

**Guide plan Rokujuri-goe Highway, Dewa's ancient road alive with faith and nature. Juo-toge Pass to Yudono Churenji Temple**

**Recommended course for your first guided walk on Dewa's ancient highway. (Japanese-speaking guide)**

Course: Juo Toge Pass > Itaya Shimizu spring > Churenji Temple

Time required: Approx. 45 min; approx. 1.5 km; elevation difference approx. 150 m

Beginner-level highland hike: Suitable for people wearing sturdy hiking shoes, this is a beginner-level hike on a well maintained relatively flat mountain trail.

Outline	Experience a little of a 1200-year-old ancient highway trudged by pilgrims going to sacred mountain Yudono-san. Beginning at the Jizo statues at Juo Toge Pass, at the Juo Toge Lookout, as well as a view of the sacred peak of Gassan, you will see a panorama of the hamlets of Oami. After passing Itaya Shimizu Spring, which has been refreshing travelers down the ages, the trail proceeds through a beech forest and ends at Churenji Temple. In spring, wild camellias bloom along the way. This descending trail is suitable for beginners.
Guide	Mountain Skipper (Japanese language only)
Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Views of Gassan, one of the three sacred mountains of Dewa Sanzan</li> <li>From Juo Toge lookout, views of Gassan, panorama of Ōami hamlets</li> <li>◆ Protected by six Jizo Boddhisatva images, Itaya Shimizu Spring</li> <li>◆ Churenji Temple</li> </ul> <p>Founded by Kobo Daishi (Kukai) in 825, the temple flourished as a place for the basic training for ascetic practice on Yudono-san. It has been rated with three stars in the travel guide of a famous French gourmet magazine.</p>
Appropriate attire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depending on the season, warm clothing may be required. Please enquire before participating</li> <li>• White pilgrim attire rental: 700 yen</li> </ul>
Guide charge	Please enquire
Typical itinerary	8:30 Meet at Tsuruoka Station > Hired transport > Briefing with trail guide > 9:00 Start at Juo Toge > Itaya Shimizu Spring > 9:45 Churenji Temple(destination) > 10:15 Hired transport >11:00 Arrive at Tsuruoka Station
Organizers	Rokujuri-goe Highway Mountain Skipper Association & Asahi-mura Tourism Association
Insurance	Necessary for participation
Enquiries	DEGAM Tsuruoka Tourism Bureau (General Incorporated Association) <a href="mailto:tsuruoka@degam.jp">tsuruoka@degam.jp</a>
Availability	Late May to early November



Churenji Temple



Juo Toge Pass



Itaya Shimizu Spring



Walking through the beech forest

\*Photos taken at a particular time, you experience may be different.