

WORLD HERITAGE

Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range

KUMANO SANZAN

熊野三山



Kumano Hongu Taisha
(Grand Shrine)



Kumano Nachi Taisha
(Grand Shrine)



Kumano Hayatama Taisha
(Grand Shrine)



Nachisan Seiganto-ji
(Temple)





① Tsuboyu Onsen
Tsubo-yu is a small natural rock bath designated as a World Heritage Site. It is said that the water changes color seven times a day. It has also been known since ancient times as a "hot spring of rebirth." Locals and visitor alike can cook vegetables and eggs in the natural hot spring nearby.
□ Kumano Hongu Tourist Association
TEL.0735-42-0735

Other Attractions in the Area



⑥ Kumano-gawa Kudari (River-boat tour)
Kumano River, which flows along the border of Wakayama and Mie Prefectures, is a part of the pilgrimage route designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You can enjoy an hour and a half boat-tour while listening to an explanation about the history and spirit of Kumano, as told by a storyteller.
□ Kumano-gawa River Boat Center
TEL.0735-44-0987



⑨ Katsura Port Fish Market Tour
Katsura port is home to one of the largest tuna markets in Japan. You can see a tuna fish auction with a guide from the fishing association. There is also a tuna can making experience program.
□ Katsura fisheries cooperative
TEL.0735-52-0951



⑫ Kimono Experience
Walk on the Kumano Kodo while wearing Kimono like pilgrims past.
□ Daimon-zaka ChayaTea house
TEL.0735-55-0244
□ Kumashiroya TEL.090-3285-9046



② Wataze Onsen
Wataze Onsen is between Yunomine Onsen and Kawayu Onsen. There is "Watarase Onsen" which is one of the largest open-air spas in Western Japan. And you can enjoy the outdoors at rental bungalows and a campground close by.
□ Kumano Hongu Tourist Association
TEL.0735-42-0735



④ Kumano Kodo Walking
Walk the Kumano Ancient Roads with a storyteller who will tell you about the culture and history of Kumano. It is a great way to relax and refresh yourself.
□ Wellness Healing Kumano
TEL.0735-42-0118
(You need some one who can speak Japanese.)



⑦ Jofuku Park (Xu Fu Park)
The Chinese tower gate of Xu Fu Park is brightly colored. Xu Fu was an court sorcerer in Qin Dynasty China sent to search for the elixir of life, circa 3rd century BC. His grave is among the Tendai Uyaku (Lindera strychnifolia).
□ Jofuku Park (Xu Fu Park)
TEL.0735-21-7672



⑩ Ki-no-Matsushima cruising
On this boat cruise you can enjoy the unusual rock formations in Katsura Bay. On a clear day, you can see Nachi Falls from the boat.
□ Kinomatsushima Kanko Co.,Ltd
TEL.0735-52-8188



③ Kawayu Onsen
Hot water wells up right from the riverbed at this famous hot spring resort. In the summer, swimming in the river is popular, and you can dig in the riverside to make your own personal hot spring bath. During the winter season, you can enjoy a huge natural open-air hot spring.
□ Kumano Hongu Tourist Association
TEL.0735-42-0735



⑤ Doro-kyo Gorge Boat Tour
Doro-kyo Gorge lies on the border of Wakayama and Mie Prefectures. You can enjoy marvelous works of nature, magnificent cliffs and lush green mountains rising high around you. The forests take on beautiful colors in both spring and late autumn.
□ Kumano Kotsu Shiko Jet Boat Center
TEL.0735-44-0331



⑧ Katsura Onsen
The Katsura onsen hot springs have 177 sources. Spring quality is chloride spring, simple hot spring and so on. Open-air spas at these springs are wonderful. You can enjoy hot springs with a magnificent view of the surrounding Kumano's mountains and Nachi bay on the Pacific Ocean.
□ Nanki Katsura onsen association
TEL.0735-52-0048



⑪ Whale Watching
Watch the whales and dolphins riding the Kuroshio Current from early spring into summer.
□ Nanki MarineLeisure Service
TEL.0735-54-0725
□ Kiyomaru ferry TEL.0735-52-5574

⑬ Guided Walks
Local guides bring the area to life with their stories. Get the most out of your Kumano experience with a guided walk! You need some one who can speak Japanese. (Except Shingu City Tourism Association)
□ Kumano Hongu Tourist Association TEL.0735-42-0735
□ Shingu-shi Tourist Association TEL.0735-22-2840
□ Nachi-Katsura Town Tourism Association TEL.0735-52-5311



Kumano Sanzan Tourism Associations

Nachi-Katsura Town Tourism Association
6-1-1 Tsukiji, Nachikatsuura-cho, Higashimuro-gun, Wakayama Prefecture 647-5335
TEL.0735-52-5311 <http://www.nachikan.jp/en/>
Open from 8:30 thru 18:00

Kumano Hongu Tourist Association
100-1 Hongu, Hongu-cho, Tanabe-shi, Wakayama Prefecture 647-1731
TEL.0735-42-0735 <http://www.hongu.jp/en/>
Open from 8:30 thru 17:00
(Tanabe City Kumano Tourism Bureau <http://www.tb-kumano.jp/en/>)

Shingu-shi Tourist Association
2-1-1 Jofuku, Shingu-shi, Wakayama Prefecture 647-0020
TEL.0735-22-2840 <http://kumano-shingu.com/>
Open from 9:00 thru 17:30

熊野那智大社

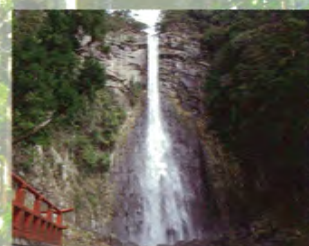
Kumano Nachi Taisha Grand Shrine



Nachi-no-Ogi Matsuri (Nachi Fire Festival)

The main diety is Fusumi-no-okami (Izanami-no-mikoto) and the Honji-butsum(Honji Buddha) is Senju Kannon.(thousand armed Kannon)

In the precincts of the shrine, there are Karasu Ishi (crow stone), which is said that the legendary three-legged crow changed its form into a stone, and a 800-year-old camphor tree.



Nachi Waterfall, the highest waterfall in Japan

Kumano Hongu Taisha Grand Shrine

熊野本宮大社



The annual festival of Kumano Hongu Taisha (April 15th)



Oyunohara, the original site of Kumano Hongu Taisha



In ancient times, it stood on the sandbar of Kumanogawa River called Oyunohara. After the flood in 1889, the shrine was moved to its current location. The main diety is Ketsumiko-no-okami (Susano-no-mikoto), and Honji-butsum(Honji Buddha) is Amida Nyorai.

Kumano Sanzan is composed of Three Grand Shrines and one temple, Kumano Hayatama Taisha, Kumano Hongu Taisha and Kumano Nachi Taisha, and Nachi Seiganto-ji.

Seiganto-ji became closely related to Nachi Taisha when Shinto and Buddhism started being practiced side by side.

Since ancient times, many people have visited Kumano to seek forgiveness for their sins and ensure their passage to heaven. Where most religious centers in Japan at the time did not allow women or non-believers, Kumano welcomed all. Nuns set out to all corners of Japan spreading the word, "Regardless of whether you are a man or woman, a sinner or saint, a believer or not, all are welcome in Kumano." And thus, the Kumano faith spread throughout Japan. So many came in fact that the spectacle of these pilgrims advancing along the narrow Kumano ancient roads was called "the procession of ants to the Kumano-Sanzan."

In 2004, "Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range", including the Kumano Three Grand Shrines, was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Please visit the Kumano region, and enjoy your private pilgrimage to Kumano Sanzan. We hope you can experience healing and spiritual revival while absorbing the beauty and atmosphere that has attracted so many since ancient times.

那智山青岸渡寺



The huge 450kg gong of Nachisan Seiganto-ji Temple

In the ancient times, this temple was integrated as a "Nyoirin-do" with Kumano Nachi Taisha. It is the first temple of Kansai 33 Kannon pilgrimage. The principal image is Nyoirinkanzeon-bosatsu (Goddess of mercy) that allegedly appeared in Nachi Waterfall.



Fudarakusan-ji Temple

Nachisan Seiganto-ji Temple

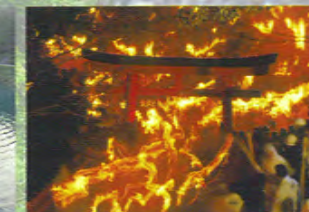


The big Gotobiki(toad) rock of Kamikura-jinja Shrine

熊野速玉大社



Mifune (boat) Festival (October 16th)



Kumano Oto Festival. (February 6th)



It stands at the mouth of Kumanogawa River. In the precincts of the shrine, there is a sacred 1,000-year-old Nagi tree which is considered the biggest in Japan. The main diety is Hayatama-no-okami (Izanagi-no-mikoto), and Honji-butsum(Honji Buddha) is Yakushi Nyorai.

Kumano Hayatama Taisha Grand Shrine

From the time of ancient, Kumano has been a sacred place of resurrection.

Ancient Japanese people believed they would be purified of their sins in previous lives from the Kumano Hayatama Taisha, attain the grace of the gods in their present life from the Kumano Nachi Taisha and find salvation in their future lives from the Kumano Hongu Taisha. Kumano Kodo is the road of a prayer where a footprint of the ancient people who wish divine favor in Kumano Sanzan is left.



熊野古道



Dokyuzenmon-jizo



Hosshinmon-oji



Hyakkengura



Kumano-gawa River
(Section of Kumano Kodo)



Haraido-oji



Waroda-ishi Rock



Daimon-zaka Slope



Koya-zaka Slope