

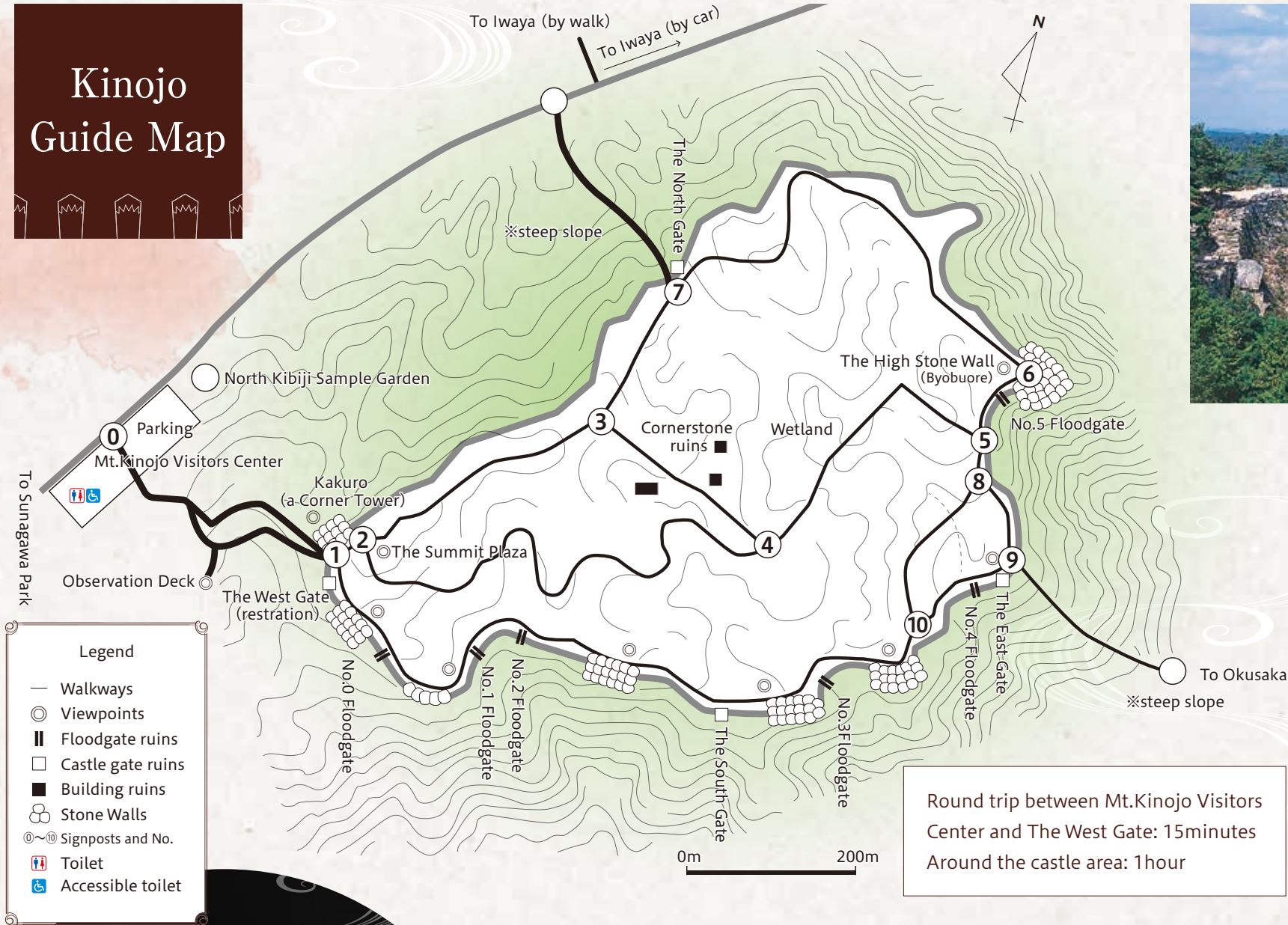
Legend of Ura

During the 11th Emperor Suinin era, a prince named “Ura” arrived to Kibi province from a foreign nation. His hair was messy and his beard was shaggy. His personality was extremely violent. Ura built a castle called “Kinojo (Castle of the Ogre)” in Niiyama Bitchū, and was feared by the people as he plundered tributes and women. Isaserihiko-no-Mikoto (Kibitsuuhiko-no-Mikoto) was sent to defeat Ura from the Yamato Imperial Court. Mikoto led a large army, built a stone shield to the west of Kibi no Nakayama, encamped and attacked by shooting arrows. To counterattack, Ura threw stones from Kinojo castle which was on a mountain. The arrow and the stones collided in the air many times, resulting in a stalemate. Mikoto then used his divine powers to shoot two arrows at once, and one of the arrow hits Ura in his left eye. It is said that blood that gushed from Ura's eyes flowed into the Chisuigawa river (Bloodsucking river), coloring downstream red all the way to Akahama. Wounded Ura turns into a pheasant and hides among the mountains, but Mikoto turns into a hawk and chases him. In response, Ura transforms into a carp and escapes into the Chisuigawa river (Bloodsucking river), but before it can escape, Mikoto turns into a cormorant and bites Ura the carp. After being defeated by Kibitsuuhiko-no-Mikoto, Ura's head was buried deep in the soil of the Okamaden (cauldron pavilion) of Kibitsu Shrine, but it continued to grumble for 13 years. One night, Ura appeared in Mikoto's dream and said, “Let my wife Azohime cook a sacred meal. To atone for my past wrongdoings, I will make the cauldron roar and tell the good and evil of the world.” This is said to be the start of “Narukama Shinji (shintō ritual)” ritual at Kibitsu Shrine.



Kakuro (a Corner Tower)

Kinojo Guide Map



The High Stone Wall (Byobuore)



The floodgate in the valley



Cornerstone ruins in castle area



A little  
detour

Vicinity of Iwaya

| MAP >>> Small-scale Map |

Oni-no-Sashiage Iwa (Rock lifted by the ogre)

Stone walls and steps of Iwaya-ji temple still remains in the village of the mountain which is located about 3km from Kinojo castle. It is assumed that they were monks' quarters in ancient times. The large exposed granite cave behind it said to be the home of Ura. This huge rock has a handprint-like indentation, also known as Oni no Sashiage Iwa (rock lifted by the ogre) . Rocks associated with ogres and parts of the Kannon (Goddess of Mercy) tour course from the Edo period remain in this area

Prefecturally registered tangible cultural properties.

Oh-no-Haka (Emperor's grave)

Total height of the seamless pagoda is 1.19 meters. It is said to be the tomb of the son of Emperor Monmu, Zentsu Daishi also known as the founder of Iwayaji temple. There is also a legend that the torso of Ura was buried there.

