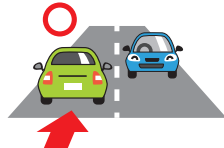
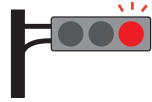


Important points when driving in Japan

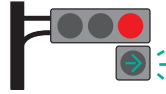
Basic traffic rules in Japan



Drive on the left side.



A red traffic signal means "STOP".



A green arrow traffic signal indicates that only those going to the corresponding direction may proceed.



Don't Drink and Drive

Laws regarding drunk driving are extremely strict in Japan, and driving after even a single drink is illegal. Penalties apply to the driver, passengers, and whoever served the drink.



Driving while using a smartphone is not allowed.

Main road signs in Japan



Stop



Railroad Crossings

Always stop at a railroad crossing. Check both ways, and proceed if safe.



No entry to vehicles



No parking



Tips If you have any questions, ask the rental car staff!

When renting a car in Japan, the staff will probably give you a pamphlet with a basic explanation of Japanese traffic laws and the meaning of different signs. If you're not sure about something, be sure to ask!



Tips Using Google Maps together with your car's GPS is recommended!

Sometimes the GPS can give bad directions or the English translation leaves something to be desired, so it's best not to depend on it entirely. Periodically check the road signs with an app such as Google Maps to confirm your location.

*"マップコード" and "MAPCODE" are registered trademarks of DENSO Corporation.

MAPCODE[®] About Denso MAPCODE

The Denso MapCode system is used in Japan to reference geographic locations, and makes it easy to enter your destination on the car's GPS device. (If renting a car, ask to be sure the car's GPS supports MapCode.)

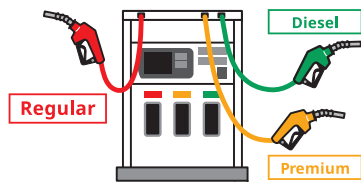
Each MapCode is a number between 9 and 12 digits, and can be entered into the GPS instead of an address or phone number.

MapCode numbers refer to a 3x3-meter area, precise enough to give you directions to the entrance of a parking lot.



Using a Rental Car and Gas Stations in Japan

You should return your rental car with a full tank of gas. Although gas stations offer both self-service and full-service, choosing full-service is recommended unless you are fluent in Japanese. There are 3 types of gasoline: Regular, premium, and diesel. Almost all rental cars in Japan take regular, but it's best to double-check at the time of rental.



If you do not have time to stop at a gas station before returning your rental car, you can ask to have the fuel cost added to your bill, but you will end up paying a premium for this convenience.

The different types of gas are color-coded.



Tips Helpful Japanese for Use at a Gas Station

Regular mantan

レギュラー満タン!

Fill up with regular, please.

Regular nijyu-liter

レギュラー20リッター!

20 liters of regular, please.

Shiharai wa genkin

支払は現金

I'd like to pay with cash.

Shiharai wa card

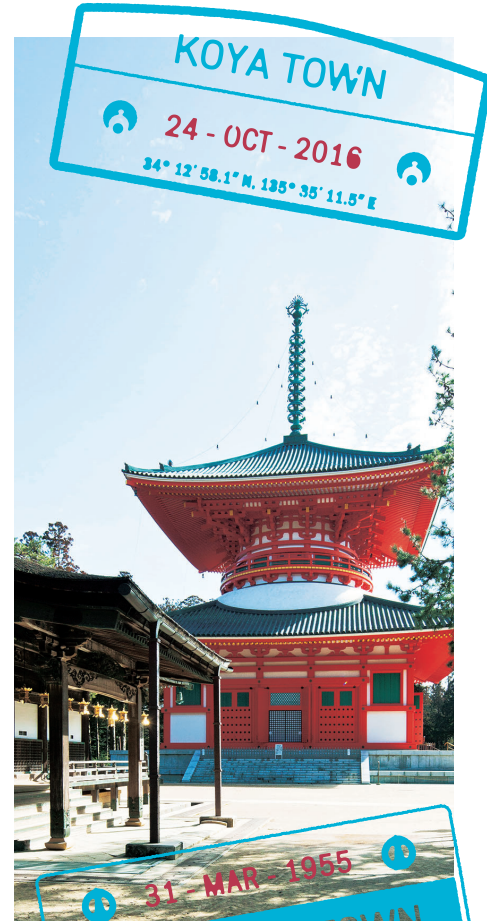
支払はカード

I'd like to pay with a credit card.

*10:ju, 20:nijyu, 30:sanjyu

Koyasan Drive Around

Road Guidebook to Koyasan



Details on each spot can also be found on Google Maps!



Sample itineraries for getting the most out of an overnight stay in Koyasan and the surrounding foothills

History & Culture Route

Visit many of Koyasan's top historical and cultural spots, particularly those associated with the Sanada samurai clan.

Day 1

12:00 ✈️ Kansai International Airport

12:30 Rental Car Pickup

↓ 60 min

P Kudoyama Parking lot

🚶 1 h 30 min Walk around the Kudoyama Area

- 🍴 1 Sobadokoro Yukimura An 2 Gratin Café
- 🏛️ 3 Kudoyama Sanada Museum 4 Zenmyosho-in Temple (Sanadaan)

↓ 15 min

🏛️ 5 Koyasan Choishi-michi Observatory

↓ 20 min

🏛️ 6 Niutsuhime-jinja Shrine

↓ 15 min

P 7 Hanasaka Drive In

↓ 30 min

🏛️ 8 Fukuchi-in Temple 9 Rengejo-in Temple

Day 2

9:00 **P** 13 Koyasan Tourist Information Center Parking lot

🚶 2 h 30 min Walk around the Koyasan Area

- 🍴 15 Chuo Shokudo Sanbo
- 🏛️ 10 Koyasan Reihokan Museum 11 Danjo Garan Sacred Temple Complex
- 12 Kongobu-ji Head Temple

↓ 10 min

P 26 Nakanohashi Parking lot

🏛️ 14 Okuno-in

↓ **Main Route** 🚗 40 min

🍴 16 Old Stream

↓ 15 min

🏛️ 17 Kunigi Hiroba

↓ 15 min

🏛️ 18 Kakinoha-zushi Tanaka

↓ 15 min

🏛️ 19 Marutaka Inari-jinja Shrine

↓ 5 min

🚗 Hashimoto-higashi Interchange

Alternate Route

🚗 30 min

🏛️ 20 Yadori Onsen Iyashi-no-Yu

↓ 15 min

🏛️ 21 Tamagawa-kyo Gorge

↓ 15 min

Gourmet Route

Enjoy the very best of Koyasan's culinary delights, from fresh fruits to traditional local specialties.

Day 1

12:00 ✈️ Kansai International Airport

12:30 Rental Car Pickup

↓ 60 min

🍴 22 Tsukinagi

↓ 30 min

🏛️ 23 Kunigi Fruit Farm

↓ 10 min

🏛️ 17 Kunigi Hiroba

↓ 10 min

🏛️ 24 Jison-in Temple 25 Niukanshofu-jinja Shrine

↓ 60 min

🏛️ 8 Fukuchi-in Temple 9 Rengejo-in Temple

Day 2

9:00 **P** 13 Koyasan Tourist Information Center Parking lot

🚶 5 h Walk around the Koyasan Area

🍴 15 Chuo Shokudo Sanbo

🏛️ 10 Koyasan Reihokan Museum 11 Danjo Garan Sacred Temple Complex

12 Kongobu-ji Head Temple

↓ 10 min

P 26 Nakanohashi Parking lot

🏛️ 14 Okuno-in

↓ 30 min

🏛️ 27 Konnyaku Kobo

↓ 15 min

P 28 Michi-no-Eki Kaki-no-sato Kudoyama

↓ 15 min

🏛️ 18 Kakinoha-zushi Tanaka

↓ 15 min

🏛️ 19 Marutaka Inari-jinja Shrine

↓ 5 min

🚗 Hashimoto-higashi Interchange

Attention The roads around Koyasan are mountain roads, and can be steep and narrow in places. Use caution at all times when driving!

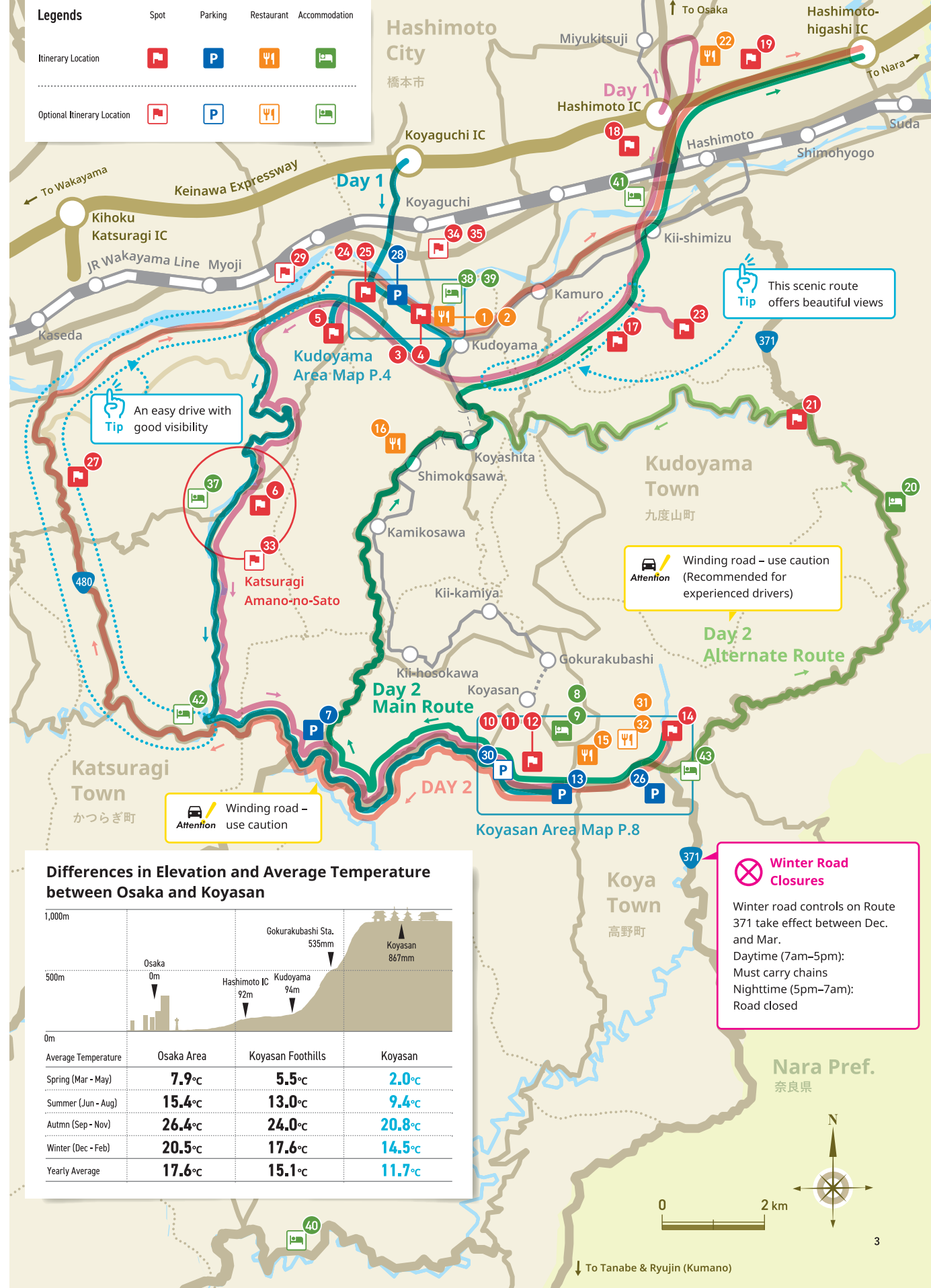
Particular care is required in winter months, when the roads can freeze and accumulate snow.

Legends

- Spot: 📍
- Parking: **P**
- Restaurant: 🍴
- Accommodation: 🏠

Itinerary Location: 📍 **P** 🍴 🏠

Optional Itinerary Location: 📍 **P** 🍴 🏠



The Koyasan Foothills

The towns of Kudoyama, Katsuragi, and Hashimoto collectively comprise the Koyasan Foothills, and it is here you will find Jison-in Temple, Niukanshofu-jinja Shrine, and the Koyasan Sankei path, all of which are intimately connected to Koyasan itself and have been recognized as World Heritage sites as part of the "Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range" designation.

Fruits are grown in this area year-round, including peaches, persimmons, and mandarin oranges (*mikan*), and some plantations offer freshly-picked fruit to visitors. One of the traditional specialties, *kakinoha-zushi*, is sushi wrapped in a persimmon leaf.



5 Koyasan Choishi-michi Observatory

高野山町石道展望台 205 725 467*36

At the top of a steep hill from Jison-in is an observation point where you can gaze out at the Kinokawa plain, with superb views of Koyasan and the towns of Kudoyama, Hashimoto, and Katsuragi.

📍 Jison-in, Kudoyama Town

▲ There is no parking at the observatory, so please park nearby and walk up.



KUDOYAMA TOWN

九度山町



3 Kudoyama Sanada Museum

真田ミュージアム 205 727 402*32

Yukimura Sanada was the last great commander in the Warring States period (16th century). This museum in Kudoyama, where Sanada spent time in exile, tells the story of this courageous military figure.

📍 1452-4 Kudoyama, Kudoyama Town
🕒 9:00 - 17:00 🚗 12 cars

🗓 Monday & Tuesday (and if Tuesday is a holiday, also closed the following Wednesday)



P 28 Michi-no-Eki Kaki-no-sato Kudoyama

道の駅 柿の郷くどやま 205 727 722*22

On one of the routes leading to the temples of Koyasan, Kaki-no-Sato is a rest area and shopping facility in the town of Kudoyama. Light meals are available in the cafe and there is a small information space introducing local World Heritage sites.

📍 5-5 Nyugo, Kudoyama Town
🕒 9:00 - 18:30 🗓 January 1 - 4 🚗 119 cars



4 Zenmyosho-in Temple (Sanadaan)

善名称院(真田庵) 205 727 402*32

It's believed that this Buddhist temple was built on the spot where samurai Yukimura Sanada and his father lived after being defeated by the Tokugawa. In May the blossoming peony trees add lots of color.

📍 1413 Kudoyama, Kudoyama Town
🚗 12 cars



25 Niukanshofu-jinja Shrine

丹生官省符神社 205 756 041*82

Niukanshofu-jinja is a shrine that was built by Kukai to enshrine the local guardian deities when Jison-in Temple was founded.

📍 835 Jison-in, Kudoyama Town

▲ Information in English can be found at the Kaki no Sato Kudoyama rest area.



24 Jison-in Temple

慈尊院 205 756 041*82

Until the late 1800's, women were not allowed to worship at Koyasan. Jison-in, a temple on the way to Koyasan, welcomed female devotees. Today, it is known for the thousands of breast-shaped offerings hung around the temple and grounds, to pray for women's health.

📍 832 Jison-in Temple, Kudoyama Town 🚗 6 cars

▲ Information in English can be found at the Kaki no Sato Kudoyama rest area.

What to Eat in Kudoyama 🍜🍴



🍴 1 Sobadokoro Yukimura An

そば処幸村庵 205 727 402*32

This soba restaurant is in a renovated *kominka*, a traditional house. Sobadokoro Yukimura An takes its name from nearby Sanadaan, a temple built in remembrance of daimyo Masayuki Sanada and his son, Yukimura.

📍 1404 Kudoyama, Kudoyama Town

🕒 11:00 - 18:00 (LO17:30) 🚗 12 cars

🗓 Monday (but open on holidays that fall on Monday; in that case, closed the following Tuesday instead)



🍴 2 Gratin Café

グラタンカフェ 205 727 402*32

Enjoy piping-hot gratin at this cafe overlooking the river. It's best to arrive early, as servings are limited. The cute decor is hand crafted by the café owner.

📍 1314 Kudoyama, Kudoyama Town

🕒 11:30 - 14:00 🚗 12 cars

🗓 Thursday (but open on holidays that fall on Thursday)



🍴 16 Old Stream

オールドストリーム 205 636 580*57

On fine days it's popular to enjoy the freshly ground drip coffee on the lawn out in front. A few minutes' relaxation in this beautiful spot will leave you feeling refreshed!

📍 1-5 Nakakosawa, Kudoyama Town

🕒 9:00 - 15:00 🚗 20 cars

🗓 Tuesday - Thursday



KATURAGI TOWN

かつらぎ町

16 Niutsuhime-jinja Shrine

丹生都比賣神社 ☎ 205 632 296*53

Said to be founded more than 1700 years ago, Niutsuhime-jinja is one of the older shrines in Wakayama and a registered World Heritage site. The deities enshrined here are the guardians of Koyasan, the Buddhist mountain-top temple complex founded by Kukai.

📍 230 Kamiyamano, Katsuragi Town
🚗 50 cars



27 Konnyaku Kobo

こんにやく工房 ☎ 106 058 367*88

At Konnyaku Kobo you can buy a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, pickled vegetables, and sweets such as cookies and cakes. Meals, including spaghetti and omelette rice (*omurice*), are also served.

📍 324 Hoshikawa, Katsuragi Town
⌚ Summer months: 9:00am - 6:00pm
Winter months: 9:00am - 5:00pm
🗓 December 31 - January 10 🚗 10 cars



29 Hatsusakura Shuzo Brewery

初桜酒造(株) ☎ 205 784 068*87

This sake brewery in Katsuragi Ama-no-Sato proudly uses local ingredients and traditional methods to make its rice wine. 100% of the rice is sourced from Ama-no-Sato farmers.

📍 85 Nakaiburi, Katsuragi Town
⌚ 10:00 - 17:00
🚗 6 cars



33 Katsuragi Amano-no-Sato

かつらぎ町 天野の里

Enjoy some of the best pastoral landscapes in the Koyasan area at this rural village, which sits at 450m elevation. Its scenery is beautiful in every season.



Shont Detour



34 Kanazawa Juken Japanese Sweets Shop

金澤寿翁軒 ☎ 205 786 262*32

This long-established shop makes Japanese sweets using age-old methods. You can also take up the challenge of making a traditional Japanese confection, which you can enjoy with matcha afterwards.

📍 757 Koyaguchi-cho nagura, Hashimoto City
⌚ 8:00 - 19:00 🗓 Open all year round
🚗 5 cars



35 Katsuragikan

葛城館 ☎ 205 787 455*05

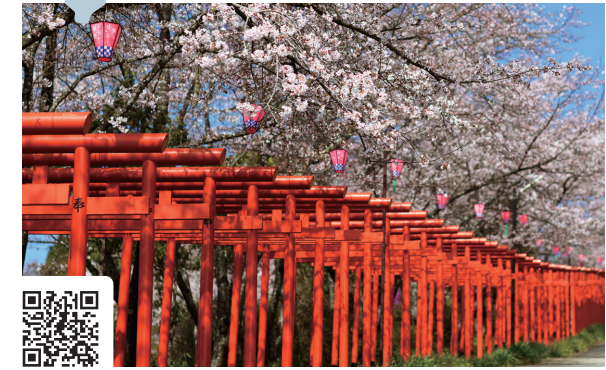
This traditional-style building from the late Meiji era was a *ryokan* (inn) for Koyasan travelers. Today, the public is not allowed inside, but the 3-story wooden architecture is still an impressive sight.

📍 1053 Koyaguchi-cho nagura, Hashimoto City
🚗 5 cars



HASHIMOTO CITY

橋本市



19 Marutaka Inari-jinja Shrine

丸高稲荷神社 ☎ 205 887 856*50

This hilltop Shinto shrine offers expansive views of the town below, and 85 vermilion *torii* gates form a beautiful tunnel to walk through. In spring, approximately 150 cherry trees add to the picturesque scenery with their delicate pink blossoms.

📍 1 Kinohikaridai, Hashimoto City 🚗 10 cars
▲ The parking lot is located after passing through the torii gate.



22 Tsukinagi

月なぎ ☎ 10 029 249*60

You can enjoy a steaming hot bowl of *kamameshi*, especially made using local rice harvested from the field near the restaurant, in a calm atmosphere at this Japanese-style folk house. There are partitions between the tables, so you can stay comfortable.

📍 827 Gomo, Hashimoto City
🗓 Wednesday 🚗 20 cars ⌚ 11:00 - 14:30, 17:30 - 21:00



17 Kunigi Hiroba

くにぎ広場 ☎ 205 732 846*54

Stop here to pick up some fresh produce grown by local farmers, or handmade *konyaku* (konjac). If you're hungry, try their freshly made croquettes or a bowl of *takikomi gohan* seasoned rice.

📍 506-5 Minamibaba, Hashimoto City
⌚ 9:00 - 17:00
🗓 Tuesday
🚗 20 cars



18 Kakinoha-zushi Tanaka

柿の葉すし本舗たなか はしもと店 ☎ 205 822 466*78

A regional specialty, *kakinoha-zushi* is a different kind of sushi. The fish, usually mackerel or salmon, is placed atop vinegared rice and everything is wrapped in a neat bundle using a persimmon leaf.

📍 1-729 Ichiwaki, Hashimoto City
⌚ 8:00 - 19:30
🚗 8 cars

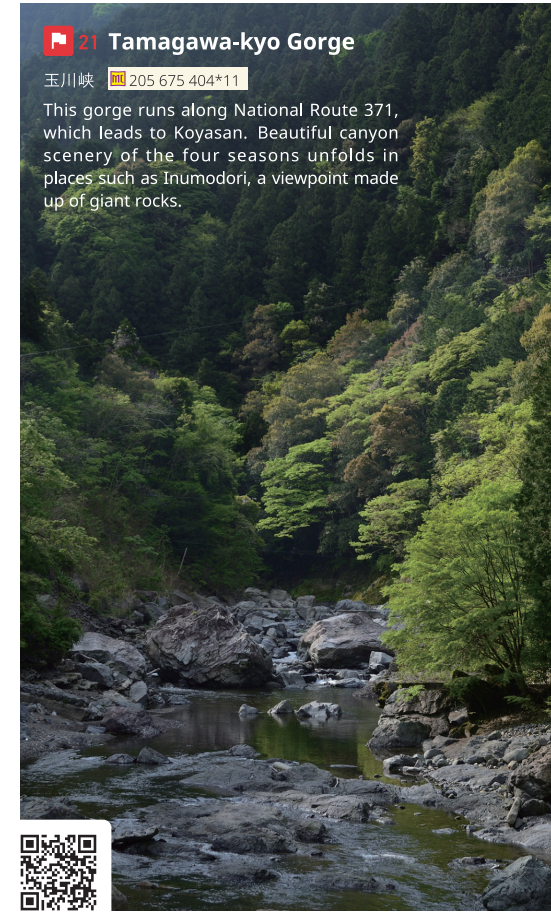


23 Kunigi Fruit Farm

国城観光農園 ☎ 205 733 861*20

Here you will find fresh, seasonal fruits sold directly by the growers. You can also pick your own fruits in season, such as Asian pears (*nashi*), mandarin oranges (*mikan*), and persimmons.

📍 1342 Shimizu, Hashimoto City
⌚ 10:00 - 16:00
🗓 Irregular 🚗 25 cars
▲ Caution required: narrow or steep road



21 Tamagawa-kyo Gorge

玉川峡 ☎ 205 675 404*11

This gorge runs along National Route 371, which leads to Koyasan. Beautiful canyon scenery of the four seasons unfolds in places such as Inumodori, a viewpoint made up of giant rocks.



Koyasan Area

High up in the Kii Mountains where the air is crisp and the atmosphere sublime lies the sacred temple complex of Koyasan. It was here that over 1,200 years ago the monk Kukai founded the esoteric Buddhist sect known as Shingon. To this day, the site is an important spiritual center whose 117 temples continue to draw visitors for both worship and wonderment.

Koyasan and its pilgrimage routes, together with two other sacred sites in the Kii Mountains, have been designated a World Heritage by UNESCO.



12 Kongobu-ji Head Temple

金剛峯寺 205 460 039*04

This temple, the head temple of Koyasan Shingon esoteric Buddhism, was established by Kukai and has approximately 3,600 branch temples throughout Japan. It is located almost right in the center of the mountain top. Don't miss the beautiful fusuma (panel) paintings of seasonal flowers and birds, as well as the Banryutei Garden, Japan's largest rock garden.



132 Koyasan, Koya Town ☉ 8:30-17:00



Koyasan Area Map

Tip Time required to walk around this area: **about 90 min.**

Tip Time required to walk from the Nakanohashi parking lot to Okuno-in: **about 60-90 min.**

Tip The towering Japanese cedar trees and thousands of graves lend this place a solemn, even mystical atmosphere.



Daimon-minami Parking Lot
高野山 大門南駐車場
205 429 720*76 720 cars



Koyasan Tourist Information Center Parking Lot
高野山観光情報センター駐車場
205 460 039*04 72 cars



Nakanohashi Parking Lot
中の橋駐車場
205 462 476*34 186 cars

The central parking lots get very crowded on peak weekends. Parking at the Daimon-minami lot and then taking the bus is recommended on busy days!

Attention

[Nankai Rinkan Bus >>>](#)



10 Koyasan Reihokan Museum

霊宝館 205 460 039*04

Koyasan Reihokan Museum is a treasure trove of Buddhist art, with some of the oldest works dating back nearly 1200 years. The statues, including one of Kobo Daishi, the founder of Koyasan, are particularly impressive.

306 Koyasan, Koya Town
☉ May - October: 8:30 - 17:30,
November - April: 8:30 - 17:00
☑ New Year holidays



14 Okuno-in

奥之院散策 205 462 476*34

The approximately two kilometer road that leads to the mausoleum of the monk Kukai - who is said to be carrying out his pursuit of knowledge even now - is surrounded by trees that are several hundred years old.

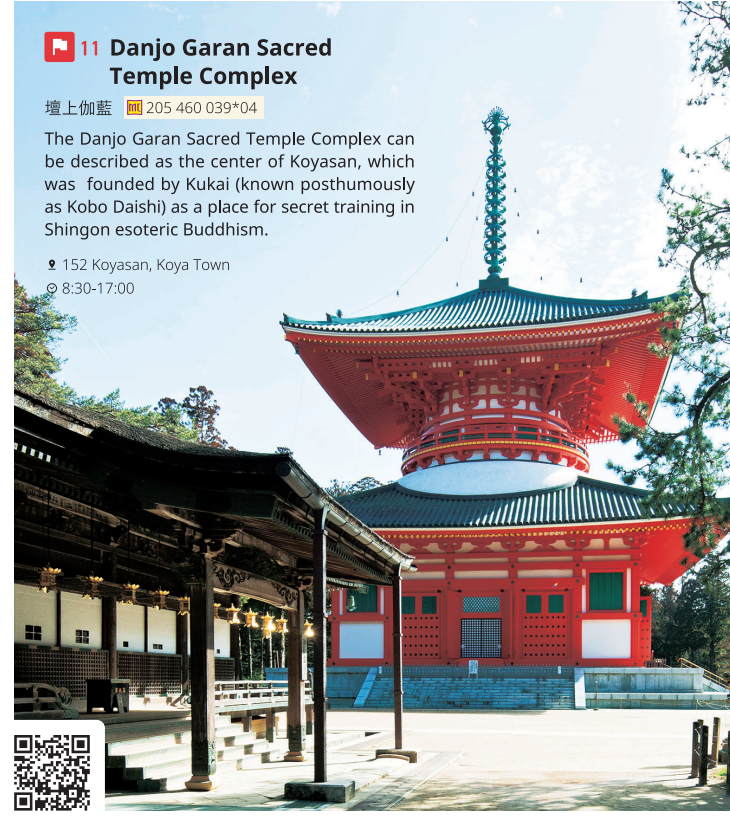
550 Koyasan, Koya Town

11 Danjo Garan Sacred Temple Complex

壇上伽藍 205 460 039*04

The Danjo Garan Sacred Temple Complex can be described as the center of Koyasan, which was founded by Kukai (known posthumously as Kobo Daishi) as a place for secret training in Shingon esoteric Buddhism.

152 Koyasan, Koya Town
☉ 8:30-17:00



7 Hanasaka Drive In

はなさかドライブイン 205 454 685*28

This mountainside rest area has both a cafe and dining area, making it a great place to take a break from the road.

602-1 Hanasaka, Koya Town
☉ 9:00~17:00
☑ Irregular 15 cars



What to Eat in Koyasan



15 Chuo Shokudo Sanbo

中央食堂さんぼう 205 460 039*04

For a taste of shojin ryori at an affordable price, try this centrally-located Koyasan eatery. The menu also includes regional fare and light options.

722 Koyasan, Koya Town
☉ 11:00 - 15:00
☑ Irregular



31 Tsukumo Shokudo

つくも 205 429 720*76

For over 50 years this restaurant has been serving *kamameshi*, a traditional rice dish cooked in an iron pot. The Japanese mountain vegetables and dashi broth used give it a rich flavor.

243 Koyasan, Koya Town
☉ 10:30-16:00
☑ Thursday



32 Komi Coffee

光海珈琲 205 461 139*02

Relax with a cup of specialty coffee made from delicious spring water. For those with a sweet tooth, how about pairing it with a chocolate-banana crepe topped with freshly-ground cacao beans?

571 Koyasan, Koya Town
☉ Monday - Friday 9:30-18:00,
Saturday, Sunday 9:30-21:00
☑ Irregular

Shukubo Temple Retreats

For a culturally illuminating encounter, staying overnight at one of the 52 temples offering accommodations is an experience of a lifetime. Each temple's design uniquely showcases aspects of Japanese philosophy and aesthetics. All visitors are welcome, and can not only see the inner workings of Shingon monastic life, but take part as well. To enter the quietude, practices such as meditation (*ajikan*), listening to sutra teachings and a calligraphic sutra copying practice (*shakyo*) are offered.



8 Fukuchi-in Temple

福智院(宿坊) ☎ 205 460 435*75

Fukuchi-in Temple is the largest *shukubo* accommodation in Koyasan. Guests can soak in the natural *onsen* hot spring water, in both indoor and outdoor baths. Inside the temple, you'll find a number of historical artifacts connected to the daimyo of the past, as well as artwork, some of which dates to the 8th century. There are 3 different traditional gardens.

📍 657 Koyasan, Koya Town

9 Rengejo-in Temple

蓮華定院(宿坊) ☎ 205 460 633*00

Complete with meticulously raked gravel gardens, Rengejo-in oozes Buddhist charm. Guests are invited to join morning services and monks offer talks on Koyasan.

📍 700 Koyasan, Koya Town

36 Ajikan (Meditation)

阿字観体験 ☎ 205 460 039*04

Ajikan meditation is practiced amidst the clear air in the morning. Meditating in the Zazen posture with eyes closed and a clear mind is a luxury not found in everyday life.



📍 132 Koyasan, Koya Town
Fee: ¥1,000 (plus ¥500 admission fee to Kongobuji Temple)
Duration: approximately 1 hour

To participate in the meditation, inquire at the shop in the temple annex building. More details in Japanese are available on the website.



Other Accommodation Facilities



20 Yadori Onsen Iyashi-no-Yu

やどり温泉いやし湯 ☎ 205 618 433*11

This natural hot spring has both indoor and outdoor baths. What better way to relax mind and body than by taking in the mountain scenery while having a soak? The popular on-site restaurant serves dishes made with local ingredients.

📍 5 Kitayadori, Hashimoto City ☎ 11:00 - 21:00 🗓 Tuesday - Thursday



37 Ama-no-Sato

天の里 ☎ 205 601 754*54

The luxurious *sugi* and *hinoki* wood paneling give this mountain villa a distinctive feel, and limited rooms ensure guests receive the best-possible hospitality. Glamping facilities are also available.

📍 1620 Shimoamano, Katsuragi Town



38 Kudoyama Ryokan Tamagawatei

くどやま旅館 玉川亭 ☎ 205 728 422*51

This inn with Japanese-style tatami rooms is located in town, and has a cafe on the first floor that serves lunch and desserts.

📍 8-1 Shiide, Kudoyama Town



39 Nakagawa Ryokan

中川旅館 ☎ 205 727 471*31

This traditional-style inn is just 7 minutes on foot from Kudoyama station. It's particularly convenient for visitors planning to walk the Choishimichi pilgrimage route.

📍 1421 Kudoyama, Kudoyama Town



40 Hanazono Onsen Kaho-no-Sato

はなの温泉 花園の里 ☎ 205 182 196*31

This mountainside accommodation with natural hot-spring baths is surrounded by lots of nature.

📍 779-1 Hanazono Yanase, Katsuragi Town



41 Route Inn Hashimoto

ルートイン橋本 ☎ 205 822 222*15

Route Inn is a nationwide hotel chain offering comfortable accommodation. Rooms at the Hashimoto hotel are a little on the small side, but quite reasonable. The hotel has a relaxing hot spring bathing facility and a small number of bicycles for guests to use free of charge. Free Wi-Fi is also available.

📍 4-10-28 Ichiwaki, Hashimoto City

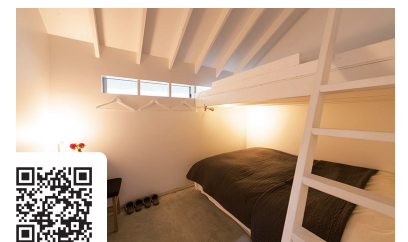


42 Shikoan

古都里 志高庵 ☎ 205 481 195*61

A Japanese old folk house that is being rented out as a whole building located in a village along National Route 480, the road to the World Heritage Site Koyasan. Although it is more than 100 years old, the kitchen and bedrooms are newly built. Many foreign tourists have repeatedly stayed here.

📍 233-2 Shiga, Katsuragi Town



43 Koyasan Guesthouse Kokuu

高野山ゲストハウスKokuu ☎ 205 463 516*64

The first guest house in Koyasan has opened in October 2012, allowing backpackers to stay in the area at an affordable price. Koyasan Guesthouse Kokuu welcomes travelers from all over the world who are searching for a friendly and relaxed environment.

📍 49-43 Koyasan, Koya Town