

World Heritage



Sacred Sites of Koyasan

A sacred place where 1200 years of history breathe

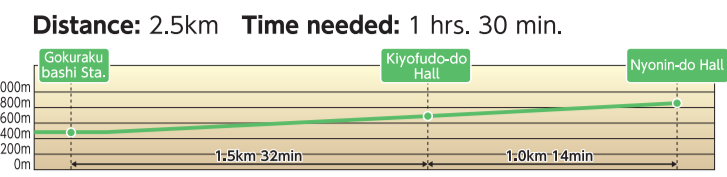
Koyasan is a mountain basin at an elevation of roughly 900 meters, and surrounded by eight peaks, like a lotus flower with eight petals. Kobo-Daishi chose this area as an appropriate site for the Shingon School of Buddhism and established Koyasan.

※What is Shingon Buddhism? Buddhism normally teaches that the more distracted one is, 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.

Founder of Koyasan: Kobo-Daishi Kukai
In 804, Kobo-Daishi travelled to Tang Dynasty China to study. He became a disciple of Huiguo, seventh Master and successor to the Shingon School of Buddhism, and eventually became the formal successor himself. Later, after returning to Japan, in 816 he consecrated Koyasan for Shingon Buddhism.



Fudo-zaka Slope 不動坂 World Heritage



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.



Gokuraku-bashi Bridge 極楽橋



Kiyofudo-do Hall 清不動堂
Worshippers are said to have purified their bodies here before visiting Koyasan.

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.

Wakayama, Japan



KOYASAN AREA GUIDE

Your companion to Koyasan and nearby areas.



Cable Car ケーブルカー
There is a 330 meter difference in elevation between Gokurakubashi Station and Koyasan Station. The cable car climbs one of Japan's steepest slopes in just five minutes.



Dai-mon Gate 大門
Dai-mon Gate (Great Gate) is the main gate on the west side of Koyasan.



Kongobu-ji Head Temple 金剛峯寺
Kongobu-ji is the ecclesiastical head temple of Koyasan Shingon Buddhism. It features Japan's largest rock garden, Banyutei, and displays numerous fushima screen paintings.
🕒 8:30 am to 5:00 pm (Entry until 4:30 pm)
🎫 500 yen

Banyutei Garden

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) [QR] Google Play (Android Version) [QR]

Stay at Shukubo Temple Lodging

There are 52 shukubos (temple lodging) at Koyasan. Each one has its own charms, like beautiful courtyards, and fushima 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.
🕒 24 hours. Konpon-daito Pagoda and Kon-do Hall: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (last entry 4:30 p.m.)
🎫 200 yen (Konpon-daito Pagoda, Kon-do Hall)

Okuno-in 奥の院
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.

Miroku-ishi Stone 弥勒石
This stone is said to feel light to those whose sins are light, and heavy to those whose sins are heavy. You can reach your hand through the gap in the shrine grating to attempt lifting it.

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 this 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**
Jison-in Temple, Niukanshou-jinja Shrine, Niutsumi-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 → [QR]

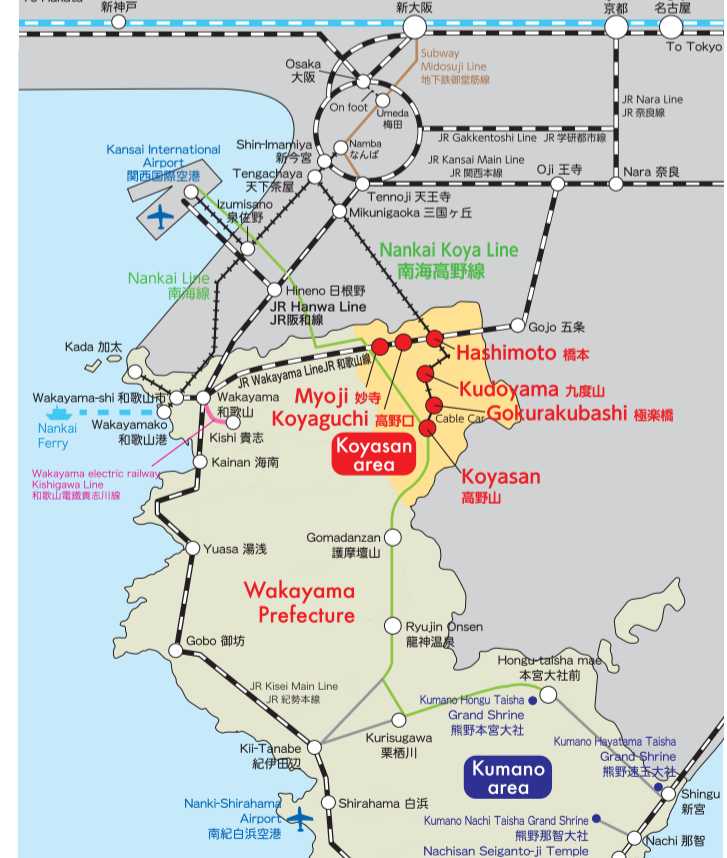
Wakayama World Heritage Center
See here for detailed information on the World Heritage "Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range" → [QR]

Free Wi-Fi

WAKAYAMA FREE Wi-Fi
Facilities with the WAKAYAMA FREE Wi-Fi sticker offer free Internet service. [QR]

KOYASAN FREE Wi-Fi
Facilities with the KOYASAN FREE Wi-Fi sticker offer free Internet service. [QR]

Map of Kansai Area



Traffic Access

Getting to the Koyasan area

TRAIN ROUTE	Kansai Airport Sta. 関西空港駅	Tokyo Sta. 東京駅	Nagoya Sta. 名古屋駅	Kyoto Sta. 京都駅
Kansai Airport Ltd. Exp.	35min			
Shinkansen		2hr. 40min	Shinkansen 50min	JR 30min
Rapid			Shin-Osaka Sta. 新大阪駅	Osaka Sta. 大阪駅
			15min	JR 20min
Tengachaya Sta. 天下茶屋駅			Namba Sta. 難波駅	Shin-inamiya Sta. 新今宮駅
Nankai Koya Line Ltd. Exp. KOYA	40min		Nankai Koya Line Ltd. Exp. KOYA	Nankai Koya Line Ltd. Exp. KOYA
			45min	43min
			Hashimoto Sta. 橋本駅	
			12min	JR Wakayama Line 6min
Nankai Koya Line Local train			Kudoyama Sta. 九度山駅	Koyaguchi Sta. 高野口駅
			35min	
Nankai Koya Line Local train			28min	JR Wakayama Line 6min
			Gokurakubashi Sta. 極楽橋駅	Myoji Sta. 妙寺駅
			5min	
			Koyasan Sta. 高野山駅	

BUS ROUTE

■Kansai International Airport – Koyasan 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)
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For reservations, please visit the WILLER TRAVEL reservations website
TEL: WILLER TRAVEL 050-5805-0383 (10:00am-2:00pm 3:00pm-7:00pm)
HP: <http://willerexpres.com/st/3/en/pc/bus/route/kansai/ait/>

■Koyasan and Kumano Access Bus

Koyasan Station 高野山駅前	2hr. 40min.	Ryuujin-Onsen 龍神温泉	2hr. 10min.	Hongu-Taisha-Mae 本宮大社前
	※ Transfer at Gomadznan		※ Transfer at Kurisugawa	

TEL: RyuJin Jidosha 0739-22-2100
Nankai Rinkan bus 0736-56-2250
Website: <http://seichijunrei-bus.jp>

※Before taking the bus, please call or otherwise contact to confirm the bus is running normally.

Explanatory notes

- Shinkansen
- JR Line
- Nankai Line
- Subway
- Bus route



Koya Sankei-michi Pilgrimage Routes

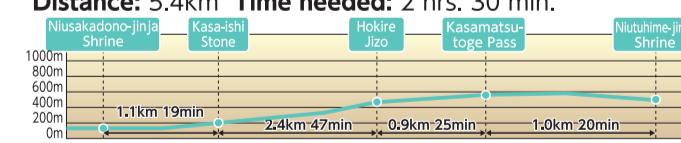
The routes of prayer leading to the sacred places of Koyasan

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
- Restaurant
- Tourist Information Office
- National Highway
- Toilet
- Convenience store
- Post office
- Points of interest along the pilgrimage route
- Scenic lookout
- Wi-fi spot
- Parking
- Accommodation

Mitani-zaka Slope 三谷坂



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

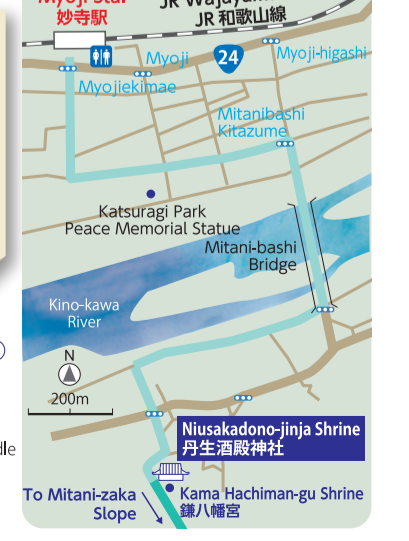
This path is the pilgrimage route to Niutsumi-jinja Shrine, and has been used by Emperors and members of the Imperial Family. Ending in Amano Village, Mitani-zaka Slope cuts through persimmon and mandarin orange orchards, and has spectacular mountain views.

Point of interest

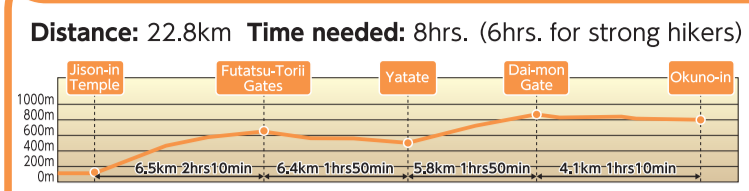
Kasa-ishi Stone 笠石
 According to legend, Kobo-Daishi's hat was caught by this stone after being blown away by the wind.

Niusakadono-jinja Shrine 丹生酒殿神社
 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.

2 Enlarged map of the Mitani-zaka Slope trail head



Choishi-michi Pilgrimage Route



Trail Access (Nearest Station)
 Kudoyama Sta. 0.5km On foot 8 min.
 Sanada-an Temple 1.0km On foot 15 min.
 Jison-in Temple

The Choishi-michi Route was opened by Kobo-Daishi as a pilgrimage trail. There are 180 stone choishi (stone stupas) shaped like five-ringed towers between Jison-in and Danjo Garan, and another 36 between Danjo Garan and Okuno-in. They were built as guide posts.

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 Sanscrit words for space, wind, fire, water, and earth.

View of Amano Village from near Futatsu-Torii Gates
 Enjoy a refreshing walk through the cedar trees.

Koyaguchi/Kudoyama Area 高野口/九度山エリア

1 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.

Hashimoto Center for Promoting Local Industry Tachiyori-Dokoro
 Local Koyaguchi pile fabrics are displayed and sold here. The bicycle rental service is available.

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

Niutsumi-jinja Shrine 丹生都比売神社
 Dedicated to the gods Niu Myojin and Koya Myojin, who led Kobo-Daishi to Koyasan. The shrine offers marriage blessings.

Jison-in Temple 慈尊院
 Jison-in Temple is the place where Kobo-Daishi's mother lived during her later years. Today, it is a temple that looks over women. Many visitors come here to pray for conceiving children and a safe delivery.

Amano Village Area 天野の里エリア

Niutsumi-jinja Shrine 丹生都比売神社
 Believed to be over 1700 years old, Niutsumi-jinja is dedicated to the gods Niu Myojin and Koya Myojin. The shrine entrance is a beautiful arched bridge.

Amano Nagomidokoro cafe Kyakuden
 The lunch sets and desserts at this shop are popular, and made with local Amano-mai rice.

Point of interest

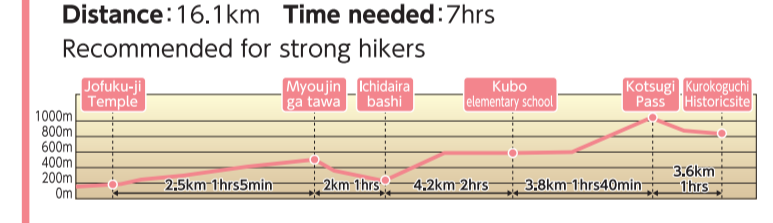
The story of Koyasan is deeply intertwined with that of Niutsumi-jinja. When Kobo-Daishi was searching for a location for the head temple of Shingon Buddhism, he met the god Koya Myojin in the form of a hunter in the mountains. He was led by dogs the hunter had brought with him, one black and one white.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

3 Enlarged map of Amano no sato

Amano Nagomidokoro cafe Kyakuden
 The lunch sets and desserts at this shop are popular, and made with local Amano-mai rice.

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

Kuroko-michi Pilgrimage Route 黒河道

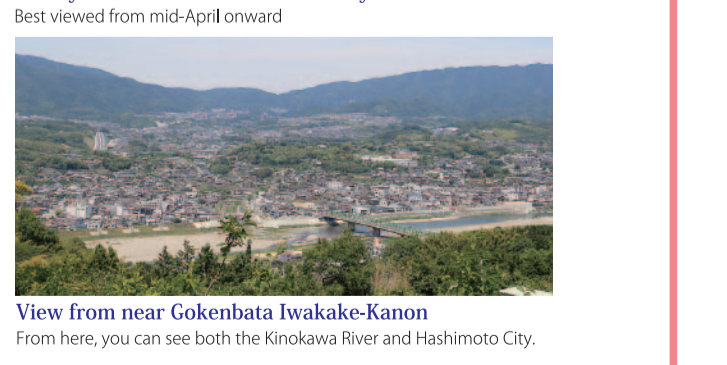


Trail Access (Nearest Station)
 Hashimoto Sta. 1.8km / On foot 25 min.
 Kiishimizu Sta. 800m On foot 10 min.
 Jofuku-ji Temple

Much of the original trail remains from long ago, and is surrounded by woodlands and streams. Small wayside shrines and Buddha statues also provide a sense of history along the route.

4 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.



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.