Keiko was built late in the 4th century, and it is also known as Shibutani-Mukaiyama Tumulus. It is the largest among the tumuli that were built in th period.



Sumo-jinja Shrine

Located along the approach road to Hyozu-jinja shrine, it is believed to be the place where sumo originated. It is situated on the historic ruins of Katayakeshi, and the legendary sumo wrestler Nomi no Sukune is enshrined here.



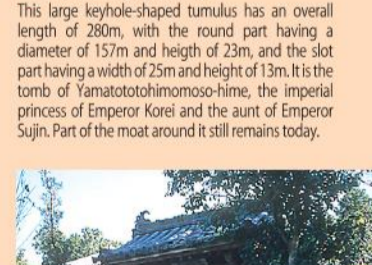
Hibara-jinja Shrine

Being one of the auxiliary shrines of Omiwa-jinja shrine, it does not have the main hall, since its object of worship is Mt. Miwa itself. Amaterasu Omikami is enshrined here, and the shrine is also referred to as the Original Ise. Around Idera pond, there are stone monuments inscribed with poems by Kawabata Yasunari, Higashiyama Kaki, etc, creating an elegance which blends into the space.



Mt. Miwa

The shape of this beautiful mountain, also referred to as "48 peaks", resembles a conical hat. It is believed to be the most sacred mountain from ancient times. Mt. Miwa is formed of gabbro, which is rare in the Kasuga Mountain Range, and studded with numerous huge rocks. Groups of these rocks are called the okitsu iwakura near the summit, nakatsu iwakura in the middle of the mountainside, and hetsu iwakura at the foot of the mountain. Each of the iwakura (God seats) are where the gods Omonu-nushi-no-kami, Onamuchi-no-kami, and Sukunahikona-no-kami respectively are said to descend to earth.



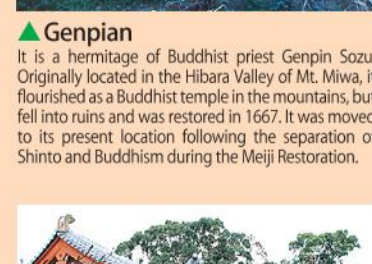
Hashihaka Kofun

This large keyhole-shaped tumulus has an overall length of 280m, 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 Yamatototomihomoso-hime, the imperial princess of Emperor Komei and the aunt of Emperor Sujin. Part of the moat around it still remains today.



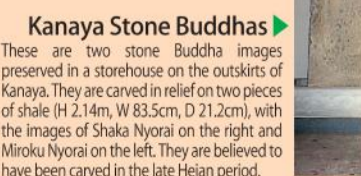
Omiwa-jinja Shrine

Also referred to as Miwa Myojin, it is said to be the oldest shrine in Japan with the object of worship being Mt. Miwa behind it. As the oldest Sacred Mountain, Mt. Miwa is referred to as the Mountain of the Gods, and there are many myths about it in the historical records.



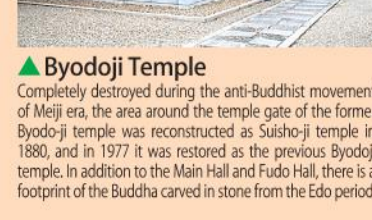
Genpian

It is a hermitage of Buddhist priest Genpin Sozu. Originally located in the Hibara Valley of Mt. Miwa, it flourished as a Buddhist temple in the mountains, but fell into ruins and was restored in 1667. It was moved to its present location following the separation of Shinto and Buddhism during the Meiji Restoration.



Kanaya Stone Buddhas

These are two stone Buddha images preserved in a storehouse on the outskirts of Kanaya. They are carved in relief on two pieces of shale (H 2.14m, W 83.5cm, D 21.2cm), with the images of Shaka Nyorai on the right and Miroku Nyorai on the left. They are believed to have been carved in the late Heian period.



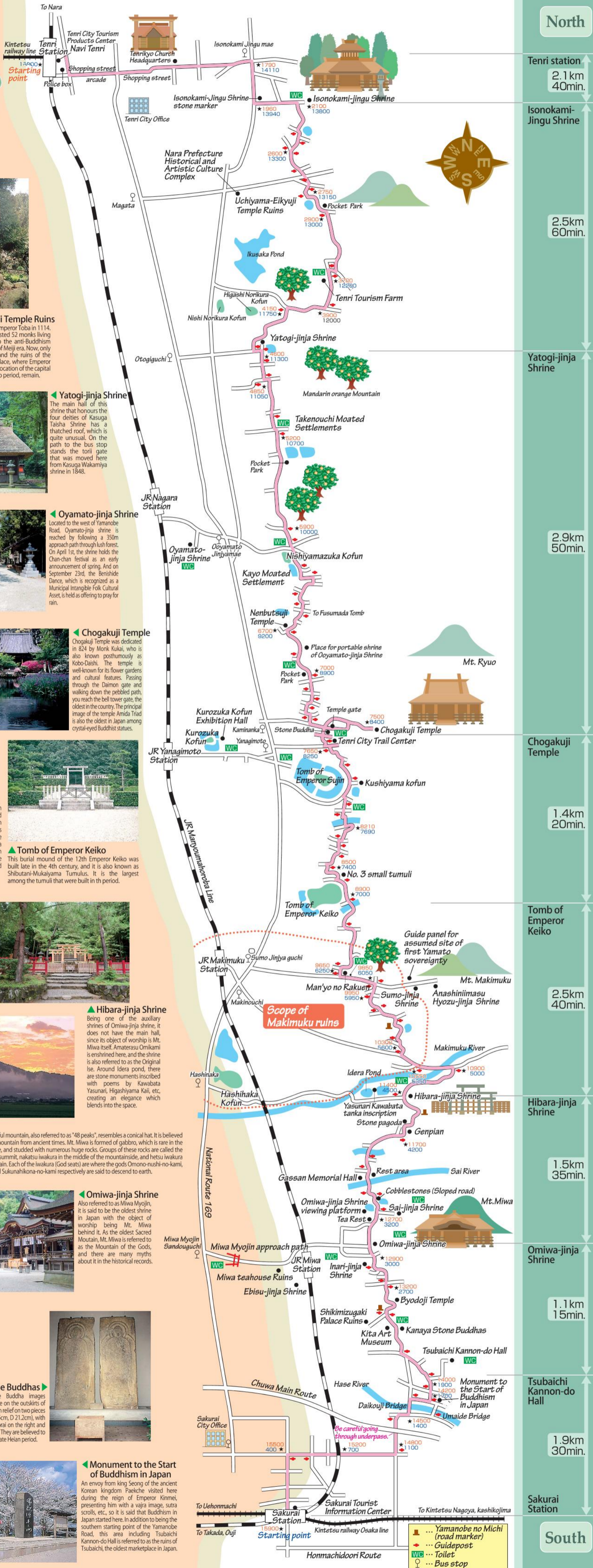
Byodoji Temple

Completely destroyed during the anti-Buddhist movement of Meiji era, the area around the temple gate of the former Byodoji temple was reconstructed as Suisho-ji temple in 1880, and in 1977 it was restored as Byodoji temple. In addition to the Main Hall and Fudo Hall, there is a footprint of the Buddha carved in stone from the Edo period.



Monument to the Start of Buddhism in Japan

An envoy from king Seong of the ancient Korean kingdom Paekche visited here during the reign of Emperor Kinmei, presenting him with a vajra image, sutra scrolls, etc., so it is said that Buddhism in Japan started here. In addition to being the southern starting point of the Yamanobe Road, this area including Tsubaichi Kannon-do Hall is referred to as the ruins of Tsubaichi, the oldest marketplace in Japan.



North

Tenri station
2.1 km
40min.

Isonokami-jingu Shrine

2.5 km
60min.

Yatogi-jinja Shrine

2.9 km
50min.

Chogakuji Temple

1.4 km
20min.

Tomb of Emperor Keiko

2.5 km
40min.

Hibara-jinja Shrine

1.5 km
35min.

Omiwa-jinja Shrine

1.1 km
15min.

Tsubaichi Kannon-do Hall

1.9 km
30min.

Sakurai Station

South

