

KUMANO KODO



Kogumotori-goe (Hongu area to Koguchi) (Nakahechi) | 小雲取越 (中辺路)

Distance: ~13 km

Time: ~4.5 to 6 hrs

Start : Ukegawa

Finish : Koguchi

Access: Local Bus, Walk

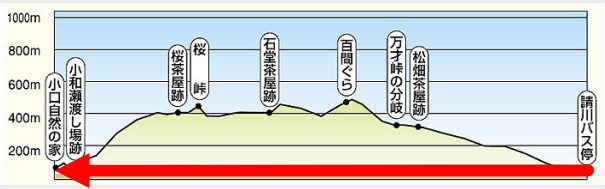
~25 minute walk from Kawayu Onsen to Ukegawa.

~10 min bus ride from Yunomine Onsen to Ukegawa.

~30 walk from Kumano Hongu Taisha.

Ukegawa is the closest bus stop to the trailhead.

Elevation Chart:



熊野古道

Ukegawa trailhead



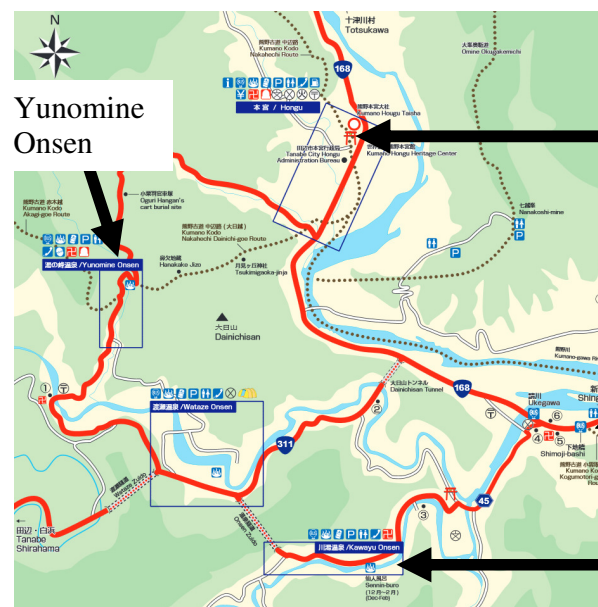
Ridge walk



The walk

The Kogumotori-goe is the first day of a two day from the Hongu area to Kumano Nachi Taisha. It is a climb and descent over a pass, and is mostly in the forested mountains.

Ukegawa trailhead access



Kumano Hongu Taisha

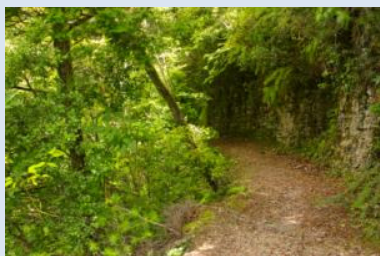
Ukegawa Trailhead for Kogumotori-goe

Kawayu Onsen

Matsuhata-jaya teahouse remains



Trail near Hyakken-gura



Hyakken-gura



The trail



View from near Sakura-jaya



It is best to stay in the Hongu area the night before this walk such as in Hongu, Yunomine Onsen, or Kawayu Onsen.

The trailhead is located in Ukegawa next to the Kumano-gawa river on route 168. There is a public toilet about 100 meters east down and across the road.

From Yunomine Onsen it is a 10 minute bus ride to Ukegawa. The 8:50 departure is convenient.

From Kawayu Onsen it is about at 25 minute walk, or 5 minute bus ride.

The Kumano Hongu Taisha is about a 30 minute walk from Ukegawa.

Start of the trail

The trail starts off passing by a set of houses. It feels as if you are walking through people's backyards, which you are! Please be respectful of the villagers privacy. There is a small store near the trailhead (8:00~19:00 closed Tues).

The trail is a gradual and continuous climb to Hyakken-gura. Sometimes through stands of cedar and cypress, and other times through native forests on lovely ridges.

Hyakken-gura

After the Ise-ji trail junction the path traverses the north side of Mt. Nyohozan, meandering back and forth with the curves of the small ravines that run down the slope.

At the 5.5 kilometer point in the trail the impressive Hyakken-gura look out surprises walkers with an lovely panoramic view of the 3600 peaks of Kumano.

Please take a moment to enjoy this panoramic view, as pilgrims have been doing for over 1000 years.

Just after Hyakken-gura is a junction with a forestry road. The trail continues directly across the road, but if you turn right and walk down a short way there are toilet facilities.

Towards Sakura-jaya teahouse remains

The trail rises and falls past the forestry road junction, sometimes gradual and the odd time steeper, but generally at the same elevation to Sakura-jaya teahouse remains.

The views down to the valley and across to the mountains are on the other side are impressive, and offered an advantage to proprietors of tea houses in the past.

It is said that when the owners of the teahouse saw pilgrims approaching from far off in the distance, they would start to cook mochi rice cakes and boil water for

Example stone staircase



Koguchi village



Koguchi Shizen-no-Ie



Minshuku Momofuku



tea, to have things ready to serve just as the pilgrims would arrive at the teahouse.

This is a lovely place to take a break, relax and enjoy the view from the covered sitting area.

Into the valley

After the remains of Sakura-jaya teahouse the trail descends rapidly into the valley below with glimpses onto the Akagi-gawa river.

Near the base of the slope is a short but slipper section of cobblestone. Please be careful here as the moss covered stones can be treacherous, especially when wet.

At the base of this cobble stone slope notice the small prayer tablets near the statue which are offerings by Yamabushi mountain ascetics who walk this trail for spiritual training.

Koguchi

Near the river you walk past some houses before walking over the bridge. In the past a short ferry ride took pilgrimages across this section of river.

There is a toilet here and the Kowase bus stop.

Turn right and walk up the road (route 44) for about 1 kilometer. After passing through a short tunnel you can see the small settlement of Koguchi. There are two accommodations in Koguchi: Koguchi Shizen-no-Ie, and Minshuku Momofuku. Reservations are highly recommended.

Koguchi Shizen-no-Ie

At the fork in the road just after the tunnel, follow the main route to the right across a large bridge.

You can see an old school house across the river on your right. This is the Koguchi Shizen-no-Ie.

Just after the bridge is a small road that leads down to the right to access the facility.

Minshuku Momofuku

At the fork in the road just after the tunnel, turn left onto the side road which heads into the small settlement of Koguchi.

Walk through the village to the other end and cross the bridge. This is the entrance to the Ogumotori-goe section. Turn right, cross another bridge and Minshuku Momofuku is a short walk down the road on your right.