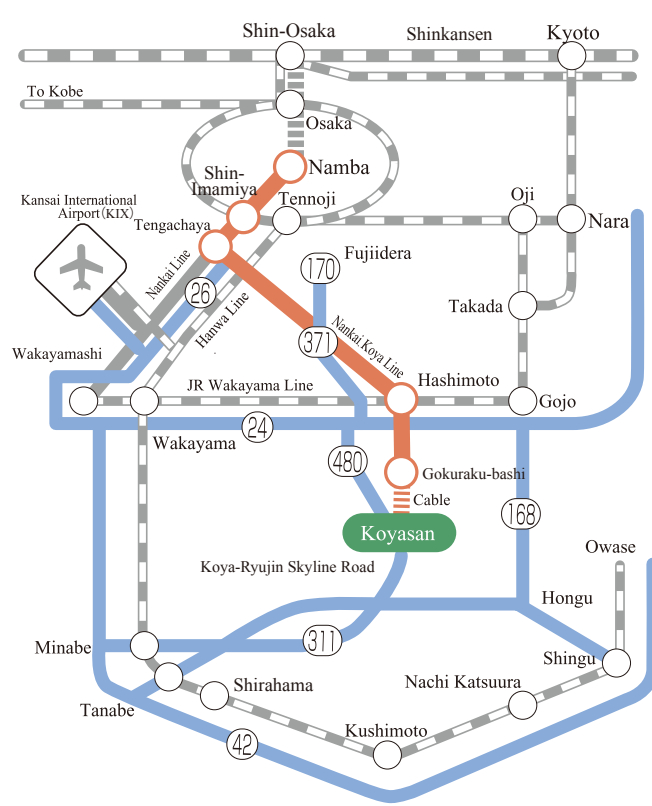


ACCESS MAP



Access by air

Itami Airport → Airport Shuttle → Osaka Namba Station

Kansai International Airport → Nankai Line (Express "Rapiet") → Osaka Namba Station

* For onward access from Osaka Namba Station, refer to "Access by train".

Access by train

Tokyo → Shinkansen → Shin-Osaka → Subway → Osaka Namba Station

Osaka Namba Station → Nankai Koya Line → Gokuraku-bashi → Cable car line → Koyasan Station → Nankai Rinkan Bus → Koyasan 2h

Wakayama Station → JR Hashimoto → Nankai Koya Line → Gokuraku-bashi → Cable car line → Koyasan Station → Nankai Rinkan Bus → Koyasan 2h30min

Access by car

Osaka → Via Routes 310 / 371 → Hashimoto → Via Routes 24 / 480 → Koyasan 2h30min (50km / 35km)

Shirahama → Route 42 → Tanabe → Via Koya-Ryujin Skyline Road → Koyasan 3h30min (12km / 110km)

History of Koyasan



Kobo Daishi (Kukai) entered priesthood at the age of 20 and traversed to Tang Dynasty China in year 804 at the age of 31. After mastering the teachings of esoteric Buddhism after about two years of staying in Changan, the capital of Tang Dynasty China, he became the eighth person to earn the title Ajari Henjo Kongo, roughly translated as "Luminous Vajra Master". Upon returning to Japan, he began propagating Shingon Buddhism throughout the country. In the year 816, with land granted by the reigning Emperor, he founded the monastic complex at Koyasan.

With its 117 temples, including Kongobu-ji Head Temple centering around Garan training complex and Okunoin, Koyasan prospered as the grand centre for Esoteric Buddhist practice and went on to become a mystic holy site. The 'Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range' were designated as the 12th World Heritage Site in Japan on July 7, 2004.

Experience Koyasan

Sutra Copying

Sutra copying is the art of using a brush to copy the Hannya Shingyo (Heart Sutra), which is a central scripture to Buddhism. Kobo Daishi (Kukai) teaches us the virtue of 'copying the Heart Sutra wholeheartedly to make our body and mind become sound, so that all troubles may disappear, and that even everyone around us can experience our happiness.'



Ajikan

This is an esoteric method of meditation. It enriches and heals the mind.

Festivals



Aoba Festival

This is a festival celebrating the birth of Kobo Daishi (Kukai), on June 15. The name 'Aoba' means green leaves which is appropriately used to name the festival held at a time of new leaves. This is the one day when Koyasan is a truly Buddhist-centered town, with citizens and worshippers spreading out on the roads performing the 'Daishi Ondo.' (pictured above)



Candle Festival

On the night of August 13th, many candles placed along the approach from the Ichinohashi Bridge to the Toro-do. This is festival to pray for the souls ancestors and those lying beyond in the Okunoin. The candle lights flickering in this sacred site create a fantastic ambiance.

Koyasan Trivia



- 空 Space
- 風 Wind
- 火 Fire
- 水 Water
- 地 Earth

Gorinto

Buddhism teaches that 'the universe is created from five elements: void, air, fire, water and earth'. The Gorinto depicts these five elements, with the corresponding Sanskrit carved into each of the five parts. Many Gorinto can be seen around Koyasan.

Koyasan Trivia



Cable Car

The cable car takes visitors to Koyasan straight from the Gokuraku-bashi railway station. The cable car railway is 0.8km long and with the largest slope angle at 30 degrees, the vehicle can take visitors up the 340m-high journey in 5 minutes. Passing an oncoming cable car on the way is also an exciting experience.

Lodging



There are 52 temples inside the Koyasan area that provide lodging. Each temple offers lodgers the chance to view their cultural treasures, appreciate their gardens, and taste Shojin Ryori. It is also possible to take part in the early-morning services at the main temple.

Shojin Ryori(Vegetarian Cuisine)



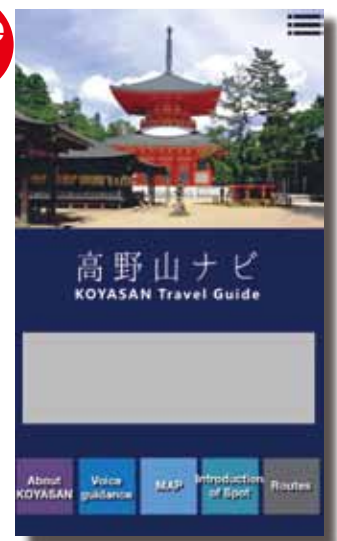
Shojin Ryori developed over a long period of time when meats were prohibited, and is made with delicate touches to bring out the natural flavor found in the traditional food culture of Koyasan. Shojin Ryori has become a popular health food in recent years.

Information



KOYASAN TravelGuide

Free App



This App provides "Tourism Info." and "Disaster Prevention Info." Japanese • English • French • Chinese (Simplified) Contains Voice Guidance (Kongobu-ji Head Temple, Okuno-in and Danjo-Garan)



Wi-Fi

Free WiFi is available at KOYASAN FREE Wi-Fi Sticker.

Rental Audio Guide

Provides guide on Koyasan in five languages: English, French, Mandarin, Korean and Japanese.

- Rental office: Koyasan Shukubo Association
- Fee: 500 yen / unit

Bicycle Rental

Cycling around Koyasan can be a fantastic experience!

- Rental office: Koyasan Shukubo Association
- Fee: 400 yen / hour (100 yen for each additional 30 minutes)

英語: English



Sankosho
Esoteric instrument used by monks in Buddhist ceremonies.



A GUIDE TO KOYASAN

636 Koyasan, Koya-cho, Ito-gun, Wakayama 648-0281
URL : <http://www.koyasan.net/>

A GUIDE TO KOYASAN



■ Dai-mon Gate ■ MAP-①

The main gate to the entire Koyasan area. Reconstructed in 1705, it is a 2-story wooden structure standing 25.8m tall, with a Kongorikishi (guardian deities) on either side of the gate.



■ Reihokan Museum ■ MAP-②

A museum preserving important cultural assets of Koyasan, including national treasures.

■ Danjo Garan ■ MAP-③

(Sacred Temple Complex)

Garan is a sacred area founded by Kukai (posthumously known as Kobo Daishi) as a place for the study of Shingon (Esoteric) Buddhism. The Kon-do Hall was constructed first, followed by the surrounding buildings. The erection of Konpon Daito required the greatest work among all the buildings. Many of the buildings you see now were reconstructed due to the loss of the originals because of fires caused by lightning, as lightning rods were unavailable in those days. The sole remaining original building is the Fudo-do, a designated national treasure.



■ Konpon Daito ■

(Fundamental Pagoda)

Daito was constructed by Kobo Daishi (Kukai) as a center for the study of Shingon (Esoteric) Buddhism.

In the center of this tower there is a statue of the "Dainichi Nyorai" seated in the "Taizokai" and surrounded by four protector Buddhas from the "Kongokai". This is a unique three-dimensional mandala that is comprised of statues and brilliant paintings covering both the tower's walls and its 16 massive columns.



■ Mie-do Hall ■

Mie-do Hall was constructed as a Jibutsu-do Hall (building for enshrining Buddhist images) and Nenju-do Hall (building for chanting sutras) by Kobo Daishi (Kukai).

The present building was reconstructed in 1847, and with its gently sloping roof and extending eaves, is one of the most elegant buildings in the entire area.



■ Kon-do Hall ■

Kon-do Hall was built in 819 by Kobo Daishi (Kukai) as a Kobo (lecture hall). The present building was reconstructed in 1932 and is used for major ceremonies of Koyasan.

Koyasan Trivia

Sanko no Matsu

It is said that Kukai was in search of a place for training and threw a Sanko to see where it would land when he returned from Tang Dynasty China. The Sanko was caught on this Matsu (pine tree), hence the tree became called as "Sanko no Matsu". It even appears as though the Sanko might have caused the pine needles to grow in groups of three. Quite interesting, isn't it?
 ※Sanko (Sankoshō) ... Three-Pronged Vajra (a small, hand-held tool used in rituals)



■ Kongobu-ji Head Temple ■ MAP-④

In 1593, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, the ruler of Japan at the time, had Seigan-ji Temple built to commemorate his deceased mother and to pray for the enlightenment of her soul. In 1869, this temple became known as Kongobu-ji Temple and the head temple of Koyasan. This temple is the head temple to about 3600 branch temples of the Koyasan Shingon Sect nationwide.



■ Nyonin-do Hall ■ MAP-⑤

Until 1872, women were prohibited from entering the grounds of Koyasan, a place for Buddhist training. For this reason, a Nyonin-do Hall (Building for Women) was built at each of the seven entrances, where it is said that women prayed at the temple grounds from here. This is the only one of the seven Nyonin-do Hall now standing, reminding visitors of its past.



■ Tokugawa Mausoleum ■ MAP-⑥

The mausoleum for the Tokugawa family was built in 1643. The construction was ordered by Iemitsu, the third Tokugawa shogun and took twenty years to complete. The mausoleum shines with gold on the inside and is richly decorated with delicate designs. It enshrines the past shoguns Tokugawa Ieyasu and Tokugawa Hidetada.



■ Karukaya-do Hall ■ MAP-⑦

This is the legendary building where the monks Karukaya Doshin and Ishidomaru, without recognizing each other as father and son, practiced asceticism. Many paintings recounting the story can be seen inside the building.



■ Mizumuke Jizo ■

These large Jizo (guardian deities) line up at the foot of the Gobyō no hashi Bridge. Visitors pour water here to pray for their ancestors.



■ Gobyō no hashi Bridge ■

When crossing over this bridge, you will enter the sacred ground of Kobo Daishi (Kukai). The names of 36 Buddhas of Kongokai are written at the back of the bridge.



Okuno-in MAP-⑧

Over 200,000 tombstones and Buddhist memorials called stupas of people including famous samurai lords line up along with giant, several hundred year old Japanese cedars on either side of the 2km (1.25miles) path leading from the Ichinohashi Bridge. Kobodaishi Gobyō Mausoleum is located at the end of the path. The sacred religious centre is frequented by worshippers and pilgrims.



■ Torodo (Lantern Hall) ■

Toro-do was constructed as a building for worship facing Kukai's Mausoleum. The over 10000 lanterns were dedicated by worshippers and continue to burn endlessly.

