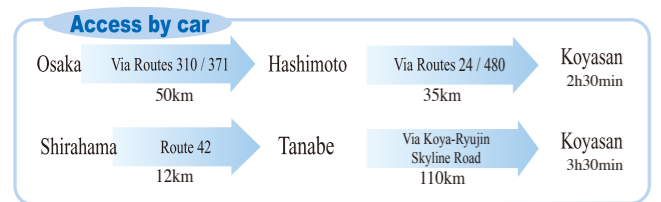
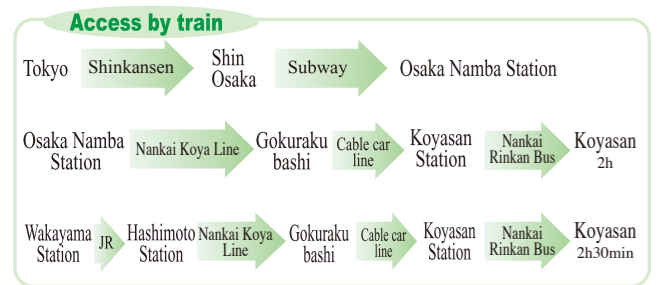
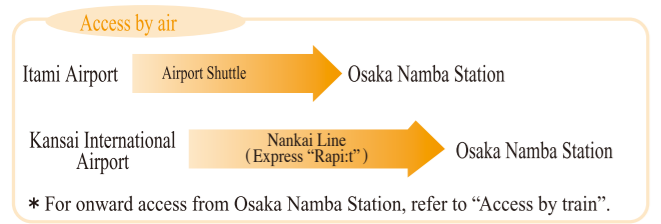
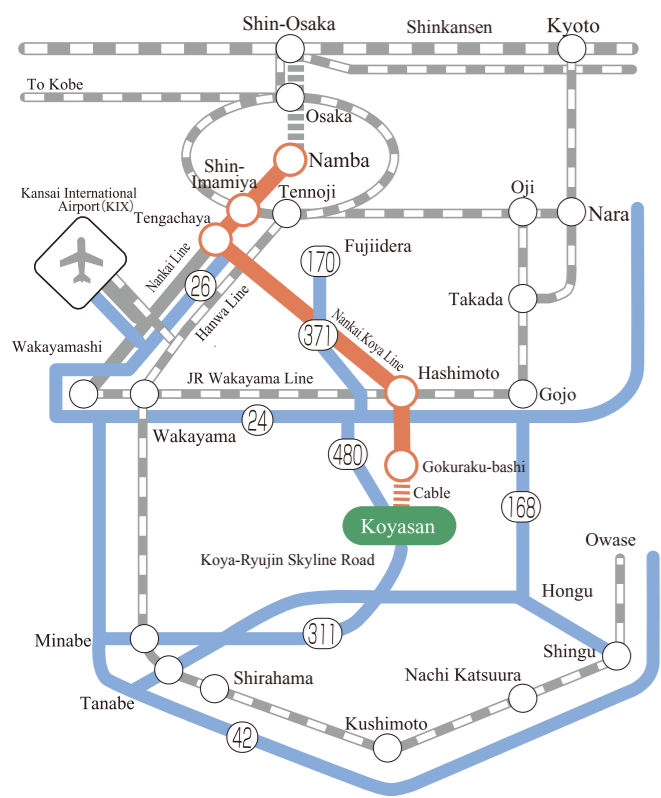


ACCESS MAP



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 night of August 13th, many candles placed along the approach from the Ichinohashi Bridge to the Toro-do. This is festival to pray for the souls ancestors and those lying beyond in the Okunoin. The candle lights flickering in this sacred site create a fantastic ambiance.

Koyasan Trivia



- 空 Space
- 風 Wind
- 火 Fire
- 水 Water
- 地 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 Ryori. It is also possible to take part in the early-morning services at the main temple.

Shojin Ryori(Vegetarian Cuisine)



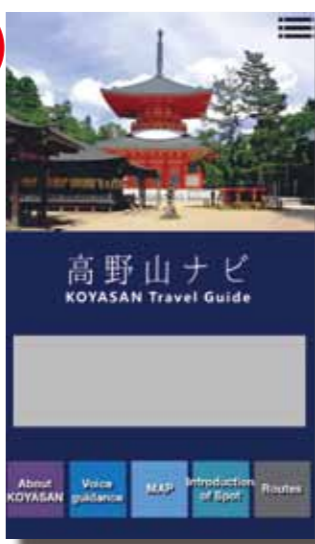
Shojin Ryori developed over a long period of time when meats were prohibited, and is made with delicate touches to bring out the natural flavor found in the traditional food culture of Koyasan. Shojin Ryori has become a popular health food in recent years.

Information



KOYASAN TravelGuide

Free App



This App provides "Tourism Info." and "Disaster Prevention Info." Japanese • English • French • Chinese (Simplified) Contains Voice Guidance (Kongobu-ji Head Temple, Okuno-in and Danjo-Garan)



Wi-Fi

Free WiFi is available at KOYASAN FREE Wi-Fi Sticker.

Rental Audio Guide

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

- Rental office: Koyasan Shukubo Association
- Fee: 500 yen / unit

Bicycle Rental

Cycling around Koyasan can be a fantastic experience!

- Rental office: Koyasan Shukubo Association
- Fee: 400 yen / hour (100 yen for each additional 30 minutes)

英語: English



Sankosho
Esoteric instrument used by monks in Buddhist ceremonies.



A GUIDE TO KOYASAN

636 Koyasan, Koya-cho, Ito-gun, Wakayama 648-0281
URL : <http://www.koyasan.net/>