

Shingu Kumano Kodo Hub

Shingu is the town on the west side of the Kumano-gawa river and the site of Kumano Hayatama Taisha and Kamikura-jinja. The Iseji and Nakahechi routes meet here. Access: JR trains run daily from Osaka (~4 hrs) and Nagoya (3.5 hrs).

Kumano Hayatama Taisha

Kumano Hayatama Taisha is one of the three Grand Shrines of Kumano. The vermillion colored pavilions stand-out against the green backdrop of the shrine grove.

The ancient 800-year-old Nagi-no-Ki tree (Podocarpus nagi) is one of sacred trees onsite. According to local legend, during the 1159 reconstruction, it was planted as a donation by Taira-no-Shigemori, a powerful feudal lord. The leaves were used as an amulet. They are difficult to tear crossways like a strong, enduring, unbreakable relationship with the deities. It is a symbol of the Kumano faith. It is said that messages from the deities can be seen in the leaves by devoted believers. Pilgrims would return with a Nagi leaf as proof that they had completed the pilgrimage.



Gotobiki-iwa, Kamikura-jinja

Halfway up the east side of Mt. Gongen there is a large monolith. It is known as Gotobiki-iwa, and is believed that the Kumano deities first descended here.

Nestled under Gotobiki-iwa is Kamikura-jinja shrine. Perched on the cliff side it offers panoramic views of Shingu city and the Pacific Ocean.



An ancient stone staircase leads from the base of the mountain to Gotobiki-iwa and Kamikura-jinja. The first section has such a steep incline that many people need to use their hands to scramble up.

Oto Matsuri

The Oto Matsuri 御燈祭 is a fire festival held every year on February 6th. Men of all ages dress in white clothes with a thick straw rope wrapped around their waist. During the day of the event participants, called noboriko 上り子, only eat white food (white symbolizes purity) and some perform shiogori 潮垢離, a purifying ritual in the ocean, before heading up the steep stone staircase towards a clearing below Gotobiki-iwa (p.31).



















































Each participant carries a torch which is lit from a sacred fire. As the torches start to burn, the tension rises and finally erupts as the shrine gate bursts open, releasing the fiery dragon to race down the mountain. The sky is illuminated orange as the sacred light reflects off the blooms of rising smoke, carrying their hopes and wishes to heaven.

Kumano Shingu Tourist Information Center

Hours: 9:00~17:00 (Open year-round)

Restaurant Guide

	 Local seafood	 Izakaya pub	 Full meals	 Sushi	 Udon&Soba noodles
1	Shikaroku 鹿六	0735-22-2035	11:00～14:30 17:00～20:30	定休(月)*祝日月曜時、翌火曜。 Closed on Mon.	
2	Mehari-ya めはりや	0735-21-1238    	11:00～22:00	定休(水) Closed on Wed.	
3	Takamatsu Udon 高松	0735-22-3438 	18:00～2:00	定休(水) Closed on Wed.	
4	Manso 万惣	0735-22-3195   	11:00～14:30 17:00～20:00	定休(木) Closed on Thu.	
5	Toho-jaya 東宝茶屋	0735-22-2843    	11:30～14:00 17:00～22:00	不定休 Closed on Tue.	
6	Ile de France イル・ド・フランス	0735-22-2365 	11:30～13:00 17:30～20:00	定休(月) Closed on Mon.	
7	Nagura 魚群	0735-23-0623   	17:30～22:30	定休(月) Closed on Mon.	
8	Masa-ya まさ家	0735-21-6826    	11:00～21:00	定休(木)*祝日以外 Closed on Thu.	
9	Tensui 天酔	0735-21-3175    	11:00～14:00 17:00～22:00	不定休 Variable holidays.	
10	KAIHAMI CARNE KAIHAMI CARNE	0735-23-0038 	11:30～13:30 18:00～21:00	定休(日月) Closed on Sun. & Mon.	
11	Kinoshita きのした	0735-22-2069    	17:30～22:00	定休(木) Closed on Thu.	
12	Jofuku-zushi 徐福寿司	0735-23-1313  	10:00～17:00	定休(木) Closed on Thu.	
13	Chobo-ya ちよぼや	0735-21-9071    	17:30～23:00	定休(日)*祝日曜時、翌月曜。 Closed on Sun.	
14	Kiku きく	0735-22-8643   	17:30～22:00	定休(日)*祝日不定休 Closed on Sun.	
15	Shinraku 心楽	0735-23-9111    	17:30～1:00	定休(日)*祝日営業 Closed on Sun.	
16	Hige 焼肉ひげ	0735-21-3488 	11:30～14:00 17:00～22:00	定休(火) Closed on Tue.	



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