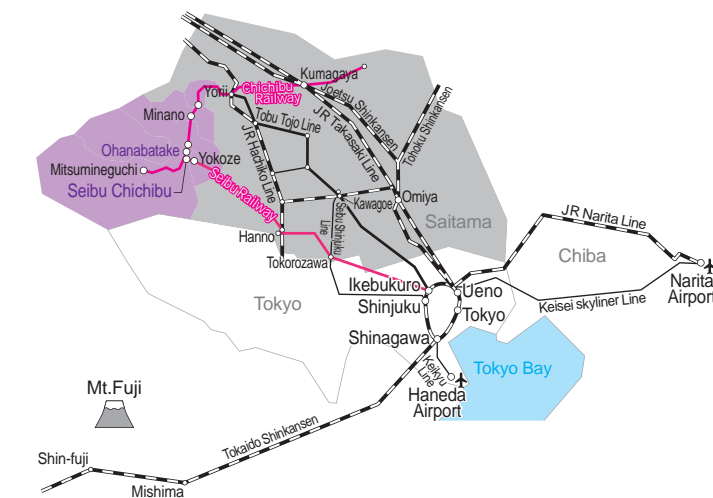




Temple No.29
Chosen-in

Access

Train Access to Chichibu from Tokyo



Seibu Railway Express 80min.		Seibu Chichibu	
Ikebukuro	Yokoze	Seibu Railway 4 min.	
Tobu Tojo Line 80min.		Chichibu Railway 40min.	Ohanabatake
Ikebukuro	Yorii		
JR Takasaki Line 60min.		Chichibu Railway 70min.	Ohanabatake
Ueno	Kumagaya		

Saitama Prefectural Government Tourism Division
3-15-1 Takasago, Urawa-ku, Saitama City, Saitama 330-9301

AREA

A

*Each QR code is linked to Google Maps

- (Ichi-ban) Shimabu-ji** **See** Highlighted Temples
Shimabu-ji was made the first temple on the pilgrimage to make it easier for pilgrims from Edo arriving from over the mountains to the east of Chichibu.
- (Ni-ban) Shinpuku-ji**
Small and quiet temple on the top of a hill. The long climb up is the initial trial on the pilgrimage path. Visit Komyo-ji temple for an inscription in your *nokyo-cho*.
- (San-ban) Josen-ji**
The intricately carved dragons on the front of the Kannon hall are superb. It is said that if you touch the fertility stone you will be blessed with children.
- (Yon-ban) Kinsho-ji** **See** Highlighted Temples
See the popular stone statue of the Virgin Mary Kannon. Try the soba or udon noodles inside the temple grounds.
- (Go-ban) Goka-do**
Many people pray for literary or academic achievement. Visit the nearby Choko-ji temple for an inscription in your *nokyo-cho*.
- (Roku-ban) Bokuun-ji**
The Kannon statue of this temple was once enshrined at the summit of Mt. Buko. If walking, it is a good idea to visit Temple 7 before Temple 6.
- (Nana-ban) Hocho-ji**
It is also called the Lying Cow Hall after the legend of a cowherd who came upon a cow lying down and thinking it strange, dug up the spot to find a Kannon statue.
- (Hachi-ban) Saizen-ji** **See** Highlighted Temples
Pray for a long healthy life and a peaceful death. The 600 year old maple tree is a must-see.
- (Kyu-ban) Akechi-dera**
The Kannon enshrined in the hexagonal Kannon hall is a protector of women in childbirth and child rearing. The temple attracts many women worshippers.
- (Ju-ban) Daiji-ji**
It is said that if you stroke part of the figure of Binzuru (Pindola), you can heal that part of yourself. This temple appears in the anime "Kokosake".
- (Ju-ichi-ban) Joraku-ji**
People pray here for recovery from illness and for longevity. Look out for the *ema* for writing prayers. They have impressive depictions of the 10th century head abbot, Ganzan Daishi.

Transportation (Seibu Railway)

The sample itineraries on this brochure start and finish at Seibu Chichibu Station or Yokoze Station on the Seibu Chichibu Line. Yokoze Station is the nearest station to Temple 9.

AREA

B

- (Ju-ni-ban) Nosaka-ji**
See the many Buddhist statues including Kannon who will bear your illness, anger and worries herself, and a Kannon astride a bull. The temple garden is gorgeous with seasonal flowers.
- (Ju-san-ban) Jigen-ji** **See** Highlighted Temples
The temple's *ema*, or small wooden plaques for writing prayers have a design that depicts a pair of eyes. You can purchase pilgrimage goods here.
- (Ju-yon-ban) Imamiya-bo**
The temple precinct is modest now, however in the past it was grand as it shared grounds with the neighboring Chichibu Imamiya Shrine. The huge zelkova tree between the two reminds us of the old days.
- (Ju-go-ban) Shorin-ji**
After it was destroyed in a great fire in Chichibu in 1878, the temple was rebuilt in western style using concrete. The impression may be different from other temples, but the numerous *fuda* nametags stuck to the ceiling remind us it is a *fudasho*.
- (Ju-roku-ban) Saiko-ji** **See** Highlighted Temples
The Fudado hall, which was once a Kannon hall, is the oldest relic in the Chichibu pilgrimage. There are many points of interest such as the corridor with 88 statues of Buddhist deities representing the 88 temples of the Shikoku pilgrimage.
- (Ju-nana-ban) Jorin-ji**
Originally the first temple on the pilgrimage. The beautiful temple bell with 100 images of Kannon in relief is also engraved with songs of praise to Buddha from each *fudasho*. This temple appears in the anime "Anohana".
- (Ju-hachi-ban) Godo-ji**
In the corridor behind the Kannon hall you will find a colorful rope connected to the Kannon. Grasp it to shake hands with Kannon. Many other Buddhist statues are also enshrined here.
- (Ju-kyu-ban) Ryuseki-ji**
The Kannon hall perched on a giant rock is worth seeing. The legend has it that when the farmers prayed for rain during a drought, a dragon burst out of the rock bed bringing rain as it ascended skyward.



Transportation (Chichibu Railway)

Many of the temples in Areas B and D on the map can be reached from stations on the Chichibu Railway line. IC cards are not accepted.

AREA

C

- (Ni-ju-ban) Iwano-ue-do**
Look down over the Kannon hall and beautiful gardens below as you arrive at this unusual temple. The colorful cloth monkeys strung together hanging from the ceiling inside the hall, literally called the thousand monkeys, are a gorgeous sight.
- (Ni-ju-ichi-ban) Kannon-ji**
The Kannon statue here is revered as a protector against fire, as the statue miraculously survived a fire that destroyed the original temple. See the six stone Jizo and many other attractive Jizo statues here.
- (Ni-ju-ni-ban) Doji-do**
"Doji" literally means children, and it is guarded by Nio guardians who look like mischievous children. See the carvings of the gods of thunder and wind on the doors of the Kannon hall.
- (Ni-ju-san-ban) Ongaku-ji** **See** Highlighted Temples
This same temple bell was rung in 1884 as a signal for the farmers who were shackled in debt to launch their armed uprising against the government in the Chichibu Rebellion.
- (Ni-ju-yon-ban) Hosen-ji**
Climb 116 steep stone steps. Nio guardians are usually found inside gates or in front of a Kannon hall, but here they glare at you from inside the hall.
- (Ni-ju-go-ban) Kyusho-ji**
The view from the Benten-like or pond behind the Kannon hall is a must-see. There is a stone said to be given by Enma, the King of Hell, for use as a printing block and you can buy a print inspired by the stone's design.



Transportation (Bus)

Seibu Kanko Bus has bus stops near most of the temples. You can search the timetables for each bus stop here (QR). There are also other bus companies. Whichever line you use, please research the bus times in advance as the services are infrequent.

AREA

D

- (Ni-ju-roku-ban) En-yu-ji + Oku-no-in Iwai-do** **See** Highlighted Temples
Don't miss the tranquil inner sanctuary Iwai-do, the Kannon hall in the mountains away from the main hall.
- (Ni-ju-nana-ban) Daien-ji** **See** Highlighted Temples
From the hills above the temple, the Kannon statue with her gentle expression protects those below her. A 20 minute climb from behind the Kannon hall.
- (Ni-ju-hachi-ban) Hashidate-do** **See** Highlighted Temples
A great spot for a rest, with a 140m limestone cave, café and soba restaurant in the grounds.
- (Ni-ju-kyu-ban) Chosen-in**
The weeping cherry that blooms in early April is even more beautiful than the painting of cherry blossoms by Katsushika Hokusai in the main hall. Gorgeous garden with flowers year-round.
- (San-ju-ban) Houn-ji**
The well-tended sloping Japanese garden is one of the most beautiful on the pilgrimage. Many treasures and rare old wooden nameplates of pilgrims from the 16th century are kept in the Kannon hall.

AREA

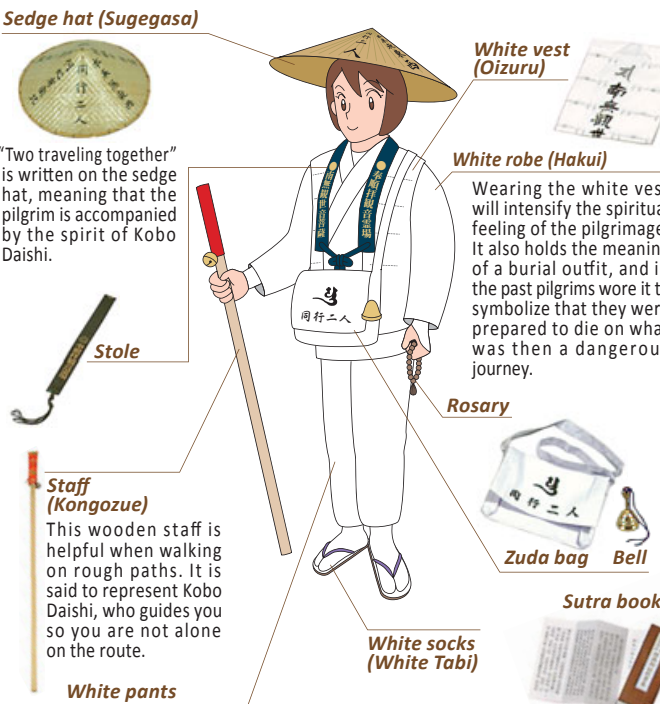
E

- (San-ju-ichi-ban) Kannon-in** **See** Highlighted Temples
In the past, monks meditated under the waterfall to the left of the Kannon hall. It is also said that throughout the temple grounds there are as many as 108,000 stone statues and carvings of Buddha.
- (San-ju-ni-ban) Hoshō-ji** **See** Highlighted Temples
As the inner sanctuary has a Kannon statue perched on an enormous rock that looks like the bow of a giant ship, the temple is popularly known as Rock Boat Kannon. The panoramic scenery is astounding.
- (San-ju-san-ban) Kikusui-ji**
In spring the pilgrimage route passes through a gorgeous tunnel of cherry blossoms. From an era in which infanticide was practiced, the picture of the demon admonishing a mother about to strangle her child reminds us of the preciousness of our children.
- (San-ju-yon-ban) Suisen-ji**
Completing the pilgrimage is called *kechigan*, or fulfilling a vow. This temple is the last on the Chichibu pilgrimage and also on the Japan 100 Kannon pilgrimage. You can leave your pilgrimage goods here.

Pilgrimage goods

The picture illustrates the traditional pilgrimage outfit, however it is not necessary to have everything. You may like to have just the *nokyo-cho* (accordion-style book for collecting stamps from Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines) and dress casually. However, if you have something that identifies you as a pilgrim, such as a staff or white robe, the local people will recognize you and welcome you warmly. The items are available at some temples including Temples 1 and 13.

Pilgrim's outfit



Nokyo

This acts as proof that you have visited each temple. Have it signed and stamped after worshipping at the temple. It will cost a little to have it stamped, so it is a good idea to have small change ready.

Fee for Nokyo	Red Stamp	Sign & Red Stamp
	200yen	300yen

Who is Kobo Daishi (Kukai) ?

Kukai or Kobo Daishi was a priest who founded Shingon Buddhism in Japan in the 9th century. He is said to have founded the Shikoku pilgrimage route of 88 temples, and also to have a connection with the Chichibu pilgrimage.

How to do the Pilgrimage

- It will take at least two days by car or five days on foot to complete the pilgrimage.
- You can visit the temples in order from No.1 to No.34, or in any order that suits you.
- There are various kinds of signs to the temples along the route.
- While part of the route is through towns, part of it involves walking over mountain passes and on unpaved paths through mountains. Wear walking shoes and appropriate clothing, and plan your trip according to your fitness level.
- Make sure to check the bus and train timetables in advance, as the services are infrequent.
- If walking the pilgrimage, spring and autumn are the best seasons. We recommend avoiding walking when it is too hot or too cold.

How to use this brochure

- The map is divided into five areas (A to E) depending on the geography of the area. Area A is rural. Area B is through the town. Area C is hilly and Areas D and E are mountainous.
- In addition to walking, areas A to D can also be travelled by bicycle or e-bike. Area E is a long way from town and has many ups and downs, so it is worth considering travelling by car.
- If you will only be in Chichibu for a day or two, the "Highlighted Temples" section lists the most popular temples.
- The map is not to scale, so please refer to the table below for the "Distance between each temple". The "Walking Time" is an average walking time.
- QR codes for each temple will take you to maps and directions to the temple.
- We have included a seven day sample itinerary for reference.

How to visit temples

- Bow once at the main gate.
- Wash hands and rinse mouth at the purification basin.
- Ring the temple bell (*Bonsho*) once if available.
**It is bad luck to ring it when you leave.*
- Throw a coin into the offering box and ring the bell with the rope.
- Pray while putting your palms together in front of your chest, and bow once.
- Get your *nokyo-cho* stamped and signed here.
- Bow at the main gate when you leave.

Temple hours

Spring/Summer 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
(Mar. to Oct.)
Autumn/Winter 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
(Nov. to Feb.)
*Closed for lunch 12:00pm - 12:30pm

Chichibu 34 Kannon Temple Circuit

The Pilgrimage on Tokyo's Doorstep

