

“Mining Town” Walking Course in Akenobe

The mining town of Akenobe is a designated Japanese heritage site and this course will have you feeling the remnants of a flourishing mining town through its townscape. At its peak when the town was thriving it was home to nearly 4,000 people, now the population has dropped below 100 and feels rather lonely compared to those days. However, the townscape and impressive mining remains of Akenobe create an exciting and nostalgic view for visitors.

- 1 The entrance to Akenobe is the “Akenobo Rest House” in front of the Zentan Bus stop “Akenobe”. A popular facility with tourist info, “Cafe One Yen Train” and entrance for the one-yen train during regular operation days.
- 2 Go up the hill from the rest house you will see Ryoshouji Temple and the townscape where shops use to line the streets when the mines were still operational. The posters, signs and vacant shops create a backdrop of a time gone by when the town was its most prosperous.
- 3 From here continue along the river for about 1km you will come to the then headquarters that look over the incline rail tracks that were used when the mines were in operation. These tracks are a superb visible remembrance to the past.
- 4 Return down the road and on your way back there is the “Dai Ichi Yokujo (The First Bath House)” a designated modern industrial heritage building. Inside this modern building is a collection of various equipment and items on display from the town and its past.
- 5 Cross the Akenobe River and you will see a distinctive triangular building this is Akenobe Nature School. This use to be an elementary school that has closed and is now being reused as a lodging facility for groups. When the “one-yen train” is not operating this is where you come to sign up for a tour of the mine.
- 6 Go through the tunnel and as you walk along the bypass you should soon see Kobayashi Liqour Store. Akenobe’s most enduring business that sells liqour and other various Akenobe goods.
- 7 Continuing down the road you will see “Hokusei Shataku” company houses with distinctive blue roofs. Nostalgic company owned houses preserved in their original state.
- 8 Going past the Hokusei Shataku swing back the road towards “Akenobe” bus stop. On your way you’ll see the “one-yen train” Akenobe tracks. The train is operational only on certain days but you can still visit and board the train during opening hours.



- **Difficulty** : ★☆☆
- **Restroom** : Akenobe Rest House, Akenobe Nature School
- **Access** : By Train / Bus: From JR Yoka Station take a Zentan Bus on the Akenobe Line and get off at Akenobe Bus Stop.
By Car: Go to Akenobe Nature School or Akenobe Rest House.
- **Contact** : Akenobe Nature School TEL:079-669-0258

Approx. Distance

4 km