

# Why not take a walk along the Koya Kaido Road?

From the Heian period (794–1185) on, pilgrims on their way to Koya-san, one of the most sacred sites of Japanese Shingon Buddhism, would travel along what is called the Koya Kaido Road. Kawachinagano became well-known as a rest stop along the way to the mountain temple complex, and still to this day you can see the historic sites associated with this pilgrimage route. Originally the Koya Kaido Road walk went all the way from Kyoto, but this plan will allow you to enjoy a pleasant 2-km stroll from Kawachinagano Station to Mikkaichicho Station.



Koya Kaido Road monument off the corner of the Yodoshi residence



**1 Camphor tree at the Yodoshi Residence**  
Wide area map : a



◀ The details are on page 6

**2 Nagano-jinja Shrine**  
Wide area map : a



◀ The details are on page 6

**3 Saijo Limited Partnership**  
Wide area map : a

Once brewed at Kongo-ji Temple, "Amano-sake" is a brand of sake that was much loved by the warriors of the late middle ages, and in recent years has been revived by this sake brewery.



**Data** Location 12-18 Nagano-cho  
Tel. 0721-55-1101  
Opening hours 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Monday–Friday)  
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Saturdays, Sundays and holidays)  
Closed Open year round (except New Year and irregular vacation days)  
Access 6 minutes on foot from Kawachinagano Station

**4 Former Saijo Limited Partnership Building**  
Registered Tangible Cultural Property Wide area map : a

Opposite Saijo Limited Partnership is the old shop dating to the late Edo period (19<sup>th</sup> century). It has an appearance befitting a master sake brewery.



**5 Sakagura-dori Street** Wide area map : a

This is the old neighborhood in the environs of Saijo Limited Partnership. With serene, old-style Japanese houses lined up one after another, you can also appreciate the cobble paving. In the evening you can enjoy the deeply atmospheric illumination here.



**Data** Access 6 minutes on foot from Kawachinagano Station

**6 Bikku-zaka Slope** Wide area map : a



Walking past Sakagura-dori Street, and crossing over Saijo-ohashi Bridge, you will come to this steep slope.

**Data** Access 8 minutes on foot from Kawachinagano Station

Former Mikkaichi Police Station  
(See page 24 for more information.)

**7 Eboshigata Castle Ruin**  
Nationally designated historical site Wide area map : C-2

Atop Eboshigata Hill, at an elevation of around 182 meters, lie the ruins of this medieval castle. Medieval Japanese castles, unlike the early modern castles like the famous one at Himeji, did not have a central keep or stone wall, but rather were earthwork fortifications surrounded by dry moats. The remains of such a fortification can be appreciated at this site.



**Data** Location 725 Kita-cho  
Cost Free  
Closed Open year round  
Time All day  
Access 22 minutes on foot from Kawachinagano Station, or 17 minutes on foot from Mikkaichicho Station

**8 Eboshigata Hachiman-jinja Shrine**  
Wide area map : C-2



◀ The details are on page 18

**9 Do-no-Tsuji Jizo**

This statue of the Buddha Kshitigarbha (*Jizo* in Japanese) was built here to pray for the safety of pilgrims on the road to Koya-san. Jizo is considered a protector of travelers.



**10 Munagiri Jizo**

This Jizo statue has its origins in a sad legend that a young bride who, upon hearing of the sudden passing of her promised bridegroom, pierced (*-giri*) her own chest (*muna-*) and died.



**11 Zofuku-ji Temple**  
Wide area map : b

The temple was built in memory of Hatakeyama Yoshifuka, a samurai of the Muromachi Period (1336–1573) who retired to this region. Nearby is Ueda-kompira-gu Shrine.

**12 Ueda-kompira-gu Shrine** Wide area map : b



"Kompira-gu" refers to a shrine built to pray for the safety of ships. In the middle part Edo Period (about 18<sup>th</sup> century), a prayer slip was carried back here from the Kompira-gu Shrine in Kagawa on Shikoku Island to the west, and around it was built a small wayside shrine. That later grew into this large place of worship.

**13 Gachirin-ji Temple** Wide area map : b

It is said that the main hall here was first built by the wife of a man who received a statue of the Buddha Bhaishajyaguru (*Yakushi* in Japanese) from the venerable monk Kukai, the founder of Koya-san. The principal idol, a wooden statue of Bhaishajyaguru, is a Prefecture-Designated Cultural Property.



**Data** Location 1075 Mikkaichi-cho  
Cost Free  
Access 17 minutes on foot from Mikkaichicho Station

**14 Former Mikkaichi-shuku Town** Wide area map : b



Travelers on the ancient Koya Kaido Road would stop at this inn town for a rest or to spend the night. The townscape still to this day preserves the atmosphere of those times gone by, and walking through it is like you are taking a journey back through time. There were reputedly around 20 *hatagoya* (inns where one could stop and eat) in Mikkaichi-shuku in its heyday.

**15 The Yagi Family's House**  
Registered Tangible Cultural Property Wide area map : b

This building stands out even among the many old Japanese-style houses of Mikkaichi-shuku. It was once home to cotton dealers and sake brewers, and conveys the traditional appearance of an old Japanese townhouse. It is a private property, and so you can only see the outside.



**Data** Location 1109 Mikkaichi-cho  
Access 5 minutes on foot from Mikkaichicho Station