

KUMANO KODO

Takijiri-oji to Takahara (Nakahechi) | 滝尻王子から高原へ（中辺路）

Distance: 3.7 km

Time: ~2 to 2.5 hrs

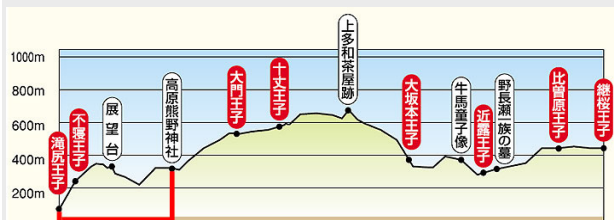
Start : Takijiri-oji

Finish : Takahara Village

Access: Local Bus

It is about a 40 minute bus ride from Kii-Tanabe to Takijiri. Busses depart daily from bus stop number 2.

Elevation Chart:



熊 野 古 道

Takijiri-oji



KUMANO KODO KAN Pilgrimage Center

Hours: 9:00~ 17:00



Entrance to Kumano Mountains

This section of the Kumano Kodo is a consistent climb for most of the way from Takijiri-oji 滝尻王子(82m) to the ridge-top village of Takahara 高原 (317m).

The round Kumano Kodo Kan Pilgrimage Center is located across the river from Takijiri-oji and has introductory exhibitions about the pilgrimage route.

Inside is a small corner selling outdoor goods such as walking sticks, raingear, hats, etc. for those who need to buy last minute gear. Toilet facilities are located in front of the building.

The trailhead starts from behind the Takijiri-oji, which is considered to be where the passage into the precincts of the sacred mountains begins.

There is a small shop in front of Takijiri-oji which sells souvenirs. There are also vending machines here to buy drinks for the walk.

Walk to left side of the building and around the back there is a stone staircase which climbs up around a large rock.

The walk

The trail starts off very steep, so take your time and set a slow pace.

Tainai-kuguri



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

Around 15 minutes into the climb, there is a set of large boulders. Some of these form a cave called Tainai-kuguri, where you can test your faith by climbing through the crack at the far end.

Another boulder, the Chichi-iwa rock, is associated with a local legend.

There is a lookout point shortly after signpost 3 where a small climb up some stairs offers a glimpse over the mountains. Follow the stairs down the other side of the peak to join up with the main route below.

The trail crosses the road to Takahara between signposts 4 and 5. Cross the road and continue up the ridge. The last set of climbs brings you past an old TV tower which marks the entrance to Takahara village.

Takahara Kumano-jinja Shrine

Follow the gravel road past a series of houses and you will pass by the Takahara Kumano-jinja shrine surrounded by giant Camphor trees. This shrine is one of the oldest buildings along this section of the pilgrimage route.

Take a peak around the back of the buildings to see more ancient trees which are estimate to be 800 to 1000 years old.

Takahara village

Just down the road from the shrine is a parking area with wonderful panoramic views of the Hatenashi mountain range to the north.

Takahara is known as "Kiri-no-Sato" (Village in the Mist) because the scenic mountain vistas are often blanketed with mist. The valley below sometimes fills with fog, creating a beautiful sea of clouds.

Minamoto-no-Michikata, a nobleman who accompanied the retired emperor Gotoba on his pilgrimage to Kumano, composed the following waka poem:

In Takahara the moon
Rising above the mountaintop
Shines on a 1000-year-old pine

End of walk

You can stay in Takahara overnight, or walk down to the Kurisugawa bus stop on route 311. It is about a 25 minute walk and the gravel road trail begins to the left of the Takahara Parking area.

Takahara Kumano-jinja



Takahara views

