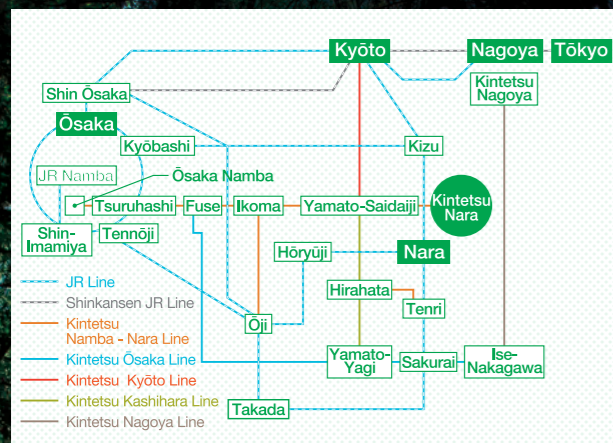


ACCESS MAP



ACCESS Reaching Kintetsu/JR Nara Station from surrounding areas

- Coming by train
 - Approx. 35min from Ōsaka Namba Station to Kintetsu Nara Station
 - Approx. 60min from Shin Ōsaka Station to Nara Station on the JR Line
 - Approx. 45min from Kyōto Station to Kintetsu Nara Station
 - Approx. 45min from Kyōto Station to Nara Station on the JR Line
 - Approx. 2h and 30min from Kintetsu Nagoya Station to Kintetsu Nara Station by Limited Express (change at Yamato-Yagi and Yamato-Saidaiji Station)
 - Approx. 1h and 30min from Kansai International Airport to Nara Station on the JR Line

- Coming by car
 - From Ōsaka** Approx. 50min via Hanshin Expressway Route 1 Loop Route, Route 13 Higashi-Ōsaka Route and/or Daini Hanna Toll Road
 - From Kyōto** Approx. 60min via Hanshin Expressway Route 8 Kyōto Route, Keinawa Expressway
 - From Wakayama** Approx. 1h and 30min via Hanwa Expressway and/or Nishi-Meihan Expressway
Approx. 2h via Keinawa Expressway

Publisher
Nara City Eastern Branch Office
 Ō-Yagyū-chō4735, Nara-shi,
 Nara-ken
 630-1242
 Japan



About Tourism
Yagyū Tourism Organizations
 155-1, Yagyū-cho, Nara-shi,
 Nara-ken
 630-1237
 Japan



YAGYU KAIDO

Trail Guidebook

A Tranquil Journey to the Past

A Tranquil Journey to the Past

Known as the village of master swordsmen, Yagyū is the birthplace of the Yagyū Shinkage School of swordsmanship and is located 16km directly east from the Heijō Palace Site. Long ago, Japan was a land engulfed in war where the principal objective was slaying one's enemies by sword. From this war-torn world, the master swordsman Yagyū Muneyoshi was born. He created the school of Yagyū Shinkage where he taught life-saving swordplay as well the importance of mastering your mind to master yourself. Various sites here invoke the memory of the Yagyū clan, such as Hōtokuzenji Temple, Kyū-Yagyūhan Karōyashiki (the residence of the former Yagyū domain's chief retainer), Kyū-Yagyūhan Jinyashiki-ato (the encampment ruins of the former Yagyū domain), and the Masakizaka Kenzen Dōjō, a hall for practicing martial arts. The spirit of the Yagyū clan

that inhabits this quiet mountain village can still be felt through the white walls and stone fences of the old houses. Yagyū Kaidō is an ancient route running from the center of Nara city to the village of Yagyū and passing through the valley between Mt. Kasuga and Mt. Takamado. Locations along the route such as Setarin, Daijisen, and Ninnikusen, whose names originate from Buddhism and are modeled on Indian holy sites, suggest this was already a site of Mountain Buddhism during the Nara and Heian periods (710 to 1185). It is said that around 450 years ago, after the establishment of the Yagyū Shinkage School of swordsmanship, many samurai traveled this road seeking to learn this new style. With each hiking course and location on Yagyū Kaidō you can experience a variety of natural settings, scenery, and historical periods. Get ready for an adventure!

YAGYU KAIDO

3 courses retracing the steps of Yagyū's history.

COURSE - 01

Takisaka -no-Michi Path

Difficulty ★ ★ ★ [approx. 170min]

Distance approx. 12 km

Takisaka-no-Michi makes up the first half of Yagyū Kaidō setting off from the center of Nara city. A cobblestone path formed of irregularly-patterned stones lines the way and is believed to be a relic of a road repair operation undertaken when the head of the Yagyū clan was promoted to Daimyō (feudal lord) and became tactics instructor to the Shogunate family. Numerous stine Buddha images, which served as objects of worship for Mountain Buddhism, are still found along Takisaka-no-Michi, serving as silent protectors to travelerson Yagyū Kaidō even today. Offering a chance to walk among murmuring streams and listen to the hum of the forest while feeling the power in the air, this road is revered for the calm it brings to all who visit. Exiting the cobblestone path, travelers can rest at the Tōge-no-Chaya teahouse which has been in operation since the Edo period (1603 to 1867) and, continuing onwsrd, visit Enjōji Temple which is home to a beautiful Jōdo-style (Pure Land Buddhism) garden from the Heian period (794 to 1185).

COURSE - 02

Kengō -no-Michi Path

Difficulty ★ ★ ★ ★ [approx. 135min]

Distance approx. 9 km

This course runs from Enjōji Temple to Yagyū, the village of master swordsmen. In contrast to the mystical atmosphere of Takisaka-no-Michi, this course takes you through nostalgic villages towards the steep Kaeribasa-tōge Pass. A particular highlight of this course is the pastoral scenery that covers the landscape below you. Other spots include Yamaguchi-jinja Shrine, Nanmyōji Temple, and numerous sites offering a taste of the history, faith, and appreciation expressed by past visitors here. It also features ruins and other vestiges of the Yagyū clan, such as the Ofuji-no-Ido well from the legend of the meeting between the Yagyū castle lord, Tajima-no-Kami Munenori and his soon-to-be wife Ofuji. In spring, freshly-planted rice fields cover the landscape in a blanket of green letting you fully experience the spring air, while fall brings gold ears of rice and the beautiful autumn leaves surrounding Enjōji Temple, making Kengō-no-Michi a route that can be enjoyed all four seasons.

COURSE - 03

Yagyū-Kasagi -no-Michi Path

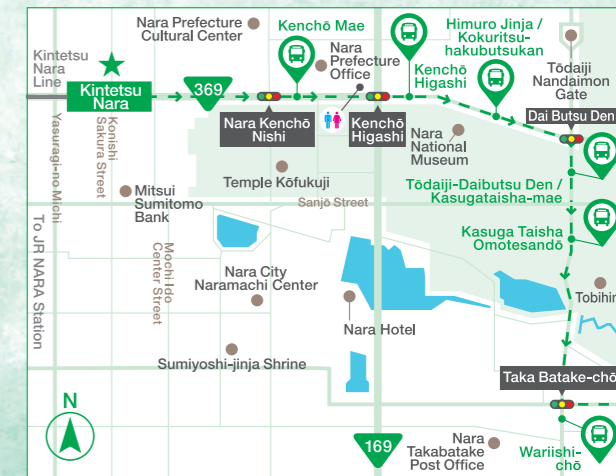
Difficulty ★ ★ ★ ★ [approx. 80min]

Distance approx. 6 km

This course stretches from the Yagyū bus stop - where you can visit the legendary Jūbeisugi cedars and Ataya-no-Sekibutsu stone Buddha - to JR Kasagi Station, which offers a rich experience of Kasagi's history. When setting off from the Yagyū bus stop, you will encounter a peaceful pastoral landscape stretching out before you. After looking upon the Ataya-no-Sekibutsu stone image, continue up the gently inclining slope. Designated as a national historic site and place of scenic beauty, this area is home to Mt. Kasagi, on top of which sits Kasagi-dera Temple. Going through the temple gates, you will be greeted by the temple's principal image of the Buddha, Miroku Magaibutsu. When you have gotten your fill of Kasagi-dera Temple, head down the rich nature-filled trail until you reach the exit marked by the arch of the Mt. Kasagi trailhead. With a unique landscape still covered in rare stones and giant rocks made of granite, this course lets you enjoy peaceful scenery while walking alongside tranquil rivers for an experience unlike Takisaka-no-Michi and Kengō-no-Michi. It is an ideal option for travelers looking to take their time and set their own pace.

Directions

Please walk or take the bus from Kintetsu Nara Station to reach Yagyū Kaidō's first course, Takisaka-no-Michi.



ACCESS Reaching each course from Kintetsu Nara Station

On foot

Takisaka Approx. 21min from Kintetsu Nara Station to Wariishi-chō Bus Stop

Coming by bus

Takisaka Approx. 7min from Kintetsu Nara Station to Wariishi-chō Bus Stop on the Nara City Loop Line (#1, clockwise) / Yamamura-chō-bound bus (#4)

Kengō Approx. 28min from Kintetsu Nara Station to Ninnikusen Bus Stop on the Yagyū-Ojinakamura-Ishuchi-bound bus (#4)

Yagyū-Kasagi Approx. 43min/48min* from Kintetsu Nara Station to Yagyū Bus Stop on the Yagyū-Ojinakamura-Ishuchi-bound bus (#4)

There are a limited number of buses per day. Please check bus times in advance when visiting.

* As this is a circuit course, it is also possible to start from JR Kasagi Station.

Bus Stop
Timetable

Nara Kotsū Homepage
Bus Stop Timetable
navi.narakotsu.co.jp



Takisaka

-no-Michi Path

Enrapture yourself in the green forests, red and gold leaves

of autumn, and quiet cobblestone paths

Start!
Kintetsu Nara Station

Goal!
Enjōji Temple



Waypoint markers are indicated with this triangle icon on this map.

Waypoint markers look like this.

ZOOM IN!

Mount Kasuga Stone Cave Buddhas

Head left

Enter the paved street

Nara Okuyama Driveway

Head right down the cobblestone path, not to the street on the left

Kubikiri-jizō Statue

Take the right path, instead of the uphill stairs on the left

Jigoku-dani Stone Cave Buddhas Viewing Route

Rest Area

ZOOM IN!

Enjōji Temple

Watch your step!

Fork in the road. Take left path

Descend

Head left Do not go up to the right

Head right Do not go down

Cabin

Graveyard

Restaurant Sato

Nakaikē

Icon Guide

	Course route		Point of interest
	Sightseeing route		Facility or landmark, etc.
	Stairs		Area guide
	Ascent		Forest
	Descent		Restroom

- 01 Reclining Buddha**
The Dainichi Nyorai Buddha is carved on the back of the stone located next to the information guide for Yagyū Kaidō's reclining Buddha. It is not known where, when, or by whom this was made, but the power of this mystical figure for capturing the hearts of all is undeniable.
- 02 Yūhi Kannon**
This Miroku Magaibutsu image is known as Yūhi (sunset) Kannon. It was carved during the Kamakura period (1185 to 1333) when the worship of Miroku (Maitreya Buddha) was at its peak. As the name shows, the image's enchanting presence when illuminated by the setting sun calms the hearts of all who visit.

- 03 Asahi Kannon**
Inscribed with the year 1265, this Sanzō Magaibutsu (triad of carved Buddha figures) consists of Miroku Bosatsu in the center with two Jizō Bosatsu images to its left and right. Facing east, these divine figures are illuminated by the rising sun giving Asahi (sunrise) Kannon its name.
- 04 Tōge-no-Chaya Teahouse**
Located near Ishikiri-tōge Pass, this teahouse has been in operation since the Edo period (1603 to 1867). Decorated with old guns and spears previously left by samurai as payment for drinks, one can still sense the lingering presence of the samurai of old.

Kengō

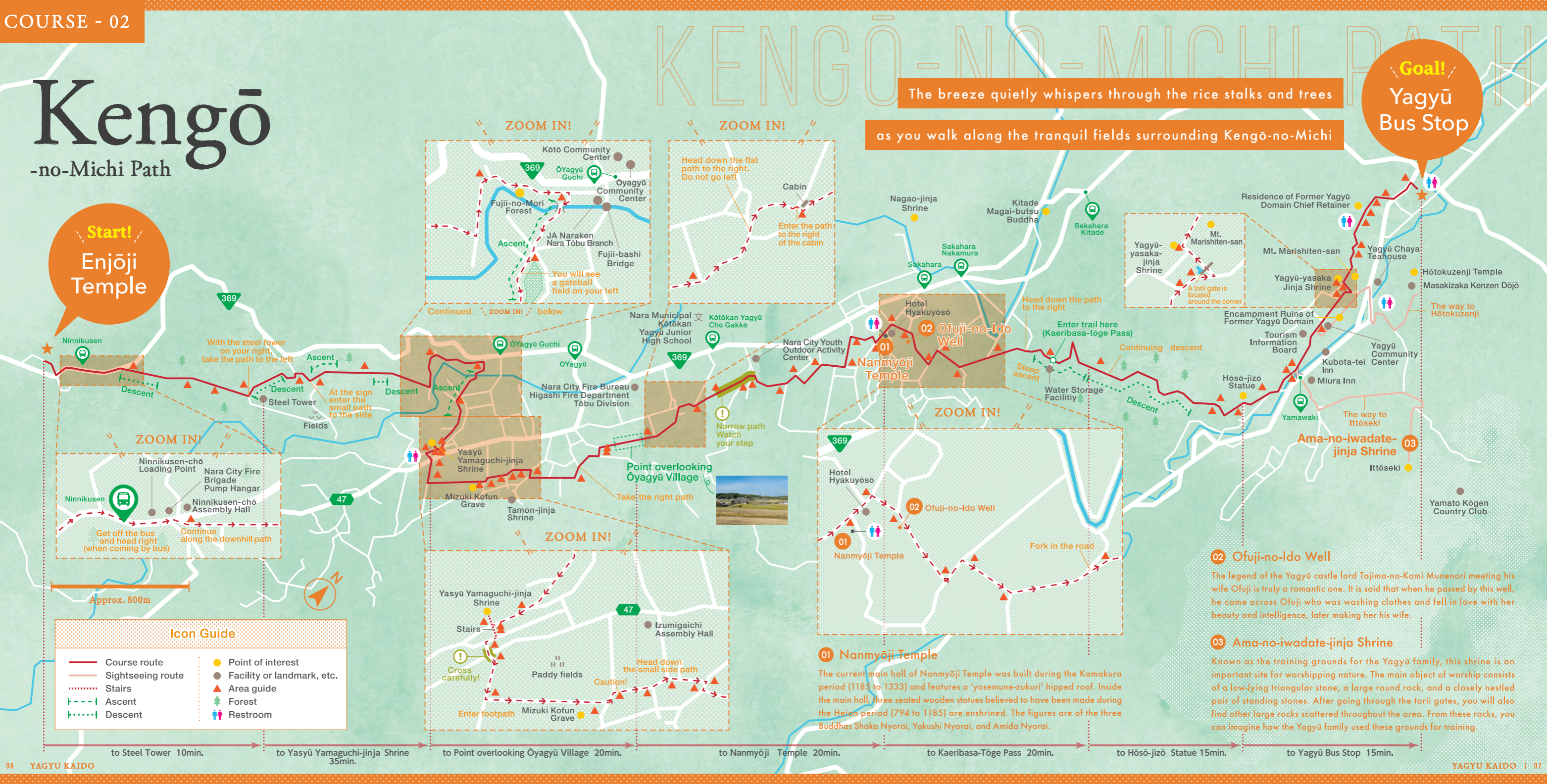
-no-Michi Path

KENGŌ-NO-MICHI PATH

Start!
Enjōji Temple

Goal!
Yagyū Bus Stop

The breeze quietly whispers through the rice stalks and trees as you walk along the tranquil fields surrounding Kengō-no-Michi



Icon Guide

	Course route		Point of interest
	Sightseeing route		Facility or landmark, etc.
	Stairs		Area guide
	Ascent		Forest
	Descent		Restroom

02 Ofuji-no-Ido Well
The legend of the Yagyū castle lord Tajima-no-Kami Munenori meeting his wife Ofuji is truly a romantic one. It is said that when he passed by this well, he came across Ofuji who was washing clothes and fell in love with her beauty and intelligence, later making her his wife.

03 Ama-no-iwadate-jinja Shrine
Known as the training grounds for the Yagyū family, this shrine is an important site for worshipping nature. The main object of worship consists of a low-lying triangular stone, a large round rock, and a closely nestled pair of standing stones. After going through the torii gates, you will also find other large rocks scattered throughout the area. From these rocks, you can imagine how the Yagyū family used these grounds for training.

01 Nanmyōji Temple
The current main hall of Nanmyōji Temple was built during the Kamakura period (1185 to 1333) and features a 'yosemune-zukuri' hipped roof. Inside the main hall, three seated wooden statues believed to have been made during the Heian period (794 to 1185) are enshrined. The figures are of the three Buddhas Shaka Nyorai, Yakushi Nyorai, and Amida Nyorai.

to Steel Tower 10min. to Yasyū Yamaguchi-jinja Shrine 35min. to Point overlooking Ōyagū Village 20min. to Nanmyōji Temple 20min. to Kaeribasa-Tōge Pass 20min. to Hōsō-jizō Statue 15min. to Yagyū Bus Stop 15min.

YAGYŪ-KASAGI-NO-MICHI PATH

Yagyū-Kasagi-no-Michi Path

Breathe in the sacred mountain air and

listen to the Jūbeisugi cedar and stone Buddha

statues tell of a history stretching back 450 years

01 Jūbeisugi cedar

These Japanese cedars are said to have been planted in commemoration of the pilgrimage of Yagyū Jūbei, the oldest son of Yagyū Munenori, when he went to Shikoku and Kyūshū islands under the edict of the 3rd Shōgun Iemitsu. The trees have withered, but their dignified appearance still captivates visitors today.

02 Ataya-no-Sekibutsu

This standing statue of the Amida Nyorai Buddha is set within a 5 meter high by 3 meter wide rectangular frame carved from natural stone and is accompanied by a 0.7 meter tall figure of Jizō Bosatsu. The image has been recognized as an exquisite example of a stone Buddha sculpture from the Muromachi period (1336 to 1573). It is believed there was previously an Atayaji Temple located in the vicinity.

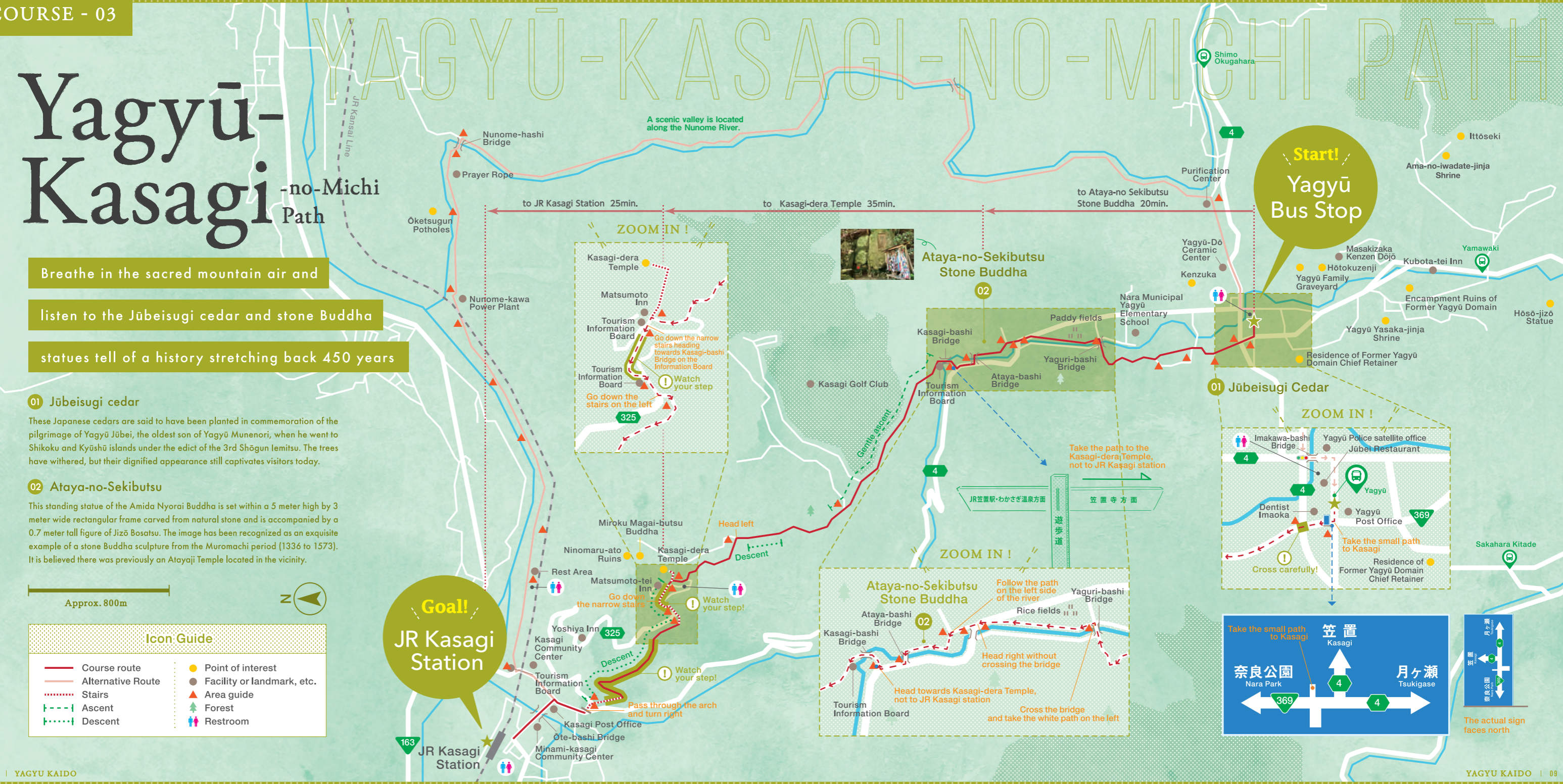
Approx. 800m



Icon Guide

- Course route
- - - Alternative Route
- - - - Stairs
- - - - Ascent
- - - - Descent
- Point of interest
- Facility or landmark, etc.
- ▲ Area guide
- ▲ Forest
- ♂ ♀ Restroom

Goal!
JR Kasagi Station



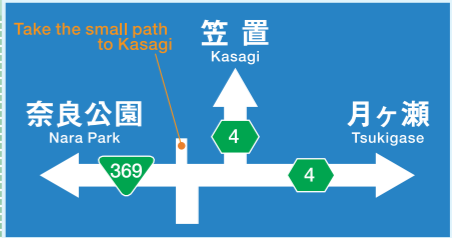
Start!
Yagyū Bus Stop

01 Jūbeisugi Cedar

02 Ataya-no-Sekibutsu Stone Buddha

02 Ataya-no-Sekibutsu Stone Buddha

Zoom In!



The actual sign faces north



HIGHLIGHTS OF YAGYU KAIDO



→ Takisaka-no-Michi Path

Enjōji Temple

This temple was first built during the middle of the Heian period (794 to 1185) and was later reconstructed after being destroyed by fire during the wars of the 15th century. As of today its main hall and two-storied gate remain standing. The temple grounds feature scenery that transforms with each season. The autumn leaves in particular create a truly impressive sight.



→ Kengō-no-Michi Path

Yasyū Yamaguchi-jinja Shrine

Boasting a long history, this shrine was mentioned in the Engi-Shiki (Japan's ancient collection of laws and customs) compiled during the middle of the Heian period (794 to 1185) and is still today a place for worshipping the local deity of Ōyagyūchō. The main shrine of Sessha Tateiwa-jinja, which is located on these grounds, was moved here and reconstructed from the 4th main shrine of Kasuga Taisha in the 18th century.



→ Takisaka-no-Michi Path

Kubikiri-jizō

This statue of Jizō appears to have been sliced at the neck (kubi-kiri) by a sword. Standing quietly while casting a mystical presence on the surrounding atmosphere, legend says the figure was used by the master swordsman Araki Mataemon to test his blade.



→ Kengō-no-Michi Path

Hōtokuzenji Temple

This is the family temple of the Yagyū clan who are enshrined here in the temple's main hall. From the temple grounds visitors can enjoy a spectacular panorama of Yagyū-no-Sato (Yagyū Village), and behind the temple sits the Yagyū clan's family grave which is a popular destination for viewing autumn leaves.



→ Kengō-no-Michi Path

Ittōseki

This stone is made from incredibly hard granite and carries an interesting legend recalling how "Yagyū Muneyoshi (the founder of the Yagyū Shinkage School of swordsmanship) entered into battle with a Tengu goblin and, cutting down his adversary, found a split stone left in the vanquished Tengu's place."



→ Yagyū-Kasagi-no-Michi Path

Kasagi-dera Temple

Kasagi-dera Temple has a rich history and is said to be the origin of the Shuni-e Service of Tōdaiji Temple's Nigatsu-dō Hall. Deeply connected to Nara, the temple's principle image is of Miroku Magaibutsu, which has been carved into a giant 15m-high rock.



STAY SAFE AND HAVE FUN



STEP-1 Things to check before heading out

Before your departure, make sure to inform your family and other persons concerned of your destination, course, schedule, and the names and contact information of those traveling with you. As you may have to change your route or adjust your itinerary on account of bad weather, please allow for extra time when planning your schedule. Carefully study the details of your course, distances, and seasonal information and select a route that best matches your physical condition. Make sure to research the times and pick-up/drop-off points for transportation you will be taking to and from your course.

■ Be aware of the weather

- Make sure to check the forecast and walk on days with fine weather. Do not push yourself when the weather is bad.
- Be careful when walking after it has rained as the ground may be muddy and dangerous.

■ Managing your body and health

- Warm up before beginning your walk and take care to avoid injury. Do not overexert yourself when feeling unwell.
- Bring an extra supply of food in case of emergency.
- Remain calm and appropriately treat any sudden injury such as a fractured or broken bone, sprained joint, bruise, bug bite, or heat stroke.

■ Animals to watch out for

- Leeches, bees, and wild boar



STEP-2 Checklist

Check the items you are bringing to make sure you are prepared.



■ What to carry

- Lunch box Water bottle Rainwear Towel Medicine
- Plastic bags Change of clothes Clothing for cold weather
- Maps Compass Wristwatch Mobile phone
- Sunscreen Mobile phone charger Tissue paper
- Something sweet (candy or chocolate, etc.)

STEP-3 What to wear

Wear clothes that are easy to move in so you can have fun while staying safe.

Long-sleeve shirt

Protects against scratches and cuts while hiking.

Hat

Effective against sunburn.

Backpack

Bring a change of clothes so you can stay comfortable even when sweating.

This is the right style

Trekking shoes

Reduce the load placed on your legs and feet and walk in comfort.

Pair of broken-in shoes

If you do not have trekking shoes, we recommend wearing a pair of broken-in sneakers or boots.

STEP-4 Additional notes on walking in the mountains

Take care to avoid injury or falling for a safe and enjoyable hike. Remain calm when addressing any unforeseen circumstances that may arise.

■ Proceed with caution

- If you believe you are lost, please return to the nearest landmark.
- When walking during bad weather or poor visibility, carefully follow your footsteps so as not to lose sight of the course.
- Pay attention not only to your feet but also the area above your head.

■ Rules to remember

- When walking, stay in a group of two or more people and make sure not to get left alone.
- Some locations do not have mobile phone service. Carefully plan your itinerary in advance and share it with your traveling companion(s).

■ Mind the trail manners and enjoy Yagyū Kaidō!

- Fires are prohibited.
- Make sure to bring your trash. (lunch boxes, empty cans and bottles, etc.) with you.

As of February 2026