

ITINERARY

Kumano Kodo Trek, Takijiri to Kumano Hongu Taisha

Length of trip: 4 day, 3 nights

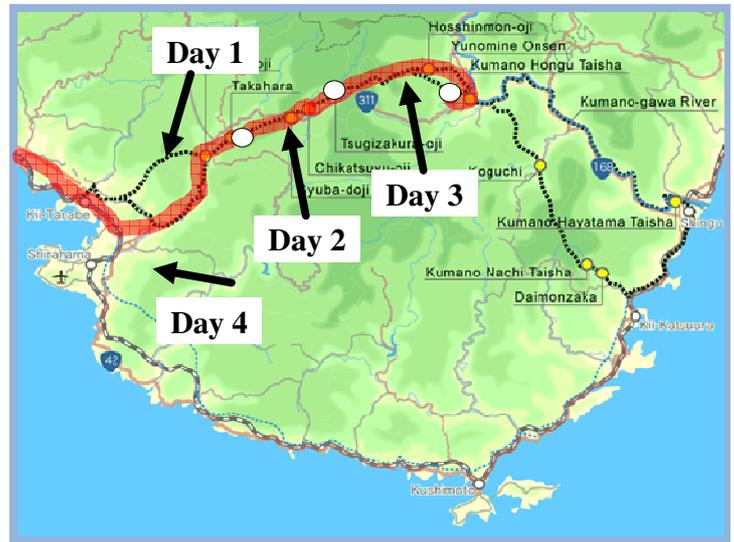
Start : Kyoto/Osaka

Finish : Osaka, or other options

Overnight: Takahara, Nonaka, Yunomine Onsen

Total Walking Distance: ~40 km

NOTE: Double check transportation times before departure as timetables sometimes change.



Overview

The Kumano Kodo is an ancient pilgrimage route dating back over 1000 years.

This itinerary consists of multi-day walks on the Nakahechi trail to Kumano Hongu Taisha

- Day 1: **Train** from Shin-Osaka to Kii-Tanabe (~2 hrs)
Bus from Kii-Tanabe to Takijiri (~40 min)
Walk from Takijiri-ji to Takahara (3.7 km, ~2.5 hrs)
Sleep in Takahara
- Day 2: **Walk** from Takahara to Tsugizakura-ji (~14 km, 6~7 hrs)
Sleep in Nonaka area
- Day 3: **Walk** Tsugizakura-ji to Kumano Hongu Taisha (21 km, 7~8 hrs)
Bus from Hongu to Yunomine Onsen (~10 min)
Sleep in Yunomine Onsen
- Day 4: **Bus** from Yunomine Onsen to Kii-Tanabe (~1 hr 45 min)
Train from Kii-Tanabe to Shin-Osaka (~2 hrs)

NOTE: The thumb nail images of maps on the right hand side of the page marked with the symbol ※ refer to the local area maps.

Please use these as a reference to which area maps to use during your trip.

CAUTION: In the case of extreme weather, please listen to the advice of locals, and take the bus instead of walking if need be.

Day 1

	TRAIN FROM SHIN-OSAKA TO KII-TANABE (Kuroshio 3)
9:03	depart: Shin-Osaka
11:11	arrive: Kii-Tanabe
	VISIT TANABE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER TOUR ORIENTATION
	<i>This information center is next to the Kii-Tanabe station to the left. There are maps (including area and Kumano Kodo maps, and bus timetables) and other useful information.</i>
	LUNCH: at restaurant, or buy something to go. The bakery inside the train station is convenient place to buy something.
	<i>Ask at the tourist information center for ideas.</i>
	BUS FROM KII-TANABE TO TAKIJIRI
12:35	depart: Kii-Tanabe station
13:12	arrive: Takijiri
	LUGGAGE SHUTTLE
	<i>Please meet the luggage shuttle staff at the Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage Center. Do not leave them with the center staff, but rather hand them directly to the luggage shuttle service provider.</i> <i>The staff meets guests at a specific time, so please make sure to arrive on the bus chosen in advance when booking.</i>
	VISIT KUMANO KODO KAN PILGRIMAGE CENTER
	<i>The Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage Center has an overview of the pilgrimage route with exhibitions in English.</i> <i>It is located across the river from the Takijiri bus stop.</i>



960 yen

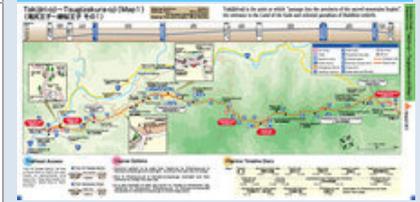
Bus timetable 1

MUST BE PREBOOKED



※Nakahechi West Area Map

	<p>WALK KUMANO KODO - TAKIJIRI-OJI TO TAKAHARA</p> <p>3.7 km, ~2.5 hr</p> <p>Please refer to the "KUMANO KODO, Takijiri-oji to Takahara Route guide for detailed information about the walk.</p>
	<p><i>This is short but steep uphill walk from Takijiri (the sacred entrance to the Kumano mountains, and the ridge top village of Takahara.</i></p>
	<p>VISIT TAKAHARA</p>
	<p><i>When you arrive at Takahara enjoy the view from the central parking area. From there the trail continues up a small sidewalk through the houses. It starts from the intersection behind (to the south) of the parking area.</i></p> <p><i>Follow this trail up a couple of minutes and you will come to a small trail which branches to the left. This is the trail to Kiri-no-Sato Takahara Lodge.</i></p>
	<p>OVERNIGHT IN TAKAHARA</p>
	<p>SUPPER: at accommodation</p>



※Kumano Kodo pilgrimage route map booklet page 4.



※Takahara map

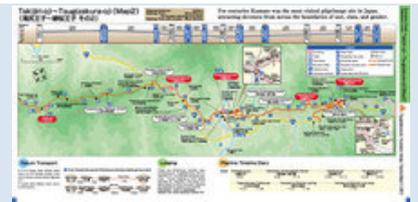
Day 2

	<p>BREAKFAST: at accommodation</p>
	<p>LUGGAGE SHUTTLE</p> <p><i>Leave luggage at front desk.</i></p>
	<p>PICK UP LUNCH BOX AT ACCOMMODATION</p>
	<p>WALK KUMANO KODO - TAKAHARA TO TSUGIZAKURA-OJI</p> <p>14 km, 6~7 hr</p> <p>Please refer to the "KUMANO KODO, "Takahara to Tsugizakura-oji" route guide for detailed information about the walk.</p>

MUST BE PREBOOKED



	<i>This walk continues into the forested mountains east of Takahara climbing up and over ridges into the next watershed, descending into the village of Chikatsuyu.</i>
	LUNCH: at picnic lunch along the way
	OVERNIGHT IN NONAKA AREA
	SUPPER: at accommodation



※Kumano Kodo pilgrimage route map booklet page 4,5,6,7.



※ Nakahechi East Area map

Day 3

	BREAKFAST: at accommodation
	LUGGAGE SHUTTLE
	<i>Leave luggage at front desk.</i>
	PICK UP LUNCH BOX AT ACCOMMODATION
	OPTION ONE - Long Walk
	WALK KUMANO KODO FROM TSUGIZAKURA-OJI TO KUMANO HONGU TAISHA 21 km, 7~8 hrs Please refer to the "KUMANO KODO, " Tsugizakura-oji to Kumano Hongu Taisha" route guide for detailed information about the walk.
	<i>This is a challenging full day walk with many climbs and descents, finishing at the Kumano Hongu Taisha.</i>

MUST BE PREBOOKED



※Kumano Kodo pilgrimage route map booklet page 8,9,10,11.



Please note that there is a detour in place just after number marker 43.

This is because of damage to the route from a typhoon in September 2011.

The detour is well marked.

OPTION TWO -Short Walk		
	WALK (~25 min) or SHUTTLE (by accommodation) TO NONAKA-NO-IPPOSUGU BUS STOP	
	BUS FROM NONAKA-NO-IPPOSUGU BUS STOP TO HONGU	970 yen
9:10	depart: Nonaka-no-Ipposugi	Bus timetable 1
9:35	arrive: Hongu Taisha-mae	
	<i>The Nonaka-no-Ipposugi bus stop is located on route 311.</i>	
	VISIT KUMANO HONGU HERITAGE CENTER	
	<i>This information center is on the east side of route 311 across from the Kumano Hongu Taisha grand shrine.</i> <i>It has detailed information and exhibits about the area in English.</i>	
		※Hongu map
	BUS FROM HONGU TO HOSSHINMON-OJI	460 yen
10:10	depart: Hongu Taisha-mae	Bus timetable 1
10:25	arrive: Hosshinmon-oji	
	<i>The bus stop for Hosshinmon-oji is on the west side of route 311, across the street from the Kumano Hongu Heritage Center.</i>	

	<p>WALK KUMANO KODO - HOSSHINMON-OJI TO KUMANO HONGU TAISHA</p> <p>7 km, ~3 hr</p>
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This is a very nice half day walk on the pilgrimage route. It goes through a mixture of ridge top settlements and forest trails. There are some good panoramic lookout spots along the trail.



※Kumano Kodo pilgrimage route map booklet page 11.

	<p>LUNCH: picnic lunch along the trail</p>
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VISIT KUMANO HONGU TAISHA & OYUNOHARA

Visit Kumano Hongu Taisha, one of the three Grand Shrines of Kumano. Be on the lookout for the Yatagarasu, three legged-crow, the symbol of Kumano.

An amulet with this sacred motif is a common souvenir for pilgrims.

*Near the Heritage Center on the river bank is **Oyunohara**, the original shrine ground of the Kumano Hongu Taisha. It is marked by an immense **Torii** gateway, the biggest in Japan.*



BUS FROM HONGU TO YUNOMINE ONSEN

	<p>300 yen</p>
<p>15:25</p>	<p>depart: Hongu Taisha-mae</p>
<p>15:46</p>	<p>arrive: Yunomine Onsen</p>
<p>or</p>	<p>Bus timetable 11</p>
<p>16:45</p>	<p>depart: Hongu Taisha-mae</p>
<p>17:06</p>	<p>arrive: Yunomine Onsen</p>

Hongu Taisha-mae bus stop is located in front of the Kumano Hongu Heritage Center. There are other busses, please refer to bus timetable for more options.

Bus timetable 11

	<p>VISIT YUNOMINE ONSEN</p> <p><i>Yunomine Onsen is one of the oldest hot springs in Japan and directly connected with the Kumano Kodo. It is a quaint little collection of inns tucked into a small valley.</i></p> <p><i>Each accommodation has their own hot spring bath, and there is a special public bath called Tsuboyu. This bath was used by pilgrims past to purify themselves with the hot water. Tickets are sold at the booth next to the temple.</i></p>
	<p>OVERNIGHT IN YUNOMINE ONSEN</p>
	<p>SUPPER: at accommodation</p>



※Yunomine Onsen map



Day 4

	<p>BREAKFAST: at accommodation</p>
	<p>BUS FROM YUNOMINE ONSEN TO KII-TANABE</p>
<p>8:51</p>	<p>depart: Yunomine Onsen</p>
<p>10:30</p>	<p>arrive: Kii-Tanabe</p>
	<p>TRAIN FROM KII-TANABE TO SHIN-OSAKA (Kuroshio 16)</p>
<p>11:31</p>	<p>depart: Kii-Tanabe</p>
<p>13:50</p>	<p>arrive: Shin-Osaka</p>

1,940 yen

Bus timetable 2