

# World Heritage

## ~Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range~

In July 2004, the Kumano Sanzan (the Three Grand Shrines of Kumano), Koya-san, Yoshino & Omine, and the Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage Routes were registered as World Cultural Heritage under “Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range.”



Kumano Hongu Taisha Grand Shrine

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Kumotori-goe Path

The Kumotori-goe Path which consists of Ogumotori-goe and Kogumotori-goe connects Kumano Nachi Taisha Grand Shrine and Kumano Hongu Taisha Grand Shrine. This is considered the most perilous route among the Nakahechi Routes, and usually takes two days.



Kumano Nachi Taisha Grand Shrine



Nachi Falls  
Nachi-san Seiganto-ji Temple  
Kumano Nachi Taisha Grand Shrine



Kumano Hayatama Taisha Grand Shrine



Kumano River (River Pilgrimage Route)  
Kumano River, 183km long, is a river pilgrimage route from Hongu to Shingu and a World Heritage Site.



Kumano Kodo Koya-zaka  
Kumano Kodo Koya-zaka, located in the suburbs of Shingu, is the only Nakahechi route where you can see the ocean and feel the abundant nature and rich history of Shingu.

Kumano Hayatama Taisha Grand Shrine, together with Kumano Hongu Taisha Grand Shrine and Kumano Nachi Taisha Grand Shrine as well as Seiganto-ji Temple, comprises the Kumano Sanzan. There are over 3,000 shrines throughout Japan that bear the name Kumano, and the Kumano Sanzan is foremost among these shrines.



Kamikura Jinja Shrine

Kamikura Jinja Shrine, the original shrine of Kumano Hayatama Taisha Grand Shrine, is located nearly 100 meters up a precipitous cliff of the Gongen-yama Mountains. After 538 steep stone steps, there is a huge rock called “Gotobiki-iwa,” which is the object of worship.

## Sightseeing Spots in Shingu



Doro-kyo Gorge

This foremost gorge is designated as a national treasure. You can enjoy its stunning beauty from a water-jet boat.



The Uki-shima Floating Island

Located in the center of Shingu, this entire island, which has rare ferns and aquatic plants, floats on a pond. A national treasure.



Jofuku Park

About 2,200 years ago, Jofuku came to Shingu in search of an elixir of life by the order of the first Qin Emperor of China. Jofuku taught techniques of whaling, farming, paper making, etc.



The Ruins of Shingu(Tankaku)Castle

This castle is also called “Tankaku” Castle because before Shingu Castle was built, it was where Princess Tankaku established Tosen-ji Temple, where she also spent her later years.



Asuka Jinja Shrine

The object of worship is Mt. Horai, which is located just behind the shrine. This is also one of the auxiliary shrines of Kumano Hayatama Taisha Grand Shrine.

## 食 Foods



Mehari Zushi

A big rice ball wrapped in “takana” pickled leaf



Local Sake

Local Sake made with clear spring water which Kumano city is known for, is popular.



Well-known Japanese Confectionery

Shingu city prospered as the castle town of the Mizuno clan 35,000 koku. The city is also noted in connection with Fuhaku Kawakami, the tea master and founder of Edosenke School of Japanese Tea Ceremony and therefore many high-quality Japanese confectionary stores are located here.

