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# Old Hokuriku Road

*Awara City's Hosorogi and More*

On the border between Echizen and Kaga domains, a weary traveler takes refuge in the shade of a tree serving as a mile marker. His accommodations in Kanazu are close...



Excavated mountain road (Hosorogi, Awara City)



Guidepost toward Echizen 「Right: Yoshizaki (Nenryo Rd), Left: Hosorogi, one ri (approx. 3.9km) (Tachibana Machi, Kaga City)」<sup>①</sup>

Along Awara City's Old Hokuriku Road, checkpoints, milestones, and other relics of the past remain. Along with Fukui domain's Hosorogi checkpoint built at the dawn of the Edo Period, mile markers following standard measurements and places of rest were established for travelers.

This mountain road, extending from Kaga domain to Hosorogi, became known as *Nokogiri Saka* (Saw Slope) for its steep, winding curves, and at one point branched off towards Yoshizaki Gobo. The moss-covered remains and bare rock faces provide a vivid recreation of the road's heyday.



Echizen-bound Old Hokuriku Road (Hosorogi, Awara City)<sup>②</sup>



Remains of the Hosorogi Checkpoint (city historical landmark)



Milestone Tree (pref. hist. landmark) (Kita Kanazu, Awara City)



Saka no Shita Posting Station Remains (city hist. landmark) (Hana no Mori, Awara City)<sup>③</sup>

Passing by the milestone tree at the border between Kaga and Echizen domains, a short journey south brings travelers to the remains of the Saka no Shita posting station, where travelers to Kanazu stayed during the Edo Period. An important point along the Hokuriku Road, it flourished as both a commercial town and lodging area, with general stores, ample lodging, and stables for 30 horses. An extensive collection of decorations for officials who stayed in the lodgings there are proudly displayed each year during the Kanazu Festival.



Decoration for the Kanazu Festival, made to honor visiting dignitaries (made w/lacquer and household goods)<sup>④</sup>

