

## 朝熊山

### Visiting Historical Monuments Through Mountain Woods

In the past, many people used to visit Asamayama when visiting Ise Shrine and it was said that no-one could visit Ise Shrine without visiting Asamayama, Not only Kukai (a Buddhist) but also Saigyō and Bashō (poets) visited the mountain.

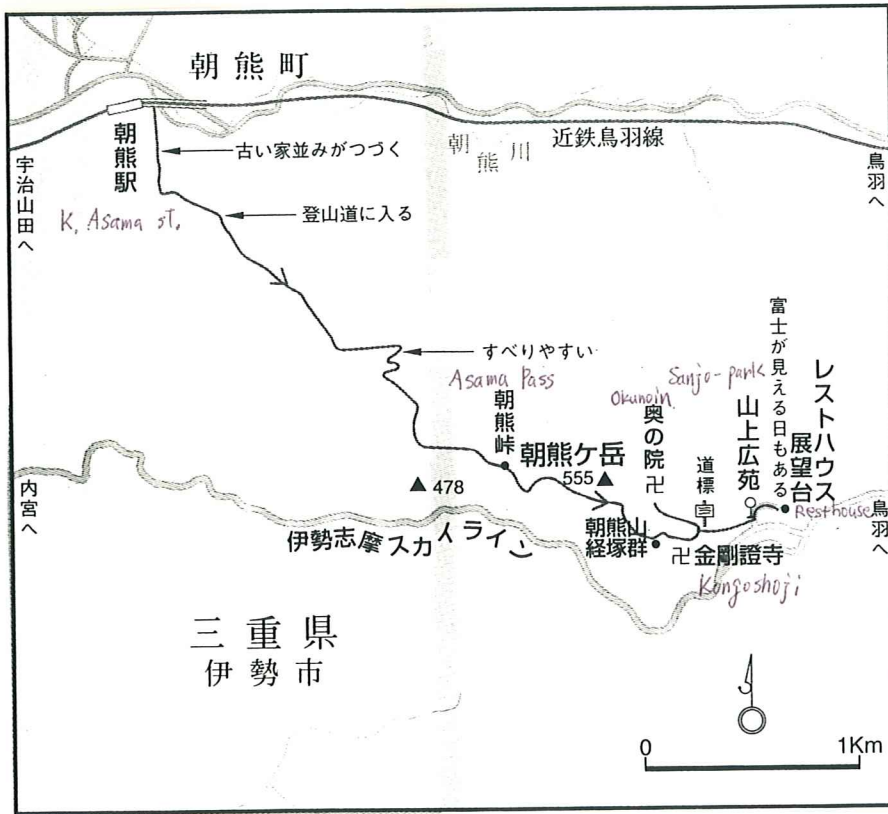
Be careful, as there is no signboard at the entrance of this course, which is right behind the Kintetsu Asama station. In spring, fresh green leaves hang over travelers walking up the narrow path.

### Kongoshoji

A while after passing the Asama Pass, we will reach Kongoshoji, which was built by Kukai as a training school for Mikkyō, or esoteric Buddhism, and which served as the temple protecting Ise Shrine.

### Tsurema-no-Ike (Pond)

Passing a red gate, and then the main gate of the temple you will find yourself in a place with Tsurema-no-Ike (pond) and a red bridge that was, we hear, made by Kukai. The main building here is designated as a Cultural Asset of National Importance as are the Kisekai (changing clothes) Stone Buddha and the Buddha Piss.



### Excellent Views from the Top of the Mountain

Passing by the skyline on the left, we will arrive at the Sanjo-Park (a mountaintop garden) which overlooks Ise-Shima National Park, including Toba bay and Shima Peninsula etc. The rest house there is modeled on Ise Shrine. In spring, the azalea will be in full bloom.

**[Access]** 1h 50 min. Kintetsu Yamada line from Nagoya to Uji-Yamada, then Kintetsu Toba line to Asama station (25 min) **[Return]** Mie Kotsu Bus Sanjo Koen to Toba station (20 min) then Kintetsu Toba line to Nagoya station (2h 24min) **[Fare]** About ¥ 4800

**[Information]** Futami-cho Kikaku Kanko sect. ☎ 0596-22-1248/  
Asamayama Sancho Restaurant ☎ 0596-22-1248

**[🗨️]** This is one of the best-suited spots for Hatsu-Hinode (the custom of watching the year's first sunrise on New Year's Day)

