

# 13 Okabe Shuku from the Medieval Period

Road Station Utsunoya-toge, Fujieda City – Rengeji-ike Park, Fujieda City

## Introduction

The 21st shukuba was small-scaled, sometimes had to borrow beddings from neighboring Fujieda Shuku. Six wooden statues are left by ascetic Mokujiki who went on pilgrimage all over the country. In "Tokaidochu Hizakurige" (megahit travel novel of the times), they make pun on "Okabe" which also meant 'tofu' (soya milk added bitter and get curdled) in the language of court ladies in former times and making a joke.

Jikkoku-zaka Kannondo Small Temple

### 1 十石坂観音堂

Saigyosan Sairinji was a temple of Jodo Buddhism sect with long and distinguished history until the Edo Period (1603-1868). But caught in fire in 1808, only Kannondo (small temple enshrining Kannon) remained. It is an orthodox architecture of a temple with hipped gable roof made of tile. Extremely delicate handworks could be seen.

### 2 大旅籠柏屋歴史資料館

Hatago Kashibaya History Museum  
(Registered tangible cultural property of Japan)  
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Kashibaya was carried on by the Yamauchis, a branch family of Uchino honjin. The building was completed in 1836, the site was about 7860 square meters and the floor space of the main building was about 330 square meters. Now it became a history museum introducing the role of Okabe Shuku, the look of hatago and the way people lived along the Old Tokaido Road.

- Open: 9:00 to 17:00 (admission until 16:30)
- Closed: Mondays, the next day of a national holiday, the Year-end and New Year holidays
- Admission: ¥300 for Adults (free for junior high school students and below)
- Tel: 054-667-0018



### 3 岡部宿本陣跡

Okabe Shuku Honjin Ruins

The site of the Uchino Honjin seems to have been about 27 meters by 52 meters and about 574 square meters of total floor space with 129.5 tatami mats besides 40 tatami mats for the residence. The existing building was reconstructed in the Meiji Period (1868-1912). The small shrine and the well in the garden are the originals. In another Nito Honjin, 'sekifuda' (name plate of the guest) of Matsudaira Chikaranokami, later 8th Tokugawa shogun Yoshimune remains.

### 4 光泰寺

Kotajji Temple

Two wooden statues are installed in this temple of Soto Buddhism Sect. One is "Juntei Kannon-bosatsu", an image of Kannon, saint of mercy in Buddhism. It is the tallest wooden statue in Shizuoka Prefecture 215 cm high. Another is "Shotoku Taishi Ritsuzo", the statue of standing 'Shotoku Taishi'. Shotoku Taishi is an Imperial prince and a statesman in the Asuka Period (6-7th century) still admired by people in Japan. Yanagi Numeyoshi, a philosopher who led 'Mingei-undo' (folklore art movement) highly praised "Surely one of the unforgettable statues of Shotoku Taishi existing in Japan".



**木喰仏・木喰上人**  
**Mokujiki-butsu Ascetic Mokujiki**

Buddhist ascetic Mokujiki was born in 1718 in Minobu Town in Yamanashi Prefecture. He went on pilgrimage all over the country. Wooden statues dedicated by Mokujiki are called "Mokujiki-butsu". His concise and drastic style different from traditional statues makes us think about modern sculpture. His statues are also characterized by mysterious and tender smile on their faces. After his death, Mokujiki-butsu were forgotten for over a century, but Yanagi Muneyoshi, the driving force of the Mingei Movement (popular art movement) in the Taisho Period (1912-1926) reevaluated them.

**朝比奈玉露**  
**Asahina Gyokuro**

They say that tea leaves for delicious green tea grows along river sides where fog sets in. Just as it is, the area along the Asahina River is counted as one of the 3 best Gyokuro tea (green tea of the highest quality) growing area equals to Uji in Kyoto Prefecture and Yame in Fukuoka Prefecture. "Gyokuro-no-Sato" is organized so that you can appreciate every charm of Asahina Gyokuro.

Also called Kamejiro (turtle castle) from its circular form. It is a Koshu style fortification (strategy of the Takeda clan in Yamanashi Prefecture) with crescent shaped moat which is the same style as Suwahara Castle in Kanaya Shuku.

**Old Tokaido Road Walking Route**

- Red line: Sidewalk
- Red dotted line: Sidewalk narrower than 70 cm

**Legend**

- Information
- Parking lot
- Picturing point
- Bench
- Toilet
- "Michi-no-Eki" (Road station)
- Accessible toilet
- Convenience store
- Row of pine trees
- Cherry tree
- Explanatory board
- Bus stop
- Automated external defibrillator, AED
- East boundary of shukuba
- West boundary of shukuba

**5 五智如来**  
Gochi-nyorai

Gochi means 5 wisdoms of Buddha and Gochi-nyorai are 5 Buddha accomplished each of 5 wisdoms. They are called Amida-nyorai, Shaka-nyorai, Dainichi-nyorai, Ashuku-nyorai and Hoshu-nyorai. They were donated by Wakita Masaaki, the chief retainer of Naito Kazunobu, the lord of Tanaka Castle in Shizuoka Prefecture in 1705. They are made of local stone called "Mitsuwa-ishi"