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 the 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>Operated by</th>
<th>Approx. Travel Time</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Access from Nanki Shirahama Airport to Downtown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo (Haneda)</td>
<td>Shirahama (Nanki Shirahama)</td>
<td>JAL</td>
<td>1 hr. 15 min.</td>
<td>¥32,790</td>
<td>20 min. by bus to Shirahama Sta. ¥360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>45 min. by bus to Kii-Tanabe Sta. ¥770</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

By Rail and Bus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>By</th>
<th>Approx. Travel Time</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kansai Int'l Airport</td>
<td>Wakayama Sta.</td>
<td>Airport Limousine Bus</td>
<td>40 min.</td>
<td>¥1,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shishirama Sta.</td>
<td>JR Rapid / Local trains and</td>
<td>40 min.</td>
<td>¥890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osaka (JR Shin-Osaka or JR Tennoji Sta.)</td>
<td>Kii-Katsuraga Sta. Shinga Sta.</td>
<td>JR Rapid / Local trains and</td>
<td>160 min. 240 min. 250 min.</td>
<td>¥(4,730) to Shishirama** (¥6,680) to Kii-Katsuraga** (¥6,680) to Shinga**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nankai Railway Namba Sta.</td>
<td>JR limited express “Kuroshio” via Kii</td>
<td>170 min. 225 min. 240 min. *</td>
<td>¥(5,600 / ¥5,270 from Tennoji)** to Shishirama (¥6,890) to Kii-Katsuraga** (¥7,210) to Shinga**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osaka (JR Shin-Osaka or JR Tennoji Sta.)</td>
<td>Kii-Katsuraga Sta. Shinga Sta.</td>
<td>JR limited express “Kuroshio” via Kii</td>
<td>170 min. 225 min. 240 min. *</td>
<td>¥(5,600 / ¥5,270 from Tennoji)** to Shishirama (¥6,890) to Kii-Katsuraga** (¥7,210) to Shinga**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nankai Railway Namba Sta.</td>
<td>Nankai Railway Namba Line limited express “SOUTHERN”</td>
<td></td>
<td>60 min.</td>
<td>¥920 (Non-reserved seat) ¥1,430 (Reserved seat)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>By</th>
<th>Approx. Travel Time</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Osaka (Nankai-Namba or Shin-imamiya Sta.)</td>
<td>Gokurakubashi Sta.</td>
<td>Nankai Railway Koya Line Limited Express “Koya” via Hashimoto</td>
<td>From Nankai-Namba 80 min. by limited express 100 min. by express</td>
<td>¥1,650 ¥870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hashimoto Sta.</td>
<td>Nankai Railway Koya Line</td>
<td></td>
<td>35 min. 45 min.</td>
<td>¥950 (limited express “Koya”) ¥440 (express or local train)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gokurakubashi Sta.</td>
<td>Koyasan Sta.</td>
<td>Koyasan Cable car*</td>
<td>5 min. (operated every 8-40 min.)</td>
<td>¥390</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*No service from Nov. 2018 to Feb. 2019 due to maintenance, and replacement bus service will be provided during the period.

By JR Line

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>By</th>
<th>Approx. Travel Time</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JR Shin-Osaka Sta.</td>
<td>JR Hashimoto Sta.</td>
<td>JR Kyoto Line to Osaka, JR Yamatoji Rapid Service train to Oji, JR Wakayama Line via Takada and Gojo</td>
<td>105 min.</td>
<td>¥1,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JR Namba Sta.</td>
<td>JR Hashimoto Sta.</td>
<td>JR Limited Express “Kuroshio” to Wakayama, JR Wakayama Line</td>
<td>120 min.</td>
<td>¥2,980*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hashimoto Sta.</td>
<td>Gokurakubashi Sta.</td>
<td>JR Yamatoji Line (Rapid) to Oji or Takada, JR Wakayama Line via Takada and Gojo</td>
<td>90 min.</td>
<td>¥1,320</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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


Katsura (勝浦), 1 hr. and 40 min. by JR limited express train from Shirahama Sta. (Kii-Katsura is a station name for Katsura.), 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 Urushima offers a unique hot spring bath located inside Bakido Cave. Hours: 9:00–19:00 (enter by 18:00, except 10:00–13:00 for cleaning time but you can enjoy at least one of other four unique baths during the time.). Admission: ¥1,000.
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 (瀧峡), 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: ¥3,440.

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 Nakaechechi Route which is the most popular Kumano Pilgrimage Route. Tukei-jinja Shrine is a 10-min. walk from Kii-Tanabe Sta.

Walking Kumano Kodo

Among different routes, Nakaechechi (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 Nakaechechi 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.

Hoshinmon-Oji (ほ心門王子) 1.7 km 1.3 min. Mizunomi-Oji (水呑王子) 2.0 km 20 min.

Fushiigami-Oji (伏見王子) 1 km 18 min. Sangen-ya-ato (三軒茶屋跡) 1.9 km 40 min.

Haraido-Oji (狭戸王子) 0.2 km 5 min. Kumano Hongu Taisha Grand Shrine (熊野本宮大社)


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 (湯之峰温泉) 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 Hoshinmon-Oji
Yunomine Hot Spring Bus Stop ➔ Wataze (Watarase) Hot Spring ➔ Kawayu Hot Spring ➔ Hoshinmon-Oji Bus Stop 25 min.

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)
Koya-san

Koya-san (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 Koya-san cablecar Sta.

For further details: Nankai-Rinkan Bus (南海りんからバス) 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.

Kongobu-ji (金剛峯寺), in front of Kongobu-ji-mae Bus Stop, built in 1593, has become the chief temple of the 116 temples in Koya-san 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 (大金塔) comprise this Danjogaran Complex. Open: 8:30-17:00. Admission to Kondo and Daito: ¥200 each.

Koya-san Reihokan (高野山霊宝館), 1 min. walk from Reihokan-mae Bus Stop. Treasure House of Koya-san 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.

---

Suggested Trip Itinerary:

1st day: Tokyo Sta. → Shin-Otsuka Sta. → Namba Sta. (Nankai-Namba Sta.) → Koya-san train & cablecar (1 hr. 1 hr. 10 min. 1 hr. 20 min.)

2nd day: Koya-san cablecar & train → Hashimoto Sta. → Walayama Sta. → Shirahama Sta. train train (1 hr. 35 min. 40 min.)

3rd day: Shirahama Sta. → Kushimoto Sta. → Kii-Katsura Sta. (55 min. 40 min. 15-25 min.)

4th day: Kii-Katsura Sta. → Shingu Sta. → Shiko (train 40 min. 2-hr. boat ride in Dorokyo George) (train 25 min. bus 35 min. 30 min.)

5th day: Yunomine or Kawayu → Kumano-Hongu Shrine → Shingu Sta. → Nagoya Sta. → Tokyo (bus 10-20 min. 1 hr. 5 min. 3 hrs. 30 min. 1 hr. 40 min. - 2 hrs.)
### Accommodations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Facility</th>
<th>Tel.</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Room rate (£)</th>
<th>Name of Facility</th>
<th>Tel.</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Room rate (£)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shirahama:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Katsuura:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. SHIRAHAMA KEI TERRACE HOTEL SAMORE (H)</td>
<td>(0739)43-1000</td>
<td>(0739)43-1110</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>Hotel Urashima (R, H)</td>
<td>(0735)52-1011</td>
<td>(0735)52-0275</td>
<td>¥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Yuki Resort Shirahama Sanchioraku (H)</td>
<td>(0570)550-378</td>
<td>(0739)43-3672</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>Katsuura Kanko Hotel (R)</td>
<td>(0735)52-0750</td>
<td>(0735)52-1469</td>
<td>¥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Shirahama Cogiono Resort &amp; Spa (H)</td>
<td>(0739)43-6000</td>
<td>(0739)43-5805</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>Umi no Hotel Ichinotaki (R)</td>
<td>(0735)52-0080</td>
<td>(0735)52-0082</td>
<td>¥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Shiraras Grand Hotel (H)</td>
<td>(0739)43-0100</td>
<td>(0739)42-2438</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>Hotel Nagisaya (R)</td>
<td>(0735)52-0015</td>
<td>(0735)52-5221</td>
<td>¥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Ryuhoen (H)</td>
<td>(0739)43-3036</td>
<td>(0739)42-4225</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>Hotel Nakanoshima (R)</td>
<td>(0735)52-1111</td>
<td>(0735)52-1633</td>
<td>¥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Yuki Resort Hotel Senyo (H)</td>
<td>(0570)550-378</td>
<td>(0739)43-0127</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>Katsuura Gyoen (R)</td>
<td>(0735)52-0333</td>
<td>(0735)52-3887</td>
<td>¥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Minshuku A Course (M)</td>
<td>(0739)42-3680</td>
<td>(0739)43-0477</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>Miharu Sanso (M)</td>
<td>(0735)55-0745</td>
<td>(0735)55-0755</td>
<td>¥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Minshuku Katsuya (M)</td>
<td>(0739)42-3814</td>
<td>(0739)42-3817</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>Kawauy:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Shirara (M)</td>
<td>(0739)42-3655</td>
<td>(0739)43-5223</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>Kawayu Midoriya (R)</td>
<td>(0735)42-1011</td>
<td>(0735)42-0313</td>
<td>¥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Hotel Shirahama (PL)</td>
<td>(0739)42-3039</td>
<td>(0739)42-4643</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>Kinokuni Hotel (R)</td>
<td>(0735)42-0353</td>
<td>(0735)42-0378</td>
<td>¥</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Tanabe:

- Kita Tanabe City Plaza Hotel (BH-H) | (0739)24-0400 | (0739)26-0996 | ¥              |
- Garden Hotel Hanley (BH-H) | (0739)26-0874 | (0739)26-1001 | ¥              |

### Kushimoto:

- Hotel & Resort WAKAYAMA-KUSHIYOTO (H) | (0735)62-7771 | (0735)62-7760 | ¥              |

### Minabe:

- Hotel & Resort WAKAYAMA-MINABE (H) | (0739)72-5500 | (0739)72-5757 | ¥              |

### Shingu:

- Shingu Hiyatsuya Y.H. (Y) | (0735)22-2309 | (0735)22-0721 | ¥              |
- Shingu Central Hotel (BH) | (0735)22-2000 | (0735)23-2100 | ¥              |
- Sunshine Hotel (BH) | (0735)22-2580 | (0735)23-2781 | ¥              |
- Shingu UJ Hotel (H) | (0735)22-6611 | (0735)22-4777 | ¥              |

### Remarks:

- **Rate per person.**
- **¥** = more than 15,000 yen
- **¥** = 8,000 yen – 15,000 yen
- **¥** = 8,000 yen or less
- **¥** Standard basis rate
- **¥** (no meals, taxes included)
- **M** = Minshuku (family-run inn)
- **R** = Ryokan
- **BH** = Business Hotel
- **P** = Pension
- **PL** = People's Lodging

*52 places of Shukubo (Temple Lodging) can be reserved through the association.*

[http://eng.shukubo.net/](http://eng.shukubo.net/)
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)

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 transportation, admission to tourist facilities if you visit any and their meals if you eat with them.

JNTO Website

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 Shirasuna Spa, 1384-57 Shirasuna-cho, Nishimuro-gun, Wakayama
Hours: 8:30–18:00
Tel. (0739) 43-5511

Koyasan shukubo association:
Senjubashi bus stop from Koyasan Sta., 600 Koyasan, Koya-cho, Ita-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/

[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.