

World Heritage

Sacred Sites of Koyasan

A sacred place where 1200 years of history breathe



Konpon-daito Pagoda Inside
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.

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.



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.



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.



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.

Sutra Copying 写経
Shakyu 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
1,500 yen
8:30 am to 3:00 pm (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 1,000 yen entry fee for Kongobu-ji also required
Times offered: 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:30 pm, and 3:30 pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and mid-November to mid-April.
Time needed: about 1 hour



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

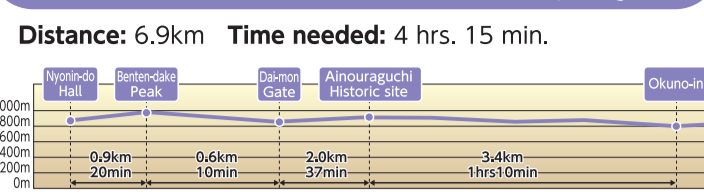


Banyutei Garden
Kongobu-ji Head Temple 金剛峯寺
Kongobu-ji is the ecclesiastical head temple of Koyasan Shingon Buddhism. It features Japan's largest rock garden, Banyutei, and displays numerous fusuma screen paintings.

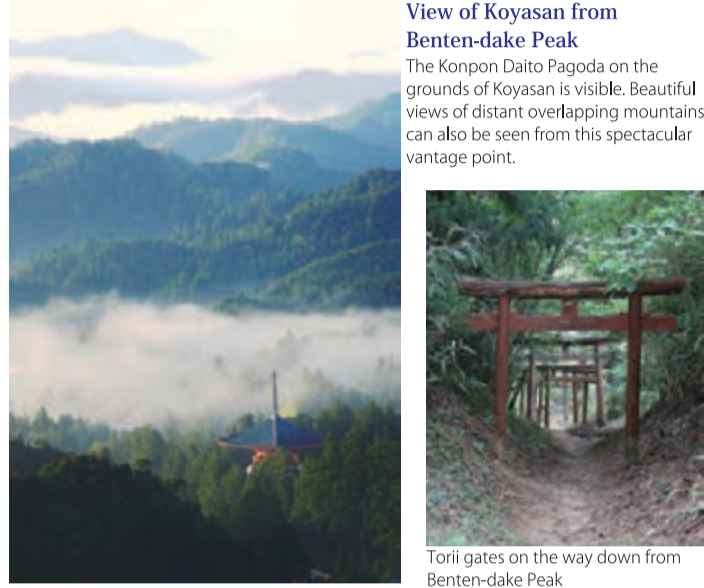
Stay at Shukubo Temple Lodging
There are 51 shukubos (temple lodging) at Koyasan. Each one has its own charms, like beautiful courtyards, and fusuma screen paintings.

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

Nyonin-michi Pilgrimage Route 女人道



Trail Access (Nearest Station) Koyasan Sta. 6 min. Nyonindo-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.



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
Jison-in Temple, Niukanshobu-jinja Shrine, Niutsumi-jinja Shrine and more

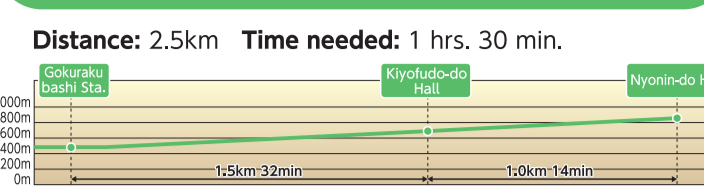
Kissho Horai 吉祥宝来
A style of paper cut art originating at Koyasan. These can be hung in your living room or entryway all year round as prayers for good fortune and against illness and hardships.

The Official Wakayama Travel Guide "VISIT WAKAYAMA"
See here for detailed Wakayama Prefecture tourism information

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.

Fudo-zaka Slope 不動坂

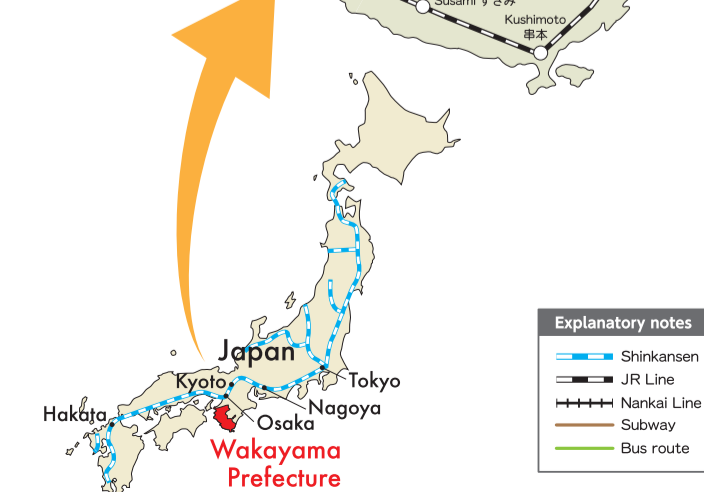


Trail Access (Nearest Station) Gokurakubashi Sta. A short walk
The trail from Gokuraku-bashi Station to Nyonin-do Hall is known as the Fudo-zaka Slope. This trail forms part of the path from Kyoto and Osaka to Koyasan. The section known as Iroha-zaka Slope was the most perilous part.



Rules when walking pilgrimage routes
1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **Do not leave trash**
Be sure to take all trash with you and keep the pilgrimage routes beautiful.
4. **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.
5. **Be careful with fire**
Never smoke while walking the path, and use lighters with extreme caution.

Map of Kansai Area



Wakayama, Japan



KOYASAN AREA GUIDE

Your companion to Koyasan and nearby areas.



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
Shinkansen 35min	Shinkansen 2hr. 40min	Shinkansen 50min	JR 30min
Nankai Line Ltd. Exp. 35min	Shin-Osaka Sta. 新大阪駅	Osaka Sta. 大阪駅	JR 20min
Tengachaya Sta. 天下茶屋駅	Namba Sta. 難波駅	Shin-imamiya Sta. 新今宮駅	
ankai Koya Line Ltd. Exp. KOYA 40min	Nankai Koya Line Ltd. Exp. KOYA 45min	Nankai Koya Line Ltd. Exp. KOYA 43min	
Hashimoto Sta. 橋本駅			
ankai Koya Line Local train 12min	Nankai Koya Line Ltd. Exp. KOYA 35min	JR Wakayama Line 6min	
Kudoyama Sta. 九度山駅	Koyaguchi Sta. 高野口駅		
ankai Koya Line Local train 28min	JR Wakayama Line 6min		
Gokurakubashi Sta. 極楽橋駅			
Koyasan Sta. 高野山駅			
Cable Car 5min			
Koyasan Sta. 高野山駅			

BUS ROUTE

Kyoto-Koyasan Direct Highway Bus

Kyoto Sta. Hachijoguchi 八条口	160min	Koyasan(Okuno-in-mae) 高野山(奥の院前)
-----------------------------	--------	---------------------------------

Koyasan and Kumano Access Bus

Koyasan Sta. 高野山駅前	160min	Ryujin-Onsen 龍神温泉	130min	Hongu Taisha-Mae 本宮大社前
--------------------	--------	-------------------	--------	------------------------

These buses are in service for certain periods of the year. So please check the latest bus timetables on each website.
Published by: The Hashimoto/Ito Area Tourism Association (Office: Ito Promotion Bureau, Wakayama Prefecture)



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 Nyoniin-michi(5)) are UNESCO World Heritage sites, and provide an excellent chance to enjoy pristine nature and historic trails.

Legend:

- World Heritage
- Restaurants
- Tourist Information Office
- Toilet
- Convenience store
- Accommodation
- Points of interest along the pilgrimage route
- National Highway
- Post office
- Parking

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 Niutshime-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.

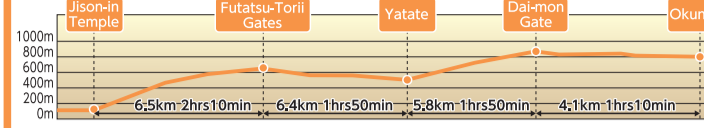
Niusakadono-jinja Shrine 丹生酒殿神社
When the god Niu Myojin visited this place, a local deity made her sake. This area's name comes from that gift. Every year, from the middle of November to the beginning of December, large ginkgo trees display bright fall colors.

2 Enlarged map of the Mitani-zaka Slope trail head



Choishi-michi Pilgrimage Route

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



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.



Point of interest
Niutshime-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.

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.



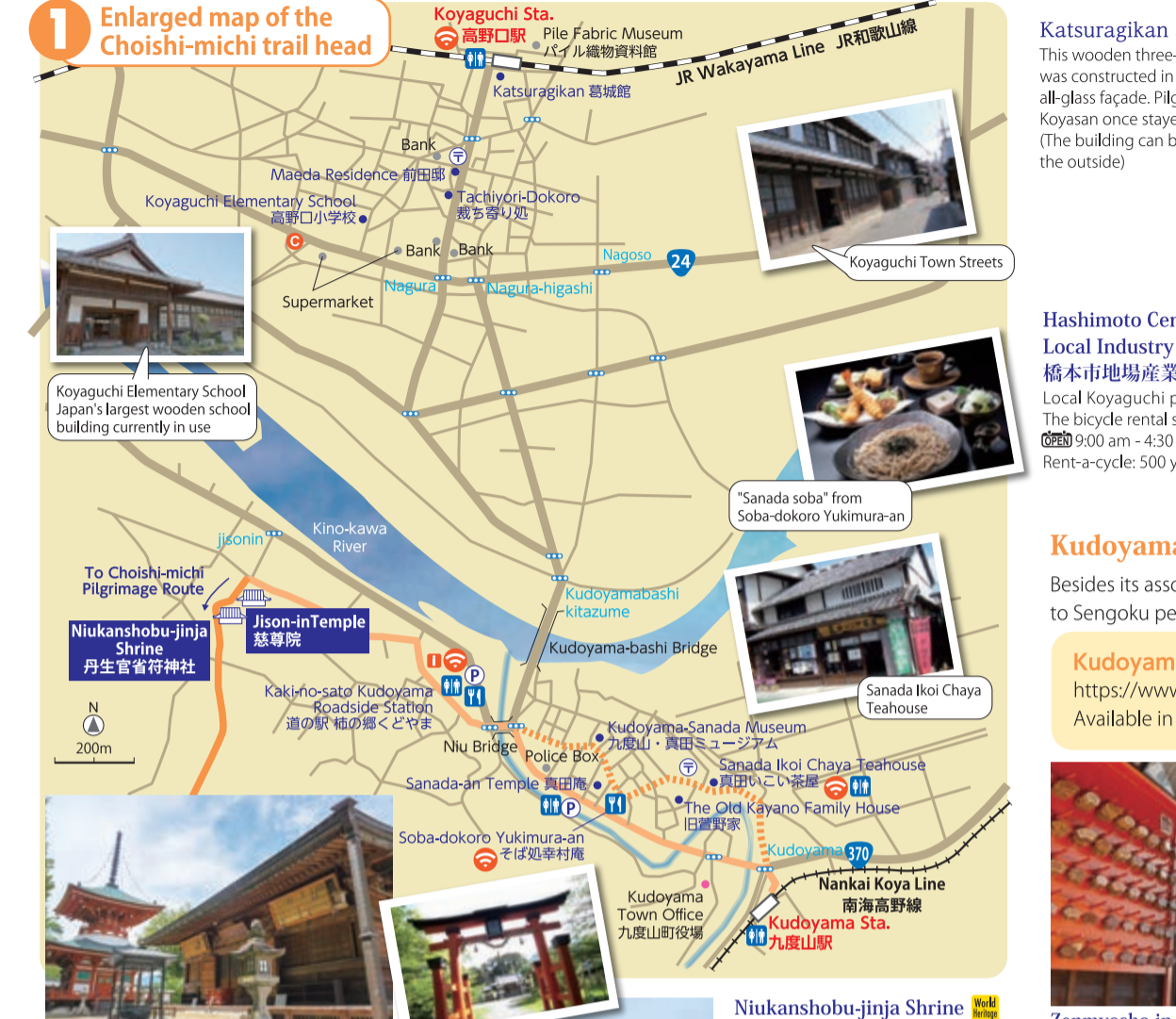
Niutshime-jinja Shrine 丹生都比売神社
Believed to be over 1700 years old, Niutshime-jinja is dedicated to the gods Niu Myojin and Koya Myojin. The shrine entrance is a beautiful arched bridge.



Point of interest
The story of Koyasan is deeply intertwined with that of Niutshime-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.

"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.

Koyaguchi/Kudoyama Area 高野口/九度山エリア



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.

Niutshime-jinja Shrine 丹生官省符神社
Dedicated to the gods Niu Myojin and Koya Myojin, who led Kobo-Daishi to Koyasan. The shrine offers marriage blessings.

Point of interest
Sanada-an Temple 善名尊院 (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 "Kaminarifuji no Iwa" (lightning seal wall), where Sanda Yukimura is said to have captured lightning.

Point of interest
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.



Koyaguchi Town Streets



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. (The building can be viewed from the outside)

Hashimoto Center for Promoting Local Industry Tachiyori-Dokoro 橋本市地場産業振興センター 蔵ち寄り処
Local Koyaguchi pile fabrics are displayed and sold here. The bicycle rental service is available.

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

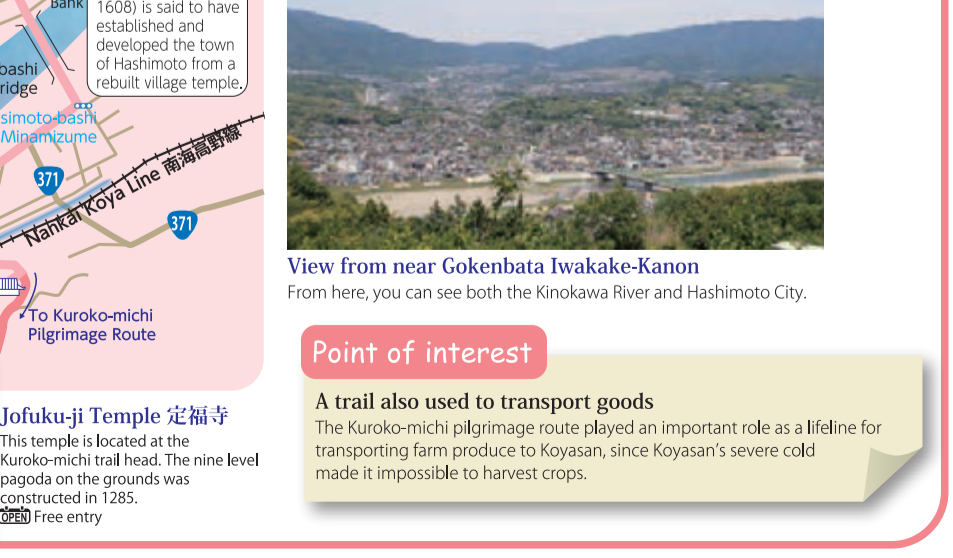
Kudoyama Town Tourist Information
<https://www.kudoyama-kanko.jp/>
Available in English, Korean, and Chinese.

Kudoyama-Sanada Museum 九度山・真田ミュージアム
The museum displays panels on the lives of three generations of the Sanada family, Masayuki, Yukimura, and Daisuke, and introduces the history in greater detail through videos.

Zennyusho-in Temple (Sanada-an Temple) 善名尊院 (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 "Kaminarifuji no Iwa" (lightning seal wall), where Sanda Yukimura is said to have captured lightning.

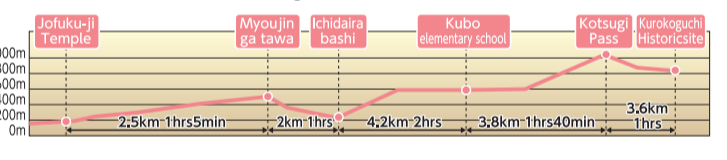
Who is Sanada Yukimura?
A military commander during the Sengoku period, he is known as "the greatest soldier in Japan", and has attracted attention around the world as the image of a heroic military commander.

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.



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. 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



Point of interest
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.



Old trail near Warandani waran谷付近の古道
Enjoy a walk through the lush natural surroundings where you can hear the sound of stream water.



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



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