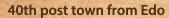


**Town of Nanamagari** 

# Nojiri-juku



Among the eleven post towns of Kiso, Nojiri-juku, where the low houses with traditional lattice windows still remain along the main street, is the second longest town after Narai-juku (660 m). This town is known for the winding main street to hinder enemies. This town was a village in the Edo period consisting of accommodations and 3 communities.

This town lost a large number of its traditional buildings to big fires in 1791, 1824, and so on. The Asahimachi Street was built for disaster prevention after the big fire in 1894. The buildings of the Honjin and Waki-Honjin inns have not remained.

#### Nojiri-juku Features



Nanamagari Street

The winding main street is the major feature of Nojiri-juku. It is called "Nanamagari", and was designed to hinder enemies. Be careful of cars.

The inns at the east and west ends of the main street are respectively named

"Hazure (end)".

Hazure

Okuwa Village Office TEL:0264-55-3080 FAX:0264-55-4134 Okuwa Village Tourist Office TEL: 0264-55-4566 http://www.vill.ookuwa.nagano.jp/kankou/

\* Photos and illustrations are all example images.

### **Nojiri Spots**

## Kosatsuba Remains and Ibo Stone

There used to be a posting up spot (H: 4 m, W: 5.4 m, D: 1.8 m), though only the base stone walls remain. Next to it, there is a 2-meter-high stone monument onto which a Buddhist sutra sentence is carved. The big base stone of the monument is called "Ibo Ishi (wart stone)". Legend has it that a person who had warts was cured when he touched the stone.



10 -min Walk from Nojiri Station

### 4 Myokakuji Temple



The building's age is unknown. The old documents, property, and buildings were burnt in a big fire at the beginning of 17th Century. The main hall was rebuilt in 1726, and the Kannondo building in 1856.

In the back garden, there is a stone statue of Maria Kannon with a cross on her raised left hand.

## Niwataya





### **Kakumei Shrine**



This shrine worships the practitioner Kakumei who opened up the pilgrimage of Mt. Ontake to the people.

Kakumei used to carry ascetic practice under the waterfall of this shrine while staying at the Furuse Inn in Nojiri-juku. He donated a charm for easy delivery to Furuse Inn and climbed Mt. Ontake to open the way. The charm was certainly powerful, so the residents built a shrine and enshrined it for worship. Thereafter, ritual festivals are held in spring (April 23rd) and autumn (Oct. 23rd) to wish for safe delivery and the healthy growth of children.

### Susao Shrine



The tablet says "Ten'o (heaven king)" and the date on the back shows Sep. 1661, which is before the disaster in 1715, pointing that is the oldest remaining object in the town.

According to legend, the enshrined object was brought by a Buddhist monk called "Chosaibo" when he was expelled from Gion Shrine of Kyoto. It is said that the monk took the sacred object with him and traveled on Nakasendo Road, then staved in the Manno of Kamizai area in Nojiri. There, he told the owner to enshrine the holy object he had. The owner was pleased to enshrine it in his own woods.

#### Susao Shrine Festival

Held on July 14th and 15th every year. The portable shrine carried by men in white kimono travel around the town.

The stone for a rest in the detailed map (10) is the

stone for the portable shrine to take a break. They conduct a worship dance in front of the stone.

Stone for a res (by police station



### Origin of Kiso Cypress

# **National Forest**

The forest of Kiso is famous for Kiso Cypress, and the logs are used for Ise Shrine buildings as well as general housing. In medieval times, most trees were cut down for building castles, but in the Edo period, the forest came under the control of the Owari domain and was protected. In the Meiji period, this forest was designated as imperial property, and then as a national forest after the Second World War.

96 % of Okuwa Village is forest, and 75% of the forest is designated as national forest.

Wide-area MAP



### **Forest Railway**

Large logs used to be transported by raft. However, the hydroelectric power plant was built with a dam on the river that disrupted rafting. A new railway was opened railway transportation was used. From 1918 to 1924, the forestry railway was laid around Nojiri area. But as the motor vehicle road developed, they began to use trucks for transportation, As a result the Nojiri forestry railway was closed in 1966 after 40 years of history.

The forestry railway iron bridge was built in 1921, and is the biggest remaining part of the Kiso forestry railway.

Wide-area MAP

Located in the national forest, this valley is surrounded by the five trees of Kiso. You can enjoy the seasonal scenes of the forest valley. The river is an impressive emerald green but also quite clear.



#### Experience

Kokarina(wooden ocarina flute) Wooden Crafts manufacturing (Reservation required) Kobiki no Sato Kosegi Wood Craft Ltd.

TEL: 0264-55-2008

Soba Making (Reservation required) Restaurant Inaho

TEL: 0264-55-3398

#### Specialties

(in Okuwa Roadside Rest Area)

TEL: 0264-55-2900

**Local Specialties and Agricultural Products** 

Okuwa Roadside Rest Area Kirakusha

TEL: 0264-55-4192

