

Uwano Nature & Interaction Forest Course

The fresh green of spring, refreshing air of summer, autumn foliage, snowshoeing in winter; enjoy walking through the highland's nature all year round. This course has many attractions, such as the "Ki no Dendo (Museum for Wood Culture)" designed by architect Tadao Ando, and a giant Japanese Judas tree.

- 1 Starting at "Uwano Highland Educational Center" parking lot, turn left immediately and continue onto the prefectural road.
- 2 Walk straight for about 10 min., on the right you'll see a sign post for "兔和野の大カツラ(Uwano giant Japanese Judas tree)". Turn right here and enter the trail.
- 3 Walk up the trail, after about 15 minutes you will see a "Field Athletic". The circuit is about 500 meters and there are 20 different obstacle courses to entertain everyone from child to adult. The quiet forest with its songbirds makes this a great location.
- 4 Go back to the entrance to the "Field Athletic" and turn left, go uphill a little and you will come to a grassy open space. Here is "Mori no Kosakukan (forest work center)" where you can take a bathroom break.
- 5 From "Mori no Kosakukan", enter the trail along the charcoal kettle, and walk back around through the forest enjoying the fresh air, after about 20 minutes you will come across a concrete building "木の殿堂展望棟 (Museum for Wood Culture observation bldg.)". From here you can overlook Muraoka's iconic mountain "Sobugadake." From the observation building cross the concrete bridge and you will see the "Museum for Wood Culture" a 'pudding' shaped wooden structure. The museum is 46 m in diameter, 18 m in height, one of Japan's largest cedar-consolidated architecture museums designed and built by architect Tadao Ando with the theme of forest, sea, and sun. When you leave the museum and go down to the parking lot, you will see the "交流の森 (Koryu no Mori)" a grass covered field. Here, there are plants hand-planted by Japan's Emperor and Empress at the National Tree Planting Festival, and wooden swings hanging from large aspen trees. Take a break here in the refreshing surroundings.
- 6 After resting, enter the trail again and immediately go down to your right, after about 20 minutes you will come across "兔和野の大カツラ(giant Japanese Judas tree)". A giant tree over 600 years old, 32 m tall, root area about 12 m, cold (10°C fresh water streams from its roots, branch length east to west about 26 m and 28 m south to north. Along with the giant Japanese Judas tree of Wachino, it is a designated natural monument of Hyogo Prefecture.
- 7 From the tree, go down the trail along the waterway for about 5 minutes, it will return you to the "兔和野の大カツラ" sign post. From there follow the original route and you will reach the spot where you started and the end of the course.



- **Difficulty** : ★☆☆
- **Restroom** : Uwano Highland Educational Center, Mori no Kosakukan, Museum for Wood Culture
- **Access** : Train / Bus: JR Yoka Sta., Zentan Bus
Get off at Moriwakibashi bus stop.
Car: Uwano Highland Edu. Center Parking Lot
- **Contact** : Uwano Highland Educational Center
TEL: 0796-94-0211

Approx. Distance

5 km