

# 馬越峠

# 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.

(Kihoku Town and Owase City, Mie Prefecture)

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 Shugendō 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 Hayata-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.”

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)



1 Starting Point for Crossing the Magose-toge Pass



Choshi River and Uotobikei Ravine  
You can enjoy slipping down a natural stone slide and diving from a flat rock in the middle of nature.

Camp inn Miyama  
This camping site is located along the Choshi River with remarkably clear water.

3 Yonaki Jizo  
The statue of Jizo, a guardian deity of children, enshrined here is believed to have mystical power to prevent children from crying at night. It is also said that this statue was placed here originally to pray for the safety of travelers.

6 Magose-fudosen  
This small temple, which enshrines the Buddhist deity “Fudo Myo-ō,” and the founder of Shugendō “En-no-Gyoja,” is located right by a beautiful waterfall with a height of about 20 meters.

Home of Tanemaki Gonbei  
You can have a relaxing time walking through this park with a beautiful Japanese-style garden. It is filled with cherry blossoms in spring and red leaves in autumn.

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.

5 Magose-toge Pass  
You must be surprised by the width of the shrine with long branches protruding out of the shrine precincts!

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.

Be careful not to slip on the stone paved path on rainy days!

You ascend a long steep hill. Keep going forward!

You see a sturdy stone bridge composed of a flat rock.

Emergency evacuation area

Approx. 30 minutes from the Magose-toge Pass (each way)

Approx. 30 minutes from the Magose-toge Pass (each way)

This statue of Jizo is placed here to pray for the safety of travelers.

This park is filled with cherry blossoms in spring! You can enjoy a panoramic view of Owase City from the lookout of the park.

There are wooden benches and an emergency shelter on the top of the pass. Please take a break to refresh yourself here.

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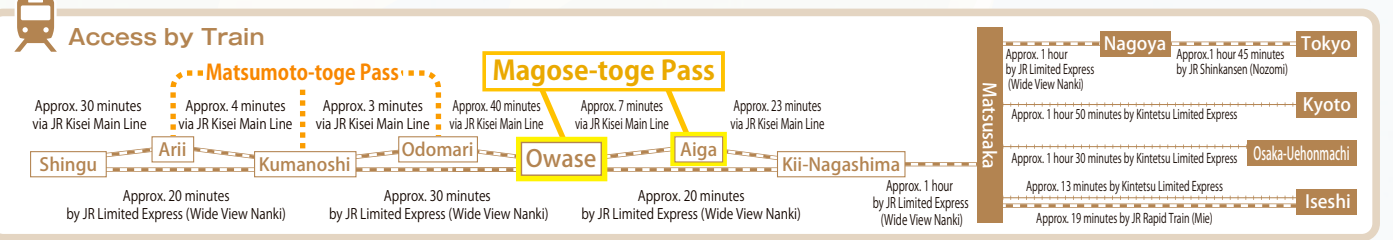
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- #### Symbols and Legends
- Walking route
  - Kumano Kodo (Area registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List)
  - Railroad (JR)
  - General road
  - Expressway and automobile road
  - Must-see site
  - Recommended tourist site around
  - Scenic site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

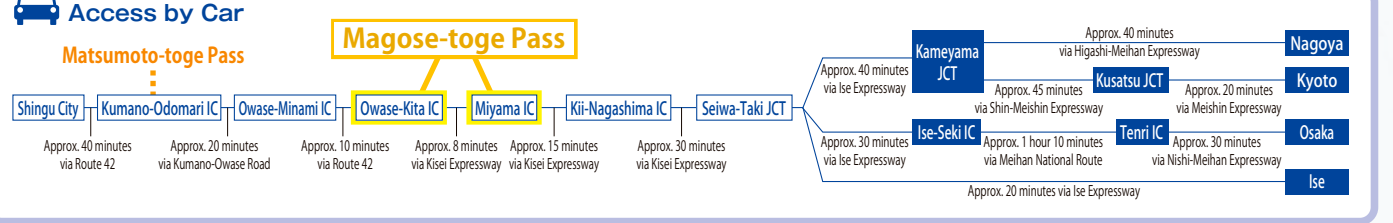
### Access to the Magose-toge Pass

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.

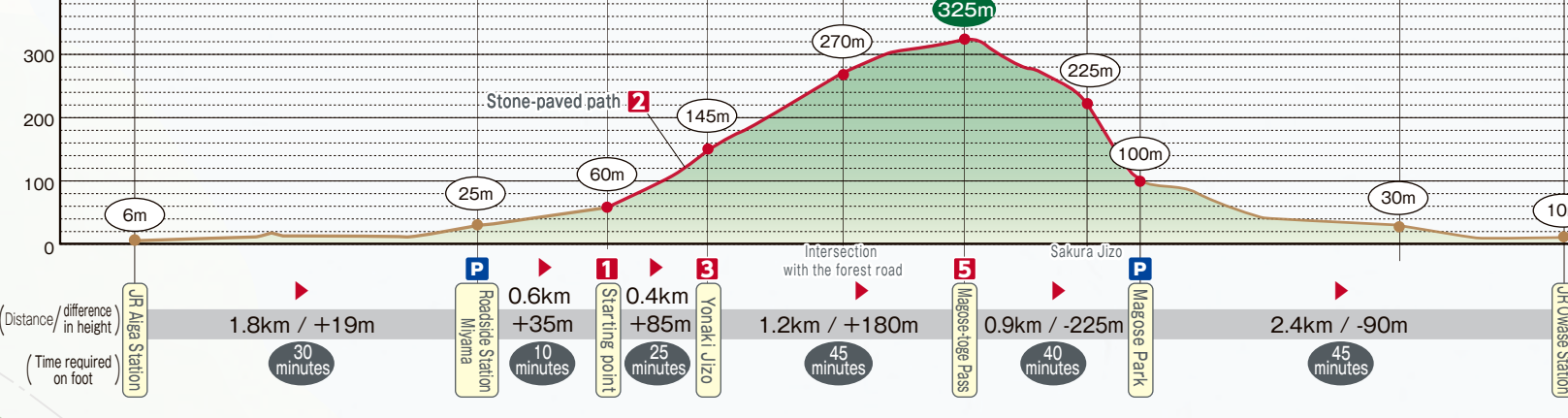


From Owase Station to the Starting Point for Crossing the Magose-toge Pass  
Train: Approx. 7 minutes from Owase Station to Aiga Station by JR Kisei Main Line train for “Kameyama” and approx. 30 minutes on foot from Aiga Station  
Bus: Approx. 13 minutes from “Owase-Eki-Guchi” Bus Stop to “Washige” Bus 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

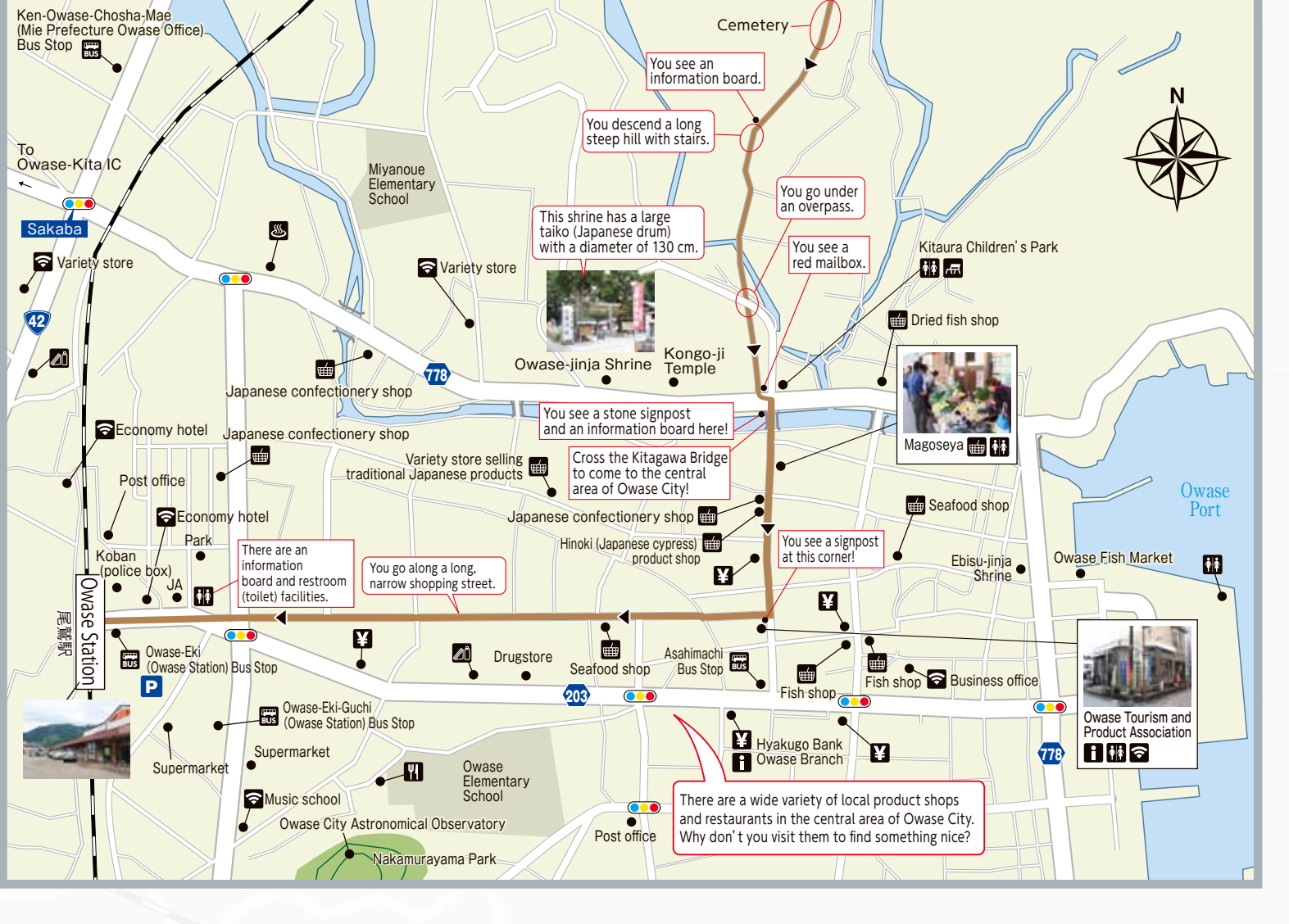
From Owase Station to Kumano Kodo Center by Bus  
Approx. 12 minutes from “Owase-Eki (Owase Station)” Bus Stop by Fureai Bus for “Kii-Matsumoto” or approx. 8 minutes from the “Owase-Eki-Guchi” bus stop by Mie Kotsu Nanki Expressway Bus for “Kumano Kodo Center”  
Note: please get off at “Kumano-Kodo-Center-Mae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



### Height of the Magose-toge Pass



### Enlarged Map of Owase City



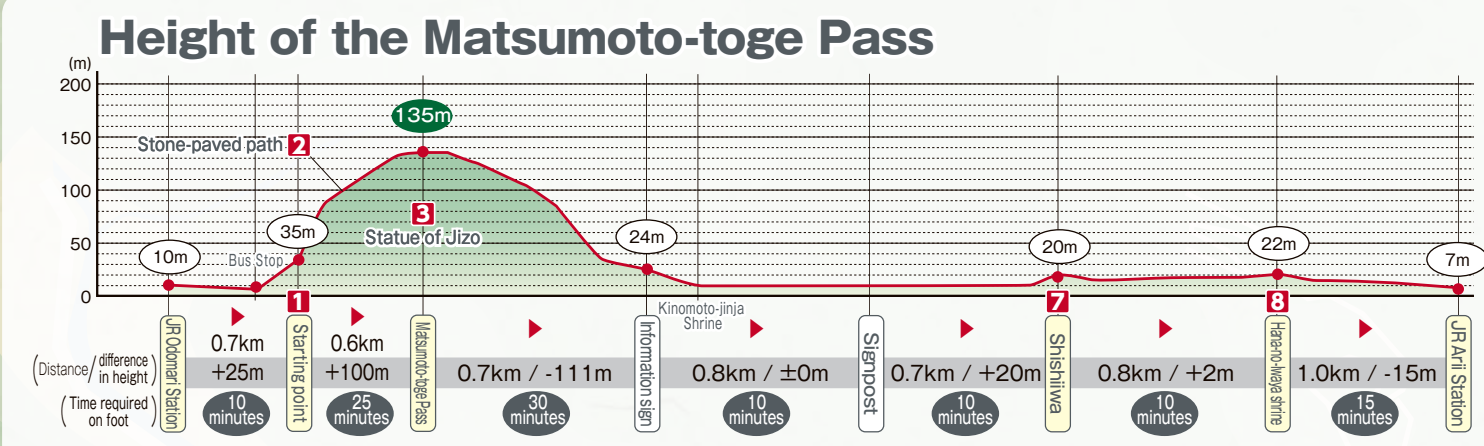
For more information on free Wi-Fi Spots  
FreeWiFi-MIE  
<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=zn26KnpwUy.k5-O3SRmN7U>  
Japan Connected-free Wi-Fi - NTTBP  
<http://www.ntt-bp.net/jta.html>  
FreeWiFi-MIE  
Japan Connected-free Wi-Fi - NTTBP



# The Route Matsumoto-toge Pass (Kumano City, Mie Prefecture)

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.

**Matsumoto-toge Pass Route** Starting point for crossing the Matsumoto-toge Pass → Hana-no-Iwaya shrine → JR Arii Station (approx. 4.3 km, approx. 1 hour 40 minutes on foot)



## Tourist Sites Worth Visiting around the Matsumoto-toge Pass



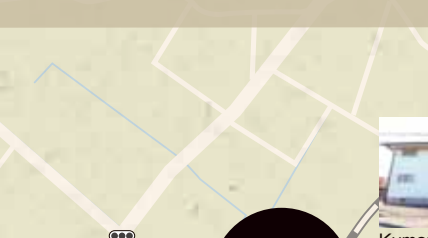
**Maruyama Senmaida (Kumano City)**  
On the slope of a mountain, there are thousands of terraced rice fields known as "Maruyama Senmaida," which are said to be the most beautiful rice fields in Japan.  
Access: approx. 40 minutes from JR Kumano Station to "Senmaida-Terraced-Rice-Fields Senmaida" and Entrance to "Tori-togePass" Bus Stop by Kumano City Bus (Kumano-Kodo-Senryu Line) for "Senryu" and approx. 30 minutes on foot from the bus stop.



**Kiho Town Sea Turtle Park (Kiho Town)**  
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 Kiida Station by JR train for "Shingu" and approx. 15 minutes on foot from JR Kiida Station



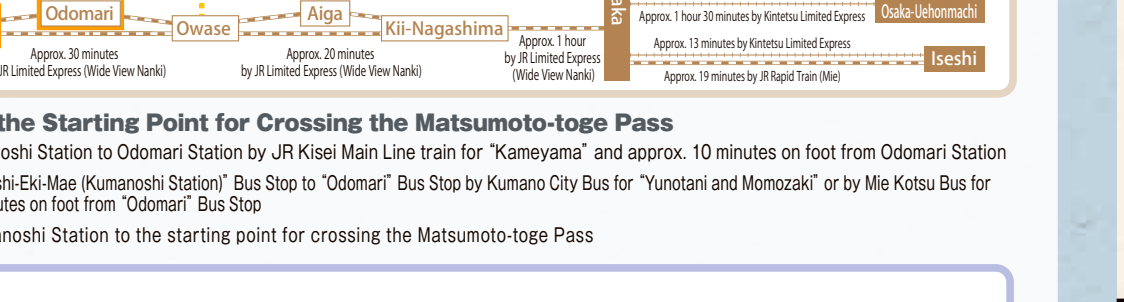
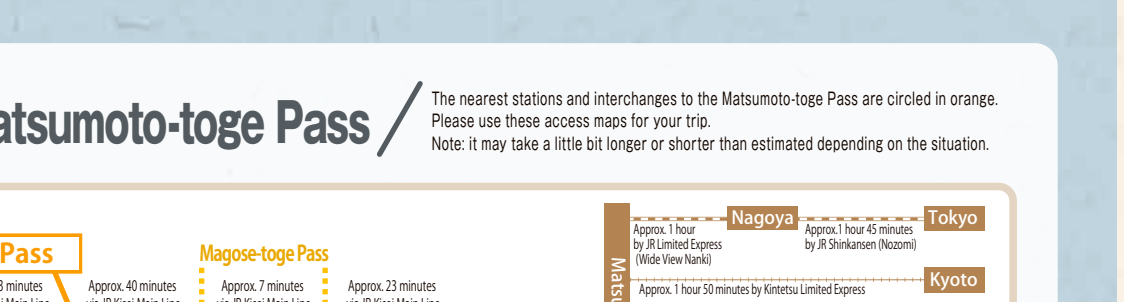
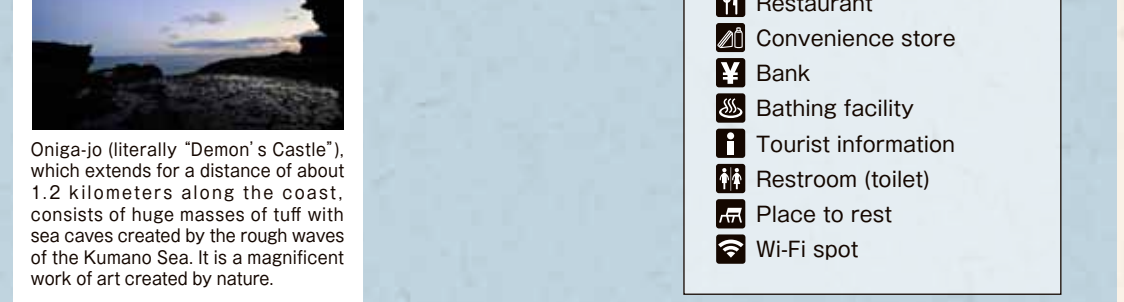
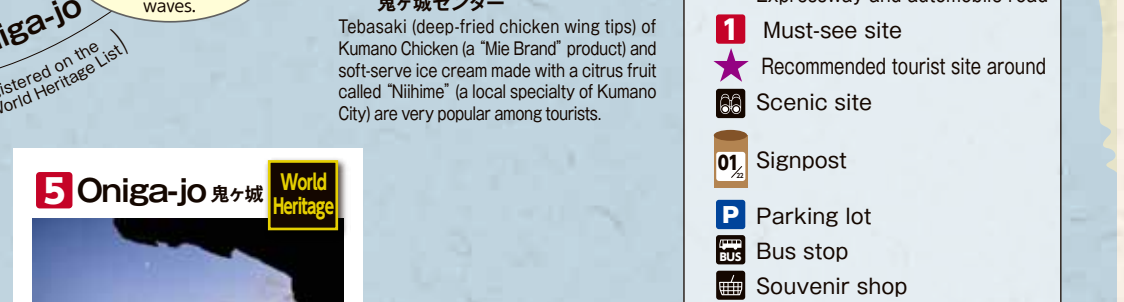
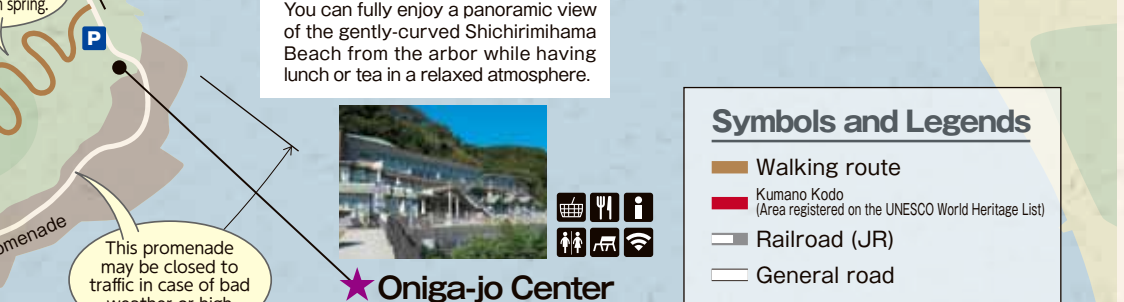
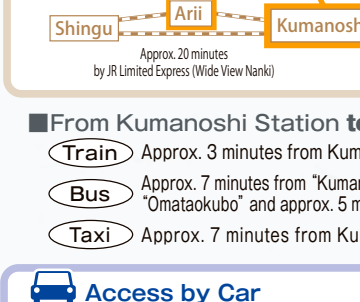
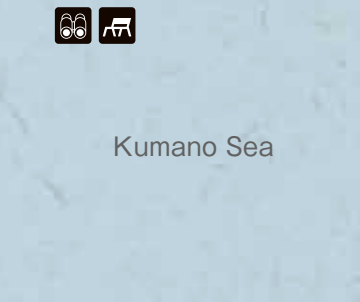
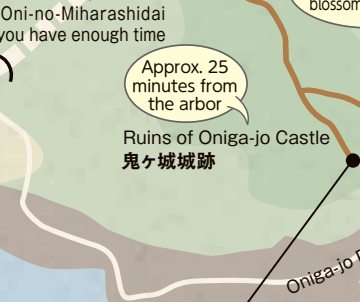
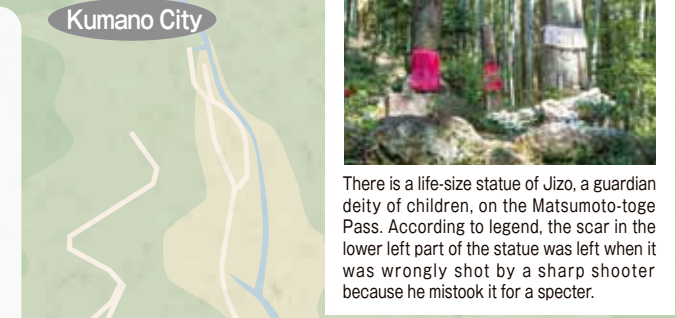
**Kumano River and Sandanbo (Kiho Town)**  
The Kumano River has been registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List as a pilgrimage route through water. Sandanbo sail elegantly on the river before the wind. You can even enjoy a boat cruise if you make a reservation in advance.  
Access: approx. 30 minutes from JR Arii Station to JR Shingu Station by JR train for "Shingu" and approx. 10 minutes from JR Shingu Station by taxi



**Hana-no-Iwaya shrine**  
Hana-no-Iwaya shrine is the tomb of Izanami-no-Mikoto known as the mother of Japanese deities. It is also said to be the oldest Shinto shrine in Japan. A giant rope with a length of about 170 meters is suspended from the top of this sacred huge rock.  
Why don't you take a walk along this sea embankment for a while?  
It is dangerous to enter the sea because it is too choppy!



**Otsuna Chaya**  
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."



**What to Wear**  
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.

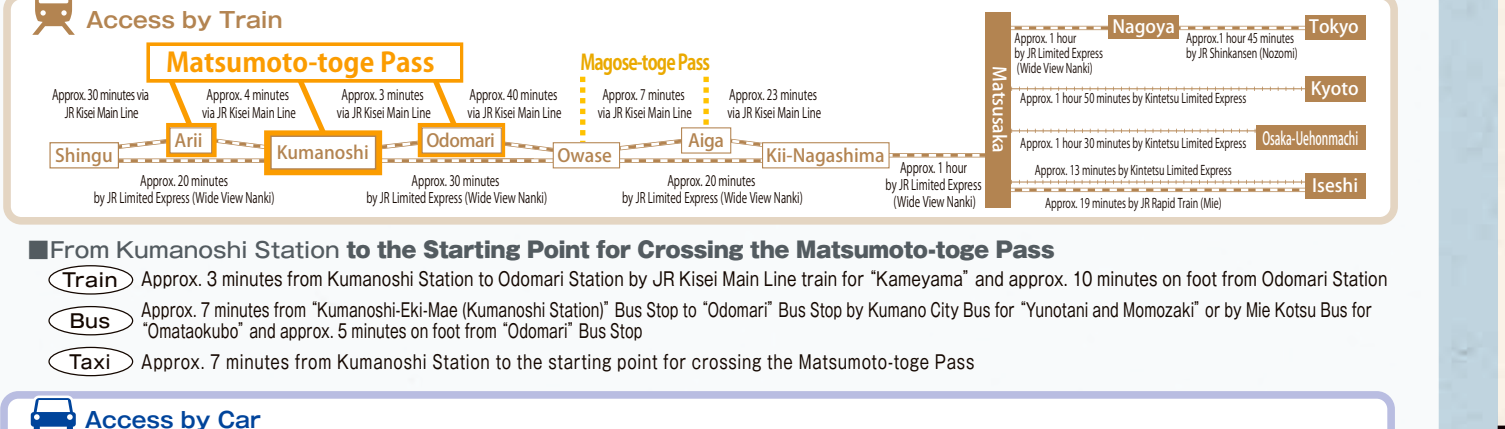
**What to Bring Along**  
■ Something to drink (to keep your body well hydrated) and eat  
■ Towels and extra clothes  
■ A raincoat  
Note: please do not use an umbrella because you may walk through a very narrow path.  
■ Sticking plasters and medicines for external and internal use

**Rules to Follow on Your Visit to the Sacred Sites and the Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range**  
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.

**Signposts on the Passes**  
While walking along any of the passes listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, you will see "Iseji Route Signposts" at intervals of about 100 meters. These 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.

**Emergency Contact Numbers**  
Police station: 110  
Fire station (fire and ambulance services): 119  
**What to Do in Case of a Tsunami**  
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.  
You will see the sign on the upper part of the utility pole (shown in the photograph) in the areas 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.

## Access to the Matsumoto-toge Pass



**Kumano Kodo Iseji Navigator**  
URL: <http://www.kodo.pref.mie.lg.jp/navi/index.html>

**Mie Travel Guide**  
URL: <http://www.kankomie.or.jp/>

**For more information on free Wi-Fi Spots**  
● Free WiFi-MIE  
URL: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=znz6KqNpwwUk5-03SRmN7U>  
● Japan Connected-free Wi-Fi - NTTBP  
URL: <http://www.ntt-bp.net/jctw/ja.html>

**Publisher**  
Higashi-Kishu Promotion Division, Mie Prefecture  
URL: <http://www.kodo.pref.mie.lg.jp/>  
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