

# Starry Night in Nikko

Nikko, a sacred place for making wishes

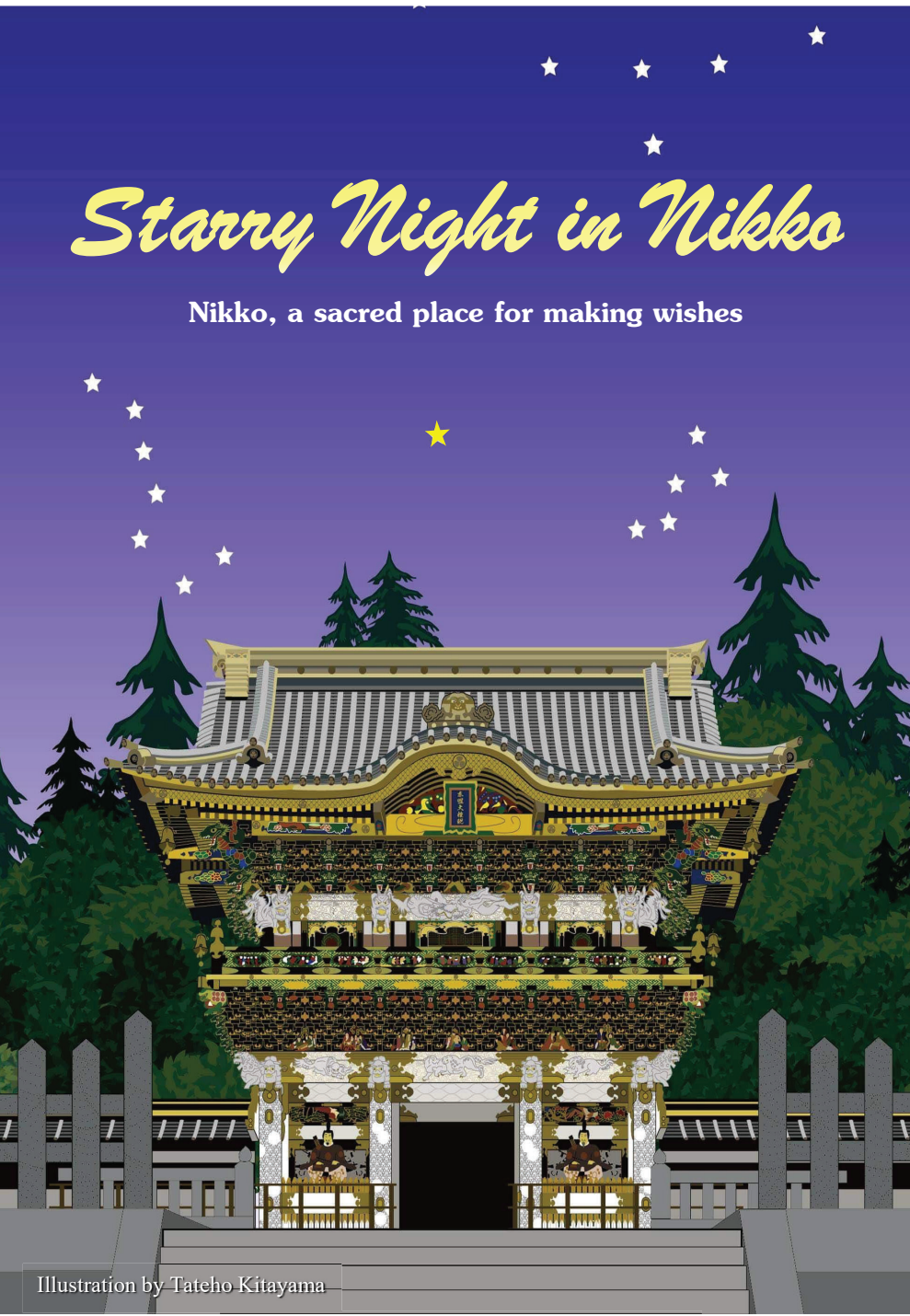


Illustration by Tateho Kitayama

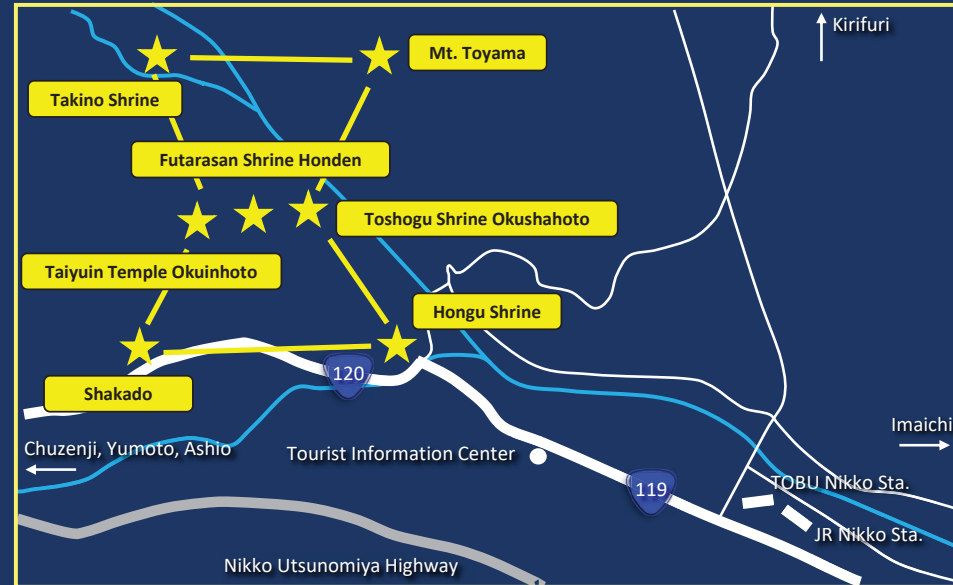
## Stars and Nikko

Stars and Nikko have a strong relationship. The story began when priest Shodo, the founder of Nikko, dreamed of a divine revelation from the god of stars when he was seven. The god in his dream told him to build a shrine in Nikko. Then as being told, he enshrined the god of stars nearby Shinkyo bridge. After that, many shrines that enshrines the god of stars have been built not only in Nikko but all over Tochigi prefecture.

Nikko is in the true north of Edo (Tokyo), and the polar star shines right upon the Yomei-mon gate. Ieyasu Tokugawa wished to be enshrined in Nikko because when people worship the Toshogu shrine, they face the north, which means people, at the same time, worship the polar star that was assumed to be the supreme god in the universe. He regarded himself as the polar star and wishes peace of the world.

## The Orion

The locations of shrines and temples in Nikko form the Orion. Although academically not proved, it is said that Iemitsu, the third Shogun of Tokugawa, wished for eternity of Tokugawa government upon the stars of the Orion. Nikko has been the ideal place for making wishes, as there exists the Orion on the ground and upon the sky. Let's make wishes under the night sky full of stars in Nikko.



Let's enjoy stars in Nikko!

### Starry Night in Nikko Official Web Site

Information on light up events,  
recommended sites to see the stars,  
and so on! Check it out!

<http://www.star.nikko.org>

Present nail cleaners to 100 tourists

### #星降る夜の日光

#### Instagram Posting Campaign

Step 1 Follow "星降る夜の日光" account

Step 2 Post your picture of Nikko in the night with #星降る夜の日光

We will send a direct message to the 100 prize winners.

\*Posted pictures can be processed, copied and/or used without your consent.



## Yumoto Area

### ★ Nikko-san Onsenji (Onsen Temple)

Yumoto Onsen began when the priest Shodo, founder of Nikko, enshrined "Yakushi Ruri Nyorai (Healing Buddha)". He must be completely exhausted when he came all the way through steep mountains to Yumoto Onsen. How much pleasure could it be for him when he found this land with dense onsen steam? We can imagine him taking onsen hearing the sound of trees swaying in the wind under the sky full of stars

### ★ Yumoto Skiing Resort / The Shore of Lake Yunoko

Yumoto is in the highest above in Nikko. It is covered with powder snow in winter whose quality is similar to that in Hokkaido. You can enjoy the collaboration between the stars and snow in this cold land.

### ★ Senjogahara Observation Deck (Sanbonmatsu Parking)

Stars above Senjogahara are praised as ones of the most beautiful stars in the east Japan. There is nothing but the nature. You can be under illusion as if you were in the Anime.



## Nikko Area

### ★ Onote Sando

The present world heritage area, consisting of Toshogu shrine, Rinnoji Temple and Futarasan shrine, had been watched against fires by "Hachioji Sennin Doshin" since 1652. Thanks to those who have cherished and protected the buildings, you can enjoy the same stars that Iemitsu, the third Shogun, and Tenkai, a great priest, saw.

### ★ Daiyagawa Riverside

Higher than 2,000m Nikko mountains are located up the stream of Daiya river. Daiya river starts from Kegon falls. Its water flows calmly through the city, after coming through the torrent of Kegon gorge. You can enjoy hearing the murmuring of the stream under the Milky Way.

### ★ Kotaro Slope

Kotaro Slope is on the way from Nikko to Okorogawa. You can see the night view of the town around JR Nikko station. The priest Shodo, founder of Nikko, went to Shinkyo bridge via this slope. What did he think about when he saw stars here?



# 天地に通じる 星空スポット

## Kirifuri Area

### ★ Kirifuri Highlands/ Kisuge Land

Kirifuri highlands is a minor but popular spot where you can enjoy a panoramic view of the night view and the starry sky. In the last days of the Tokugawa shogunate, the shogunate army led by Keisuke Otori and the new government army had a battle at Jomonji, Noguchi, Nikko. Otori army was defeated to run from Kirifuri to Aizu. On the way, they stayed at the bottom of Roppozawa gorge for a night. They would wish upon the stars shining in the small sky for their government to continue to exist



### 奥日光湯元温泉 雪まつり

期間 令和元年度「冬」  
会場 奥日光湯元温泉

詳しくは、奥日光湯元温泉旅館協同組合  
オフィシャルサイトをご覧ください。



### わたらせ渓谷鐵道 各駅イルミネーション

期間 令和元年12月1日～  
令和2年2月29日

時間 17:00～各駅最終列車通過まで  
会場 間藤駅・足尾駅・通洞駅・原向駅 他



### ライトアップ大猷院

期間 令和2年3月20日・21日  
22日・27日・28日・29日



## Chuzenji Area

### ★ Utagahama Parking NO.1

The myth of the gods of Mt. Nantai and Mt. Akagi (in Gumma prefecture) tells us the story of battles in Senjogahara. In the end of the battles, Onono Sarumaru, a grandchild of the god of Mt. Nantai and a master of archery, shot an arrow on the left eye of the god of Mt. Akagi and won the victory. Then he sang a song (Uta in Japanese) to celebrate his victory on the shore (Hama in Japanese) of the lake. The name Utagahama came from this story of the myth. After the battle, the sound of ripples on the lake must have healed his exhausted body. Furthermore, the moon and stars reflected on the surface of the lake must have been a magnificent reward for the victory.

### ★ Odaira Flat Land

Odaira flat land is located at the entrance of Iroha Slope No.1. Until the beginning of Meiji Era, women, cattle, and horses are forbidden to go on the slope. As times passed, how did the women who went up the slope for the first time feel to see the sky?

### ★ Nishi Rokuban Enchi (West 6 Land)

The vacation home of Thomas Glover who is famous for his residence in Nagasaki remains in the land. We can see its stove and stovepipe as they were at his time. Iemitsu Tokugawa, the third shogun, named lake Chuzenji "Sekiroko" which means the lake with snow and waves. You should not miss the incredible view of starry sky from this land when it is snowy.

### ★ Kurokamidaira Flat Land on Iroha Slope No.2

Kurokamidaira flat land is right over 17th curve on Iroha slope No.2. You can observe central Nikko and the Kanto plains. It is the site where local people stop to see the beautiful stars.

### ★ Akechidaira

Some people say that a great priest Tenkai named the flat land Akechidaira and he and Mitsuhide Akechi who killed Nobunaga Oda were the same person. According to them, Mitsuhide hoped to leave his name in history, and chose this land that has the greatest view in Nikko to be named by himself. Akechidaira is the best place to see not only the Kanto plains and stars but also the rising sun.



## Ashio Area

### ★ Sabo Dam

The source area of Watarase river was one of the places where the priest Shodo practiced asceticism. Its rich water wets the Kanto plains. Although Ashio had serious environmental pollution before, now trees are planted on the mountains. Your mind would be purified as you see the clear sky.

### ★ Ryuzoji Temple

It is said that Hideyoshi and Nobunaga sanctified the shrines and temples' area in Nikko and Ashio village. Your dreams would come true, by visiting Ryuzoji temple, a branch temple of Rinnoji temple, and getting holy power of Nikko mountains.

### ★ Furukawa Bridge

Furukawa bridge, one of the industrial remains of Ashio copper mine, is the oldest exist iron road bridge in Japan and is registered for the national important cultural properties. You would get the strong mind like iron, standing on the bridge and imagining the old times when Ashio prospered.

### ★ Mt. Yokone/ Shounzan Parking

Shounzan parking is located as high as lake Chuzenji, where you can enjoy a panoramic view of the Kanto plains. You can also see many airplanes flying across the starry sky. The Watarase heart-shaped anti-flood pond would win your heart.



### 中禅寺温泉 カマクラまつり

期間 令和2年2月8日・9日

会場 日光自然博物館前広場



## Okorogawa Area

### ★ Fureaino Sato Okorogawa

The priest Shodo, the founder of Nikko, built a small house here. He would climb Mt. Keimei, and make plans of founding Nikko, seeing Nikko mountains right in front of him. Why don't you think of him and 1,200 years history under the sky full of stars beyond Mt. Keimei?



### 華厳ノ滝ライトアップ

期間 令和元年11月16日～23日

時間 17:00～19:00 会場 県営無料観瀑台

### オープニングセレモニー

日程 令和元年11月16日

時間 16:20～17:00 会場 県営無料観瀑台



### ライトアップ日光

期間 令和元年11月8日～10日

時間 17:00～21:00

会場 世界遺産「日光の社寺」  
・日光東照宮  
・日光二荒山神社  
・日光山輪王寺



### 小来川ライトアップ2019

期間 令和元年11月1日・2日

時間 18:00～21:00

会場 ・ふれあいの郷 小来川 (メイン会場)  
・ウッズマンズビレッジ  
・円光寺  
・黒川神社

