Introduction

On a Kannon pilgrimage, pilgrims walk a circuit of temples dedicated to Kannon bodhisattva, a compassionate deity who hears people's cries and helps those who are suffering.

The Chichibu pilgrimage to 34 temples dedicated to Kannon is part of an impressive and historic pilgrimage called the Japan 100 Kannon pilgrimage that also includes the Saigoku pilgrimage to 33 temples in western Japan and the Bando pilgrimage to 33 temples

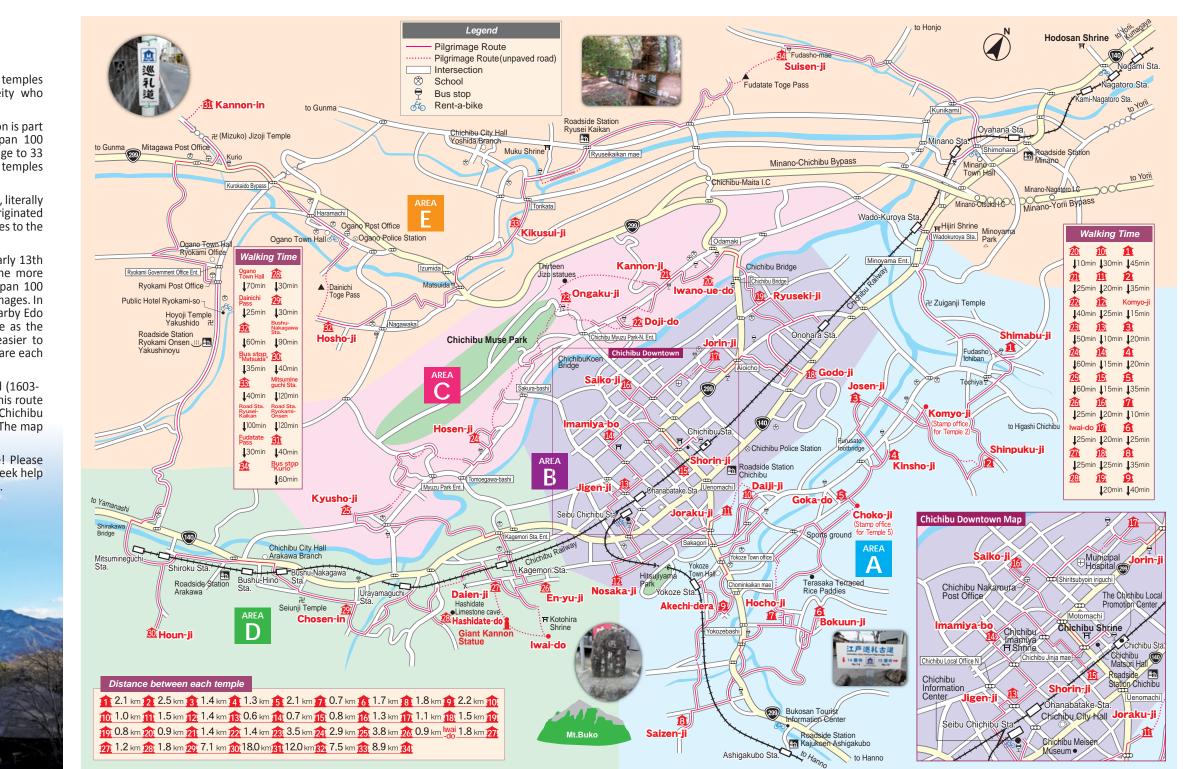
The temples on the Chichibu pilgrimage are called *fudasho*, literally meaning the place for wooden nameplates or *fuda*. It originated from the old practice of pilgrims nailing wooden nameplates to the sides of the temples to mark their visit.

It is thought that the Chichibu pilgrimage began in the early 13th century. At first it consisted of 33 temples, however one more temple was added in the 16th century to create the Japan 100 Kannon pilgrimage including the Saigoku and Bando pilgrimages. In the 17th century, many pilgrims visited Chichibu from nearby Edo (present-day Tokyo) to complete the Chichibu pilgrimage as the total distance is only 100km, and therefore relatively easier to complete than the Saigoku and Bando pilgrimages which are each

The pilgrimage route walked by people in the Edo period (1603-1868) is called *the Old Edo Pilgrimage Road*. Walking on this route can be a moving experience as you discover the history of Chichibu on this path that has been walked for hundreds of years. The map in this brochure follows the ancient route where possible

Welcome to the historic Chichibu 34 Kannon pilgrimage! Please enjoy walking the route whether to discover the history, seek help from Kannon bodhisattva, or enjoy the scenery and hiking.





Highlighted Temples



this was the first temple they arrived at. The main Kannon hall with its crimson walls is adorned with intricate carvings of paradise to the left and hell to the right above the door. In front of the main hall are eight guardian deities which each protect people born in different years of the Zodiac You can find the deity for your birth year and pray for good fortune and health. You car purchase pilgrimage goods a the little shop in the office.

For pilgrims in the Edo period,

The first thing that grabs your attention is the pair of enormous straw sandals hanging over the gate. After entering through the gate you will find the temple compound filled with nearly 1300 stone Buddha statues. There is even an image of a deity swearing off alcohol while sitting on a sake barrel! However the most popular statue is that of the loving mother. Jibo Kannon, in front of the main hall. The expression of the young mother nursing her and many people visit to pray for children and families.



As you enter the temple compound, you will be met by a magnificent maple tree The beautiful carpet of moss, the moss-covered statue of Kannon and the six Jizo statues create a peacefu temple atmosphere. It is even more gorgeous when the maple leaves turn red. In front of the main hall you will find a copper statue of Binzuru (also known as Pindola Bharadvaja). It is said that if you stroke part of the statue, you can heal that part of vourself.



The old custom on a

pilgrimage was to nail

wooden votive tablets to the

pillars as proof of a pilgrim's

visit, and even now you can

see the numerous nail holes

remaining on the pillar of the

building on the right of the

temple compound. On the

left is a round thatch roofed

building that is actually a

brewing sake and dedicated

to Daikoku, the god of

wealth. Many people leave a

business card here as the

prav for wealth a

prosperity in business.

locally as Ameyakushi .One of the buildings in the temple compound is dedicated to Yakushi, the Buddhist god of medicine, who is believed to have the power to cure eye ailments, and many people visit to pray for the health of their eves. You can also drink green tea that is good for the eyes. It is said that when a pilgrim rotates the hexagonal shelf that houses 1630 precious sutras, they will be blessed as if they have read

This temple is also known

This temple is in the Chichibu

Muse Park. The name of the

temple literally means Music

Temple in Japanese, and

many singers come here to

pray for a hit song! The

sound of the bell is also

beautiful. Walk up a little

behind the Kannon hall to

enjoy a panoramic view of

Chichibu, and in spring the

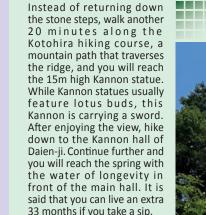
wonderful cherry blossoms.

A little further on are 13 Jizo

statues, and from here too

you can enjoy the cherry

plossom scenery in spring.





contrast between the black beautiful. The garden is also lovely but the most fascinating part of this temple is the innermost sanctuary called the Iwaido. After walking a while, pass through the factory grounds, climb the 300 steep stone steps and you will find the hall built in harmony with nature. Standing on a platform jutting out from the cliff, the hall is reminiscent of Kiyomizu Temple in Kyoto.



temples of the Japan 100

Kannon pilgrimage. This

deity also protects against

traffic accidents and many

people visit to pray for safe

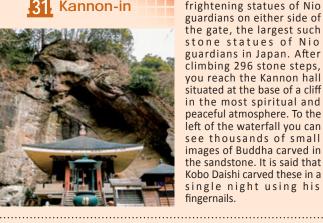
journeys in traffic. The

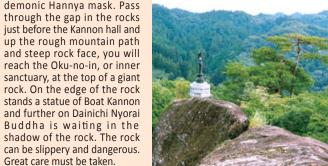
grounds is a cool spot ever

n summer. However, the cave

s closed from December t

You will be struck by the imposing statue of a Nio guardian in the temple gate and the expression on the demonic Hannva mask. Pass through the gap in the rocks just before the Kannon hall and up the rough mountain path and steep rock face, you will reach the Oku-no-in, or inner sanctuary, at the top of a giant rock. On the edge of the rock stands a statue of Boat Kannon and further on Dainichi Nvorai





•DAY6 (Temple 32) 13.9km

You will be greeted by two

Sample itineraries for a pilgrimage to all 34 temples

•DAY1 (Temple 1-9) 14.3km

 $S \rightarrow \longrightarrow P$ Fudasho Ichiban] or

•DAY4 (Temple 26-30) 16.5km

 $\mathbb{S} \rightarrow \mathring{\mathbf{x}} \rightarrow \mathbb{O} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [Kagemori Sta.] \rightarrow$ Pilgrimage26-30→[Mitsumineguchi Sta.]

•DAY5 (Temple 31) 18.7km

•DAY7 (Temple 33-34) 12.3km

[Yokoze Sta.]→Pilgrimage9-19→[Onohara S → (PMatsuida)→Pilgrimage33-34

 \rightarrow [\bigcirc Fudasho mae] \rightarrow [\longrightarrow [Minano Sta.]

Seibu Chichibu Sta. O Ohanabatake Sta.

Seibu Chichibu Sta. and Ohanabatake

Sta. are about 400m apart. The schedules assume a start of 9am and finish of around 5pm. It is also ossible to complete the pilgrimage in

The bus and train services are infrequent. and it is necessary to check the time tables

five days, depending on how long you

 $\mathbb{S} \rightarrow \mathring{\mathbf{X}} \rightarrow \mathbb{O} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [Mitsumineguchi Sta.]$

 $S \rightarrow \longrightarrow Pilgrimage32 \rightarrow$ Hashidate-do is set at the [\bigcirc Tochiya] \rightarrow Pilgrimage1-9 \rightarrow [Yokoze Sta.] [\bigcirc Matsuida] \rightarrow $\boxed{}$ $\boxed{}$ \longrightarrow $\boxed{}$ \bigcirc $\boxed{}$ foot of an imposing 65m •DAY2 (Temple 9-19) 14.2km cliff. The image of the norse-headed Kannon who

Sta.] $\rightarrow \bigcirc \rightarrow \bigcirc \rightarrow \nearrow \rightarrow \bigcirc$

•DAY3 (Temple 19-25) 16.0km

 $\square \rightarrow \not \uparrow \rightarrow \square$

→ **□** → **0** → **↑** → **S**

→Pilgrimage31→[♥Kurio]→ IIII→ S