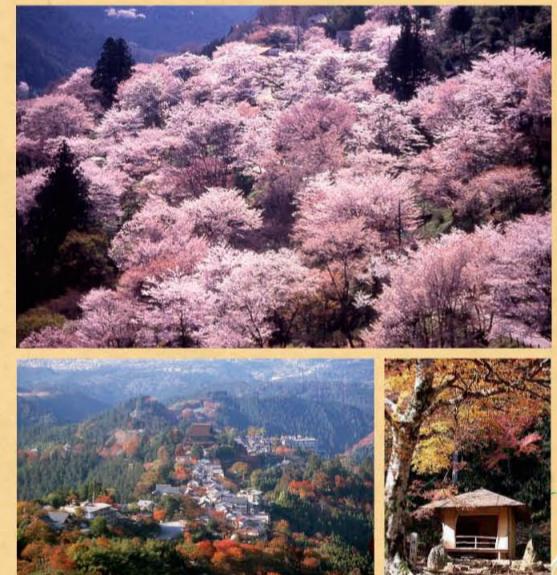


#### Pick Up Infomation

# Take in 4 distinct seasons while crossing the mountain pass!

(From Asuka to Southern Court "Yoshino")

四季を感じる峠越えを楽しむ! 飛鳥～南朝吉野



## Cherry Blossoms in Mt.Yoshino : A World Heritage Site

世界遺産 吉野山の桜

Mt.Yoshino, an 8km long ridge on the northern edge of the Omine mountain ranges, is famous for its cherry blossoms. The ridges and valleys are filled with 30,000 cherry trees, which look best from to late April. The origin of these cherry trees is said to have been when En-no-Gyoja founded the Kinpusenji Temple and made a Buddhist sculpture, Zao Gongen, at the temple's point of worship. The temple also received donations for the cherry trees, which were considered sacred.

The sight of the cherry trees at Shimosenbon (around Yoshino Station) to Nakasenbon (around Nyoirinji Temple), Kamisenbon (around Yoshino Mikumari Shrine) and Okusenbon (Saigojan area), blooming at different periods is a must see for everyone.

If you travel further from Asuka to Mt.Yoshino, you can enjoy scenery in every season such as cherry blossoms, Ajisai (Japanese hydrangea), autumn leaves, snow, and so on. Furthermore, as a religious area, Shugenja (ascetics) are also known to gather here. This area also used to be the southern capital during the period of the northern and southern dynasties.



## "Sangaku Granfondo" in Yoshino

"Sangaku Granfondo" is one of the few mountain races out of the many nationwide races that Nara Cycling Association hosts. The difficulty of the course attracts many cyclists to this race.

- short course (about 90km) ○ long course (about 140km)
- super long course (about 200km) [The 7th event's data]

For more details, <http://www.nara-cycling.org/granfondo>

