Tanabe Gateway to Kumano

Tanabe City is the historic and present day gateway to Kumano, a key location for both land and ocean transportation routes. It is a scenic coastal city with a population of around 60,000, the largest in the south of the Kii Peninsula. Tanabe bay is in the west with mountains rising in the east. Across the bay to the south is the Shirauma resort area.

Fishing and agriculture focused on lime and orange production are the major industries. The mountains inland from the coast are covered with terraced orchards.

Access: JR Trains run daily from Kyoto and Osaka (1-2.5 hrs)

Kii-Tanabe Station Area

The station area is the center of the older part of the city. Next to the Kii-Tanabe station is the Tanabe Tourist Information Center. Most of the other main sites are in the south ward of the station. Buses for the Kumano Kodo leave from Bus Stop 2 in front of the station.

TANABE Tourist Information Center

Hours: 9:00 – 18:00 (Open year-round)

Travel Support Center

The KUMANO TRAVEL shop is dedicated to supporting visitors onsite. It is located within walking distance from the Kii-Tanabe station and is run by bilingual English/Japanese speaking staff. Services include luggage storage, luggage shuttle, accommodation reservations, etc. Outdoor gear and local souvenirs are for sale.

Hours: 9:00 – 18:00 (Open year-round)

Tokei-jinja

Tokei-jinja shrine was established in 419 A.D. and derives from Kumano Hongu Taisha. Many important and aristocratic pilgrims paid homage here praying for safe passage into the realm of Kumano. Because the Kumano pilgrims were married in Tokei-jinja Shrine, some pilgrims did not make the voyage into the heart of Kumano but presented here, subsequently worshipping the Kumano-sanctum from afar.

Aijiko - Restaurant & Entertainment District

The entertainment area is in front of the JR Kii-Tanabe station called "Aijiko", and is packed with restaurants and Japanese style pubs (izakaya). Enjoy a full of desert places to eat and drink.

Tanabe is a safe place for non-Japanese visitors to fully experience delicious local cuisine in an authentic environment. Kampai!