

National Historical Site

Nagoe Kiridoshi Pass

<What is Nagoe Kiridoshi?>

Nagoe Kiridoshi is a road from Kamakura to Zushi in Miura. In the 13th century, the Hojo Family came into power in Kamakura. Kamakura faces the sea and is surrounded by mountains, so if people wanted to go there, they had to climb steep mountain cliffs or walk along a dangerous shoreline. This impeded traffic and the transportation of goods. So the Hojo Shogunate made a road leading to Kamakura. On the outskirts of Nagoe Kiridoshi, there is low plain with Yagura(caves dug as tombs) to protect Kamakura. There you can see historical sites of the Kamakura era. In 1966, Nagoe Kiridoshi was the first historical spot to be recognized in Zushi. To protect nature and history, Zushi is working hard to preserve it.



<Kiridoshi route-Pass cut through the mountains>

There are three narrow paths that cut through the mountains. It is said that they were made by the Kamakura Shogunate to protect them from invading enemies. When the first path was excavated, many old paths were discovered underground. The oldest path, discovered 60cm underground, was used during the late Edo era. On the south side of the oldest cut path (in the Kamegaoka complex), a mountain pass was discovered. The path is located in a field which is 5m higher than the current path on the east side. It is estimated to be from the 15th century. Though the path is small, it is a big discovery. Kiridoshi routes and structure have changed with time.

<Mandarado Yagura caves>

“Yagura” is a type of cemetery. and is a general term for the caves dug as tombs in the Kamakura and Muromachi eras. It was used from the late 13th century to the 16th century. These caves are found only in Kamakura or places which have deep ties with Kamakura. The Mandarado area has more than 150 caves. Visitors can see many Yagura caves still in good condition, which is very rare in Kamakura. They are thought to have been built by priests and samurai in early times, and later by affluent merchants as well. Despite the local name of “Mandarado” (“do” means hall), in modern times only farming fields remain. Excavation showed little remaining of the building from the 14th century. The details are still unknown.



<Okirigishi wall of Osarubatake>

Kirigishi wall is an artificial cliff which was built by the Kamakura Shogunate for protection from the Miura Family. It appears to be architecture from the early Kamakura era. However, research after the excavation indicates that it is actually an old stone pit. While the details about the pit and quarry are not clear, it is believed that the Kamakura buildings of required many stones in the 14th and 15th centuries. Therefore, this Okirigishi may not have had a clear purpose for defending Kamakura. ‘Osarubatake’, which literally means ‘a monkey field’, was named after the story about Nichiren, a holy priest who was exiled from Kamakura, but later rescued by three white monkeys.



<How to get there>

From JR Zushi station, Keikyu Shin Zushi station

- To Kotsubo Kaidan entrance

Take the Kamegaoka Danchi loop line bus to Midorigaoka Iriguchi bus stop (12 minutes) and then walk for about 8 minutes

- To Kamegaoka Danchi entrance

Take the Kamegaoka Danchi loop line bus to Kamegaoka Danchi Kita bus stop (18 minutes) and then walk for about 5 minutes.

From JR Kamakura station

- Kotsubo Kaidan entrance

Take the Midorigaoka Iriguchi line bus to Midorigaoka Iriguchi bus stop and walk for about 5 minutes

No parking for cars or bicycles

Please walk or use public transportation.

<Mandarado Yagura caves - Hour>

- Early summer(Late April-May), autumn(Late October-Early December)

Monday and weekends, holidays

10:00 am ~ 4:00 pm

※ Closed during bad weather

Please contact

Zushi City Education Committee

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Special thanks to Shibaura Institute of Technology Senior High School English SUPER Class of 2016

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