A Town Where the Middle Ages Live On

# Kongo-ji Temple Course

Why not make a pilgrimage to Kongo-ji, Kawachinagano's storied temple

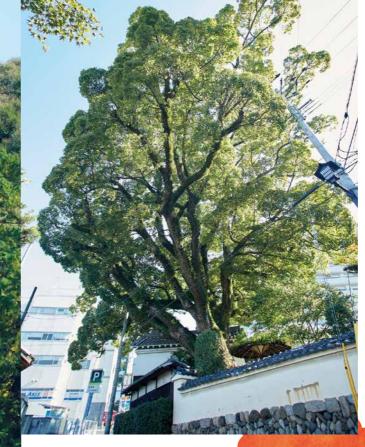
Kawachinagano is famous for the Buddhist temple Kongo-ji. The pride of the town, this temple is something no Kawachinaganoan would let you away without seeing if they heard you were coming here! After getting off at Kawachinagano Station, ake a walk to Nagano-jinja Shrine and Nishindai-jinja Shrine, then hop on the bus to Amano-san Kongo-ji Temple. The nearby Sudare Museum will give you the opportunity to experience tradition Japanese culture.

### Amano-san Kongo-ji Temple Course

Starting Poir	<mark>nt</mark> Kawachinagar	no Station
Around 2 minutes V Or	foot	2 2 2
Nagano-jinja Shrine		Spend around 10–15 minutes here
Around 13 minutes V Or	foot	
Nishindai-jinja Shrine		Spend around 10–15 minutes here
Around Fro 20 minutes the	minutes on foot to the b om Nankai Bus "Nosaku e 1, the Toku-2, the 4 o mano-san" bus stop and	u" bus stop, get either r the Toku-4. Get off a
Amano-san Kongo-ji Temple		Spend around 90 minutes here
Around 3 minutes V Or	n foot	
Sudare Museum (advance booking required)		Spend around 30 minutes here
Around Fro 20 minutes ge	out 2 minutes on foot to om Nankai Bus "Amano t either the 1, the Toku- ku-4 to "Kawachinagan	-san" bus stop, 2, the 4 or the
Finish Line	Kawachinagano S	itation

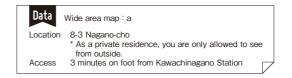
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## Camphor tree at the Yodoshi Residence

This massive camphor tree is roughly 20 meters tall, with a trunk circumference of around 4.7 meters and a branch spread of around 30 meter, and is designated by the city as a natural monument. The powerful evergreen, growing strong, known as the camphor (kusunoki in Japanese) was also selected as the city tree of Kawachinagano.





Nishindai-jinja Shrine In the 14th century, when the imperial court was divided into two warring factions, warriors loyal to Emperor Go-Daigo of the Southern Court prayed at this shrine. Its age is unknown. In early October, the Nishindai Kagura dance, a City-Designated Important Intangible Cultural Property, is performed here to please the gods. Inside the shrine grounds, red torii are lined up before the Inari Shrine devoted to a rich harvest.

#### Column: "The Difference Between Shinto Shrines and Buddhist Temples"

Temples are places of reverence for the Buddhas (hotoke-sama in Japanese), where monks dedicate themselves to the Buddhist law. There are monks here, as well as a central idol (the go-honzon) wherein the primary Buddha to whom the site is dedicated is enshrined. Shrines, on the other hand, are not Buddhist but Shinto, and are places of worship for the indigenous gods (kami-sama) of Japan. Their entrances are always marked with a torii, a kind of arch with an iconic cross-beam, which marks the boundary between the world of humans and the domain of the gods.

## Nagano-jinja Shrine

The current main shrine was likely built in the late Muromachi Period (16<sup>th</sup> century). It is a National Important Cultural Property and has an austere dignity. Festivals celebrated here include the Toka-ebisu (January 9-11) to pray for commercial prosperity and the Taimatsu-tate (a City-Designated Cultural Property) in early October, with many visitors gathering here for

Data	Wide area map : a	
Location Tel.	8-19 Nagano-cho 0721-52-2004	
Entry fee	Free	
Time	All day	
	Open year round	
Access	2 minutes on foot from	
	Kawachinagano Station	[
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Data	Wide area map : C-2
Location Tel. Entry fee	16-5 Nishidai-cho 0721-53-1762 Free
Time	All day Open year round
Access	15 minutes on foot from Kawachinagano Station