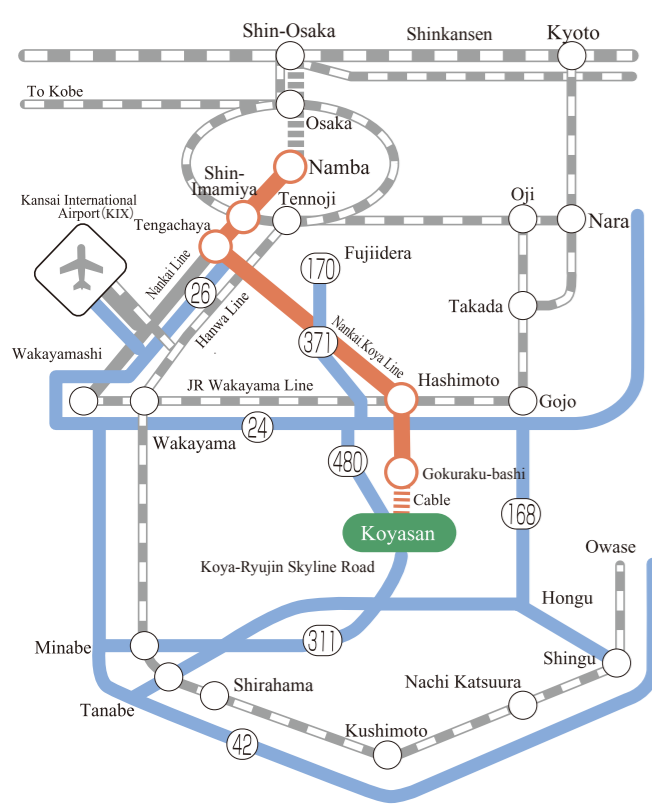


ACCESS MAP



Access by air

Itami Airport → Airport Shuttle → Osaka Namba Station

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

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

Access by train

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

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

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

Access by car

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

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

History of Koyasan



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

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

Experience Koyasan

Sutra Copying

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



Ajikan

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

Festivals



Aoba Festival

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



Candle Festival

On the evening of August 13, about 100,000 candles placed along the approach from Ichinohashi to Kukai's Mausoleum light up the nearly 2 km (1.25 miles) road. This is a festival to pray for the souls of ancestors and those lying beyond in the Okunoin. The candle lights flickering in this sacred site create a fantastic ambiance.

Koyasan Trivia



Void
Air
Fire
Water
Earth

Gorinto

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

Koyasan Trivia



Cable Car

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

Lodging



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

Shojin (Vegetarian) Cuisine



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

Information

Using the Internet



Please feel free to use the computers provided if you wish to search for something on the Internet.

- Location: Koyacho Town Hall, Koyasan Shukubo Association
- Fee: Free of charge

Koyasan Audio Guide Rental



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

- Rental location: Koyasan Shukubo Association
- Fee: 500 yen per device.

Bicycle Rental

Cycling around Koyasan can be a fantastic experience!

- Rental location: Koyasan Shukubo Association
- Fee: 400 yen /hour per bicycle



Rub the picture of the Sankosho lightly. You'll smell the comforting fragrance of incense.



Sankosho (ritual tool)

Esoteric instrument used by monks in Buddhist ceremonies.

A GUIDE TO KOYASAN

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URL : <http://www.koya.org/english/>