



鋸山 Nokogiriyama

Nokogiriyama Tourism
Guidebook



鋸山日本寺大仏



Enjoy the unnatural nature left
by the quarry workers.



Futtsu City Area

Gourmet & Shopping Kyonan Town Area

the Fish

Kanaya's best-known restaurant and marketplace. From the restaurant, with its ocean view from the windows, to the Minamitei baumkuchen workshop, as well as a souvenir market boasting the largest selection of goods in Boso, visitors can experience the best of Kanaya, which offers the charms of both the sea and mountains.



Nokogiriyama Baum Kuchen



Using the finest locally-produced ingredients from Chiba Prefecture, our skilled artisans carefully bake each layer one at a time. Enjoy the taste of Chiba in the rich flavors of the ingredients that really shine through in this baumkuchen. These treats make wonderful gifts and souvenirs.

So Many Ways to Enjoy Horse Mackerel

The horse mackerel native to the Kanaya area is often referred to as "gold" or "golden" horse mackerel, and is known for being large, thick, and juicy. Of all the numerous horse mackerel dishes available, the most popular is deep-fried horse mackerel. Each restaurant offers its own unique take on horse mackerel cuisine.

The horse mackerel from Uchibo has a taste that's on another level!



Nokogiriyama Local Beers



Futtsu is home to a wide variety of unique craft beers brewed with local ingredients and underground water from Nokogiriyama. They also make great souvenirs.

Sweets to enjoy at Ropeway Sancho Station!

Jigoku Ice Cream

Jigoku Ice Cream is a tasty snack inspired by Nokogiriyama's most popular site, Jigoku Nozoki, the "View into Hell". Vanilla ice cream is mixed with bamboo charcoal that turns it black but does not affect its flavor, creating a strange sensation when you eat it.



Roadside Station Hota Elementary School

Utilizing an elementary school building that had fallen out of use, this immensely popular roadside station is well-known throughout Japan! Traces of the elementary school still remain, giving visitors an experience that will take them back in time to the "good old days"! There is also a new facility, Hota Elementary School Kindergarten, in the adjacent renovated building that was once Kyonan Kindergarten, that is also getting rave reviews.



Sato no Koyu

The school also features a public bath facility where you can relax and unwind after your travels, as well as lodging facilities where travelers can start or complete their journeys!



Hota Elementary School Lunch (Satoyama Shokudo)

Roadside Station Hota Elementary School is home to a number of food and beverage tenants that operate in renovated classrooms. Take a trip back to your childhood days with a Hota Elementary School lunch at Satoyama Shokudo, and indulge in stone oven-baked pizzas and sweets featuring local products. It's like a theme park for food!



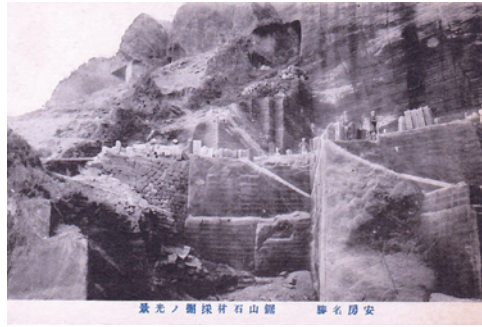
Manabi no Yado

Here you can enjoy the unique experience of spending the night in a school.

Kyonan Rakuichi

The elementary school's gymnasium has been transformed into a chic and stylish market! The largest selection of items in the region! The market boasts fresh produce from Kyonan Town, original souvenirs from Hota Elementary School, school lunch curry with a nostalgic flavor, and plenty of fun products that will bring back memories of your elementary school days.





Stone Quarry circa 1918



Cableway (circa 1970-1975)



Shariki Michi roads (Meiji Period *estimated)



Shariki laborer (Meiji Period *estimated)

Historical Background

Faith and Industry Born from this Rocky Mountain in the Sky: The Scenic Nokogiriyama, the Mountain of Boshu Stone, a Museum of Nature and History



Nokogiriyama juts out into Tokyo Bay and straddles Futtsu City and Kyonan Town. The ridge that marks the boundary between the two has an appearance that resembles the teeth of a saw, hence the name "Nokogiri", which means "saw". As you make your way to the peak via the ropeway, you will see a series of massive vertical walls in the rock face, remnants of the quarry industry that once thrived here, and a series of large spaces excavated into the walls. When you arrive at the summit, you will feel as if you have set foot on foreign land. The spectacular view from the cliff atop the mountain is also so thrilling that it will send chills down your spine. On the southern slope, magnificent, towering statues of the Buddha and Kannon (Goddess of Mercy) carved into the rocks, as well as groupings of stone statues located inside caves, create a world of mystery on the grounds of the ancient Nihonji Temple.

This mountain made of Boshu stone, which played a vital role in the modernization of Japan, has drawn people here since the times of old, both as a site of worship and as a quarry. Nokogiriyama is a museum existing in nature where the histories of religious faith and industry are intertwined.

Nokogiriyama as an Industrial Site Boshu Stone, Shariki Michi Roads, and Stone Quarry Ruins

Nokogiriyama is well-known as the production area for Boshu stone (Kanaya and Motona stone). The area's stone quarry industry began in the late Edo Period (1603-1867), and stone from the region was shipped in large quantities throughout the Kanto region in the Meiji (1868-1912) and Taisho (1912-1926) periods, but the quarry was shut down in 1985. Boshu stone, known for its superior resistance to fire, was used as a material for furnaces, and was also widely used as a construction material for structures such as harbors and sea walls. Boshu stone has also been used in a number of structures in Tokyo, such as the stone walls of Yasukuni Shrine, the sides of the gate to Okuma Kaikan on the campus of Waseda University, and roadside curbs.

Women were tasked with the job of carrying stones that the male stonemasons had cut from the quarry down from the mountains. They would load three stones each weighing roughly 80 kilograms onto wooden carts and make several round trips to and from the port each day. The stone-paved roads bearing brake marks left by their carts are called Shariki Michi, and their appearance conveys the dignity of their strenuous labor to this day. The quarrying industry became increasingly mechanized from the mid-1950s, with chainsaws and bulldozers being used and wire-based cableways also used to transport stones.

At its peak, there were large numbers of stonemasons, with around 80% of the population of Kanaya involved in the quarrying industry. At the ruins of the quarry, which can still be seen today, carvings made by stonemasons still remain, and include things such as their shops' names, images of Kannon, and even cats, allowing us to see their playful spirit.



Image courtesy of 鋸山美術館

Nokogiriyama as a Religious Site Nihonji Temple

Nihonji Temple was founded in the year 725, around 1,300 years ago, by the Buddhist priest Gyoki by an imperial decree from Emperor Shomu, and is the oldest temple in the Kanto Region. The grounds of the temple are a vast 100,000 square meters, on which there are a number of sights to be seen, such as the largest cliff-side Buddha statue in Japan (Yakushi Ruriko Nyorai), the Hyakushaku Kannon statue, and a collection of more than 1,500 arhat statues. The main hall of Nihonji Temple was originally located at the southern foot of Nokogiriyama, and at one time flourished as a temple for ascetic Buddhism.

In the year 1647, early in the Edo Period (1603-1867), Nihonji Temple was converted to the Soto sect of Zen Buddhism. Then in 1774, Zen priest Koga Guden, who oversaw the restoration of many temples throughout Japan, relocated the temple to its mountainside location. The approximately 1,500 arhat statues also began to be enshrined on the grounds of the temple at this time. A total of 1,553 stone arhat statues were carved over a 20-year period from 1779 to 1798 by a stonemason from Kazusa Sakurai (present-day Kisarazu City's Sakurai district) named Ono Jingoro Hidenori, who, along with 27 of his followers, dedicated their lives to creating the statues. An arhat is the term for a person who has reached the highest stage of Buddhist practice. Numerous arhats with varying expressions and appearances have been enshrined in caves with various names in the rock face along the approach to the temple, which give Nokogiriyama an ethereal atmosphere. It is said that no two of these statues have the same face.

These arhat statues made Nokogiriyama famous, and during the Edo Period, the temple earned the nickname "Rakanji" ("Temple of the Arhats"). At that time, Edo (present-day Tokyo) was also in the midst of a boom in pilgrimages and travel, with events such as pilgrimages to Ise Shrine being held. Nihonji Temple in Boso was easily accessible from Edo via boats to Kisarazu, making it a popular tourist destination that attracted many worshippers.



Nihonji Daibutsu (Yakushi Ruriko Nyorai)



Saigoku Kannon Statues



Kannon Hall

Nokogiriyama

Nokogiriyama, a mountain with its peak at 329 meters above sea level, is covered with sharp rock faces, and as the name "Nokogiri", the Japanese word for "saw", suggests, its ridgeline resembles the teeth of a saw.

It has vertical rock walls tens of meters high as well as incredibly steep cliffs not seen in other mountains. These stand as a reminder of the fact that Nokogiriyama was once the source of a type of stone called Boshu stone.

Nokogiriyama features a popular and breathtaking view spot that has a rather ominous name: Jigoku Nozoki, the "View into Hell". It is also home to Nihonji Temple, which was founded in the Nara Period (710-794) and is a place where visitors can see a collection of stone Buddha statues, the largest cliffside Buddha statue in Japan, and a statue of Kannon, the goddess of mercy, carved into a cliff.

Nokogiriyama, a prefecturally-designated scenic site, is a place where you can enjoy the serendipitous encounter between the deep wilderness of Boshu and the stonecutters, gods, and Buddhas of ages past.



Nokogiriyama Ropeway

It takes about 4 minutes from Sanroku Station to Sancho Station. The ride is like being in a moving observatory where you can enjoy a 360-degree panoramic view. If the weather is especially good, you can even see Mt. Fuji. The view from the observatory at the summit is also quite popular.

[Hours] Regular (Feb. 16 - Nov. 15): 9:00-17:00

Winter (Nov. 16 - Feb. 15): 9:00-16:00

Note: Admission into Nihonji Temple closes at 15:00.

TEL: 0439-69-2314



Depleted Quarry: Wall of Laputa MAP 10

This location was once a stone quarry site, and with its maximum vertical surface of 96 meters, has earned the nickname "The Wall of Laputa", a reference to Hayao Miyazaki's animated film Laputa: Castle in the Sky.

Numerous other quarry sites can also be found along the trail. Take in the extraordinary scenery as you make your way through this unique and unusual natural environment left behind by the stonecutters of ages past.

When the conditions are right, you can even catch a glimpse of Mt. Fuji on the other side of Tokyo Bay.



Peep at Hell

The stunningly vertical rock face displays cuts that serve as a reminder of the location's history as a stone quarry.

Near the summit (above the Hyakushaku Kannon statue), there remains a singular outcrop of rock protruding outward from the otherwise vertical surface. It takes a great deal of courage to make your way out to the end and look down, but this thrilling experience is one of the highlights of Nokogiriyama!

MAP 11



Nihonji Daibutsu MAP 14

The Daibutsu of Nihonji Temple, which stands 31.05 meters in high, was restored by carving a monolithic stone, a four-year project that concluded in June of 1969.

Its massive size makes it the largest cliffside Buddha statue in all of Japan!

Its official name is Yakushi Ruriko Nyorai (the Healing Buddha of Lazuline Light), and is another must-see sight on your visit to Nihonji Temple on Nokogiriyama.



Nihonji Hyakushaku Kannon MAP 12

This large Kannon statue was carved into the rock face of a quarry site near the summit of Nokogiriyama over a six-year period that started in May 1966. "Shaku" is a traditional unit of measurement equivalent to 30.3 centimeters, so as the name "Hyakushaku", which means "One Hundred Shaku", implies, the statue has a height of roughly 30 meters.

It was constructed to serve as a memorial to those who lost their lives in World War II and as a monument to world peace and the safety of sea, air, and land traffic in the area around Tokyo Bay. It is also worshipped by a great number of people as a guardian deity of traffic safety.



Nokogiriyama useful information



Trail Guidelines



Cloak



Access



Parking



Tokyowan Ferry



Onsen



Nokogiriyama Ropeway



Food&Stay&Store



Nihonji Temple



Nokogiriyama Museum of Art



Chiba Travel Guide



Tourist information

Futtsu City Tourism Association:
"Futtsu Travel Guide"
(Weekdays 8:30-17:00)
TEL: 0439-80-1291



Kyonan Town Tourism Association
Hota Tourist Information Center
(9:00-17:00, closed Tuesdays)
TEL: 0470-55-1683



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*Data contained in this publication is accurate as of March 2024.

Nokogiriyama Heritage Sites

- | | |
|---|--|
| site 1 Sakudo  | site 2 Shariki Michi  |
| site 3 Boshu Rock Stockyard  | site 4 Depleted Quarry: Cat Choba  |
| site 5 Depleted Quarry: Fukinuke Cave  | site 6 Kiridoshi  |
| site 7 Depleted Quarry: Kannon (Goddess of Mercy) Cave  | site 8 Depleted Quarry: Stone Stage  |
| site 9 Toi Michi  | site 10 Depleted Quarry: Wall of Laputa  |
| site 11 Nihonji Jigoku Nozoki (Peep at Hell)  | site 12 Nihonji Hyakushaku Kannon  |
| site 13 Nihonji Rakan Area  | site 14 Nihonji Daibutsu  |

Nokogiriyama Trails

- | |
|--|
| 1 Scenic "Peep af Hell" Trail Distance 1.85km Travel Time 60min A (30min, 850m) → C (15min, 200m) → H (15min, 800m) → I (15min, 800m) <small>*Trail for Jigoku Nozoki "Peep af Hell" and Daibutsu. Travel times noted do not include time spent at each point of interest.</small> |
| 2 Industrial Heritage Trail Distance 2.6km Travel Time 90min A (20min, 500m) → B (25min, 750m) → E (10min, 200m) → D (5min, 150m) → C (15min, 200m) → H (15min, 800m) → I (15min, 800m) <small>*Trail for Jigoku Nozoki "Peep af Hell" and Daibutsu. Travel times noted do not include time spent at each point of interest.</small> |
| 3 Nokogiriyama Climber's Trail Distance 3.85km Travel Time 150min A (20min, 500m) → B (25min, 750m) → E (15min, 200m) → F (20min, 500m) → G (20min, 500m) → F (10min, 200m) → E (10min, 200m) → D (5min, 150m) → C (25min, 850m) → A (25min, 850m) |



Be careful of the "Summit" signs! At the top of Nokogiriyama, in addition to the actual "summit" of the mountain, there are also signs for Sancho Station, the summit station of Nokogiriyama Ropeway, and the Summit Observatory. These signs will lead you in a different direction, so please be careful.

Due to a major collapse, this road is closed to both pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Please see the Kyonan Town website for the latest information.

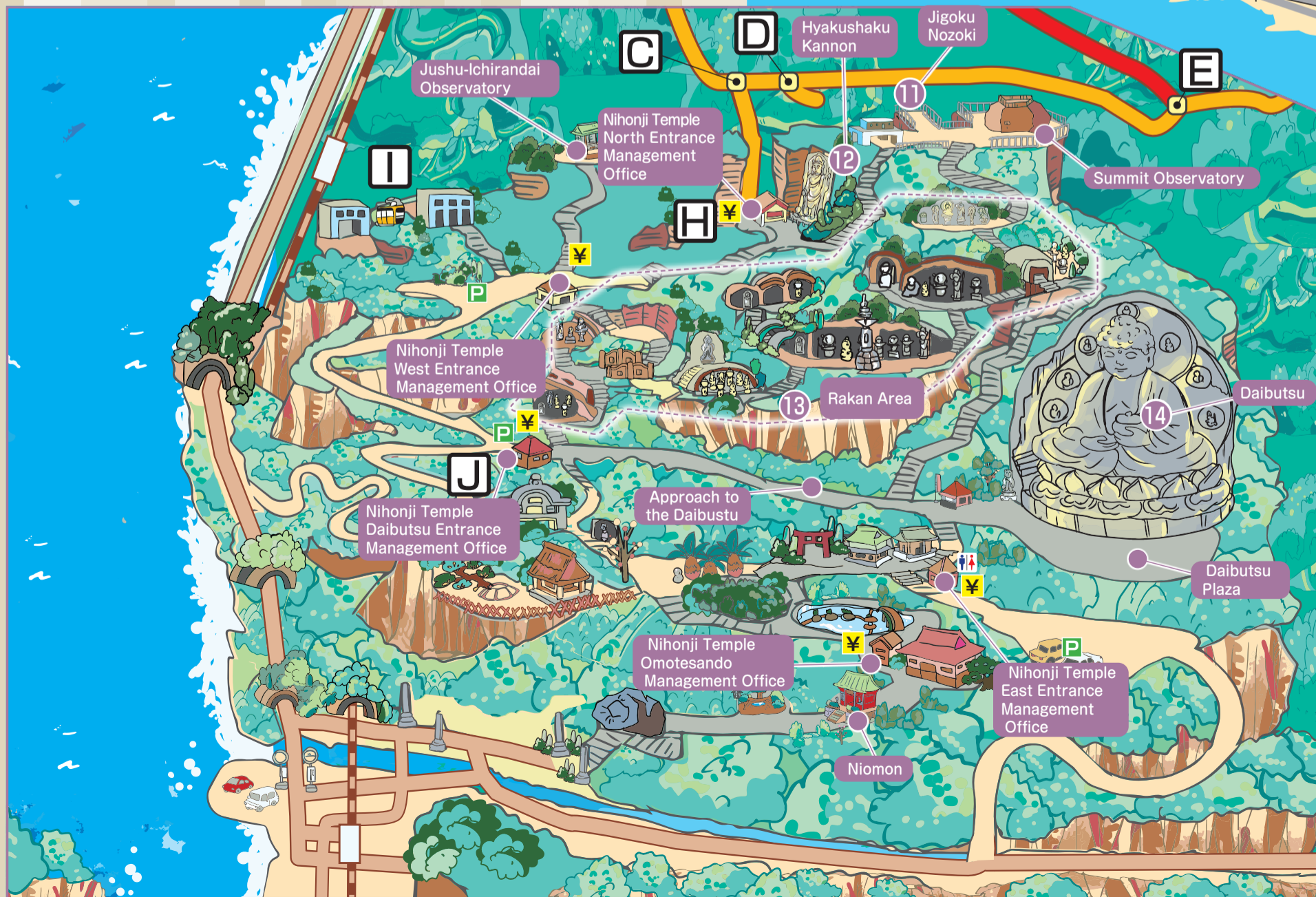
Nokogiriyama Shariki Michi Hiking Trails (approx. 1.2 km)

This trail takes hikers on a journey under the sheer rock face of Nokogiriyama on the roads tread by quarry laborers as they took stones down from the mountain until around 1986. This beautifully scenic hiking route allows you to look up to Jigoku Nozoki on Nokogiriyama from below, and also takes you to the quarry ruins, caves, and stone-paved Shariki Michi roads covered with bright green moss.

Kanto Fureai Road: "Tokyo Bay View Road" (approx. 8.4 km)

This hiking trail lets you enjoy observing the beauty of nature as you make your way through a deep forest area populated mainly with evergreen trees.

Nihonji Temple
 [Admission] Adults: ¥700
 Children (ages 4-12) : ¥400
 You must pass through the management office between the Nokogiriyama Ropeway and the hiking trail to enter.
 Please enter Nihonji temple no later than 15:00.



Hota-Chuo Beach
 Hota Tourist Information Center
 0470-55-1683 (closed on Tuesdays)

