

# KUMANO KODO



Hongu to Yunomine Onsen (Dainichi-goe) | 本宮から湯の峰温泉へ (大日越)

**Distance:** ~3.5 km

**Time:** ~1.5 hrs

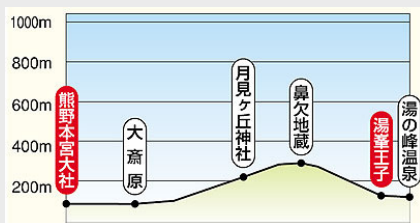
**Start :** Hongu town site

**Finish :** Yunomine Onsen

**Access:** Local Bus

It is about a 2 hour bus ride from Kii-Tanabe to Kumano Hongu (the nearest bus stop to the trailhead).

**Elevation Chart:**



## 熊野古道



### *Dainichi-goe*

The Dainichi-goe route is a short but relatively steep trail over Mt. Dainichi that links Kumano Hongu Taisha with Yunomine Onsen.

It is through a forested area mainly of cedars and cypress.

### *The walk*

The trailhead is located in the south of the Hongu town site, just off of route 168 on the old 311 highway. There is a brown wooden sign located on the first set of stairs pointing the way.

The first section passes through a set of houses. Please respect the privacy of those living there.

The trail starts off steep and continues like this most of the way, so take your time and set a slow pace.

Please watch your step as there are some tree roots and rocks along the trail which can be slippery, especially when wet.

### *Tsukimigaoka-jinja*

About 20 minutes into the walk is the Tsukimigaoka-jinja shrine. It traces its roots back to local Shugendo worshippers.

### **Tsukimigaoka-jinja**



### Hanakake-jizo



### April 13 festival



### Yunomine Onsen



This shrine is associated with the Kumano Hongu Taisha grand shrine. Notice the tall trees in the shrine ground, and the difference in their bark.

The bark from the trees are harvested and used for the roofs of the shrine pavilions of the Kumano Hongu Taisha.

### *Hanakake-jizo*

On the ridge line is the Hanakake-jizo. It is carved into a rock along the trail.

Just after this Jizo carving the trail descends down the west side of Mt. Dainichi.

You know you are getting closer to Yunomine Onsen when you can smell the sulfur from the hot springs in the air drifting up the side of the mountain.

### *April 13, Hongu Festival*

On April 13th, the first day of the Kumano Hongu Taisha annual festival, fathers carry their young sons on their shoulders up and over this pass.

They are dressed in traditional clothes. Before their walk they are purified in the hot spring waters of Yunomine Onsen, and the deities are invited to enter the bodies of the young children.

It is a historic ceremony and well loved because of the cute kids and their different reactions.

### *Yunomine Onsen*

The trail terminates near the Tsuboyu bath in Yunomine Onsen.

Yunomine Onsen has a history of over 1800 years and was the site of hot water purification rites.

Enjoy a hot spring bath here after your walk at the public baths, and snack on an egg hardboiled in the public cooking basin. You can purchase eggs for boiling at a few shops in town. These eggs make for a perfect bite to eat after a walk on the Dainichi-goe.

### *End of walk*

You can stay in Yunomine overnight, or stay in another hot spring area nearby such as Kawayu or Watarase, both are short bus rides away.

The bus stop is located in the middle of the village.