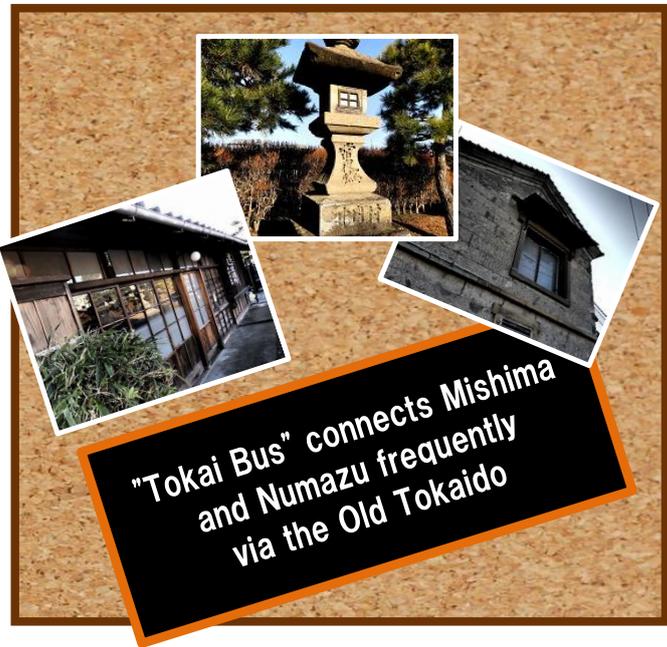


Walk the old Tokaido from Mishima to Numazu

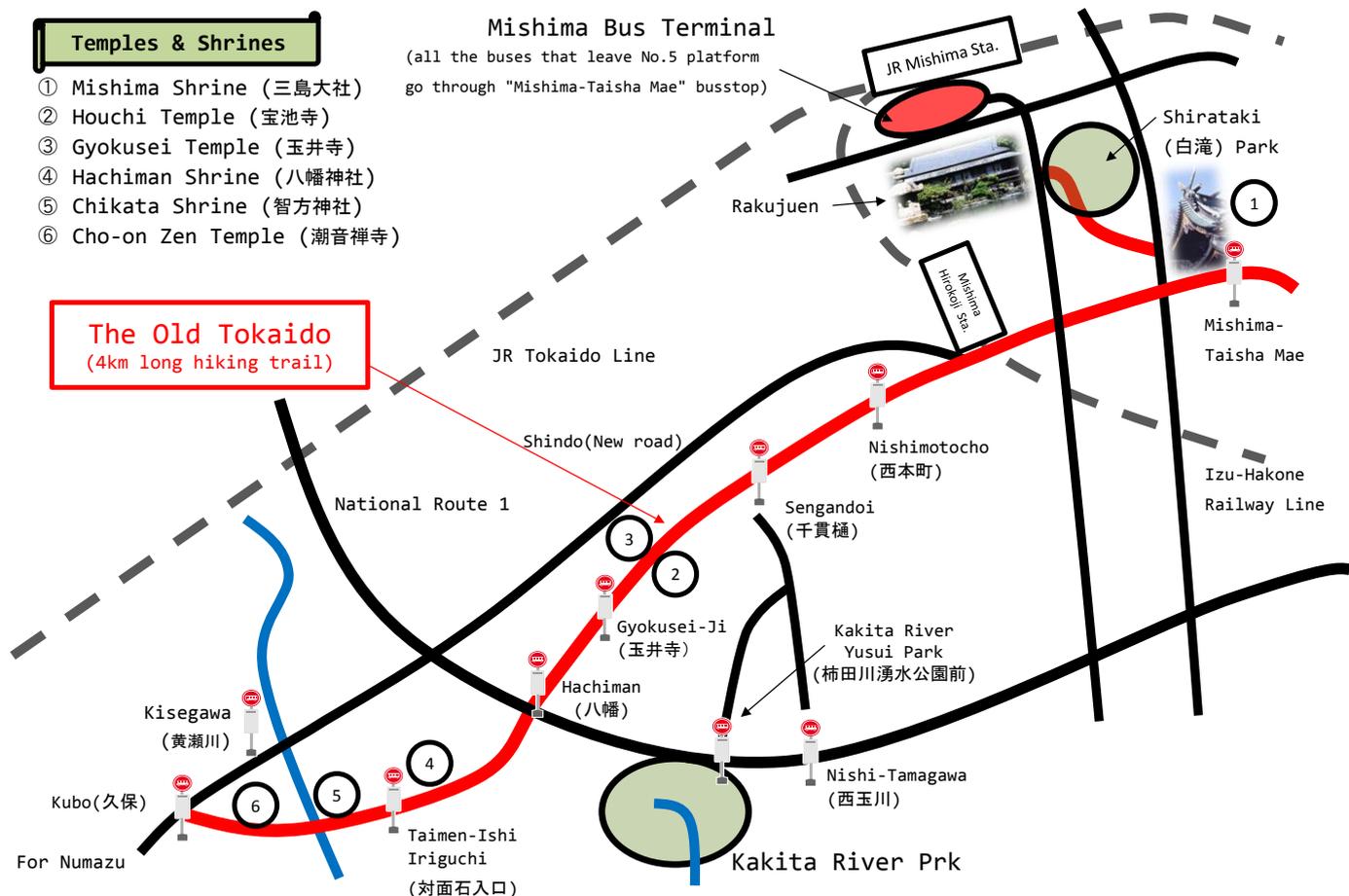
with

Mishimaru kippu (Mishima Free Bus Pass)



Continue a walk along the old Tokaido!

As the continuing travel tip of our another brochure "Walk the old Tokaido from Hakone to Mishima", we now introduce the next portion, from Mishima to Numazu (沼津) by using "Mishimaru Kippu". At the main gate of Mishima-Taisha (Shrine), westbound 4km long walking is started. You have two ways to get to the shrine from Mishima station. The 1st one is a local bus. All the buses of "Tokai Bus Orange Shuttle (東海バスオレンジシャトル)" company leaving platform No.5 every 10 minutes on average are stopping at "Mishima-Taisha mae (in front of Mishima Taisha)" busstop. This 4 minutes' ride is covered by "Mishimaru Kippu". Around 20 minutes' walk on the path along the creek via Shirataki (白滝) park to the shrine is another choice.



Mishima Taisha (① on the map)

Minamoto Yoritomo (源頼朝), the founder of Kamakura Shogunate in the 12th century that was the 1st government controlled by Samurai class in Japan worshipped this shrine. He had been exiled to Izu by his opposing clan, Heike that ruled west part of Japan at that time.

Yoritomo spent his youth in Izu with biding his time, then gathered samurais there when he was 32 and finally could revenge himself on Heike with a belief in the divination by the Taisha that he would win. Since then this shrine became popular among samurais as the God of victory in battle. When the old Tokaido was set between Edo and Kyoto, Mishima was selected as one of 53 post towns due to the existence of this shrine.



Old buildings

After passing Nishimotocho (西本町) busstop, you see some old buildings come to appear. Sengandoi (千貫樋) busstop is named after the old wooden canal (doi) constructed in the 16th century.



The original one was destroyed by the Great Kanto earthquake in 1923. The reconstructed canal can be seen near the busstop.

Houchi Temple & Gyokusei Temple (②③ on the map)

Milestones were placed every 4km (called "Ichi-ri-zuka", Ichi means "1") along main roads traditionally in Japan. Zu(tsu)ka means a kind of small hill that made it easy to trace the road by banking or tree-planting. Both temples facing each other have tsuka that prove you are walking a right way.



Hachiman Shrine (④ on the map)

This shrine is famous for "Taimen-Ishi (meeting rocks)". When above mentioned Minamoto Yoritomo gathered his ex retainers and other samurais around there, his younger brother Yoshitsune (義経) came from far Tohoku region where he lived at that time to join his brother's troops. This shrine (& rocks in its precincts) is said to be the place they met again tearfully. But unfortunately Yoritomo killed Yoshitsune after establishing his government with the fear of Yoshitsune's explosive public popularity.



Chikata Shrine & Cho-on Zen Temple (⑤⑥ on the map)

Because the way of thinking of Zen that values a spirit of loyalty and simpleness matched warrior rules, it boomed in the era of above mentioned Kamakura Shogunate. Many zen temples established in that period have spartan styles as opposed to huge and ornate decorated temples in Kyoto where had been dominated by aristocrats so long.

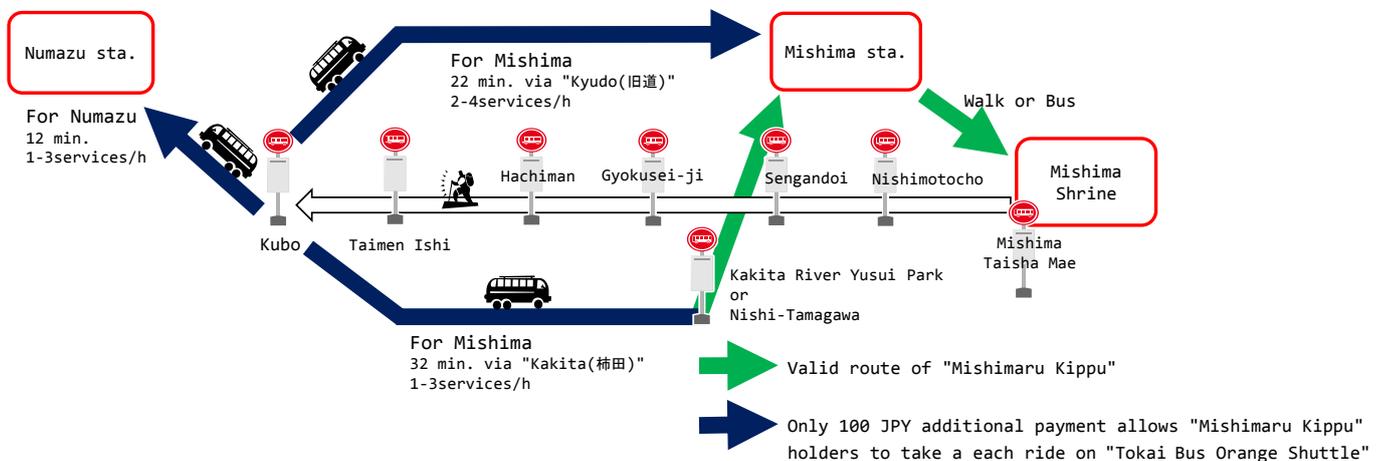


Kakita river park

In case you go back to Mishima by a local bus via Kakita, how about dropping in this park? Because most of river's source water comes from springs created by rainfall and melting snow on Mt. Fuji, Kakita river is admitted to be the purest river in Japan.



After passing Cho-on Zen Temple, the old Tokaido is mostly swallowed by the highway to Numazu and make it nothing interesting. We recommend to go back to Mishima or forward to Numazu by a local bus from Kubo(久保) busstop as the following illustration mentions.



You have two choices to go back to Mishima by bus. One is to take a bus via "Kyudo(旧道)". As Kyudo means "old road", this bus literally goes through the old Tokaido v.v. you have walked. Buses via Shindo (New road) come hourly. This bus takes highway instead of the old Tokaido. Another is to take a bus via Kakita (栢田), on the way returning, your can drop at Nishi-Tamagawa (西玉川) or Kakita river Yusui Park (栢田川湧水公園前) busstop and see beautiful Kakita river.