

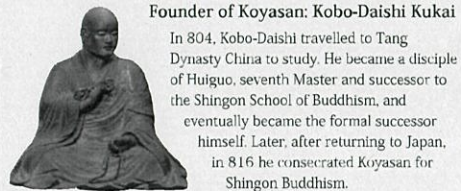
World Heritage

Sacred Sites of Koyasan

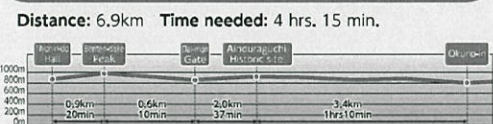
A sacred place where 1200 years of history breathe

Koyasan is a mountain basin at an elevation of roughly 900 meters, and surrounded by eight peaks, like a lotus flower with eight petals. Kobo-Daishi chose this area as an appropriate site for the Shingon School of Buddhism and established Koyasan.

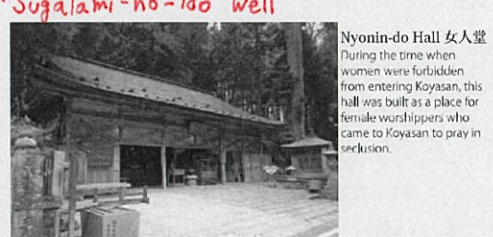
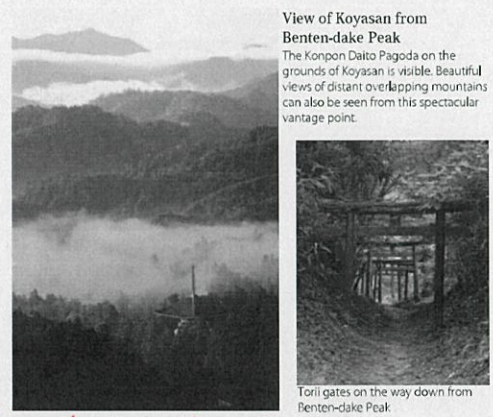
What is Shingon Buddhism?
Buddhism normally teaches that the more distracted one is, the more time and more severe practice is required to achieve enlightenment. However, Shingon Buddhism preaches that it is possible for a person to achieve Buddhahood just as they are.



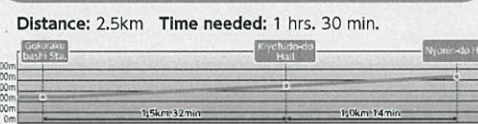
Nyonin-michi Pilgrimage Route 女人道



Trail Access (Nearest Station) Koyasan Sta. 6 min. Nyonin-do-mae Bus stop
Nyonin-michi pilgrimage route makes a circle along the boundary of Koyasan. Since women were forbidden from entering Koyasan until 1872, women who wanted to pay their respects to the Kobo-Daishi mausoleum established the route.



Fudo-zaka Slope 不動坂



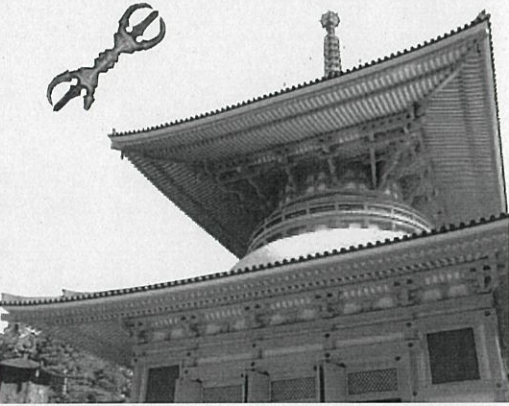
Trail Access (Nearest Station) Gokurakubashi Sta. A short walk
The trail from Gokuraku-bashi Station to Nyonin-do Hall is known as the Fudo-zaka Slope. This trail forms part of the path from Kyoto and Osaka to Koyasan. The section known as Iroha-zaka Slope was the most perilous part.



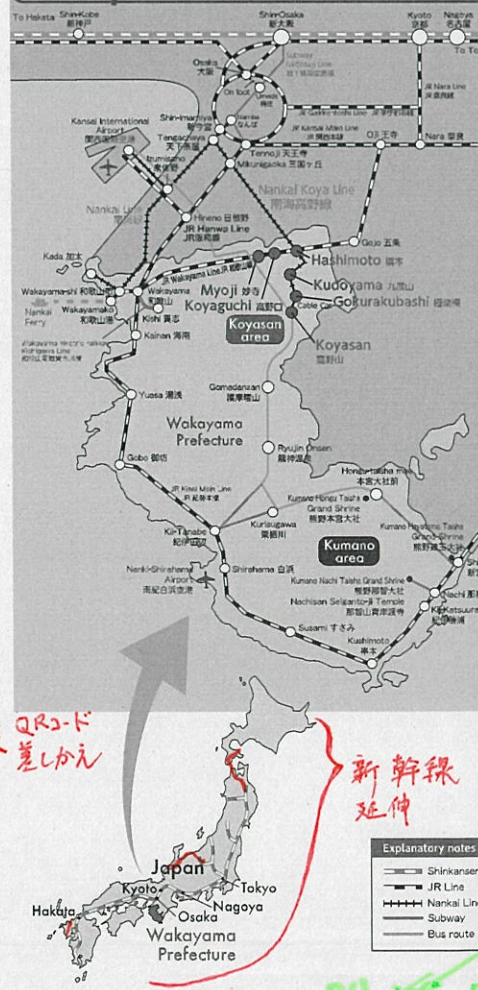
- ### Rules when walking pilgrimage routes
- Plan in advance. Carefully consider the weather, your level of physical fitness, and any equipment you may need, then choose a suitable path to walk. There are sections with no mobile phone coverage. Be careful of wild animals, such as bears, and deep snow in winter.
 - Take care of the pilgrimage routes as you walk. The pilgrimage routes are imprinted with many footprints offered in prayer. To avoid damaging the path, please attach rubber caps to the tips of your trekking poles.
 - Do not leave trash. Be sure to take all trash with you and keep the pilgrimage routes beautiful.
 - Do not take any animals or plants away with you. Do not harm or remove any of the plants or animals along the pilgrimage routes.
 - Be careful with fire. Never smoke while walking the path, and use lighters with extreme caution.

KOYASAN AREA GUIDE

Your companion to Koyasan and nearby areas.



Map of Kansai Area



Traffic Access

Getting to the Koyasan area

TRAIN ROUTE	Shinkansen	JR	Nankai
Kansai Airport Sta. 関西空港駅	Shinkansen 2hr. 40min	Osaka Sta. 大阪駅 JR 20min	Nankai Line Ltd. Exp. KOYA 35min
Tokyo Sta. 東京駅	Shinkansen 50min	Shin-Osaka Sta. 新大阪駅 JR 15min	Nankai Line Ltd. Exp. KOYA 40min
Nagoya Sta. 名古屋駅	Shinkansen 1hr. 15min	Namba Sta. 難波駅 JR 20min	Nankai Line Ltd. Exp. KOYA 45min
Kyoto Sta. 京都駅	JR 30min	Shin-miyama Sta. 新宮駅 JR 20min	Nankai Line Ltd. Exp. KOYA 43min
Hashimoto Sta. 橋本駅	JR Wakayama Line 6min	Koyaguchi Sta. 高野口駅 JR Wakayama Line 6min	Gokurakubashi Sta. 極楽橋駅 Cable Car 5min
Koyasan Sta. 高野山駅			Koyasan Sta. 高野山駅

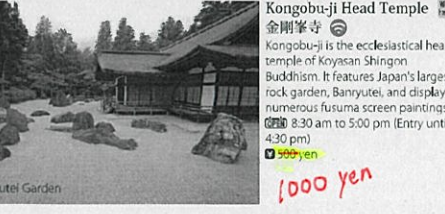
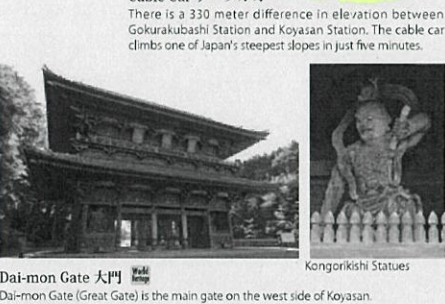
BUS ROUTE

Limousine bus	Limousine bus	Limousine bus
Kansai International Airport 関西国際空港	Limousine bus 105min	Koyasan (Okuno-in mae) 高野山(奥の院前)
Koyasan Station 高野山駅前	2hr. 40min. Transfer at Gomadzantan	Ryujin-Onsen 龍神温泉 2hr. 10min. Transfer at Kurisugawa
Hongu Taisha-Mae 本宮大社前		

Koyasan Round Trip Bus
Hashimoto Sta. 橋本駅
Niu-Tsu-hime-jinja Mae 丹生都比呂神社前
Koyasan (Okuno-in mae) 高野山(奥の院前)

Before taking the bus, please call or otherwise contact to confirm the bus is running normally. 事前にバスが運行しているかを確認してください。

Published by: The Hashimoto/Ito Area Tourism Association (Office: Ito Promotion Bureau, Wakayama Prefecture)



KOYASAN Travel Guide (Free App)

Check out the free Koyasan tourist and emergency information app for smartphones and tablets. Available in Japanese, English, French, and Chinese (Simplified).

App Store (iOS Version) | Google Play (Android Version)

Stay at Shukubo Temple Lodging

There are 52 shukubos (temple lodging) at Koyasan. Each one has its own charms, like beautiful courtyards, and fusuma screen paintings.

Booking shukubo
Koyasan Shukubo Association
http://eng.shukubo.net TEL:0736-56-2616



Danjo Garan Sacred Temple Complex 壇上伽藍
One of Koyasan's two major sacred sites. When Kobo-Daishi established Koyasan, construction began with the Danjo Garan temple complex. A total of 19 buildings stand within the temple complex, including the Konpon-daito Pagoda and Kon-do Hall. 7:4 hours. Konpon-daito Pagoda and Kon-do Hall. 8:30 am - 5:00 pm. (Last entry 4:30 pm) 500yen (Konpon-daito Pagoda, Kon-do Hall)

Okuno-in 奥之院
Okuno-in is Koyasan's most sacred place and one of two major sacred sites. Over 200,000 tombstones line the way. It is believed that at the Kobo Daishi Mausoleum, Kobo Daishi is in eternal meditation for the salvation of humankind.



Sugatami-no-ido (Well of Reflections) 姿見の井戸
It is said that anyone who looks into the well and does not see their own reflection will die within three years.

To commemorate your trip Koyasan recommendations

Goshuin ご朱印
Goshuin is a temple seal, usually stamped for the benefit of worshippers at a particular shrine or temple, as a memento. Receiving them is a precious experience for Japanese people. Goshuin are collected in a special book called a "goshuin-cho." You can find both goshuin and goshuin-cho at a temple or shrine office.

Where to get goshuin and goshuin-cho
At Koyasan: Kongobu-ji Head Temple, Danjo Garan Sacred Temple Complex, Okuno-in and more.
At Koyasan Foothills: Jonin Temple, Niukanshobu-jinja Shrine, Niu-tsu-hime-jinja Shrine and more.

Kissho Horai 吉祥宝来

A style of paper cut art originating at Koyasan. These can be hung in your living room or entryway all year round as prayers for good fortune and against illness and hardships.

The Official Wakayama Travel Guide "VISIT WAKAYAMA"

See here for detailed Wakayama Prefecture tourism information

Wakayama World Heritage Center

See here for detailed information on the World Heritage "Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range"

Free Wi-Fi

WAKAYAMA FREE WI-FI
Facilities with the WAKAYAMA FREE WI-FI sticker offer free Internet service.

KOYASAN FREE WI-FI
Facilities with the KOYASAN FREE WI-FI sticker offer free Internet service.

Experience Buddhist Ascetic Practices

Sutra Copying 写経

Shakyo means handcopying scriptures (writings that record the rules of faith), and one of the monks' ascetic practices. Focusing on copying by hand relaxes the heart.

Where to experience: Daishi Kyokai Training Center 100yen - 1500yen (no reservation needed) Time needed: about 1 hour

Meditation 阿字観

Ajikan is a style of meditation taught by the Shingon school of Buddhism. They say that focusing the mind and meditating deeply leads to enlightenment.

Where to experience: Kongobu-ji Head Temple 1,000 yen Separate 500yen entry fee for Kongobu-ji also required
Times offered: 9:30 am, 11:30 am, 1:30 pm, and 3:30 pm 9:00 - 11:00
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and mid-November to mid-April.
Time needed: about 1 hour

Buddhist Cuisine 精進料理

Buddhist cuisine refers to meals prepared in accordance with Buddhist teachings, using no meat and fish. These meals are healthy, as well as delicious.

World Heritage Koya Sankei-michi Pilgrimage Routes

The routes of prayer leading to the sacred places of Koyasan

For centuries, the faithful have gathered at Koyasan, and countless people have climbed the Koya Sankei-michi pilgrimage routes on their way there. Koyasan's five pilgrimage routes (Choishi-michi(1), Mitani-zaka Slope(2), Kuroko-michi(4), Fudo-zaka Slope(5), and Nyonin-michi(5)) are UNESCO World Heritage sites, and provide an excellent chance to enjoy pristine nature and historic trails.

Legend:
 World Heritage (H), Restaurant (R), Tourist Information Office (I), National Highway (480), Points of interest along the pilgrimage route (P), Toilet (T), Convenience store (C), Post office (PO), Accommodation (A), Wi-Fi spot (W), Parking (P)

Mitani-zaka Slope 三谷坂

Distance: 5.4km **Time needed:** 2 hrs. 30 min.

Trail Access (Nearest Station)
 Myoji Sta. 2km / On foot 25 min. | Niutsuhime-jinja Shrine

Point of interest
 Kasa-ishi Stone 笠石
 According to legend, Kobo-Daishi's hat was caught by this stone after being blown away by the wind.

Niutsuhime-jinja Shrine 丹生都比売神社
 When the god Niu Myojin visited this place, a local deity made her sake. This area's name comes from that gift. Every year, from the middle of November to the beginning of December, large ginkgo trees display bright fall colors.
 Free entry

Enlarged map of the Mitani-zaka Slope trail head

Niutsuhime-jinja Shrine 丹生都比売神社
 Believed to be over 1700 years old, Niutsuhime-jinja is dedicated to the gods Niu Myojin and Koya Myojin. The shrine entrance is a beautiful arched bridge.
 Free entry (Shrine office: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm)

Choishi-michi Pilgrimage Route

Distance: 22.8km **Time needed:** 8hrs. (6hrs. for strong hikers)

Trail Access (Nearest Station)
 Koyaguchi Sta. 0.5km / On foot 8 min. | Sanjadan Temple / On foot 15 min. | Jison-in Temple

Point of interest
 Gorinto (Stone Stupa)
 Gorinto are five ringed towers and objects of faith. In the past, people pressed their hands together in prayer as they passed each one. The gorinto were also inscribed with the Sanskrit words for space, wind, fire, water, and earth.

Gorinto and vistas near the viewing platform
 Just past the viewing platform is a picturesque look-out viewing the Kinokawa Plain.

Enjoy a refreshing walk through the cedar trees.

Amano Village Area 天野の里エリア

Amano refers to the place in the heavens where the gods reside. For Japanese people, the beautiful and tranquil rolling country landscapes bring up nostalgic memories of the past.

Enlarged map of Amano no sato

Amano Nagomidokoro cafe Kyakuden 天野和み処 Café 客殿
 The lunch sets and desserts at this shop are popular, and made with local Amano-mai rice.
 Open: 11:00 am to 5:30 pm (Lunch until 2:30 pm, café open until 5:00 pm)
 Closed: Tuesday, Thursday, and Wednesday (except on holidays), and February to early March.

"Amano-mai" Brand Rice
 The large gap between day and night temperatures and clean water allow Amano village delicious Amano-mai rice. Only in made with the rice is exquisite.

Point of interest
 The story of Koyasan is deeply intertwined with that of Niutsuhime-jinja. When Kobo-Daishi was searching for a location for the head temple of Shingon Buddhism, he met the god Koya Myojin in the form of a hunter in the mountains. He was led by dogs the hunter had brought with him, one black and one white. Later, he met Niu Myojin and was given Koya, the god's domain, so he could establish Koyasan.

Koyaguchi/Kudoyama Area 高野口/九度山エリア

Enlarged map of the Choishi-michi trail head

Katsuragikan 葛城館
 This wooden three-story building was constructed in 1900 with an all-glass facade. Pilgrims to Koyasan once stayed in this hotel. (The building can be viewed from the outside)

Maeda Residence 前田邸
 This mansion belonged to a merchant family in the 18th century. A collection of historical artifacts is on display.
 Open: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm / Sundays
 Closed: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm / Sundays

Hashimoto Center for Promoting Local Industry Tachiyori-Dokoro 橋本市地産産奨励センター 裁ち寄り処
 Local Koyaguchi pile fabrics are displayed and sold here. The bicycle rental service is available.
 Open: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm / Monday
 Rent-a-bicycle: 500 yen for up to 6 hours, 300 yen for up to 10 hours (100 yen for 1 hour to extend the rental)
 14:30

Kudoyama Town Streets
 Besides its association with Koyasan, this area is also known for its historic connection to Sengoku period military commander Sanada Yukimura.

Kudoyama Town Tourist Information
<https://www.kudoyama-kanko.jp/>
 Available in English, Korean, and Chinese.

Zenmyosho-in Temple (Sanada-an Temple) 善名所院 (真田庵)
 This temple was built on the property of Sengoku period, father-and-son military commanders, Sanada Masayuki and Sanada Yukimura. On the grounds is "Kaminarijiri no I" (lightning seal well), where Sanada Yukimura is said to have captured lightning.
 Open: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
 Free (Sanada Treasure Museum, 200 yen)

Kuroko-michi Pilgrimage Route 黒河道

Distance: 16.1km **Time needed:** 7hrs
 Recommended for strong hikers

Trail Access (Nearest Station)
 Hashimoto Sta. 1.8km / On foot 25 min. | Jofuku-ji Temple

Enlarged map of the Kuroko-michi trail head

Point of interest
 Cherry blossoms at Kubo Elementary School 久保小学校の桜
 Best viewed from mid-April onward

View from near Gokenbata Iwakake-Kanon
 From here, you can see both the Kinokawa River and Hashimoto City.

Point of interest
 A trail also used to transport goods
 The Kuroko-michi pilgrimage route played an important role as a lifeline for transporting farm produce to Koyasan, since Koyasan's severe cold made it impossible to harvest crops.

Enlarged map of the Kuroko-michi trail head

Jofuku-ji Temple 定福寺
 This temple is located at the Kuroko-michi trail head. The nine level pagoda on the grounds was constructed in 1285.
 Free entry