

Photo:Fumio Hashimoto

This route will immerse you in the history of the wall that helped defend Japan from the Mongolian armies 750 years ago.

A

JR Shimoyamato Station

B

Iki Shrine



According to *Nihon Shoki*, this shrine honors the loyal spirit of Iki no Atai Maneko, who died in place of Takenouchi no Sukune after being falsely accused. The name of the area “Iki no Matsubara” is said to have originated from when Empress Jingū planted a pine branch upside down to predict victory in battle, and the branch miraculously grew and flourished.

C

Iki-no-Matsubara Seaside Forest Park



Extending alongside a 3-kilometer stretch of the Karatsu Kaido highway is this forest of black pine. The quiet groves of trees that enclose the path leading to Iki Shrine contribute a solemn atmosphere to the park.

D

Torii Gate of Iki Shrine



This torii gate marks the entrance to Iki Shrine. The Bay of Hakata viewed through the torii gate makes it the perfect photo spot.

E

Iki-no-Matsubara Genkoborui Bulwark Ruins



These are the ruins of the bulwark built in 1276 to prepare against the Mongolian invasion. Stretching from Nagatare Coast to Odo Coast for about 2.5 kilometers, it was discovered in an archeological dig that the bulwark was built by piling up 1.5 meter by 1.8 meter stones before reinforcing the resulting wall with clay. The famous scene from the visual record of the Mongolian invasion (Moko Shurai Ekotoba) depicts Takesaki Suenaga riding a horse here, a warrior who served as a vassal of Shogun at the time.

Highlights Along the Route

