

20_1_English_車石

Kurumaishi Stones

As roads during the Edo period [1603-1867] were made of dirt, when it rained the ground would become muddy, leading to the wheels of passing carriages to become stuck and unable to proceed. In order to prevent this from happening, “Kurumaishi Stones” (vehicle stones) were laid out across certain roads, including sections of the old Tokkaido road, which was a popular route for transporting goods that connected Otsu to Kyoto via Yamashina. The Hino-oka Mountain Pass and Mt. Osaka were notoriously difficult sections of the Tokkaido road, and are examples of locations where Kurumaishi Stones can be found.