

Situated halfway up Sōunzan, Gōra is an outstanding sightseeing spot of Hakone. It enjoys a bustling location with Hakone Gōra Park, Hakone Art Museum, several hotels, ryokans, restaurants and gift shops. The area was initially covered with rocks “goro goro” on all sides. Goro goro is a word that refers to how rocks or objects lye about in random fashion, hence the name Gōra was given.

Around the Meiji era, businessmen from Tokyo began purchasing land for development. By the end of the Meiji era, hot spring sources from Sōunzan and Ōwaku-dani were drawn to the new ryokans and the surrounding roads were improved. The beginnings of a hot spring resort were formed about this time.

The construction of its railway and land subdivision was a key factor in Gōra’s development. At the end of Meiji era around 1912, Odawara Electric Railway Co., Ltd.(the current Hakone Tozan Railway) started selling land-lots for villa development, and in 1919 the railway line was opened. With Hakone Gōra Park in the center, Gōra was developed as a town that attracted many successful business people to build villas. Soon it became renowned as a high-class residential area. Since then, cable cars were developed, and over the years Gōra has developed as a location that welcomes tourists from far and wide.



Highlights
Hakone Gōra Park



This contemporary garden was renovated over a period of four years. It is primarily in the French style with a large fountain and of symmetrical design. It is also known as the Rock garden of the East. It is registered as a Special Place of Scenic Beauty by the Japanese government's Agency for Cultural Affairs.

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HAKONE HERITAGE MAP

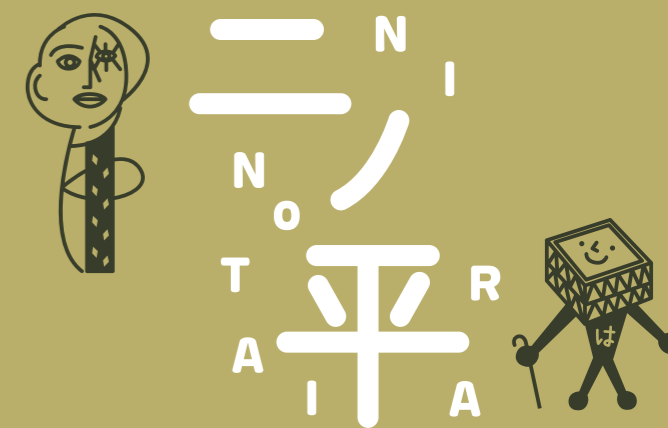


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Ninotaira is a calm quiet residential area with many summer houses and villas. The Hakone Open-Air Museum is situated in Ninotaira. There are authentic sites that indicate its long-standing history such as Kitabatake mound where earthenware from the Jōmon era was found. Nittazuka is another such location. This tumulus is said to be the burial site Nitta, a Nanboku-chō period’s samurai.

The name Ninotaira is mentioned in 1811 in “Nanayu no Edaori,” a publication introducing the hot springs of Hakone. Ninotaira is pictured as an area where local produce was grown and provided for the hot spring resorts.

Ninotaira remained a small village of 13-14 houses until the Pacific War. After the war, a hot spring source was developed and the district attracted Ryokan, dormitories and recreational facilities / the convalescent hospital over a period of time becoming a tourist resort. In 1969, the Hakone Open-Air Museum opened, drawing an even larger number of visitors. Ninotaira is now a major destination for Hakone visitors.



Highlights
Hakone Open-Air Museum



Hakone Open-Air Museum opened in 1969. As the first open-air museum in Japan, the method of exhibiting large scale outdoor sculptures gained much public attention.

8 Hakone Branch Temple

named as Kami-Gōra Station, this is the terminal station of Hakone Tozan Cable Car Line. When the Hakone Ropeway opened in 1960 access to Ashinoko Lake was provided. It is the nearest station to Daiyuzan Hakone Branch Temple and is also links to the mountain trails of Ōwakudani and Kamiyama.



6 Hakone Museum of Art

Opened in 1952, this is a museum with the longest history in Hakone. The garden named "Shinsenkyo" features plants and trees of varying heights to beautiful effect. It is now registered as a Special Place of Scenic Beauty by the Japanese government's Agency for Cultural Affairs. "Shinzanso" villa is also registered as a National Tangible Cultural Property.

4 Hakuun-dō Tea Garden

A tea room located within the grounds of Hakone Gōra Park was built when the industrialist Masuda Takashi received a portion of the park's land. Later in 1922, the land was transferred to Hara Sankei, and in 1940 to Matsunaga Jian. This is a most elegant tea room, having passed through the hands of three modern masters of tea ceremony. In 2001 it was listed as a Registered Tangible Cultural Property.

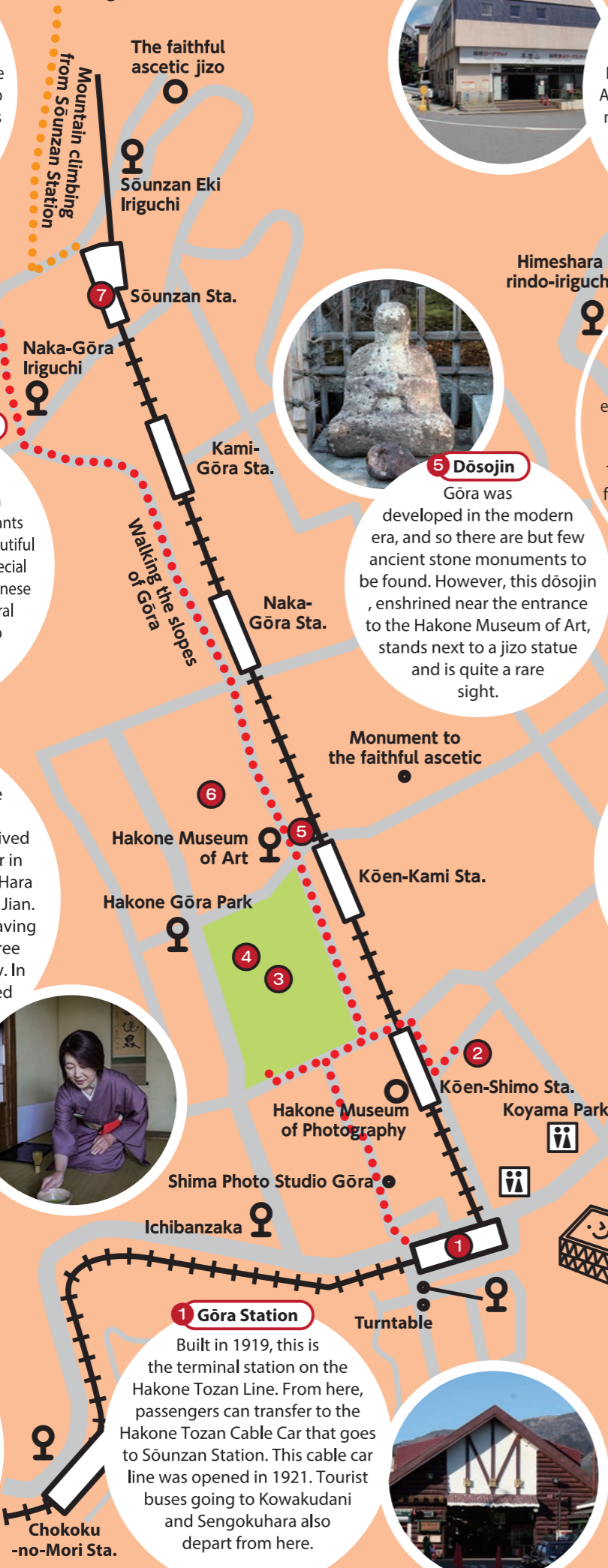


3 Hakone Gōra Park

Opened in 1914 by the Hakone Tozan Railway company to serve as a symbol of Gōra's development, this park was built in the early French garden style, and is now registered as a Special Place of Scenic Beauty by the Japanese government's Agency for Cultural Affairs.



To Ōwakudani / To Kanmurigadake



The faithful ascetic jizo

Sōunzan Eki Iriguchi

Sōunzan Sta.

Naka-Gōra Iriguchi

Kami-Gōra Sta.

Naka-Gōra Sta.

Kōen-Kami Sta.

Hakone Museum of Art

Hakone Gōra Park

Hakone Museum of Photography

Shima Photo Studio Gōra

Ichibanzaka

Turntable

Gōra Station

Chokoku-no-Mori Sta.

Walking the slopes of Gōra

Mountain climbing from Sōunzan Station



5 Dōsojin

Gōra was developed in the modern era, and so there are but few ancient stone monuments to be found. However, this dōsojin, enshrined near the entrance to the Hakone Museum of Art, stands next to a jizo statue and is quite a rare sight.

7 Sōunzan Station

Formerly named as Kami-Gōra Station, this is the terminal station of Hakone Tozan Cable Car Line. When the Hakone Ropeway opened in 1960 access to Ashinoko Lake was provided. It is the nearest station to Daiyuzan Hakone Branch Temple and is also links to the mountain trails of Ōwakudani and Kamiyama.



The faithful ascetic

A mountain ascetic who was active around the Tokugawa era to Meiji period declared that he "would become the protector of Hakone," and entered Mt. Kanmuritake in order to attain nirvana, to die as a monk and gain enlightenment. The various jizo statues and monuments found throughout Gōra were built for the benefit of people who could not make a pilgrimage to Mt. Kanmuritake.

Hakone Meissen Antique Museum

2 Taiyō Sanso

Taiyō Sanso is a Registered Tangible Cultural Property. The main hall was built in 1940 as a convalescent home, while the annex was built during the Taishō era to serve as a villa. Today, these prominent buildings display the character of pre-war Gōra.



3 Dōsojin

This dōsojin (traveller's guardian deity) features two figures carved in relief, thus forming a "duo-standing figure" dated January 1921. The adjacent pedestal also had a dōsojin enshrined at one time.

4 Kōshin-tō

The kōshin-tō are monuments or pillars erected by the followers of a folk faith called Kōshin, propagated from China. This kōshin-tō was built in 1816 in the later Edo period.

5 Yamanokami and Japanese evergreen oak forest

As the guardian deity of Ninotaira village, prayers are offered on 5th of May, together with those of Nitta Shrine. Extending above the Yamanokami, is the Japanese evergreen oak forest. These oak trees exist at the highest altitudes out of all Japanese oak species.

6 Rural water system monument

Ninotaira had long been plagued by water shortages. In 1931, a new water source was tapped, and the "Ninotaira Water System Union" was formed to supply water to the village. This monument was erected in 1991 to commemorate the transference of the water system to town management.

2 Hakone Junior High School

Hakone's only public junior high school. It was first opened as "Meisei Junior High School" in 1950. The schoolhouse was built the following year.

1 Chokoku-no-Mori Station

Your visit to Ninotaira starts here. This used to be called "Ninotaira Station," but in 1973 it was changed to "Chokoku-no-Mori Station."



8 Kiga no Taki Fudō

This Buddhist deity was transferred from the Naritasan Temple, and the waterfall which is located behind is known as the Fudo no Taki (Acala or Wisdom King deity waterfall). A statue of Fudō Myō-O was already there at the Meiji period. Please watch your step while visiting to worship.



Taki Fudō

Convalescent hospital

Kiga Onsen Iriguchi

138

1

Uesokokura

Nitta Shrine

Ninotaira

Chokoku-no-Mori

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

Social Education Center

Ninotaira-iriguchi

1

7 Nittazuka

1

1

1

1

1



Bus Stop
Rest Room

