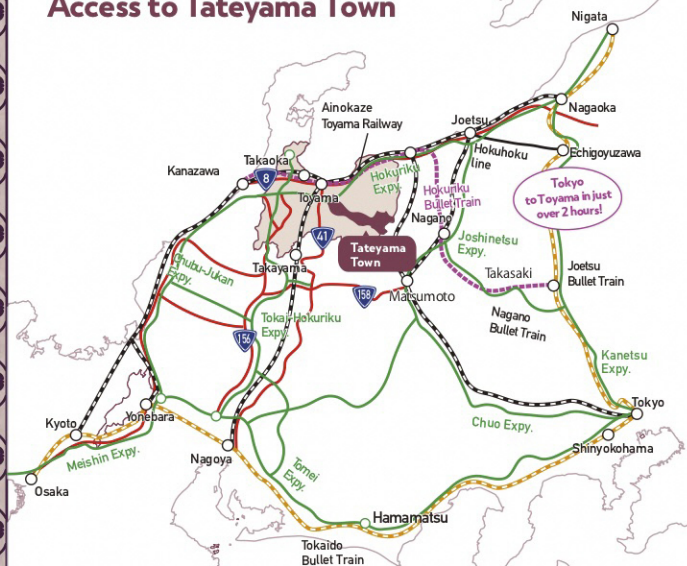


Access to Tateyama Town



By Train & Bullet Train

Toyama Local Dentetsu Railway

JR Toyama Station

3 min. Walk

Dentetsu Toyama Station

25 min. Tateyama Line
Fujikoshi Kamidaki Line
32 min. Gohyakkoku Station
12 min. Town Hall
3 min.

Iwakuraji Station

25 min. Tateyama Station

Travel Between Stations
Tokyo to Gohyakkoku: ~3 hrs
Nagoya to Gohyakkoku: ~4 hrs
Osaka to Gohyakkoku: ~4 hrs

By Plane

Tokyo Haneda Airport to Toyama
Airport: approx. 1hr

By Car

Town Hall	
	3 km
Iwakuraji Station	
	12 km
Tateyama Station	

From Tokyo: ~5 1/2 hrs
From Nagoya: ~4 hrs
From Osaka: ~5 hrs

Tateyama Town Tourism Bureau

076-462-1001
tateyamakk@hyper.ocn.ne.jp

Tateyama Town Sightseeing Division

076-462-9971
syoukoukankou@town.tateyama.toyama.jp

Tateyama Town Hall 2440 Maezawa, Tateyama Town
Nakaniiikawa-gun, Toyama Prefecture 930-0292

Tateyama Town Tourism Bureau <http://kanko.town.tateyama.toyama.jp/>



facebook
<http://www.facebook.com/TateyamaBrand>



Instagram
tateyama_love

Guidebook to TATEYAMA TOWN

An Introduction to Historical & Spiritual Landmarks on Mt. Tateyama

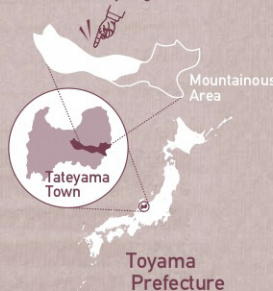
Check out Edo Period paintings of legends on Mt. Tateyama!

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10 Recommended Sightseeing Spots Important to Tateyama Shinko

Tateyama Town Valley Region



Tateyama Town

Tateyama Town is a mountain town shaped as much by beautiful landscapes as it was by Tateyama Shinko, an ancient mountain pilgrim dedicated to celebrating the holy Mt. Tateyama. This guidebook introduces essential locations in the historical Ashikura-ji Area.

Toyama Prefecture

WHAT IS TATEYAMA SHINKO ?

Mt. Tateyama is one of the three holy mountains of Japan and has over 1,300 years of pilgrimage history.

Tateyama Shinko was a religion devoted to the sacred Mt. Tateyama and its gods. Those who climbed to the shrine at Oyama Peak were said to be forgiven of their sins and granted an eternal afterlife in Buddhist Paradise after death.

The Ashikura-ji Area, which lies nestled in the foothills, and the scenic sightseeing spots on Mt. Tateyama remain central to this long-ago mountain religion even today.



Hell on Tateyama

地獄谷

Many years ago, followers of Tateyama Shinko believed that the diverse and hellish landscape of the mountain embodied Buddhist hell, while Paradise resided past the clouds at its scenic peaks. The agonizing climb up Mt. Tateyama was a spiritual journey as much as it was a physical one.



The Pilgrimage

巡礼

The grueling trek past unharvestable rice fields where nothing grows, blood-red ponds and the steaming, foul-smelling Hell's Valley was no small feat. But reaching Oyama Peak where gods were believed to reside meant shedding one's former life and attaining rebirth in Paradise.



Purification Ceremony

布橋

Historically, women were prohibited from climbing Mt. Tateyama. Instead, the Nunobashi Kanjoe Purification Ceremony was held in the Ashikura-ji Area to bring women salvation and rebirth in Paradise after death. The ceremony continues to be held once every three years.

1 Ashikura Oyama Shrine

芦峯寺雄山神社



Tateyama Shinko is said to start with Ariyori Saeki, a man who ventured into the mountain and met Amida Buddha. The Buddha stated Mt. Tateyama was a sacred mountain that embodied Buddhist heaven and hell, and directed Ariyori to spread Tateyama Shinko and bring salvation to all. This shrine is one of three Oyama Shrines dedicated to Tateyama Shinko.

*Spiritual center of
Tateyama Shinko*



2 Tateyama Museum

立山博物館



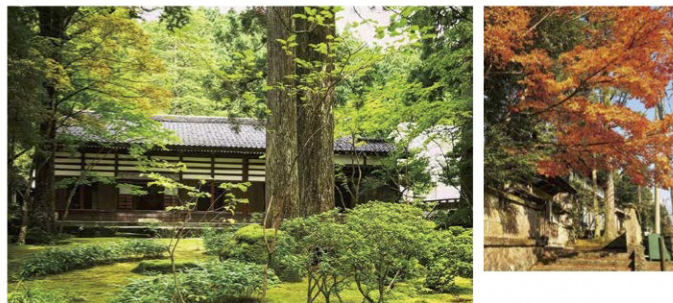
*Come and learn
about the
Other World!*



Dedicated to Tateyama history, culture, and Tateyama Shinko, the Tateyama Museum provides detailed information about the area in several languages. Displayed here are several Tateyama Mandalas, ancient religious scrolls depicting images such as the alleged Other World on Mt. Tateyama, the legend of Ariyori Saeki, and the Nunobashi Kanjoe Purification Ceremony.

3 Kyosanbo, Former Monks' Lodging

教算坊



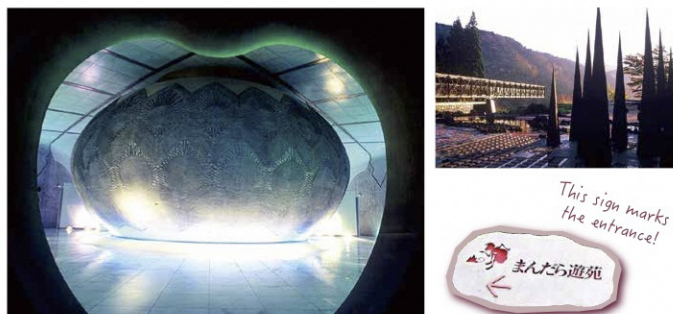
The Ashikura-ji Area was inhabited by 33 monks' lodgings hundreds of years ago, and Kyosanbo is one of two such buildings that remain today. Once a place for lectures and prayers led by monks, today the building hosts seasonal events and the traditional garden remains open to the public.

*One of
Toyama's most
scenic gardens!*



4 Mandala Yuen Open-Air Museum

まんだら遊苑



*This sign marks
the entrance!*



This outdoor extension of the Tateyama Museum is full of interactive exhibits that allow visitors to experience Buddhist concepts related to Tateyama Shinko and the Tateyama Mandalas. The outdoor museum manipulates the five senses with lighting, art, and sounds, and makes the legends of hell and heaven on Mt. Tateyama come to life.

5 Shomyo Falls

称名滝



At 350 meters high, Shomyo Falls is the tallest waterfall in Japan. When Hannoki Falls flows in spring, together they become the tallest twin falls in Asia. Designated Special National Treasure, Shomyo was named after a Buddhist prayer that is said to be heard if one listens carefully to its crashing waters.

See it on the
Tateyama
Mandala!



6 Bijodaira Forest

美女平



Long ago, it was rumored that women who trespassed into the forests of Mt. Tateyama would transform into trees, trapping them on the mountain. Hence, this area is named, "Forest of Beautiful Women." Some of the trees here are estimated to be over a thousand years old and have trunk circumferences of around 20 meters (65 feet). These giant Tateyama cedars make this a famous spot for forest therapy.

7 Midagahara Highlands

弥陀ヶ原



Stroll through
wide, open plains
under a blue sky



Midagahara Highlands offers green fields dappled with iridescent blue ponds, strolling paths, and a short course that allows explorers to witness a breathtaking view of the Tateyama Caldera. In July 2012, this area was registered with the Ramsar Convention as one of the world's most valuable wetlands. The landscape transforms into fiery colors in autumn.

8 Mikurigaike Pond

みくりが池



Known as "The Gods' Cooking Pot," the water in this crater pond was once used to make offerings of cooked meals for the gods that inhabit the mountain. The picturesque scenery of Mikurigaike Pond served to fuel stories of Tateyama Shinko and the existence of heaven on Mt. Tateyama.

Isn't it lovely?



ASHIKURA-JI STROLLING MAP

Mt. Tateyama was once a popular destination as one of the three holy mountains for religious pilgrimages. Tateyama Shinko was centralized in the Ashikura-ji Area, for the area was believed to be the dividing line between the human world and the Other World. Both physical and spiritual reminders of this ancient belief remain scattered around the area.

1 Sanzu-no-Kawa, River of Three Crossings

The Buddhist equivalent of the Greek River Styx, this was believed to be the physical form of the river of souls that divided the material world from the Other World and guided fallen spirits to the afterlife.

2 Enmado, Hall of the Judge of Death

A hall dedicated to Enma, said to judge those who have died and send them to a fitting afterlife. This site contains several wooden carvings, including one carved with the likeness of Enma himself, as well as several of the revered deity, Uba.

3 Ubado Kidan, The Hall of the Guardian Crone

Ubado was a hall dedicated to a deity who takes the form of an old woman (Uba) and is said to protect women. Here, one could once find 69 statues of the elderly guardian, and this was where participants of the Nunobashi Kanjoe Purification Ceremony prayed for admittance into Buddhist Paradise.



Check out the best way to explore the Ashikura-ji Area on foot!



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9 Hell's Valley 地獄谷



Hellish landscape with heavenly surroundings



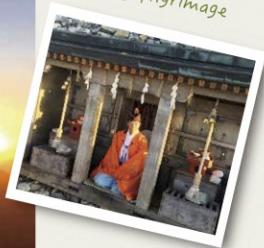
The strongest indicator of a physical manifestation of hell existing on Tateyama is the appropriately-named, "Hell's Valley." A source of great volcanic activity, steam continually erupts from the charred land, bringing with it the foul smell of sulfur. The volcanic activity, however, warms the nearby Mikurigaike Onsen, the highest-elevation hot spring in Japan.

Unfortunately, due to toxicity concerns related to volcanic gases, visitors cannot walk within this area. However, Hell's Valley can still be enjoyed from afar.

10 Sunrise on Oyama Peak Shrine 頂上雄山神社



Last stop of the holy pilgrimage



Find it on the Tateyama Mandala!



Atop the three peaks of Tateyama, Oyama Shrine stands silhouetted in the morning light of the rising sun. This image is the same that countless journeyers have witnessed at the end of their pilgrimage. It is one of promised salvation and of rebirth in Paradise.

The Best Way to Explore the Ashikura-ji Area

Dentetsu Toyama Station

By train: 50 min.
¥ 1,020 yen

Chigaki Station

By bus: 5 min.
¥ 200 yen

Oyama Shrine

Touring on foot



Oyama Shrine



Myonen Hill



Enmado Hall

In front of Enmado Hall

By bus: 5 min.
¥ 200 yen

Chigaki Station

By bus: 27 min.
¥ 410 yen

Tateyama Station

Shuttle bus



Shuttle from Chigaki Station to the Ashikura-ji Area and back! Check the schedule ahead of time to plan your trip!

Find the bus schedule here



Tateyama Museum Main Building

300 yen



Kyosanbo, Former Monks' Lodging



Enmado Hall



Nunobashi Bridge

400 yen

Mandala Yuen Open-Air Museum



From Tateyama Station, continue on to the Tateyama Kurobe Alpine Route!

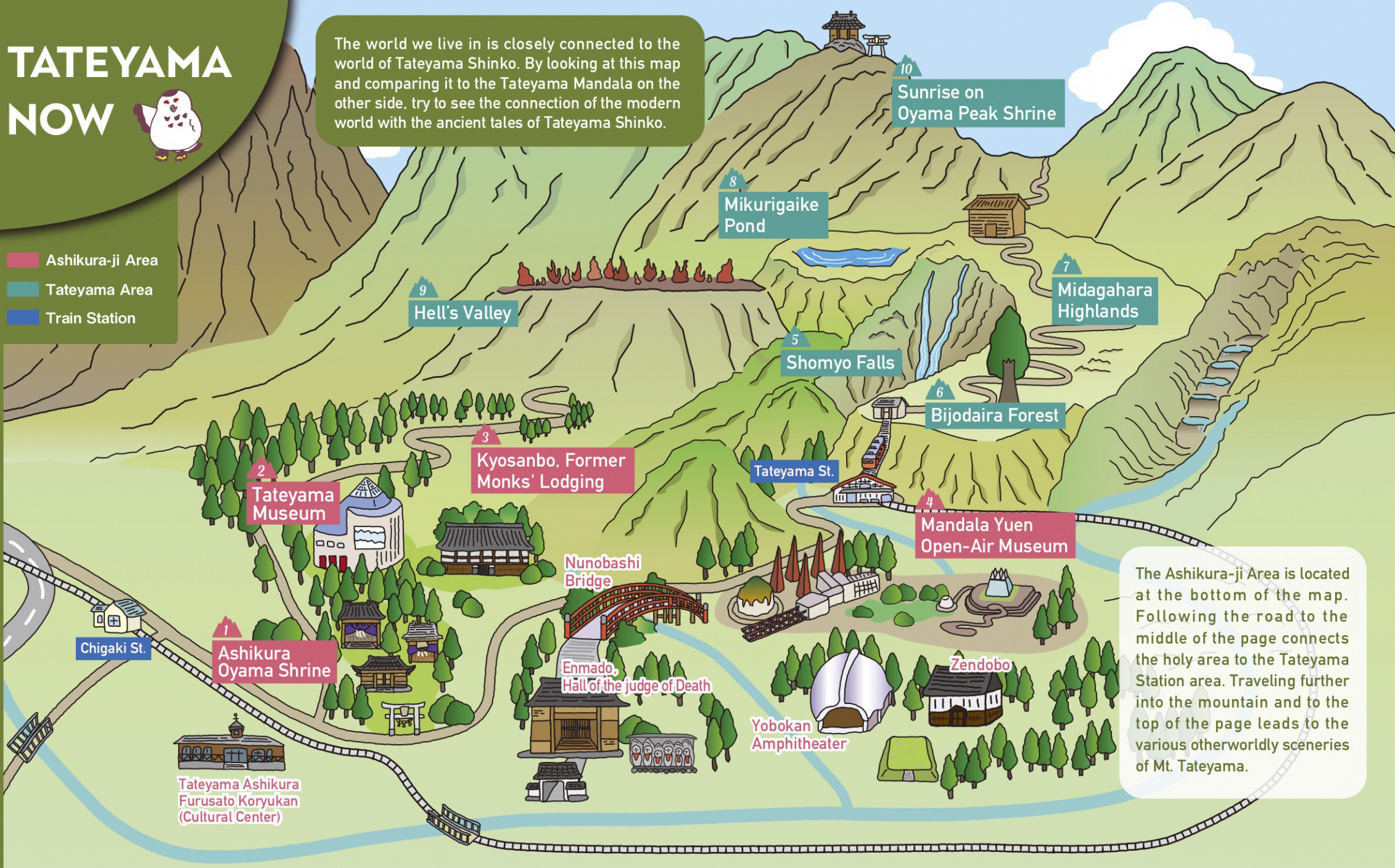


TATEYAMA NOW



The world we live in is closely connected to the world of Tateyama Shinko. By looking at this map and comparing it to the Tateyama Mandala on the other side, try to see the connection of the modern world with the ancient tales of Tateyama Shinko.

- Ashikura-ji Area
- Tateyama Area
- Train Station



Tateyama Ashikura
Furusato Koryukan
(Cultural Center)

1
Ashikura
Oyama Shrine

2
Tateyama
Museum

3
Kyosanbo, Former
Monks' Lodging

Nunobashi
Bridge

Enmado,
Hall of the judge of Death

Yobokan
Amphitheater

Zendobo

4
Mandala Yuen
Open-Air Museum

Tateyama St.

5
Shomyo Falls

6
Bijodaira Forest

9
Hell's Valley

8
Mikurigaike
Pond

7
Midagahara
Highlands

10
Sunrise on
Oyama Peak Shrine

The Ashikura-ji Area is located at the bottom of the map. Following the road to the middle of the page connects the holy area to the Tateyama Station area. Traveling further into the mountain and to the top of the page leads to the various otherworldly sceneries of Mt. Tateyama.

TATEYAMA THEN

The Tateyama Mandalas are a series of Buddhist scrolls from hundreds of years ago that show the actual geographical placement of sceneries on Mt. Tateyama and their relation to Tateyama Shinko legends. These images depict the hell and heaven believed to exist on the mountain and were used by monks to lecture about Tateyama Shinko.

Tateyama Cedar Trees

Women who were forbidden from climbing Mt. Tateyama were said to turn into trees if they were to trespass.



Nunobashi Kanjoe Purification Ceremony

Women were allowed entry into Mt. Tateyama once a year, accompanied by monks, for a religious ceremony that granted them salvation.



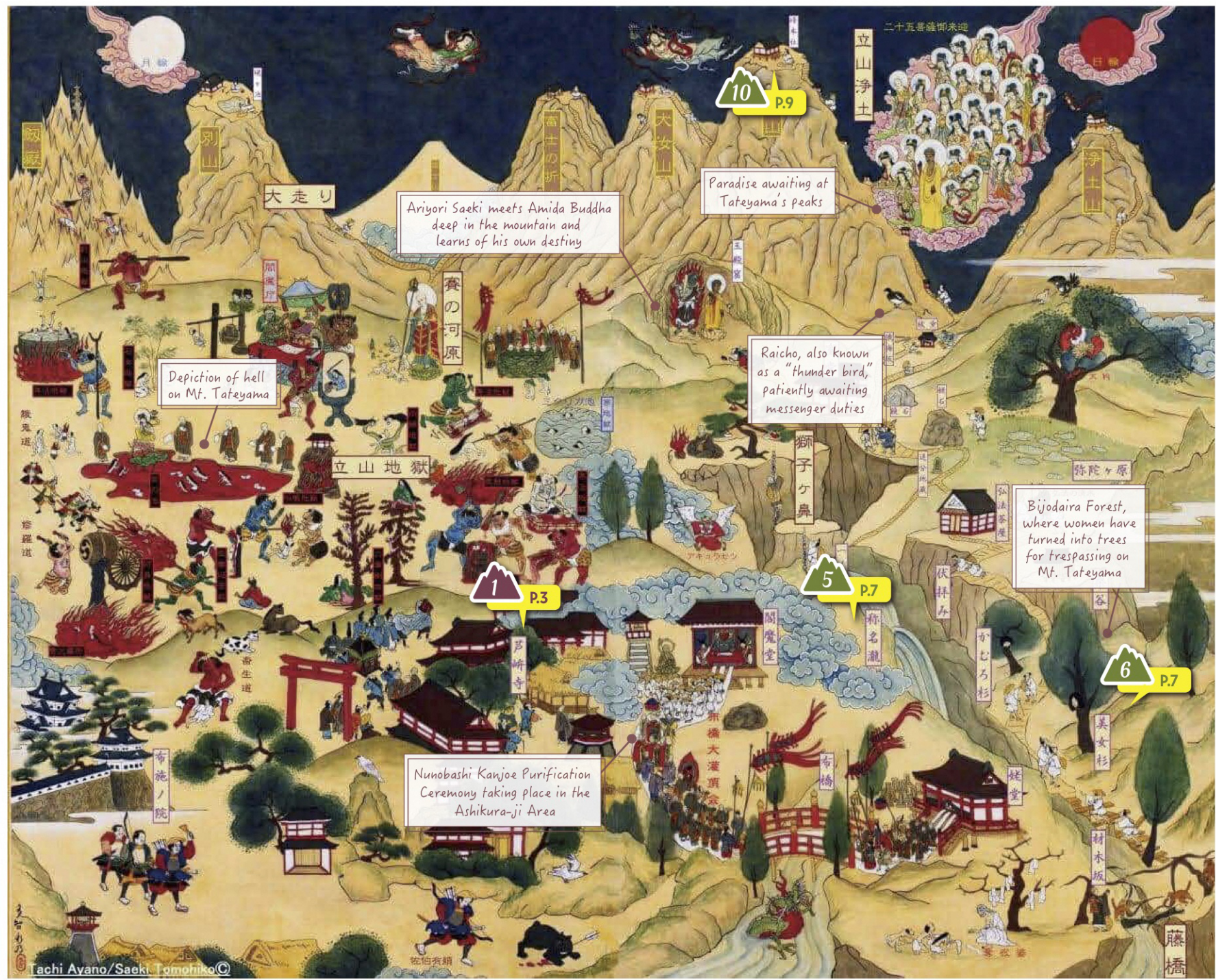
Ariyori Saeki

This man was said to have dedicated his life as a monk for holy Mt. Tateyama by establishing shrines and clearing the path to the top of the mountain.



Raicho (Ptarmigan)

These endangered birds are said to be the messengers of gods due to their activity during storms. There are fewer than 300 ptarmigan left on Mt. Tateyama.



Ariyori Saeki meets Amida Buddha deep in the mountain and learns of his own destiny

Paradise awaiting at Tateyama's peaks

Depiction of hell on Mt. Tateyama

Raicho, also known as a "thunder bird," patiently awaiting messenger duties

Bijodaira Forest, where women have turned into trees for trespassing on Mt. Tateyama

Nunobashi Kanjoe Purification Ceremony taking place in the Ashikura-ji Area