

Kane no Torii

This copper torii gate is the first of four important torii gates that Shugendo practitioners must pass as they seek enlightenment on the challenging path to sacred Mt. Sanjogatake.

This first gate is the *hosshinomon*, or gate of spiritual awakening. Passing through the gates signals the beginning of training for Shugendo practitioners.

While torii gates are usually associated with shrines, the pillars stand on two lotus daises, showing that it belongs to a Buddhist temple.

According to legend, the original gate was made using leftover copper from the creation of the massive Great Buddha statue housed inside Todaiji Temple, in nearby Nara. The current gate is a reconstruction dating from the Muromachi period (1336–1573).