MOUNT WAKAKUSA & KASUGAYAMA

V1 / FOREST LOOP

8.12 miles · 13.06 km

Primeval forest loop from Kintetsu-Nara Exit 2

Allow about 3½–4½ hours

Gain ~450 m · Loss ~450 m

NARA PARK TO THE RIDGE

North up · 50 m contours



THE WALK

Follow Nara Park's paths past Kasuga Taisha. Climb the streamside stone path of Takisaka-no-Michi past the Kannon figures and Kubikiri Jizo.

Follow the shared gravel forest road to Kamatogi and the Wakakusa summit ridge. Take the signed North Gate descent, then return through the Todaiji district.

	CHECKPOINT	MILES
1	**Kintetsu-Nara Exit 2**	**0.00**
2	Kofuku-ji / Sarusawa Pond	**0.37**
3	Kasuga Taisha approach	**1.20**
4	Takisaka-no-Michi entrance	**2.04**
5	Yuhi Kannon approach	**2.57**
6	Asahi Kannon approach	**2.80**
7	Kubikiri Jizo	**3.05**
8	Kasugayama ridge road	**3.31**
9	Kamatogi trail junction	**5.36**
10	Mount Wakakusa summit ridge	**5.53**
11	Wakakusa North Gate	**6.38**
12	Todaiji / Nigatsu-do district	**6.94**
13	**Kintetsu-Nara Exit 2 finish**	**8.12**

Cumulative miles from Kintetsu-Nara Exit 2.

Allow for wet stone, steep steps and vehicles on the forest road. Stay on signed trails. The closed sightseeing spur toward Jigokudani is outside the loop.

Wakakusa is seasonal. Plan to clear North Gate by 16:30. The prefecture lists adult entry at ¥150. At the summit, follow signs across the plaza. The GPX bridges a 19 m map gap there.

GETTING THERE & BACK

From Morinomiya, take the JR Osaka Loop Line outer loop toward Tsuruhashi and Tennoji. At Tsuruhashi follow the Kintetsu transfer signs and take a Nara-bound Rapid Express to Kintetsu-Nara (A28). Return on the reverse route, using the JR inner loop toward Kyobashi at Tsuruhashi.

Season: third Saturday in March to second Sunday in December. Access checked 07 Nov 2026.

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Sources Nara hiking courses Wakakusa gates Takisaka closure JR West Kintetsu