Visit Wakayama
The Official Guide
WHERE IS WAKAYAMA?

Just 40 minutes from Kansai International Airport, Wakayama faces the Pacific Ocean and occupies a large slice of the Kii peninsula. Wakayama is part of the Kansai region, which includes Osaka, Nara and Kyoto. Wakayama City, the prefectural capital, is just one hour from Osaka by train.

Inland Wakayama is dominated by the Kii mountains, home to World Heritage ancient pilgrimage routes, sacred shrines and mountaintop temples. Along the coastline which spans more than 600 kilometres, there are world-class beaches, hot spring retreats and awe-inspiring ocean views.

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Explore these fascinating trails traversing sacred mountains and winding through forests and small villages.

**Trek the Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage Routes**

MORE ON P.10

**The Best of**

**The Spiritual Heart of Japan**

The Japanese have worshipped nature in its most magnificent forms since the annals of the country’s history. In Wakayama’s mountains and along the coast, you will find waterfalls, ancient trees and even giant rocks that embody deities. The stunning abundance of nature makes Wakayama one of Japan’s most spiritual destinations.

**Discover Mountaintop Temple Complex Koyasan**

MORE ON P.06

**Try Traditional Log Rafting**

MORE ON P.44

**Stand at the Foot of Nachi Waterfall**

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**Sunbathe on Shirahama’s Unbelievably White Beaches**

MORE ON P.26

Pristine beaches, mesmerizing blue water and dramatic coastal scenery, Shirahama is one of the region’s top seaside resorts.

Buddhist monks go about their lives the way they have for centuries in this secluded mountaintop temple town.

Take on the whitewater of the Kitayama-gawa river on a traditional log raft.

Water thunders down the rock face from the top of this impressive waterfall, one of the most sacred and awe-inspiring spots in southern Wakayama.

P.04
Visit Wakayama’s super cute animal stars at Adventure World and Kishi Station.

Explore the Old Fortress Islands of Tomogashima

Meet the Animal Stars of Wakayama

Wakayama

Stroll the Streets of Nostalgic Yuasa

Bathe in a River in the Hongu Onsen-kyo

A Land of Water

Relax & Unwind

Wakayama is about escaping the stresses of everyday life, reconnecting with nature and taking things easy. Passing through coastal towns, mountain villages and hot spring hamlets, expect to encounter friendly locals and awe-inspiring scenery. Along the way, the succulent fruit and fresh seafood will keep your taste buds happy.

Stroll the Streets of Nostalgic Yuasa

Known as The Fruit Kingdom, Wakayama has a myriad of fruit farms. Choose one for some pick-your-own fun.

Bathe in a River in the Hongu Onsen-kyo

Explore the Old Fortress Islands of Tomogashima

Whether it’s the healing geothermal waters of one of the region’s hot springs, the deep blue of the Pacific or the crystal clear streams that run down from the mountains, water is everywhere in Wakayama. Enjoy making it a part of your experience and sampling the delicacies it provides.

Taste the Very Freshest Tuna in Katsuura

Boasting the biggest tuna fish haul in Japan, Katsuura is the place to go for the tastiest tuna.

Visit an Orchard in The Fruit Kingdom

Explore the narrow winding streets of Yuasa for traditional architecture and a charming view of old Japan.

Relax and unwind the Japanese way in the geothermal waters of the Hongu Onsen-kyo’s hot spring hamlets.

Meet the Animal Stars of Wakayama
Koyasan

Nestled in the mountains to the north east of the region, Koyasan is a sacred temple town founded more than 1,200 years ago by the Buddhist monk Kobo Daishi, or Kukai as he was also known. The legendary man was the pioneer of the Shingon sect of Buddhism. His mausoleum is at Okuno-in, at the heart of the temple complex. Koyasan, a World Heritage site, attracts visitors from around the world. Everyone is welcome regardless of their faith, and many of the temples offer overnight stays, Buddhist dining and a range of activities and experiences.

Danjo Garan Sacred Temple Complex

The Danjo Garan complex is the centre of Koyasan. It was founded by Kobo Daishi as a place for training in esoteric Shingon Buddhism. Several temples are located inside the complex, and the 49-metre tall Great Pagoda, or Konpon Daito, is impressive in its scale. A statue of the Dainichi Nyorai, Shingon Buddhism's main Buddha, is housed inside.

Kondo, Konpon Daito: ¥200
152 Koyasan, Koya Town
www.koyasan.or.jp/en/meguru/sights.html#danjogaran
Okuno-in

The most sacred site in Koyasan, this is where Kobo Daishi, the founder of the temple town, is said to be in a state of eternal meditation. A 2-kilometre path leads from Ichinohashi, the entrance of Okuno-in, to the Lantern Hall and Kobo Daishi’s mausoleum. The path is lined with thousands of moss-covered tombstones and ancient cedar trees.

550 Koyasan, Koya Town
www.koyasan.or.jp/en/meguru/sights. html#okunoin

Moss-covered tombstones at Okuno-in
Kongobu-ji Head Temple

The head temple of Koyasan Shingon Buddhism, Kongobu-ji is one of Koyasan’s top attractions. Highlights include the beautiful paintings on the sliding doors inside the main hall and the Banryutei garden, Japan’s largest and arguably most beautiful rock garden. The temple also offers ajikan meditation sessions.

Koyasan is famed for its Buddhist cuisine. Termed ‘shojin ryori’ in Japanese, this meat and fish-free cuisine has been eaten by monks for centuries. It is prepared following strict rules, with particular attention given to colour balance and presentation. Minimal seasonings are used with the emphasis on the original flavours of the ingredients. Several restaurants and many of the temples in Koyasan serve shojin ryori.

DID YOU KNOW?

Many of Koyasan’s temples open their doors to visitors, offering accommodation, meals and an insight into Buddhist life. Each has its own unique character. Some have meticulously raked gravel gardens while others display splendid collections of Buddhist art. Staying at a temple, or ‘shukubo’, gets you a behind-the-scenes look at some of the area’s most prestigious temples. If you don’t feel like an overnight stay, you can sign up for a meditation session, take part in a fire ceremony or try sutra copying, ‘shakyo’ in Japanese. The Koyasan Shukubo Association can help arrange activities and temple stays.

Food for the Soul

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Daimon

Located in the Koyasan Daishi Kyokai building, KCCN offers guided tours of Koyasan in multiple languages. Book in advance to avoid disappointment.

Koyasan App
The Koyasan Travel Guide is the official tourism app for Koyasan. Download it to make the most of your stay in the area.

The Reihokan Museum was established in 1921 to house the valuable cultural heritage of Koyasan. The building itself is a listed building and contains some of the finest examples of Buddhist artwork.

The third Tokugawa shogun had this mausoleum built for his father and grandfather. The two buildings, with their graceful sloping roofs, intricate carvings and gold leaf designs, are gorgeous examples of 17th-century Japanese architecture.

Until the late 1800’s, women were not allowed to worship at Koyasan. Jison-in, a temple at the start of the Koyasan Choishimichi pilgrimage route, welcomed female devotees. Today it is known for the breast-shaped offerings hung around the temple.

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 heroic military figure, and includes props from a recent hit TV drama.
One of the most spiritual places in Japan, the World Heritage Kumano region is home to the Kumano Sanzan, three of the nation’s most sacred shrines. These are linked by a network of ancient pilgrimage routes. The five main routes are known as the Kumano Kodo. The Nakayome route, running from Tanabe to Kumano Hongu Taisha and the other grand shrines, is the most popular. It is easily accessible from Wakayama City and dotted with both lodgings and rest areas. Covering the entire route takes the best part of a week.

For detailed multilingual information on the Kumano Kodo pilgrimage routes, visit the Tanabe City Tourism Bureau’s website where you can also book hotels, guided tours and walking adventures. The main guide groups in the area are Kumano Trek and Mi-Kumano.

Tanabe City Kumano Tourism Bureau
0739-26-9025

Mi-Kumano
http://en.mi-kumano.com

Kumano Trek
www.kumano-travel.com/index/en/action_ContentsDetail_Detail/id252
Talismans from the region’s holiest shrines (Kumano Hongu Taisha, Kumano Hayatama Taisha and Kumano Nachi Taisha) are believed to ward off evil and bring good fortune. Known in Japanese as ‘go-o-shinpu’, these charms have been coveted by worshippers since ancient times. Each of the shrines has its own unique talisman but all bear the symbol of a mythical three-legged crow. You can pick one up for ¥500.

Everyone is welcome to pray at a Shinto shrine. Begin by gently throwing a coin into the offering box, usually in front of the main building. This is an offering to the enshrined deity. If you want to do it the Japanese way, ring the bell, then bow twice, clap twice and offer your prayer. Finish with one deep bow. If in doubt, just copy a local.

Tanabe, the second largest city in Wakayama, offers easy access to the Nakahechi route and has developed as a base for walking the Kumano Kodo pilgrimage routes. It also attracts many aikido enthusiasts as the birthplace of aikido founder Morihei Ueshiba.

With its unrivalled water quality, the hot spring hamlet of Ryujin Onsen has been on the map since ancient times, receiving famous guests such as the feudal lord of the Wakayama region in the 17th century. The water is believed to improve the skin. Many of the baths have scenic views.

This modest shrine newly included on UNESCO’s list of Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range, stands near the start of the Nakahechi pilgrimage route. It is worth stopping by for the morning market on the third Sunday of the month.

DID YOU KNOW?

**STEP 1**
Bow twice

**STEP 2**
Clap twice

**STEP 3**
Bow once

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The Nakahechi Pilgrimage Route

Takijiri-oji to Kumano Hongu Taisha Grand Shrine

This 38-km section of the Nakahechi pilgrimage route winds along forest trails and through mountain villages. Most people complete the hike in two days with an overnight stay in the Chikatsuyu-oji or Nonaka Ipposugi area. Buses from Tanabe and Shirahama stop at Takajiri-oji and link other stops on the trail.

Kumano Hongu Taisha Grand Shrine

熊野本宮大社

This shrine, with its beautiful sweeping cypress bark roofs, is one of the three main shrines of the Kumano faith. The entrance is up a long flight of stone steps flanked by ancient cedar and cypress trees. The main shrine building is an architectural masterpiece, and there is a treasure hall you can enter for a small fee.

Kumano Hongu Taisha

熊野本宮大社

Hongu, Hongu-cho, Tanabe City

www.hongutaisha.jp/english/

8:00 - 17:00

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中辺路（滝尻王子から熊野本宮大社）
Oyunohara

Until a flood in 1889, this is where Kumano Hongu Taisha Grand Shrine stood. Now only two small stone shrines remain, guarded over by the world’s largest torii gate.

1 Hongu, Hongu-cho, Tanabe City
www.hongu.jp/kumanokodo/hongu-taisha/ooyunohara/ (JP)

Kumano Hongu Heritage Center

A modern facility near the entrance to Kumano Hongu Taisha Grand Shrine, the centre doubles as a tourist information office and museum with displays on the UNESCO pilgrimage routes and sacred sites in the region.

101-1 Hongu, Hongu-cho, Tanabe City

While Walking

The small shrines that line the paths of the Kumano Kodo are called Oji Shrines. Serving as places of worship and rest, they were set up to protect and guide pilgrims on their journeys to the Kumano Sanzan shrines. As a set, they are often referred to as ‘The 99 Oji’, but the exact number is unclear. How many will you spot?

Relax After Walking

The best way to relax after a long walk is to soak in the rejuvenating geothermal waters of a local hot spring hamlet. Yunomine, Wataze and Kawayu are three of these and known collectively as the Hongu Onsen-kyo. From open-air riverside baths to a legendary samurai-healing bath, whichever you choose, you can be sure your feet will thank you.

To Shingu

13

1000 m
800 m
600 m
400 m
200 m

10 km
20 km
30 km
40 km
50 km
60 km
70 km
80 km
90 km
100 km

Hosshinmon-ōji

Hosshinmon-ōji

Hongu Taisha-mae
The Nakahechi Pilgrimage Route

Daimon-zaka Slope to Kumano Nachi Taisha Grand Shrine

The walk up Daimon-zaka to Nachi Taisha is the perfect way to experience the Kumano Kodo without the planning and effort of a multi-day hike. The course, barely a kilometre in length, leads along a cobblestone path flanked with ancient trees. It takes around 50 minutes and can be walked in everyday shoes.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Buddhism first arrived in Japan at the beginning of the Asuka period (mid-6th century). After its arrival and up until 1868, the indigenous Shinto religion and Buddhism were merged together, and Shinto deities and the many forms of Buddha were worshipped side by side. This religious syncretism is called ‘shinbut-su-shugo’ in Japanese. The Kumano faith is an example of this.
One of the three great Kumano shrines, this Shinto shrine’s religious roots are in the ancient worship of Nachi Waterfall. Between the shrine and neighbouring Seiganto-ji Temple is an 850-year-old camphor tree believed to be home to another deity. Visitors can pass through a hollow section of the trunk and pray at the small altar inside.

Kumano Nachi Taisha
Grand Shrine
熊野那智大社

Seiganto-ji Temple
那智山青岸渡寺

Nachi Waterfall
那智大滝

Nachisan
那智山
Ki-no-Matsushima is a group of 130 distinctively-shaped islets in Katsuura Bay. Some resemble animals, explaining names like Camel Rock and Lion Island. A great way to see them up close is to take a tour. Boats leave the port several times a day, taking passengers around the islets, and then onto the whale museum in Taiji before returning. Tours last an hour.

Ki-no-Matsushima Cruise
紀の松島めぐり

Opening Hours: 9:00 - 17:00
Adults: ¥1,650, Children: ¥830
442-20 Katsuura, Nachikatsuura Town
http://kinomatsushima.com/ (JP)

Katsuura Port Fish Market
勝浦漁港 魚市場見学

More tuna is landed in Katsuura than anywhere else in Japan. At the local fish market, you can watch from designated observation areas as the fresh catch is lined up and sold off during the lively early morning auctions. After taking in the action, you can sample the goods at restaurants throughout the town.

Opening Hours: Saturdays (exceptions apply)
7-8-2 Tsukiji, Nachikatsuura Town
www.nachikan.jp/en/nachikatsuura/

Looking over Katsuura Bay, this rustic, slightly retro fishing hub first flourished by offering lodgings to pilgrims en route to Kumano Nachi Taisha Grand Shrine. Today, it is better known for its oceanside hot springs and lively morning fish market, which supplies Wakayama and the rest of Japan with some of the best tuna.
**Fudarakusan-ji Temple**

Stories tell of monks sailing off into martyrdom in small boats destined for Buddhist paradise from this ancient temple. A replica of one such boat is on display in the grounds.

- **Hours:** 8:30 - 16:00
- **Location:** Hamanomiy, Nachikatsuura Town
- **Access:** JR Nachi » 3 min

**Benten-jima Island**

A red torii gate stands on this sacred islet in Nachi Bay. At low tide, you can walk across and from the small island, see Nachi Waterfall off in the distance.

- **Location:** Nachikatsuura Town
- **Website:** [www.wakayama-kanko.or.jp/spot/detail.php?id=462](http://www.wakayama-kanko.or.jp/spot/detail.php?id=462)
- **Access:** JR Kii-Katsura » 15 min

**Onsen Hopping**

Katsuura has more than 100 hot spring (onsen) sources. Many of the hotels, especially the larger ones like Urashima and Nakanoshima, get water direct from their own private sources. The rotenburo, or open-air baths, in the area have fantastic sea views. Some of the more unusual baths are found in caves and on islets in the bay. Spend a leisurely day hopping from bath to bath to find the best.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The biggest tuna ever sold at the fish market in Katsuura measured 2.82 metres and weighed 446 kilos: enough for more than 20,000 pieces of nigiri sushi. Although tuna from the region makes its way onto many menus throughout Wakayama, the very freshest is served in restaurants within walking distance of the market. Make sure to try some if you get the chance.
The Kumano region is one of Japan’s most sacred places and nowhere is that more true than Shingu, where the 12 deities of the Kumano faith are said to have descended from the heavens. For centuries pilgrims have journeyed here to visit Hayatama Taisha and Kamikura-jinja. To really get a taste of heaven on earth, visit Doro-kyo Gorge.

**Shingu**

Together with Hongu Taisha and Nachi Taisha, Hayatama Taisha is one of the three great Kumano shrines. According to tradition, pilgrims would sail down the Kumano-gawa river to this shrine after visiting Hongu Taisha. Compared to the latter, the grounds here feel more open and spacious, and the buildings are painted a striking vermilion. The onsite treasure hall has an impressive collection of invaluable art and artifacts.

**Kumano Hayatama Taisha Grand Shrine**

1 Shingu, Shingu City  http://kumanohayatama.jp/ (JP)  Gongen-mae 1 min

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**Kumano-gawa River Boat Tour**

Ride in a rustic wooden boat down the river to Hayatama Taisha, part of the pilgrimage route connecting the three great Kumano shrines. The journey takes 90 minutes. Ask at the time of reservation for an English-speaking guide.

Morning Tours: 10:00  Afternoon Tours: 14:30
*Reservations required  Dec 28 - Jan 4
¥3,900 (adults), ¥2,000 (children)
*Children must be 4 years and older
350 Hitar, Kumano-gawa-cho, Shingu City  http://kawabune.info/
**Doro-kyo Gorge**

A 1.5-kilometre stretch of the Kumano Kodo Nakahechi pilgrim-age route, between Shingu and Nachi. The course leads up through a forest, and past stone statues to a lookout with a view of the ocean.

**Near the station, this park celebrates the legendary figure Jofuku, a Chinese man that came to Kumano in search of the elixir of life. A colourful Chinese-style gate marks the entrance.**

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**Kamikura-jinja Shrine**

Closely tied with Hayatama Taisha, this small but stunning clifftop shrine marks the spot (a gigantic rock) where legend says the deities of Kumano descended. The stone steps leading to the shrine are not for the faint-hearted.

**Koya-zaka Slope**

A 1.5-kilometre stretch of the Kumano Kodo Nakasendo pilgrimage route, between Shingu and Nachi. The course leads up through a forest, and past stone statues to a lookout with a view of the ocean.

**Doro-kyo Meguri-no-Sato**

1-4-24 Jofuku, Shingu City

www.jofuku.or.jp/index.htm (JP)

8:30 - 17:00 (exceptions apply)

Boat tours: ¥3,440 (adults), ¥1,720 (children)

272 Hitari, Kumanogawa-cho, Shingu City

http://kumakou.co.jp/dorokyou/dk004.html (JP)

**Kamikura-jinja Shrine**

1-13-8 Kamikura, Shingu City

http://kumanohayatama.jp/?page_id=18 (JP)

JR Shingu » 15 min

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Wakayama City

Wakayama’s largest city, just 45 minutes from Kansai International Airport, is located in the north of the region and borders Osaka. Smaller and more laid-back than its neighbour, Wakayama City boasts pleasant beaches, beautiful natural scenery and a rich cultural heritage.
Momijidani Teien Garden
紅葉庭園
Beautiful, especially in autumn, this traditional Japanese garden is complete with a teahouse where you can sample matcha green tea.

Wakayama Castle
和歌山城
Built in 1585 on the instructions of powerful warlord Toyotomi Hideyoshi, Wakayama Castle dominates the city. It is one of Japan’s finest castles and particularly impressive in spring when the cherry trees are in full bloom. Walk the beautiful grounds and climb to the top of the keep for a breathtaking view of the city.

Kataonami Park
片男波公園
A long stretch of beach and grassland, this seaside park offers panoramic views of Wakanoura Bay. Facilities include a restaurant, play area and poetry museum.

Wakayama Historical Center
わかやま歴史館
Learn about the castle and history of the Kishu domain (modern-day Wakayama). Admission is free with a ticket stub from the castle.

Tomogashima Islands
友ヶ島
A short boat ride from Kada, these islands are home to the ruins of an abandoned military fort. Spend the day exploring or stay over-night at the free campsite.

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A picturesque hillside shrine built to enshrine the first Shogun of the Edo period (1603-1867). The shrine is at the top of a flight of 108 stone steps, known by locals as Samurai Hill. Once at the top, you can tour the beautifully carved and lacquered shrine, and take in the view of Wakanoura Bay.

The highlight of a visit is easily the tuna show. Three times daily a professional fishmonger demonstrates the skills required to fillet an enormous fish. Even if you miss the show, there are plenty of shops and restaurants to explore. If the weather's good, you can buy some fish to barbecue outside.

This oceanfront resort complex offers fun for all the family. European-themed amusement park Porto Europa boasts rides, games and a 4D theatre. At Kuroshio Market, you can take in a tuna filleting show. There are also shops, restaurants, hotels and a hot spring facility.

**Kuroshio Market**

10:00 - 17:00
1527 Kami, Wakayama City
www.marinacity.com/eng/europa/

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**Porto Europa**

10:00 - 17:00
1527 Kami, Wakayama City
www.marinacity.com/eng/europa/

**Kishu Kuroshio Onsen**

10:00 - 24:00
¥830 (adults), ¥520 (children)
1527 Kami, Wakayama City
www.marinacity.com/eng/hotspring/

And a picturesque hillside shrine built to enshrine the first Shogun of the Edo period (1603-1867). The shrine is at the top of a flight of 108 stone steps, known by locals as Samurai Hill. Once at the top, you can tour the beautifully carved and lacquered shrine, and take in the view of Wakanoura Bay.

A picturesque hillside shrine built to enshrine the first Shogun of the Edo period (1603-1867). The shrine is at the top of a flight of 108 stone steps, known by locals as Samurai Hill. Once at the top, you can tour the beautifully carved and lacquered shrine, and take in the view of Wakanoura Bay.

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Wakayama Electric Railway not only has a quirky lineup of strawberry, cat and toy-themed trains, but Kishi Station is overseen by a cute cat named Tama II. This lucky cat is the second feline stationmaster at Kishi and follows in the footsteps of her predecessor Tama, now the guardian deity of the station, enshrined on the platform. Visitors can meet and take photos of Tama II, quite possibly the most famous cat in Japan, and stop for a coffee in the station, also shaped to look like a cat.

Coloured pink and designed to look like a fish, this kitsch train runs from Wakayama-shi Station. Even the interior and seats are decorated with fish motifs.

Now a park where you can picnic, barbecue or stroll, this gorgeous clifftop expanse was once a fortified lookout. Although nothing of the fortress remains, it’s worth a visit for the scenery alone.
Still making soy sauce in the traditional way in its original buildings, you can learn about the brewing process at this 170-year-old brewery and museum.

DID YOU KNOW?

Yuasa is the birthplace of Japanese soy sauce. Story has it that the condiment was discovered by pure coincidence after a priest returning from China brought back the skill for making miso, or soybean paste: soy sauce is made from the run-off fluids produced when making miso. For over 700 years, Yuasa has been producing some of the nation’s best soy sauce and miso.

Still making soy sauce in the traditional way in its original buildings, you can learn about the brewing process at this 170-year-old brewery and museum.
Aragijima Rice Terraces

Particularly beautiful at the beginning of autumn when the rice fields turn from lush green to golden. The best view of the terraced fields is from the observatory across the river.


Dojo-ji Temple

This 8th-century temple is home to a collection of impressive Buddhist statues, recognized by the nation for their immense cultural importance. Tours in English can be booked via the website.

Obiki, Yura Town  www.dojoji.com/e/index.html

Shirasaki Coast

Limestone outcrops and white cliffs contrast perfectly against an azure sea. Enjoy the view from Shirasaki Ocean Park which also offers scuba diving.

Obiki, Yura Town  JR Kii-Yura s 20 min

Yuasa Important Preservation District for Group of Traditional Buildings

The Preservation District protects the town’s unique heritage and includes former soy sauce breweries and other Edo-period (1603-1867) buildings of cultural and architectural value.

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Sandy beaches and spectacular coastal scenery abound in Shirahama and Susami. These areas boast some of the best beaches nationwide, and are home to historic hot springs, as well as a zoo, amusement park and aquarium. No visit to Wakayama is complete without a stay by the sea.

**Shirahama Susami**

The seaside resort of Shirahama is known for its sparkling white sand and frequently tops the list of the Kansai region’s best beaches. The 650-metre stretch of sand fans out around a bay of calm blue water. When open for swimming in summer, it is a great place for all the family to splash around.

**Shirarahama Beach**

Shirahama Town
www.nanki-shirahama.net/sightseeing/

**Sandanbeki Rock Cliff**

Sandanbeki Rock Cliff is a steep cliff towering 50 metres above the sea. Together with Sandanbeki Cave, this scenic spot makes for an enjoyable excursion from Shirarahama Beach.

**Sandanbeki Cave**

Concealed at the foot of a cliff, this cave was a hangout for pirates. Visitors can take an elevator down from Sandanbeki Rock Cliff to explore the cave and its narrow passageways.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Haneda</th>
<th>1h 15 min</th>
<th>Nanki Shirahama</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kansai Airport</td>
<td>2h</td>
<td>Shirahama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shin-Osaka</td>
<td>2.5h</td>
<td>Shirahama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shin-Osaka</td>
<td>3.5h</td>
<td>Shirahama</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Access:

- Kansai Airport: 2h
- Shin-Osaka: 2.5h
- Haneda: 1h 15 min
- Shin-Osaka: 3.5h

Cost:

- ¥1,300 (adults), ¥650 (children)

Open:

- 8:00 - 17:00

Time:

- 2 min

Contact:

- 2927-52 Shirahama Town
www.nanki-shirahama.net/sightseeing/
A natural archway carved over time by raging seas, Engetsuto Island is a fine example of natural architecture. Its Japanese name, Engetsuto, is a reference to the full-moon-like shape of its arch. In the spring and autumn months, this iconic Shirahama landmark is the best spot to watch the sun set.

3740 Shirahama Town
www.nanki-shirahama.net/sightseeing/

Don't miss out on a trip to Adventure World when visiting Shirahama. Part zoo, part safari park, part theme park, there are rides and roller coasters to choose from as well as open-top bus safaris, dolphin shows and exotic animal areas. Among the most popular animals are the pandas. Adventure World has its own panda breeding center and now has a total of seven giant pandas, more than any other zoo in Japan.

9:30 - 17:00 ¥4,100 (adults) *Children's rates vary

Adventure World » 1 min
The dramatic coastline between Shirahama and Susami boasts unusual rock formations and great sea views. Shihara Kaigan Roadside Station is a good base to explore the coast, with parking and other facilities.

From the lookout at Koibito-misaki, or Lovers’ Cape, you can observe the unusual phenomenon of meotonami: waves uniting from opposite directions, symbolic of love and its ability to overcome all.

Senjojiki Rock Plateau

A vast rocky expanse that stretches out into the Pacific Ocean. The name Senjojiki means ‘a thousand tatami mats’, alluding to both the size and shape of the plateau. Centuries of erosion have given the outcrop its unique flat form.

Senjojiki Shirahama Town
www.nanki-shirahama.net/sightseeing/
Senjo-guchi » 3 min

The dramatic coastline between Shirahama and Susami boasts unusual rock formations and great sea views. Shihara Kaigan Roadside Station is a good base to explore the coast, with parking and other facilities.

Meotonami

From the lookout at Koibito-misaki, or Lovers’ Cape, you can observe the unusual phenomenon of meotonami: waves uniting from opposite directions, symbolic of love and its ability to overcome all.
Shirahama is one of the oldest hot spring resorts in Japan. It dates back more than 1300 years and is mentioned in some of the country’s most ancient histories. The properties of the water differ from bath to bath, but all have positive effects on the skin and body. Saki-no-Yu is a popular choice for its clifftop bathing and ocean vistas.

**Crab and Shrimp Aquarium**

This modest aquarium devoted to only crabs and shrimp is home to some of the most unique and unusual crustaceans from around the world including both the largest and the heaviest crabs.

- Apr - Sep: 9:00 - 18:00
- Oct - Mar: 9:00 - 17:00
- ¥600 (adults), ¥500 (children)
- 808-1 Esumi, Susami Town
- www.ebikani-aquarium.com/ (JP)

**Minakata Kumagusu Museum**

Dedicated to Wakayama-born biologist and naturalist Minakata Kumagusu, this museum tells the story of his life, recounting his achievements in the study of molds and fungi.

- 9:00 - 17:00 (Exceptions apply)
- ¥500 (adults), ¥300 (children)
- 3601-1 Shirahama Town
- www.minakatakumagusu-kinenkan.jp/english/index.htm

**Shirahama Energy Land**

Energy Land is a small amusement park ideal for a fun day out. Children can learn about dinosaurs in the 3D theatre, have fun with illusion art and explore the adventure playground.

- 9:00 - 17:00
- Tuesdays
- ¥1,500 (adults), ¥1,200 (children)
- 3083 Shirahama Town
- www.energyland.jp/english
Known for its natural beauty, southern Wakayama is home to clear rivers, a craggy coastline and colourful coral. For much of the year, whale-watching tours and scuba diving draw visitors to the coastal town of Kushimoto. Further inland, Kozagawa attracts campers and nature lovers.

Hashigui-iwa Rock

‘Hashi’ means bridge, and as legend has it, the revered monk Kobo Daishi attempted to build a bridge from the mainland to Oshima Island. Hindered by a demon, he was unsuccessful. What remains are these mysterious pillar-like rocks.

Kujinokawa, Kushimoto Town

www.kankou-kushimoto.jp/english/sub01.html

MAP P.57
In the grounds of Muryo-ji Temple, this cosy gallery houses scrolls and sliding doors decorated with beautiful ink paintings. The art is mostly by prominent Edo period (1603-1867) artists.

Towering 100 metres above the emerald water of the Kozagawa river, this massive rock was created by intense volcanic activity. The scenic area is popular with campers in summer.

290-2 Aise, Kazagawa Town
www.town.kazagawa.wakayama.jp/kankou/sub001.html?lang=ja

Kushimoto is home to the world’s northernmost coral reef. Explore this unique marine environment at the park, where facilities include an underwater observatory, aquarium and dive school.

Kushimoto Marine Park

Kushimoto Okyo Rosetsu Art Museum

Turkey and Japan enjoy a strong friendship forged from an act of compassion shown more than 120 years ago. In 1890, an Ottoman naval vessel encountered a storm off Oshima Island, Wakayama. The ill-fated ship drifted into a reef and sank. Risking their own lives, locals launched a rescue and saved 69 Turkish sailors. The Turkish Memorial Museum in Kushimoto is a symbol of the bond between the two countries, and the town is twinned with Yakakent and Mersin in Turkey.
Wakayama is situated on Japan’s largest peninsula, the Kii-hanto, at latitude 34.14° North and longitude 135.10° East. The region is warm year round with winter so mild that even bougainvillea bloom. Annual precipitation is around 1,000 mm in the north, and over 2,000 mm in the south. The mountainous regions receive higher and heavy rainfall, with over 3,000 mm annually. Japan’s rainy season typically starts from the beginning of June and lasts until mid-July; expect the occasional sudden downpour.

Over the course of the year, the average daily temperature is about 15°C in spring, rising to an average of 27°C by July. August is the hottest time of year, and given Wakayama’s subtropical climate, things do get sticky with temperatures in the low 30’s. The humidity and heat subside come October, when autumn temperatures hover around the 15°C mark. At the peak of winter in January, temperatures average around 6°C.

**Weather and What to Wear**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Mar - May</th>
<th>Jun - Aug</th>
<th>Sep - Nov</th>
<th>Dec - Feb</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPRING</strong></td>
<td>9°C - 19°C</td>
<td>22°C - 30°C</td>
<td>13°C - 24°C</td>
<td>5°C - 10°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUMMER</strong></td>
<td>Layer with a t-shirt or long-sleeved item, light sweater and a jacket.</td>
<td>Pack shorts, t-shirts and lightweight, quick-dry clothing for humid weather.</td>
<td>Bring sweaters, jackets, and zippered clothing for changeable autumn weather.</td>
<td>Although quite mild, a good sweater and a winter coat will come in handy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AUTUMN</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WINTER</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Expect slightly lower temperatures in mountainous regions, especially at night and early in the morning. Note that such areas also occasionally receive snow in winter.

**WEATHER ALONG THE KUMANO KODO PILGRIMAGE ROUTES**

The weather in southern Wakayama and around the Kumano region is generally quite mild and suitable for trekking throughout the year. In January average temperatures hover between 3°C and 7°C. By May they are around 20°C. In August the weather gets hot and humid, but shaded trails do offer some respite from the heat. While May, June, September and November offer the best temperatures for hiking, they also see some high rainfall. The highest rainfall is at the end of the rainy season in July and at the peak of the typhoon season in September.

**WHAT TO WEAR WHEN HIKING**

The trails rise as high as 900 metres and although some parts are paved with stone, many sections are not; comfortable hiking shoes and loose-fitting clothing are highly recommended. With some strenuous uphill sections, it is a good idea to wear layers. Breathable rainwear is also recommended, especially from May through September.
Mountains, parks, farms and gardens, the Wakayama landscape changes to the rhythm of the seasons. Find out when and where to see nature at its most splendid.

Where to See the Season's Best Blooms

- Daffodils
  - Early Jan

Kashinozaki Lighthouse

Hundreds of daffodils bloom in profusion on the lawn at the foot of the lighthouse. The English engineers responsible for its construction are said to have planted the flowers.

- Ume Blossom
  - Early Feb - Early Mar

Minabe Bairin Ume Orchard

The fragrant and more delicate ume (plum) flowers bloom earlier than the cherry blossoms. One of the best places to see them is at the vast ume orchard in Minabe.

- Cherry Blossom
  - Late Mar - Early Apr

Kimii-dera Temple

The steep climb up the 231 stone steps to the temple is worth it for a view of the cherry trees that are planted in the grounds. They are some of the earliest to flower in the region.

- Autumn Leaves
  - Late Oct - Early Nov

Koyasan

As the days grow shorter and the mountain air becomes crisp, the leaves on the trees in Koyasan turn an array of vibrant colours. Stroll the grounds of the temples for some fine autumn displays.
Held to celebrate the life of the great shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543-1616), the Wakamatsuri is a parade on a grand scale, with people in period costumes performing and demonstrating traditional arts.

**Wakamatsuri Festival**

*和歌祭*

After dances and performances, archers rain down flaming arrows on the grassland at Cape Shionomisaki. This controlled burn is carried out each year to promote a good new growth of grass.

**Shionomisaki**

Boro-no-Shiba Lawn

People from all over Japan donate their unwanted hina-ningyo dolls to Awashima-jinja. On Girl’s Day, they are floated out to sea with prayers in a colourful ceremony.

**Awashima-jinja Shrine**

Hina Nagashi

The main event in the shrine’s calendar, this festival and its many Shinto rituals extend over three days. The period costumes and festival garb are well worth seeing.

**Kumano Hongu Taisha Grand Shrine Annual Festival**

熊野本宮大社例大祭

This two-day event features stage performances, parades and a local market. It takes place each year in memory of the great samurai, Yukimura Sanada.

**Sanadamatsuri Festival**

真田まつり

The highlight of this energetic fire festival is thousands of men racing fiercely down the mountain from Kamikura-jinja with flaming torches in hand. It makes for a thrilling sight.

**Oto Matsuri Festival**

お燈祭り

Whether it's charging down the steep steps of a shrine brandishing fire, or lighting up the summer night sky with fireworks, there is always something exciting going on somewhere in Wakayama.
Shinto priests, clad in white, stagger under the weight of enormous flaming torches as they lead the deities of Nachi Taisha down to the sacred Nachi Waterfall.

Festivities take place over two days with ornately decorated festival floats paraded around the downtown Tanabe area. Make sure to catch them lit up at dusk.

Thousands of candle-lit lanterns light the path through Okuno-in in this candle festival, held to welcome the spirits of the deceased back to the realm of the living during the Japanese holiday Obon.

Nothing signals summer in Japan like fireworks. With two big displays at the end of July and in August, Shirarahama Beach is a great place to experience this summer tradition. Dress in a yukata (summer kimono) if you want to really fit in.

In this annual celebration, a deity enshrined at Hayatama Taisha is carried in a portable shrine by boat up the Kumano-gawa river. The festivities include gripping regatta-style races.

Visitors: 35,000

Shirarahama Beach
Shirarahama, Shirahama Town

Okuno-in
132 Koyasan, Koya Town

Kumano Hayatama Taisha Grand Shrine
1 Nachisan, Nachikatsuura Town

Maps & Transport

Seasonal Events
Food
Onsen
Activities & Experiences
Accommodation

visitwakayama.jp
What to Eat in Wakayama

Wakayama is a foodie paradise. With a seemingly endless coastline, you can savour the very freshest seafood and sushi. Less healthy yet equally delicious, there is the region’s richly flavoured ramen noodles. If you are a steak connoisseur, definitely don’t miss out on some Kumano beef: lightly seared, it is mouthwatering.

### Seafood

Wakayama’s temperate waters are a treasure trove of marine delicacies and supply the region’s restaurants with the freshest fare. Even in the city, you can sample seafood caught the very same morning.

**Agura**

Across from Wakayama Castle, Agura specializes in kaiseki banquet-style course meals, that make the most of fresh, local ingredients.

- **Hours:** 11:00 - 22:00
- **Location:** 2 Saikaya-machi, Wakayama City
- **Website:** http://agura.jp/

**Toretore Ichiba Market**

Try something on the spot as you wander the market or stop at the food court for tasty sushi and other fresh seafood treats.

- **Hours:** 8:30 - 18:30
- **Location:** 2521 Katata, Shirahama Town
- **Website:** www.toretore.com/tore/ (JP)

**Ajidokoro Mihanami**

Traditional Japanese-style restaurant serving locally sourced seafood and other regional delicacies, close to JR Wakayama Station.

- **Hours:** Lunch: 11:30 - 14:00, Dinner: 17:00 - 22:30
- **Location:** 2-1-25 Kuroda, Wakayama City
- **Website:** http://3873.jp/ (JP)

**Mankou Shoten**

Hole-in-the-wall eatery for the adventurous traveller. Locals love it for its homey, no-frills interior and unbeatable seafood dishes.

- **Hours:** 9:00 - 17:00
- **Location:** 118 Kada, Wakayama City
- **Website:** http://3873.jp/ (JP)

**Kadoya Shokudo**

Shirasudon, rice topped with whitebait, is a specialty in Yuasa. You can try it here, together with other local favourites.

- **Hours:** Lunch: 11:00 - 14:00, Dinner: 17:00 - 22:00
- **Location:** 1109-1 Yuasa, Yuasa Town
- **Website:** www.yuasa-kadoya.com/ (JP)
Ramen noodles topped generously with chopped negi (scallions) feature on the menu at this modern noodle restaurant.

**Ramen Marui (Junibancho)**
ラーメンまるい（十二番丁店）

Ramen noodles topped generously with chopped negi (scallions) feature on the menu at this modern noodle restaurant.

**Ide Shoten**
井出商店

For years, Ide Shoten has attracted ramen lovers from near and far. They come for the distinctive pork-bone soy sauce broth.

**Wakayama’s No. 1 ramen restaurant**

**Sandaime Yagura**
三代目やぐら和歌山そば

Choose from a soy sauce or salted pork-bone broth at this casual ramen diner. Part of the fun is selecting how firm you want your noodles.

**Seino**
和 Dining 清乃

Recommended on a national foodie site, Seino is known for its thick, almost creamy pork-bone soy sauce broth and handmade noodles.
Ocean-fresh tuna is on offer throughout Wakayama, but Katsuura has the freshest of the fresh. The area lands more tuna than anywhere else in Japan.
Kumano Beef
A premium brand of Wagyu beef originating in the Kumano region of Wakayama. It has a soft, melt-in-the-mouth texture and a slightly sweet, satisfyingly meaty flavour.

Steak House Hinoki
ステーキハウスひのき
Teppanyaki restaurant serving the finest Kumano beef. Everything is cooked to order before you on an iron hotplate.

Yakiniku Kumano
焼肉 熊野
Sample farm-to-table quality beef at an affordable price at this large yakiniku restaurant in Tanabe. Both Kumano beef and other Wagyu brands are on offer.

Niku Ryori Dining Kumano
肉料理ダイニング くまの
Choose from sirloin and fillet cuts of premium Kumano beef, cooked as you like at this affordable eatery.

Locally Grown Fruit
Farms in Wakayama have cultivated premium fruit for centuries. During the Edo period (1603 - 1867), the 10th Lord of Kishu would have locally grown Sanbokan oranges delivered to Wakayama Castle. Today, the region is still Japan's top producer of premium fruit. Mild climates and fertile soils ensure something delicious is always in season; from strawberries in winter to peaches in summer and persimmons in autumn. You will also find jams, marmalades, liqueurs and fresh juices available throughout the prefecture.
If there is one thing the Japanese do really well, it is hot spring bathing. Wakayama is home to hundreds of springs and some of the country’s best onsen (hot spring) resorts. Some are nestled in the mountains, others overlook the ocean, but all offer a unique and relaxing Japanese experience. Don’t leave Wakayama without trying one.

*Nearly all Wakayama onsen use water as it is from the source.

**Shirahama Onsen**

Bathing for history buffs, Shirahama is one of Japan’s oldest hot spring areas, dating back to the 7th century. 1300 years on, it is still one of the country’s leading resorts.

**Saki-no-Yu Onsen**

Oct - Mar: 8:00 - 17:00  
Apr - Jun: 8:00 - 18:00  
Jul - Aug: 7:00 - 19:00

The baths here are hot water rock pools so close to the seafront you can feel the spray from the waves as they crash against the rocks. This is one of Shirahama’s very oldest springs.

**Hamachidori-no-Yu Kaishu**

The luxurious hot spring baths, available only to hotel guests, warrant a stay at this high-end resort. Choose from one of eight beautiful baths set in the hotel’s extensive landscaped grounds. Unlike most hot springs, the open-air seafront bath at Kaishu allows mixed bathing.

**Katsuura Onsen**

Katsuura boomed as a hot spring resort in the 1950’s and remains one of Wakayama’s top onsen destinations. The baths have magnificent sea views.

**Hotel Nakanoshima**

Catch a boat out to a small islet in Katsuura Bay to enjoy one of Hotel Nakanoshima’s many idyllic oceanfront baths.

**Hotel Urashima Resort & Spa**

Never taken a hot spring in a cave? Head to Hotel Urashima, but make sure to check male and female bathing times to avoid disappointment.

**Hotel Katsuura Gyoen**

Set in a landscaped Japanese garden with lanterns that flicker on at dusk, the open-air bath at this hotel is the epitome of onsen bathing.
Bathing in a river is a special experience. Try it in Kawayu where hot water bubbles up from the bed of the Oto-gawa river. An exclusive bathing area is set up during the cold months between December and February.

**Sennin-buro River Bath**

Bathing in a river is a special experience. Try it in Kawayu where hot water bubbles up from the bed of the Oto-gawa river. An exclusive bathing area is set up during the cold months between December and February.

**Tsuboyu Onsen**

A tiny bath in Yunomine said to have healing properties and water that changes colour several times daily. Legend holds that the waters here helped cure a sick samurai. This unusual onsen is a registered World Heritage site.

**Wataze Onsen**

The huge garden-view rotenburo, or outdoor baths, at this onsen facility in Wataze are perfect for peaceful bathing. There are also private baths for families.

**Ryujin Onsen**

For centuries people have travelled from afar to bathe at this small hot spring hamlet. The reason they come is for the water, believed to make the skin smooth and soft.

**Kamigoten Ryokan**

This historic Japanese inn boasts outdoor baths with gorgeous mountain views. They are wonderfully relaxing and exclusively for use by overnight guests.

Anyone can take a dip in the silky smooth water of Ryujin Onsen at this renowned hot spring facility. There are both indoor and outdoor baths.

**Wakayama Kada Onsen**

The smell of the ocean, the sound of the waves, this seaside resort is about relaxing and unwinding. It's just a short distance from Wakayama city centre.
Activities & Experiences

The most memorable part of a holiday is not always what you see, but often what you do and experience. From kayaking, rafting and other sports to cultural experiences, craft workshops and fruit picking, there is so much to choose from in Wakayama. Whatever you opt for, the memories you make are sure to be lasting.

FRUIT PICKING

Nicknamed The Fruit Kingdom, Wakayama is Japan’s top producer of premium fruit. Visit one of the many orchards to pick the best of the best straight from the tree.

Kishigawa Strawberry Farm

Get your fill of sweet, succulent strawberries at this pick-your-own farm near Kishi Station. Open from January through mid-May.

- Address: 238 Kado, Kishigawa-cho, Kinokawa City
- Entrance Fee: ¥1,500 (adults)
- Website: www.kanko-kinokawa.jp/view_play/971 (JP)
- Hours: 9:00 - 15:00
- Access: 15 min by Wakayama Electric Railway Kishi

Kinokuni Farm

Summer is the season for juicy melons at this popular orchard with English-speaking staff. You can also pick strawberries January to May.

- Address: 1335-4 Ueno, Nada-cho, Gobo City
- Entrance Fee: From ¥1,400
- Website: www.kinokunifarm.jp (JP)
- Hours: 9:00 - 17:00
- Access: 15 min by JR Gobo

Fruit Picking Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fruit</th>
<th>Month</th>
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<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
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<th>Jun</th>
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</tbody>
</table>
Cosplay is taking the world by storm, and in Wakayama you can dress up in some truly unique costumes. Don’t miss the chance to take some extra-special selfies.

**Activities & Experiences**

**Heian Period Costume Experience**

平安衣装体験

Visit the teahouse near the start of Daimonzaka Slope, a scenic section of the Kumano Kodo, for a Heian period (794-1185) transformation. The costumes are recreations of the worship attire once worn by pilgrims. Male and female versions are available.

9:00 - 15:00
From V2,000
392-4 Nachisan, Nachikatsuura Town
www.nachikan.jp/midokoro/ (JP)

**Historical Costume Experience**

時代衣装着付体験

Ever wondered if you’d look good in a suit of samurai armour or as a ninja? See for yourself at Wakayama Tourist Information.

9:30 - 17:00 (exceptions apply) * Reservations necessary
From ¥2,000
3 Ichibancho, Wakayama City
www.mysecretwakayama.com

**Katsuragi Town Fruit Farms**

かつらぎ町観光農園

With field after field of orchards, the town’s tourist association can recommend a farm for picking peaches and other types of fruit.

- Grapes: Aug - late Sep
- Oranges: Oct - mid-Dec
- Peaches: Jul - Aug
- Persimmons: late Sep - early Dec

From ¥500
2160 Chonomachi, Katsuragi Town
www.katsuragi-kanko.jp/fruitgari_kankonouen.html (JP)

**Arida Kyohomura**

有田巨峰村

Many farms make up this sprawling vineyard, officially the region’s largest. Pick some grapes and bring a snack to enjoy under the vines.

Early Aug - mid-Oct: 8:00 - 18:00
From ¥800 (adults), ¥600 (children)
www.budouen.net

**Otani**

**Kuriyama Farm**

栗山園

The Arida region’s oranges are known for being some of Japan’s tastiest. Pick and eat them fresh from the tree at this leading orchard.

Early Oct - mid-Dec
From ¥650 (adults), ¥550 (children)
26 Iseki, Hiragawa Town

**Arima Onsen**

**Shiyakusho-mae/Koen-mae**

Daimonzaka Chushojima - mae » 10 min
Koza Tourism Association

Koza is blessed with a beautiful waterway, the Koza-gawa river. At the local tourist office, you can rent a canoe and take yourself on an adventure downstream.

 Rental: 8:30 - 13:30/ Return: 16:30
*Reservations necessary
From ¥2,500/person
231-3 Nishimukai, Kushimoto Town
http://kokaza.com/canoe.html (JP)

Taiji Whale Museum

At the museum’s dolphin enclosure you can touch, feed, train and even kayak or dive with the dolphins. Rates vary per package but start from as little as ¥200. (excluding admission)

Open: 8:30 - 17:00
Admission: ¥1,500 (adults), ¥800 (children)
2934-2 Taij, Taiji Town
www.kujirakan.jp (JP)

Koza is blessed with a beautiful waterway, the Koza-gawa river. At the local tourist office, you can rent a canoe and take yourself on an adventure downstream.

 Kitayama Village Tourist Center

Ride the Kitayama-gawa river on a traditional logging raft. These originated as a way to transport felled lumber downstream.

 Morning tour: 10:40
Afternoon tour: 13:00
Oct - Apr
From ¥6,000
335 Shimooi, Kitayama Village
http://kankou.vill.kitayama.wakayama.jp/ikada/ (JP)

Suhara Seaside House

Explore the stunning Suhara coastline with this professional kayak tour operator. Tours last three hours. Reservations required.

Morning tour: 10:40
Afternoon tour: 13:00
Half-day tour: from ¥6,500/person
966-1 Suhara, Yuasa Town

Paddle boarding has taken off in Japan and Wakayama windsurfing school Kaze can teach you how to SUP. Lessons last two hours.

Morning lesson: 10:00 - 12:00
Afternoon lesson: 13:00 - 15:00
*Reservations necessary
SUP lesson: ¥3,500
989 Kemi, Wakayama City
www.eonet.ne.jp/˜kaze2001/index1.html (JP)
From traditional to contemporary, there are plenty of workshops throughout the region. Try your hand at something new and make a one-of-a-kind Wakayama momento.

**Kumano Washi Paper Otonashi**
学野和紙おとなし
Learn about traditional paper-making at this washi studio, where you can make your own sheet of paper and decorate a washi bookmark.

- **营业时间**: 9:00 - 16:00
- **价格**: 汁：¥900
- **地点**: 8:30 - 17:00
  - 营业时间: 10:30, 13:30, 15:30
- **订位**: *Reservations necessary except Saturdays
- **联系方式**: 1339 Yamauchi, Minabe Town

**Kishu Umeboshikan**
紀州梅干館
At this umeboshi plum foods manufacturer, you can try your hand at making umeshu plum liqueur, or non-alcoholic plum juice.

- **营业时间**: 9:00 - 17:00
- **价格**: 汁：¥900
- **地点**: 1339 Yamauchi, Minabe Town

**Uruwashikan**
うるわし館
Promoting the art of Kishu lacquerware, Uruwashikan exhibits beautiful lacquered works and runs craft workshops. Participants can choose to decorate either a wooden tray or lunchbox. Workshops on weekends only.

- **营业时间**: 9:00 - 16:00
- **价格**: 从 ¥1,000
- **地点**: 222 Funas, Karon City

**Resort Oshima**
リゾート大島
Not a traditional Japanese craft but fun all the same, Resort Oshima runs colourful lamp-making sessions. These kitsch lamps are great gifts.

- **营业时间**: 10:00 - 17:00
- **价格**: 从 ¥3,200
- **地点**: 1035-6 Kashino, Kushimoto Town

**Aizome Keira**
藍染計良
Aizome, or indigo-dyeing, is an ancient Japanese craft. At this small studio, you can dye anything from handkerchiefs and t-shirts to bags.

- **营业时间**: 9:30 - 17:00
- **地点**: 1339 Yamauchi, Minabe Town

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**Map References**
- **Kumano Washi Paper Otonashi**
- **Kishu Umeboshikan**
- **Uruwashikan**
- **Resort Oshima**
- **Aizome Keira**
Wakayama's coastal roads and riverbank cycling paths make for great scenic bike rides. Many tourist information centres and some train stations rent out bicycles.

### Wakayama Cycling Map

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Route Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Kinokawa Route</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Kihu Route</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Kichu Route</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Kinan Route</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Coastal Route</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Kinokawa Route

- **Course A**: Effortless riverside cycling
- **Distance**: 60km
- **Description**: Follow the Kino-kawa river from Wakayama-shi Station to Hashimoto Station. Much of the route is marked with blue lines, on flat riverbank roads almost entirely free from traffic.

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**VisitWakayama.jp**
Coastal Route 76km

Running from Minoshima Station to Inami Station along Wakayama’s west coast, this route offers sweeping ocean vistas and white limestone outcrops that contrast beautifully with the sparkling blue sea.

Aridagawa Route 97km

You can cycle all the way to Koyasan along this rural route that starts at Minoshima Station, winds through mountain valleys and passes farms and rice fields.
A popular choice for a hands-on temple stay with options to join services, experience meditation and take part in other activities. Don’t miss the Okuno-in night tour.

Built on its own private island a short distance from the shore, access to this venerable hot spring hotel is by boat. Room rates include transfers from the port.

Gorgeous ocean views and rooms that range from comfortable to luxurious: some even have private baths on the balcony. Buses to Nachi Waterfall run from nearby.

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

Experience outdoor bathing at this hotel’s unique riverside bath. For a less public bathing experience, you can opt for a room with its own private hot spring.

497 Koyasan, Koya Town
www.ekoin.jp/en/
5 min

Gorgeous ocean views and rooms that range from comfortable to luxurious: some even have private baths on the balcony. Buses to Nachi Waterfall run from nearby.

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

Experience outdoor bathing at this hotel’s unique riverside bath. For a less public bathing experience, you can opt for a room with its own private hot spring.

497 Koyasan, Koya Town
www.ekoin.jp/en/
5 min

700 Koyasan, Koya Town
http://eng.shukubo.net/temple-lodging.html
1 min

13 Kawayu, Hongu-cho, Tanabe City
www.kawayu-midoriya.jp/ (JP)
1 min

From ¥23,000/person
Ask for rates*
www.katsuuragyoen.co.jp/ (JP)
2 min

Hotel Nakanoshima ホテル中の島
Built on its own private island a short distance from the shore, access to this venerable hot spring hotel is by boat. Room rates include transfers from the port.

From ¥25,920/person
1079-3 Katsurau, Nachikatsuura Town
www.hotel-nakanoshima.jp/en/
 JR Kii-Katsuura » 7 min

Hotel Katsura Gyoen かつら御苑
Gorgeous ocean views and rooms that range from comfortable to luxurious: some even have private baths on the balcony. Buses to Nachi Waterfall run from nearby.

From ¥21,600/person
216-39 Katsurau, Nachikatsuura Town
www.katsuragyoen.co.jp/ (JP)
 JR Kii-Katsuura » 11 min

Kamigoten Ryokan 上御殿
Beautiful and atmospheric traditional Japanese inn serving as a symbol of the Ryujin hot spring area. More than 300 years old, the hotel is a listed building.

From ¥30,240/person
42 Ryujin, Ryujin-mura, Tanabe City
www.kamigoten.jp/spa%20en.html
1 min

1 min

Coastal hotel facing the Tomogashima islands. Guests can choose from rooms with beds or futon. The hotel has an array of dinner packages and is wheelchair accessible.

From ¥21,200/person
483 Miyama, Wakayama City
www.qkamura.or.jp/en/kada/
 JR Kii-Katsuura » 10 min

Yuasa-jo Hotel 国民宿舎 羽上海
One of the most unique hotels in the Yuasa area, rooms are set around an inner courtyard housing a replica of the castle that once stood in the town.

From ¥22,082/person
75 Aoki, Yuasa Town
www.yuasajo.net/ (JP)
 JR Yuasa » 10 min
### HOTEL NAME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel Name</th>
<th>Map Ref</th>
<th>Standard Rate</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kiri-no-Sato Takahara Hotel</td>
<td>B-4</td>
<td>From ¥9,495/person</td>
<td>826 Takahara, Nakahachicho-cho, Tanabe City</td>
<td><a href="http://kirinosato-takahara.com/english.html">http://kirinosato-takahara.com/english.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel New Palace</td>
<td>E-8</td>
<td>From ¥9,495/person</td>
<td>1821 Shirahama Town</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hotel-newpalace.com">www.hotel-newpalace.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Granvia Wakayama</td>
<td>F-3</td>
<td>From ¥8,000/person</td>
<td>5-18 Tomado-cho, Wakayama City</td>
<td><a href="http://www.granvia-wakayama.co.jp/english/">www.granvia-wakayama.co.jp/english/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Seamore</td>
<td>B-3</td>
<td>From ¥14,700/person</td>
<td>1821 Shirahama Town</td>
<td><a href="http://www.seamore.co.jp/en/home.html">www.seamore.co.jp/en/home.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirahama Coganoi Resort &amp; Spa</td>
<td>C-3</td>
<td>From ¥12,000/person</td>
<td>3212-1 Shirahama Town</td>
<td><a href="http://www.coganoi.co.jp/en">www.coganoi.co.jp/en</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For rates and reservations contact the Kayasan Shukubo Association | [http://eng.shukubo.net/](http://eng.shukubo.net/)*

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**Kushimoto Royal Hotel**

Kushimoto Royal Hotel is located at the southernmost tip of Honshu, Japan's main island. It is rated for its hot springs and gourmet cuisine.

From ¥22,640/person | [www.daiwaresort.jp](http://www.daiwaresort.jp)
Tourist Information

Koyasan Shukubo Association
(Central Office)
高野山宿坊協会
- 9:30 - 17:00 (exceptions apply)
- Dec 28 - 30
- 600 Koyasan, Koya Town

Shingū City Tourist Association
新宮市観光協会
- 9:00 - 17:30
- 2-1-1 Jofuku, Shingu City

JR Kii-Tanabe Station Tourist Information
JR 和歌山駅 観光案内所
- 8:30 - 19:00 (exceptions apply)
- S-61 Misono-cho, Wakayama City

Wakayama World Heritage Center
和歌山県世界遺産センター
- 9:00 - 17:00
- 100-1 Hongu, Hongu-cho, Tanabe City

Machinaka General Information Center Shirasuna
まちなか総合案内所 Shirasuna
- 8:30 - 17:15
- 33 Kushimoto, Kushimoto Town

JR Kushimoto Station
1384-57 Shirahama Town
- 3 min

Yuasa Station Plaza
湯浅駅前 多目的広場
- 8:00 - 17:00
- Dec 29 - 30
- 1077-6 Yuasa, Yuasa Town

JR Yuasa
- 1 min

TIC Wakayama
Tourist Information Center
わかやま旅案内所
- 10:00 - 19:00
- 26-1 Shichibancho, Wakayama City

Wakayama Station
JR 和歌山駅
- 8:30 - 19:00 (exceptions apply)
- 5-61 Misono-cho, Wakayama City

Nachi-Katsuura Information Center
那智勝浦観光協会
- 9:00 - 18:00
- 6-1-1 Tsukiji, Nachikatsuura Town

Wakayama City Tourist Information
和歌山市観光案内所
- 9:00 - 17:45
- 3-6 Ichibancho, Wakayama City

Tanabe Tourist Information Center
田辺市観光センター
- 9:00 - 18:00
- 1-20 Minato, Tanabe City

Shirahama Shukubo Association
毛無宿坊協会
- 9:00 - 17:00 (exceptions apply)
- 1-20 Minato, Tanabe City

Nankai Wakayama-shi Station Tourist Information
南海和歌山市観光案内所
- 8:30 - 17:00
- Dec 29 - Jan 3
- 3-6 Higashikuramae-cho, Wakayama City

Visit Wakayama
www.visitwakayama.jp

Dec 28 - 30
8:30 - 17:00 (exceptions apply)
600 Koyasan, Koya Town
Senjūnishi

Koyasan

Kumano

Japan

Wakayama

Kumano

Kumano

Wakayama

Tanabe

Wakayama

Tanabe

Tanabe

Wakayama

Yuasa

Kumano

Kumano

Wakayama

Wakayama

Wakayama

Wakayama

Wakayama

Wakayama

Wakayama
### Access by Air

**Japan Airlines (JAL)** [0120-25-5971](tel:0120-25-5971)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Nanki Shiraheima Airport</th>
<th>Haneda Airport</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tanabe</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tokyo</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shirahama</strong></td>
<td><strong>visitwakayama.jp</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Flights operate seasonally and schedules are subject to change. Check online for the most up-to-date information ([www.jal.co.jp/en/](http://www.jal.co.jp/en/)).*

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### Transportation

#### Highway Buses

**Overnight Buses (Tokyo – Wakayama)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Departure</th>
<th>Arrival</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo Sta. to Shirahama</td>
<td>7:25</td>
<td>8:40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirahama to Wakayama Sta.</td>
<td>10:25</td>
<td>11:40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wakayama Sta. to Tokyo Sta.</td>
<td>16:30</td>
<td>17:45</td>
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*Additional services operate on Saturdays and holidays during peak periods.

**Airport Buses (Kansai Intl Airport – Wakayama)**

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<tr>
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<th>Departure</th>
<th>Arrival</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
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<td>9:30</td>
<td>10:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tokyo Sta. to Kansai Intl Airport</td>
<td>12:15</td>
<td>13:15</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Certain stops have been omitted.

**Meiko Bus** [http://meikobus.jp](http://meikobus.jp)

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### JR Tokai Express Wide View Nanki Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Departure</th>
<th>Arrival</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wide View Nanki 1 (Tokyo) to Shintomine</td>
<td>7:33</td>
<td>8:53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wide View Nanki 1 (Kumano Hongu Taisha) to Shintomine</td>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>10:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wide View Nanki 1 (Shingo) to Shintomine</td>
<td>12:59</td>
<td>13:59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wide View Nanki 1 (Kii-Tanabe) to Shintomine</td>
<td>14:42</td>
<td>15:42</td>
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</table>

*Additional services operate on Saturdays and holidays during peak periods.

**Kuroshio Limited Express Timetable**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Route</th>
<th>Departure</th>
<th>Arrival</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Kuroshio 1 (Matsue) to Shirahama</td>
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<td>8:57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kuroshio 1 (Takamatsu) to Shirahama</td>
<td>11:57</td>
<td>12:57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kuroshio 1 (Kiwami) to Shirahama</td>
<td>15:57</td>
<td>16:57</td>
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**Express Wide View Nanki Timetable**

<table>
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<th>Departure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>15:42</td>
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### JR West Japan Kuroshio Limited Express Timetable

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<tr>
<td>Kuroshio 1 (Kii-Tanabe) to Shirahama</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>11:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kuroshio 1 (Shirahama) to Kii-Tanabe</td>
<td>13:00</td>
<td>14:00</td>
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**Kuroshio 1 (Kii-Tanabe) to Shirahama**

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<th>Route</th>
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**Kuroshio 1 (Kii-Tanabe) to Shirahama**

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<tr>
<td>Kuroshio 1 (Kii-Tanabe) to Shirahama</td>
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<td>14:00</td>
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</tbody>
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### Special Note

- **Access by Air:** Flights operate seasonally and schedules are subject to change. Check online for the most up-to-date information ([www.jal.co.jp/en/](http://www.jal.co.jp/en/)).
- **Highway Buses:** Overnight services operate seasonally and schedules are subject to change. Check online for the most up-to-date information ([www.jal.co.jp/en/](http://www.jal.co.jp/en/)).
- **JR Tokai Express Wide View Nanki Timetable:** Services operate seasonally and schedules are subject to change. Check online for the most up-to-date information ([www.jal.co.jp/en/](http://www.jal.co.jp/en/)).
Kumano Area Bus Timetables

From Kii-Tanabe to Kumano Hongu Taisha Grand Shrine

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<tr>
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<th>Meiko Bus</th>
<th>Meiko Bus</th>
<th>Ryouin Bus</th>
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<td>8:02</td>
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<td>11:35</td>
<td>12:35</td>
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<td>16:40</td>
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<td>Yunonina Onsen</td>
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<td>Wataze Onsen</td>
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<td>9:30</td>
<td>11:43</td>
<td>13:30</td>
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<td>Hongu Taisha-mae</td>
<td>8:35</td>
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<td>Michinoeki Oku-Kumano</td>
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<td>13:50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hoshinmon-oji</td>
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<td>↓</td>
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From Kumano Hongu Taisha Grand Shrine to Kii-Tanabe

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<th>Ryouin Bus</th>
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<td>↓</td>
<td>↓</td>
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<td>16:38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hongu Taisha-mae</td>
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<td>14:37</td>
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<td>Yunonina Onsen</td>
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From Shingu Sta. to Kumano Hongu Taisha Grand Shrine

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<td>Wataze Onsen</td>
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<td>9:43</td>
<td>11:01</td>
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<td>Yunonina Onsen</td>
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<td>8:14</td>
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From Kumano Hongu Taisha Grand Shrine to Shingu Sta.

<table>
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<td>7:26</td>
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<td>r 11:50-↓</td>
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<td>Yunonina Onsen</td>
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<td>6:55</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td>8:50</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>11:10</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>14:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wataze Onsen</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td>7:01</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td>8:56</td>
<td>9:30-↓</td>
<td>11:16</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td>14:26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kawayu Onsen</td>
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<td>Shingu Sta</td>
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<td>8:04</td>
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<td>10:30-↓</td>
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From Katsurao to Nachisan

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<th>Kumano Kotsu</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Katsurao Sta</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nachi Sta</td>
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<td>7:33</td>
<td>8:33</td>
<td>9:03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daman-zaka chushido-mae</td>
<td>7:04</td>
<td>7:44</td>
<td>8:44</td>
<td>9:14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nachi-no-Toki-mae</td>
<td>7:09</td>
<td>7:49</td>
<td>8:49</td>
<td>9:19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nachi</td>
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<td>7:50</td>
<td>8:50</td>
<td>9:20</td>
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From Nachison to Katsurao

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Bus Stop</th>
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<th>Kumano Kotsu</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nachison</td>
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<td>7:18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nachi-no-Toki-mae</td>
<td>6:54</td>
<td>7:19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daman-zaka chushido-mae</td>
<td>6:59</td>
<td>7:24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nachi</td>
<td>7:10</td>
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</table>

* Certain stops have been omitted
* Timetables are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, visit the websites of the various transport organizations. Find these at visitkumanoja.jp
### Money-Saving Passes and Useful Services

#### Japan Railway Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pass Type</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>JR West Kansai WIDE Area Pass</strong></td>
<td>5-day pass for trains covering the Kansai Wide area, which includes services between Nara and Wakayama City, and along Wakayama’s coast such as Shirahama and Nachi-Katsuura.</td>
<td>5 days ₲9,000 ₲4,500 (child)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JR West Kansai Area Pass</strong></td>
<td>For use between Kansai Int’l Airport and Wakayama Station, and other cities in Kansai such as Osaka, Kyoto, Nara and more. Maximum validity is 4 days.</td>
<td>1 day ₲2,200 ₲1,100 (child)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JR Central Ise-Kumano Area Pass</strong></td>
<td>Valid on trams and buses between Nagoya Station and Kii-Katsuura. Covers buses to the Kumano Sanzan shrines and other top sights in the Kumano area.</td>
<td>5 days ₲11,000 ₲5,500 (child)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kantakun (Taxi Service)</strong></td>
<td>Sightsseeing taxi service offered by the Japan Railway Group. Taxis can be chartered affordably from Shingu, Kii-Katsuura, Kii-Shinkansen and Kii-Tanabe stations.</td>
<td>From ₲6,180</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Nankai Electric Railway

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kansai Thru Pass</strong></td>
<td>Covers certain trains, buses and subway lines in the Kansai area. Includes travel from Osaka to Wakayama City and Koyasan. 2 and 3-day tickets available.</td>
<td>2 days ₲4,000 ₲2,000 (child)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.surutto.com/tickets/kansai_thru_english.html">www.surutto.com/tickets/kansai_thru_english.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Koyasan-World Heritage ticket</strong></td>
<td>2-day pass for round-trip travel between Osaka’s Namba Station and Koyasan, with discounts on entry to most Koyasan sights. Also valid on Koyasan buses.</td>
<td>2 days From ₲2,860 From ₲1,440 (child)</td>
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</table>

#### Nankai Rinkan Bus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ticket</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Koyasan Area 1-Day Open Bus Ticket</strong></td>
<td>Entitles the bearer to unlimited travel on services operated by Nankai Rinkan Bus within the Koyasan area. Tickets are sold at Nankai Koyasan Station.</td>
<td>1 day ₲830 ₲420 (child)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wakayama Bus</strong></td>
<td>Money-saving ticket providing unlimited travel on services operated by Wakayama Bus and Wakayama Bus Naga within the Wakayama City area. Tickets are valid for one day only.</td>
<td>1 day ₲1,000 ₲500 (child)</td>
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#### Meiko Bus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ticket</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shirahama Area 1-Day Open Bus Ticket</strong></td>
<td>Save money on bus travel in the Shirahama area with the one day open ticket accepted on Meiko buses. Tickets are available at the train station in Shirahama.</td>
<td>1 day ₲1,100 ₲550 (child)</td>
</tr>
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