



Trail Guide – Crossing the Torii Pass on the Nakasendo Road



里と峠の道・中山道鳥居峠越えコースガイド

A half-day hike visiting a mountain pass of rich history and seasonal beauty 歴史と季節感あふれる峠を訪ねる半日散歩

Known on the old Nakasendo Road as "a difficult route to travel" during the Edo Period (1603-1868), the Torii Pass forms the watershed dividing the Kiso River that empties into the Pacific and the Narai River (a tributary of the Shinano River) that empties into the Sea of Japan. Thanks to evergrowing health consciousness and the history boom of late, the Torii Pass area is coming to the fore as a popular hiking course easily accessible either from Narai-juku or Yabuhara-juku post towns at the foot of the pass. The area surrounding the course contains a number of historical tourist attractions such as a medieval battlefield site as well as other historical spots that testify to religious faiths and cultural points of interest in pre-modern times.

江戸時代、中山道の難所と言われた鳥居峠は、太平洋に注がれる木曽川と日本海に注がれる信濃川の支流奈良 井川の分水嶺であり、近年の健康志向、歴史ブームなどを受け、麓にある奈良井宿、藪原宿どちらからも登れる 手軽なハイキングコースとして人気がある。コース周辺には中世の古戦場、近世の交通、信仰や文化などを語 る史跡が残されている。





Yabuhara-juku (post town) 薮原宿

Let's head for Torii Pass from the Yabuhara Station on the JR Chuo-honsen Line!

Yabuhara-juku retains some of its past prosperity and charm as a former post town. Evidence can be seen in traditional wooden houses with distinct lattice doors, the site of a former government notice board area, traditional high fire-walls, quaint signboards of merchant houses including those dealing in "Oroku-gushi" traditional combs and a sake brewery. Along the steep slope toward Torii Pass, the separation point to the Hida-kaido Road (Oiwake), the site of "Otakajo" (a falconer's office during the feudal times) and the Tenkosha Shrine can be found among others. To access the pass, enter the path adjacent to the fire station.

JR中央本線藪原駅から鳥 居峠へ向けて出発! 薮原宿には所々宿場の面影 を残す格子戸造りの家々や 高札場跡、防火高塀跡など と共に、お六櫛や造り酒屋 の看板も見られる。峠道へ 向けてのきつい上り道沿い には、飛騨街道追分(分岐 点)、御鷹匠役所跡、天降社 などがあり、峠へは消防署 横の道より入る。



The Toge-michi (path leading to Torii Pass) 峠道 -

As you follow the stone-paved section of the Toge-michi (Torii Pass trail) and ascend a winding path, you will find a cluster of historical-interest spots, such as the site of the former woodland weather station (now a rest area),

Maruyama Park with poet Basho's haiku monument, the "Kiso Yoshinaka's Suzurimizu" monument, and the Ontake-jinja Shrine which is worthy of special mention. It has been highly revered for centuries as one of the four sacred gates where people worship Mt. Ontake in the distance. The mountain itself is considered to be the deity.

The area's natural environment is superb thanks to its rich vegetation. A colony of huge horse chestnut trees is especially spectacular. After passing by the monument to Emperor Meiji's visit, you come to the Mine-no-Chaya Rest area for a break, which overlooks a fine view of the Narai area. From this point on, the course takes a moderate downward slope. On the way, you pass the Naka-no-Chaya Rest

arriving in the old post town of Narai-juku.



峠道の石畳を経てつづら折りの道を上ると「森林測候所跡(現在は休憩所) |「丸山公園 芭蕉の句 碑」「木曽義仲の硯水」「御嶽神社」などの史跡がひしめいている。中でも「御嶽神社」は御嶽山を選拝 する御嶽四門の一つとして人々の崇拝を一身に集めた場所である。 植生などの自然環境も豊富で、特にトチノキの巨木群は見事である。

明治天皇が巡行された記念に建立された「明治天皇駐蹕所碑」を通過し、奈良井方面の景色が見え るポイントに休憩所「峰の茶屋」があり、ここからゆるやかな下りとなる。途中「中の茶屋」を通り、 石畳を下りきると奈良井宿へ到着する。

Checkpoint チェックポイント

Maruyama Park 丸山公園

This park is located on a flat area a little above the site of the woodland weather station. Here, poet Matsuo Basho's haiku monument can be found together with many other poetry-related monuments

森林測候所跡の少し 上、平らになった所にあり、松尾芭蕉や 歌人などの句が刻ん である句碑が多く並 んでいる。



• "Baby-bearing" Horse Chestnut

As legend has it: In times of old, a newborn baby was deserted and left alone in a hollow of this horse chestnut. A villager, who was not blessed with children, found and raised the baby in happiness. Hence, the name "Babybearing"

horse chestnut.

その昔、トチノキの根元の空洞に捨 てられた赤子を、子宝に恵まれない 村人が育てて幸せになったと言い伝



● Ontake-jinja Shrine 御嶽神社

Ontake-jinja here is the first ahead of other places from where travelers coming from Edo (present-day Tokyo) could view and worship Mt. Ontake.

As such, a "tori" signifying Shinto shrine gate was built. The name "Torii Pass" reflects this historical event.

東京方面(江戸)から来た旅人 が一番最初に御嶽山を見て拝 むことができる神社で、鳥居 が建てられたことから「鳥居 峠」と名がついたと云われる。



Narai-juku (post town) 奈良井宿



A one-kilometer section of the course, between Shizume-jinja Shrine at the foot of the pass and the JR Narai Station, is truly enjoyable. One can experience a relaxing, intriguing time and slip back into the Edo Period (1603⁻1868) world.

Nationally designated an "important preservation district of historic buildings,"

峠の麓「鎮神社」からJR奈良井駅までの約1kmは江戸時代にタイムスリップしたような風景が続き、ゆっくりと 見学が楽しめる。

奈良井宿は「重要伝統的建造物群保存地区」に選定されている。

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