

Guide to the sightseeing spots in Magome

是より北木曾路 The Monument "Beyond here in the north Kisoji."

This monument is the boundary of the Kiso-ji (Kiso path) and the Mino-ji (Mino path). It is on Toson Shimazaki's writing brush, and was set up at the request of local people in November 1956.

芭蕉の句碑 Stone Tablet of Basho, A Master of Haiku Poem

The haiku poet Basho made a trip of the Kisoji at the age of 49 in 1688. The stone inscribed with a verse by Basho was set up by the local haiku poets who regarded him with love and respect. The inscription on it reads: (Okuraretsu, Okuritsu hate-wa, Kisono aki). After being seen off by travellers leaving Kiso, And villagers seeing them off, It is autumn here in Kiso.

一里塚 Ichirizuka (A milestone)

Tokugawa shogunate government made severe rules for the highway. Ichirizuka was one of such regulations. Ichiri equals to 3.9 kilometers. There was a stone marker every 3.9 kilometers to mark travellers' progress. Also it was of great use to business

management for the freight and baggage delivery, calculation of the transportation load. There are a few still existing with original shape of those days. It is a precious historic spot.

十曲峠 The Jukkyoku Pass

The stone pavement of old age remains as it was before approaching Magome-juku from Ochiai-juku in the dense forest. It is said that the surface of the path was paved with stone to prevent it from being washed away by the rain because of the steep slope. It was located at the end of the slope and the border of the Kiso-ji and Mino-ji.

馬籠宿 Magome-juku

Magome was one of the eleven Kiso post stations near the boundary of Mino Province. The homes of the residents were built on low stone walls along either side of the slope. In the center the "Honjin" (officially appointed inn in the Edo Period) the "Waki Honjin" (subsidiary inn of honjin) and the "Tonya" (official providers of porters and horses for the freight and baggage) were to provide lodging for important travellers. Also inns and restaurants were clustered.

藤村記念館 The Toson Shimazaki's Memorial Museum

Toson Shimazaki, a poet and novelist, was born in 1872 in Magome-Juku.

Shimazaki's family served for generations as headman, the "Honjin" and "Ton-ya." The museum is located at the old "Honjin" (the place of his parents' house) and consisted of the memorial hall, memorial library (the permanent exhibition room) the second library (the planning and exhibition room) and the grandparents' retreat where he stayed in his young age.

馬籠脇本陣資料館

Magome Waki Honjin (subsidiary official inn) Historical Material's Museum

The old documents of the post stations left at this house and many tools which provided lodging for important official travellers are exhibited. You know through them how prosperous the post stations, the culture and people's daily life were in those days

清水屋資料館 Simizuya Historical Morgue

Shimizuya's family served for generations as village headman and other important posts and were on friendly terms with Toson Shimazaki, and were described as "Mr. Mor" in "Arashi" (Storm), one of Toson Shimazaki's most important novels. Toson Shimazaki's letters and records that tell you about the culture and the life of people in Magome are exhibited.

永昌寺 Eishoji Temple

Eishoji Temple is said to have been constructed in 1558, and was rebuilt several times after that, and keeps its present shape. It appears as "Mampukuji Temple" in "Yoakemae" (Before the Dawn), one of the most important works by Toson Shimazaki. This temple is Toson Shimazaki's ancestral temple that retains his family grave.

馬籠峠 Magome Mountain Pass

There has been no fire in this village since "Horeki's Big Fire" in 1762. Old houses remain standing along each side of the street. In old days, this quarter bustled with the keepers of the cattle and the porters.

枡形・常夜灯 Masugata・The Lamp kept Burning All Night

In the Edo Period, each post station had the space called "Masugata" at the entrance to the village against the enemy. Masugata in Magome was made on the steep slopes which were not found at any other post station. It looks like a castle.

