Practical Travel Guide - 508

SHIRAHAMA, KOYASAN, KUMANO KODO and WAKAYAMA PREF.



Japan National Tourism Organization 日本政府観光局



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In collaboration with Tourist Information Centers in Wakayama Pref.

Wakayama Pref. (和歌山県), located in the southwestern side of the Kii Peninsula in Central Honshu and bordered by Osaka Pref. on the north, Nara and Mie Pref. on the East and the Pacific Ocean on the south, is blessed with natural beauty of mountains and coastlines. Many hot springs are scattered in the mountains, on the seaside and by the riversides. Koyasan or Mt. Koya, historical complex of temples, and the Kumano Sanzan

three Grand shrines (Kumano-Hongu Taisha, Kumano-Hayatama Taisha and Kumano-Nachi Taisha) are also worth visiting. Along with Yoshino and Omine area (Nara Pref.), the Kumano Sanzan and Koyasan area were designated a cultural UNESCO's Heritage Site, named "Sacred sites and pilgrimage routes in the Kii mountain range."

Access:

By Air

From	То	Operated by	Approx. Travel Time	Access from Nanki Shirahama Airport to Downtown
Tokyo (Haneda)	Shirahama (Nanki Shirahama)	JAL	1 hr. 15 min.	20 min. by bus to Shirahama Sta. ¥360 45 min. by bus to Kii-Tanabe Sta. ¥790

*The price is subject to change according to the season.

By Rail and Bus

From To		Ву	Approx. Travel Time	Price	
		Airport Limousine Bus	40 min.	¥1,200	
Kansai Int'l Airport	Wakayama Sta.	JR Rapid / Local trains and JR Hanwa Line via Hineno	40 min.	¥900	
Kansai ilici Ali porc	Shirahama Sta.	JR Rapid / Local trains and JR limited express "Kuroshio" via Hineno	160 min. 240 min. 255 min.	(¥4,810) to Shirahama** (¥6,800) to Kii-Katsuura** (¥6,800) to Shingu**	
Osaka (JR Shin-Osaka or JR Tennoji Sta.)	Kii-Katsuura Sta. Shingu Sta.	JR limited express "Kuroshio"	170 min. * 225 min. * 240 min. *	(¥5,700 / ¥5,370 from Tennoji)** to Shirahama (¥7,020) to Kii-Katsuura** (¥7,350) to Shingu**	
Nankai Railway Namba Sta.	Wakayama (Wakayama-shi Sta.)	Nankai Railway Nankai Line limited express "SOUTHERN"	60 min.	¥930 (Non-reserved seat) ¥1,450 (Reserved seat)	
Nagoya Sta.	Shingu Sta.	JR limited express "Nanki"	190 min.	¥7,530**	

^{*} Time from Shin-Osaka. Required time from Tennoji is 20–30 min. shorter.

** Fare + express change (with seat reservation, normal season)

Access to Koyasan from Osaka

Easiest way to get to Koyasan from Osaka is to take a Nankai Railway train from Nankai -Namba Sta. or Shin-imamiya Sta, a junction between JR and Nankai lines.

It is also possible to go by JR to as far as Hashimoto with one to several changes on the way.

By Nankai Railway

	From	То	Ву	Approx. Travel Time	Price	
	Osaka (Nankai -Namba or Shin-imamiya Sta.)	Gokurakubashi Sta.	Nankai Railway Koya Line Limited Express "Koya" via Hashimoto	(From Nankai -Namba) 80 min. by limited express 100 min. by express	¥1,680 ¥890	
	Hashimoto Sta.		Nankai Railway Koya Line	35 min. 45 min.	¥970 (limited express "Koya") ¥450 (express or local train)	
Gokurakubashi Sta. K		Koyasan Sta.	Koyasan Cable car*	5 min. (operated every 8-40 min.)	¥500	

By JR Line

From	То	Ву	Approx. Travel Time	Price	
ID Ship Ocales See	a. JR Hashimoto Sta.	JR Kyoto Line to Osaka, JR Yamatoji Rapid Service train to Oji, JR Wakayama Line via Takada and Gojo	145 min.	¥1,520	
JR Shin-Osaka Sta.		JR Limited Express "Kuroshio" to Wakayama, JR Wakayama Line	170 min.	¥2,840*	
JR Namba Sta.		JR Yamatoji Line (Rapid) to Oji or Takada, JR Wakayama Line via Takada and Gojo	120 min.	¥1,340	
Hashimoto Sta.	Gokurakubashi Sta.	C			
Gokurakubashi Sta.	Koyasan Sta.	See above "By <u>Nankai</u> Railway"			

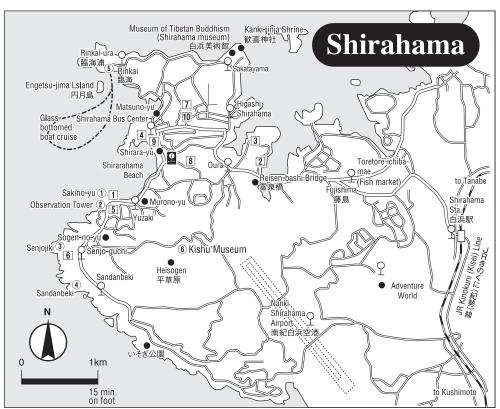
Places of Interest:

Shirahama Area

Shirahama (白浜), is an old Onsen (hot spring) resort with a white sandy beach. Engetsu Island with inverted crevices and rock formations of Sandanbeki add to the beauty of the seascape. Various amusements including swimming and golf are available.

Shirahama Onsen (白浜温泉), 15 min. by bus from JR Shirahama Sta. to Shirahama Bus Center, the center of Shirahama Spa, is one of the three oldest hot springs in Japan along with Arima (Kobe, Hyogo Pref.) and Dogo. (Matsuyama, Ehime Pref.) It has a history of more than 1,350 years and many Emperors from those days are said to have visited this Onsen and taken a bath. There are several hot spring public baths including ①Saki-no-yu Public Bath (崎の湯), 5 min. walk from Yuzaki Bus Stop., an open-air bath on the seashore which is closed when waves are too high. Hours: 8:00–17:00 (Oct.–Mar.); 8:00–18:00 (Apr.–Jun. & Sep.), 7:00–19:00 (Jul.–Aug.). Closed: Irregularly. Admission: ¥500

- ②Submarine Observation Tower (白浜海中展望塔) is 18 meters in height, and built 100 meters off shore, 8 meters under the sea. You can enjoy many kinds of fish from the portholes. Open: 9:00–16:00 Admission: Adults ¥800, Children ¥500.
- ③**Senjojiki** (千畳敷), 21 min. by bus from Shirahama Sta. to Senjoguchi Bus Stop. A spacious sandy rock formed by longtime erosion. The setting sun is a beautiful sight to see.
- ④**Sandanbeki** (三段壁), 22 min. by bus from Shirahama Sta. to Sandanbeki Bus Stop. The steep rock cliff with a cave with an elevator access.
- ⑤Rinkai-ura (臨海浦), 8 min. by bus from Shirahama Bus Center. Engetsu Island can be seen. Glass-bottomed boats are operated every 30 min. (8:45–16:10, fare: ¥1,600 Closed: Irregularly)
- ⑥Kishu Museum (紀州博物館), 10 min. by taxi from Shirahama Sta. Displays of wood block prints, tea ceremony utensils, and antiques. The museum is located on the Heisogen Plateau commanding a view of Shirahama. Open: 10:00–16:00. Closed: Wed. & Thu. (except major holidays) Admission: ¥500 Rental Bicycles: Available at JR Shirahama Sta. and Machinaka General Information center Shirasuna.



1 - 10 correspond to those in the Accommodations list on page 6/7

Kushimoto, Katsuura Area

Kushimoto (串本), 1 hr. by JR limited express train from Shirahama Sta. Cape Shionomisaki (潮岬) in Kushimoto is located at the southernmost point of Honshu Main Island.

Kushimoto Marine Park (串本海中公園), 15 min. by free shuttle bus from JR Kushimoto Sta., is noted for its aquarium and the undersea observatory. Open: 9:00–16:30. Admission: ¥1,800. Enjoyable glass-bottomed boat is operated (9:30–15:30. Fare: up to ¥1,800, depending on the weather).

Kushimoto Okyo Rosetsu Art Museum (串本応挙芦雪館) in Muryo-ji temple, 10 min. walk from JR Kushimoto Sta., displays Fusumae works (pictures on the paper screens) of Maruyama Okyo and Nagasawa Rosetsu, noted artists in Edo

Period. Open: 9:30-16:30. Closed: Irregularly. Admission: ¥1,300.

Katsuura (勝浦), 1 hr. and 40 min. by JR limited express train from Shirahama Sta. (Kii-Katsuura is a station name for Katsuura.), is a town of hot springs and fishing in a scenic setting. Cruise around Ki-no-Matsushima islets reminds one of the pine-clad islands of Matsushima in Sendai, Miyagi Pref. (55 min. cruise, 6 departures a day from 8:30–15:20. Fare: ¥1,650. No service on Wed. except holiday periods.) Hotel Urashima offers a unique hot spring bath located inside Bokido Cave. Hours: 5:00–23:00 (except 10:00–13:00 for cleaning time but you can enjoy at least one of other four unique baths during the time.).

Kumano Hongu Taisha Grand Shrine

Kumano Kodo (Kumano Pilgrimage Routes)

Kumano Kodo (熊野古道), or Kumano Pilgrimage Routes, are ancient passes used by pilgrims traveling from Kyoto to the Kumano's three shrines and they still hold the historical atmosphere of ancient days. The area is designated the World Heritage.

Kumano Sanzan (熊野三山), collective name for three Shinto shrines, Kumano Hongu Taisha Grand Shrine in Tanabe city, Kumano Hayatama Taisha Shrine in Shingu and Kumano Nachi Taisha Shrine in Mt. Nachi, have been worshiped by pilgrims for hundreds of years.

Kumano Hongu Taisha (Grand Shrine) (熊野本宮大社), 1 hr. by bus from Shingu Sta. or 2 hrs. by bus from Kii-Tanabe Sta., 20 min. by bus from Yunomine Onsen or 12 min. by bus from Kawayu Onsen. Situated in the dense forest, one can appreciate the serene atmosphere. The shrine is worshiped as the main shrine of all the Kumano shrines in Japan. Open: 6:00–19:00. (Treasure house: 10:00–16:00, Admission: ¥300)

Kumano Hayatama Taisha (Shrine) (熊野速玉大社), 15 min. walk from Shingu Sta., is noted for its treasures. Shingu is the gateway to Kumano Sanzan shrines.

Kumano Nachi Taisha (Shrine) (熊野那智大社), 30 min. by bus from Kii-Katsuura Sta., or 20 min. by bus from Nachi Sta. Adjacent to the shrine, stands Seiganto-ji Temple (青岸渡寺) which has been popular among pilgrims. Nachi is also famous for Nachi-no-Taki (Nachi Falls) (那智の滝), 5 min. walk from Taki-mae Bus Stop, the largest waterfalls in Japan, 133 m high and 13 m wide with its water source in the forests of the Nachi Mountains. The waterfall is the religious origin for Kumano Nachi Taisha Shrine and Seigantoji Temple and still the primary object of worship.

From Kii-Katsuura Sta. to Nachisan, the bus (route 31) runs once or twice per hour between 6:45 and 18:05. For further details: Kumano Kotsu Bus(熊野交通バス)http://www.kumakou.co.jp/bus/jikoku_item_9.html

Dorokyo Gorge (靜峡), near Shiko(志古) bus stop, 38 min. by bus from Shingu Sta. or 25–41 min. by bus from Kumano Hongu. Marvel at the sight of rock cliffs rising from emerald waters as a glass-roofed boat carries you on a two-hour round trip from Shiko to the inner gorge and back. Departure Hours: Once every one hour from 9:30 to 14:30. Price: ¥3,500.

Tanabe (田辺), its station name is Kii-Tanabe, 18 min. by train or 40 min. by bus from Shirahama Sta. Tanabe is the entrance to Nakahechi Route which is the most popular Kumano Pilgrimage Route. Tokei-jinja Shrine is a 10-min. walk from Kii-Tanabe Sta.

Walking Kumano Kodo

Among different routes, **Nakahechi** (中辺路), a mountain route connecting Tanabe and Kumano Hongu Taisha Grand Shrine, has been the most popular route till today. With ancient atmosphere and many historic relics, the 40 km between **Takijiri-Oji** (滝尻王子) to Hongu is excellent for hiking. You can stay overnight on the way, or take a bus running on National Route 311 which runs parallel to the ancient pass and walk part of it just for the day. Takijiri Bus Stop is 40 min. by bus from JR Kii-Tanabe Sta. In front of Takijiri-Oji, there is Kumano-Kodo-kan, an information center for the Kumano ancient pilgrimage passes nearby.

Short Recommended Course of Nakahechi Route

If you do not have enough time to walk on the above 40 km route, the following shorter course is recommended. It will be about 3 hrs. walk and when you walk along this path. This is most definitely an area of Japan that should be explored.

World Heritage: The Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage Routes

(熊野本宮大社)

Haraido-Oji ···

(祓戸王子)

5 min.

World Heritage: The Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage Routes http://en.visitwakayama.jp/themes/world-heritage-the-kumano-kodo-pilgrimage-routes/

Three Major Hot Springs

Kawayu Onsen (川湯温泉), 1 hr. by bus from JR Shingu Sta., or 1 hr. 40 min. by bus from JR Kii-Tanabe Sta., is a unique and well-known hot spring area where it is said that one only has to dig a hole in the dry riverbed to create an open-air hot spring bath. The hot springs come from the Otogawa River, a tributary of the Kumanogawa River. If you take a spade in hand and dig a hole only 30 centimeters deep, you can have your own natural outdoor hot spring bath. You can adjust the temperature of the water with water from the river and make the bath as wide as you like. In winter (Dec. – Feb.), the giant open-air bath "Sennin-Buro" river bath will open.

Yunomine onsen (湯の峰温泉) 1 hr. 10 min. by bus from JR Shingu Sta., or 1 hr. 40 min. by bus from JR Kii-Tanabe Sta., near by Kawayu Onsen. This hot spring is one of the oldest in Japan and has been famous since the ancient period in relation to Kumano faith. Pilgrims to Kumano would bathe in this hot spring in order to rid themselves of religious impurities before worshiping the Kumano Shrines.

Wataze Onsen (渡瀬温泉) 1 hr. 5 min. by bus from JR Shingu Sta., or 1 hr. 45 min. by bus from JR Kii-Tanabe Sta., near by Kawayu Onsen. The area of Yomuragawa is blessed with hot springs which originated here. You can relax comfortably in an open-air bath among nature. Also nearby is the Kurhaus run by the Hongu Town office, which offers a relaxing spa and a swimming pool that are open to everyone for a nominal fee.

Bus Routes from the Three Hot Springs to Hosshinmon-Oji Yunomine Hot Spring Bus Stop → Wataze (Watarase) Hot Spring

→ Kawayu Hot Spring ······ → Hosshinmon-Oji Bus Stop 25min.

The bus departs Yunomine at 8:18, 13:35, 14:50, 16:51, 18:42 via Wataze (Watarase) and Kawayu hot springs.

For further details: Ryujin Bus (龍神バス)

http://www.ryujinbus.com/

(*in Japanese with English subtitles)

Koyasan

Koyasan (高野山) was founded in 816 by Kobo-Daishi Kukai as the main temple of Shingon Buddhism. It is a complex of temples, monasteries and assembly buildings amid 1,000-m-high mountains. This holy place is designated the World Heritage. Bus services are operated from Koyasan cablecar Sta.

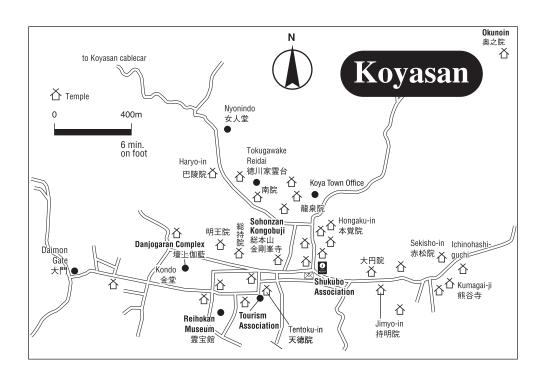
For further details: Nankai-Rinkan Bus(南海りんかんバス) http://www.rinkan.co.jp/global/en/

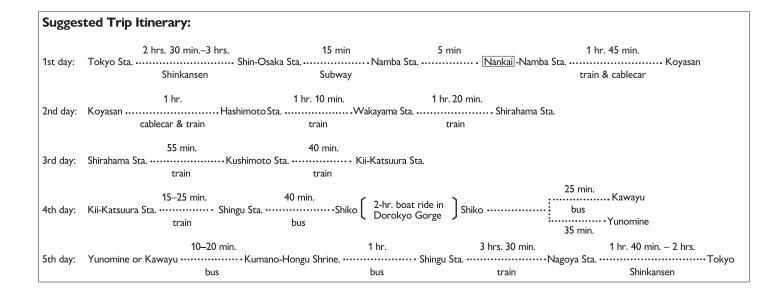
Okunoin (奥之院), 40 min. walk from Ichinohashi-guchi Bus Stop on the stone paved approach, will lead one to the holy Okunoin Mausoleum of Kukai. The approach is lined on both sides with tombs, monuments and statues of historical characters. Or you may also get to the mausoleum from Okunoinguchi Bus Stop, which provides a short-cut. The mausoleum is behind the Lantern Hall where 20,000 lanterns are hung.

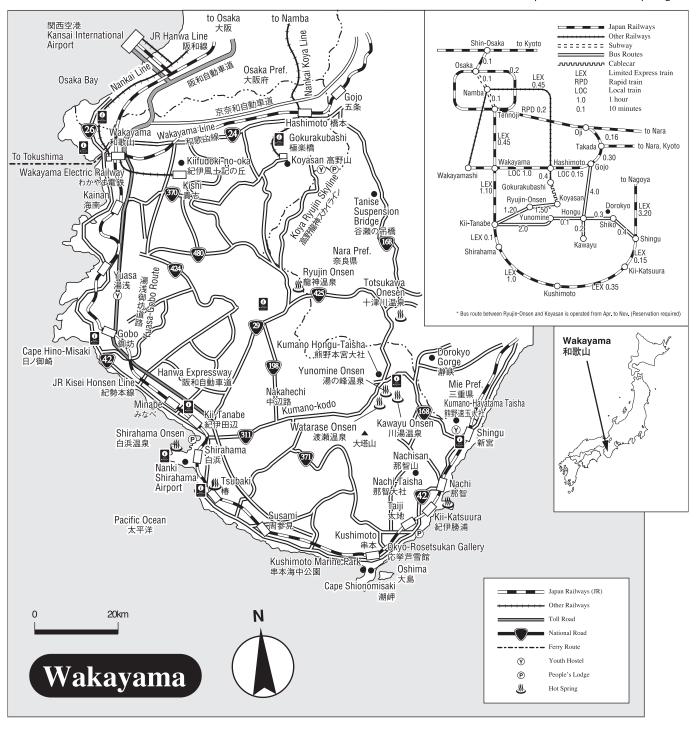
Kongobuji (金剛峯寺), in front of Kongobuji-mae Bus Stop, built in 1593, has become the chief temple of the 116 temples in Koyasan community, and is famous for the pictures on Fusuma (sliding doors) in the Kano school. Open: 8:30–17:00. Admission: ¥500.

Danjogaran (壇上伽藍), 1 min. walk from Kondo-mae Bus Stop. Halls like Kondo (金堂), Miedo (御影堂) and two storied vermilion pagoda called Konpon-Daito (Great Pagoda / 根本大塔) comprise this Danjogaran Complex. Open: 8:30–17:00. Admission to Kondo and Daito: ¥200 each.

Koyasan Reihokan (高野山霊宝館), 1 min. walk from Reihokan-mae Bus Stop. Treasure House of Koyasan which preserves about 50,000 items including 21 National Treasures and 148 important cultural properties. Open: 8:30–17:30 (May–Oct.), 8:30–17:00 (Nov.–Apr.). Closed: New Year holiday. Admission: ¥600.







Accommodations:

Name of Facility	Tel.	Fax.	Room rate (¥)	Name of Facility	Tel.	Fax.	Room rate (¥)
Shirahama:				Katsuura:			
1 SHIRAHAMA KEY TERRACE HOTEL SEAMORE(H)	(0739)43-1000	(0739)43-1110	¥¥	Hotel Urashima (R, H)	(0735)52-1011	(0735)52-0275	¥¥
2 Yukai Resort Shirahama Saichoraku (H)	(0570)550-378	(0739)43-3672	¥¥	Katsuura Kanko Hotel (R)	(0735)52-0750	(0735)52-1469	¥¥
3 Shirahama Coganoi Resort & Spa (H)	(0739)43-6000	(0739)43-5805	¥¥¥	Umi no Hotel Ichinotaki (R)	(0735)52-0080	(0735)52-0082	¥
4 Shiraraso Grand Hotel (H)	(0739)43-0100	(0739)42-2438	¥¥¥	Hotel Nagisaya (R)	(0735)52-0015	(0735)52-5221	¥¥
5 Ryuhoen (H)	(0739)34-3036	(0739)42-4225	¥¥	Hotel Nakanoshima (R)	(0735)52-1111	(0735)52-1633	¥¥
6 Yukai Resort Hotel Senyo (H)	(0570)550-378	(0739)43-0127	¥¥	Katsuura Gyoen (R)	(0735)52-0333	(0735)52-3887	¥¥
7 Minshuku A Course (M)	(0739)42-3680	(0739)43-0477	¥¥	Nachi:			
8 Minshuku Katsuya (M)	(0739)42-3814	(0739)42-3817	¥	Mitaki Sanso (M)	(0735)55-0745	(0735)55-0755	¥¥
9 Shirara (M)	(0739)42-3655	(0739)43-5223	¥¥	Kawayu:			
10 Hotel Shirahama (PL)	(0739)42-3039	(0739)42-4643	¥	Kawayu Midoriya (R)	(0735)42-1011	(0735)42-0313	¥¥
Tanabe:				Kinokuni Hotel (R)	(0735)42-0353	(0735)42-0378	¥¥
Kii Tanabe City Plaza Hotel (BH)	(0739)24-0400	(0739)26-0996	¥¥	Pension Ashita-no-Mori (P)	(0735)42-1525	(0735)42-1333	¥¥
Garden Hotel Hanayo (BH)	(0739)26-0874	(0739)26-1001	¥¥	Koyasan:			
Kushimoto:				Sekisho-in (R)	(0736)56-2734	(0736)56-4429	¥¥
Hotel & Resorts WAKAYAMA-KUSHIMOTO (H)	(0735)62-7771	(0735)62-7760	¥¥¥	Koyasan Shukubo Association*	(0736)56-2616	(0736)56-2889	_
Minabe:				Wakayama:			
Hotel & Resorts WAKAYAMA-MINABE (H)	(0739)72-5500	(0739)72-5757	¥¥	Hotel Granvia Wakayama (H)	(073)425-3333	(073)422-1871	¥¥
Shingu:				Daiwa Roynet Hotel Wakayama (BH)	(073)435-0055	(073)435-0056	¥
Shingu Hayatama Y.H. (Y)	(0735)22-2309	(0735)22-0721	¥	Smile Hotel Wakayama (BH)	(073)432-0109	(073)423-1045	¥
Shingu Central Hotel (BH)	(0735)23-2000	(0735)23-2100	¥				
Sunshine Hotel (BH)	(0735)23-2580	(0735)23-2781	¥				
Shingu UI Hotel (H)	(0735)22-6611	(0735)22-4777	¥¥				

 $\ensuremath{^{*}}$ 52 places of Shukubo (Temple Lodging) can be reserved through the association. http://eng.shukubo.net/

Remarks: Rate per person.

1 - 10 correspond to those on the map on page 2/7.

H = Hotel

R = Ryokan

BH = Business Hotel

Y = Youth Hostel

M = Minshuku (family-run inn)

P = Pension

PL = People's Lodgess

¥¥¥ = more than 15,000 yen

¥¥ = 8,001 yen – 15,000 yen

¥ = 8,000 yen or less

*Standard basis rate

(no meals, taxes included)







JNTO TIC (Tourist Information Center)

TIC of Japan National Tourism Organization is your helping hand while in Japan. Its main services are providing travel information and free literature on Japan such as tourist spots, transportation, and suggesting tour itineraries, etc.

1F, Shin-Tokyo Bldg., 3-3-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0005 Tel. 03-3201-3331 (in Japan) Open daily from 9:00 to 18:00 (Closed on Jan. 1)

https://www.japan.travel/en/plan/tic/

Goodwill Guide Groups offer tourists from overseas local tours guided in English or other languages. The guides are registered with JNTO and display the badge shown. As they are volunteers, there is no charge for their service. You are only expected to pay for their transportaion, admission to tourist facilities if you visit any and their meals if you eat with them.

JNTO Website

https://www.japan.travel/en/plan/list-of-volunteer-guides/

[Good to know] Admission and opening times at tourist attractions:

- Last entry to the most of attractions is 30 min. before the closing time.
- In general, if their weekly closing day (most are on Mon.) falls on a national holiday, they are open on the day and are closed on the following day after the holiday(s).
- Most are closed throughout / a part of New Year holiday period (especially Dec. 29–Jan. 3).
- Please visit the official website of each venue / your nearest tourist information center for the updates.



TOURIST INFORMATION in the area

Tanabe Tourist Information Center:

Next to JR Kii-Tanabe Sta., 1-20 Minato, Tanabe City, Wakayama Hours: 9:00–18:00

Tel. (0739)34-5599

Machinaka General Information Center Shirasuna:

In the center of Shirahama Spa, 1384-57 Shirahama-cho, Nishimurogun, Wakayama

Hours: 8:30-18:00

Tel. (0739)43-5511

Koyasan shukubo association:

Senjuinbashi bus stop from Koyasan Sta., 600 Koyasan, Koya-cho, Ito-gun, Wakayama

Hours: 8:30-17:00 (Mar. – Jun., Sep. – Dec.)

8:30-17:45 (Jul. - Aug.) 9:00-17:00 (Jan. - Feb.)

Tel. (0736) 56-2616

To find other Tourist Information Centers, visit https://tic.jnto.go.jp/



JNTO Website: https://www.jnto.go.jp

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