



Kompon-daito\_@Wakayama Tourism Federation



Okunoin



Sakai city\_@Sakai city-@JUNTO

## Independent Excursion Program

# Explore historical Southern Osaka and the World Heritage Site, Mt. Koya

- History
- Off the beaten path
- Culture
- Unique Experience

For an independent minded traveler, we can make it easy to plan your vacation with this program. If you are looking for memorable experiences and a different Japan, why not let JTB be your assistance. Discover Southern Osaka and Mt. Koya on this self-excursion program. Stay in first-class accommodation and travel at your own pace. Enjoy historical attractions, a Buddhist Monastery stay, traditional crafts and so much more.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Sakai, a city of history and culture with over 40 ancient burial mounds.
- Kishiwada, the famous castle town during the majestic Kishiwada Danjiri float festival
- Tomb of Emperor Nintoku - one of the world's largest ancient mausoleums at Sakai
- Sakai's world-renowned craft cutlery
- Historical Kishiwada castle, sitting within an immaculate garden designed by renowned Japanese landscaper Mirei Shigemori.
- Mt. Koya, one of the greatest and most imposing Buddhist centers in Japan
- Experience a night of ascetic retreat in one of the 52 temples offering accommodation
- Treat your body to some spiritually healthy Buddhist cuisine
- Touring Okunoin Temple, one of Japan's most sacred sites

INCLUSION: • 2 night accommodation • 2 breakfasts and 1 dinner



**JTB USA Inc.**  
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## ITINERARY:

### Day 1: Namba » Kashiwada » Sakai » Namba, Osaka

#### Suggested self-sightseeing course

Start from Namba Station.

28 min. on the Nankai Railway Main Line

Kishiwada Station

#### • Kishiwada Castle

Kishiwada Castle was built in 1334. Although the current castle tower is a recreation, you can see the traces of ancient times in the stone wall and moat. Not only can you look at materials that can help you understand the history of the Kishiwada Castle and castle town, you can also try on the armored helmets and sleeveless coats worn over armor that samurai wore in battle.

#### • Kishiwada Danjiri Museum

Introducing the entire spectacle of the Kishiwada Danjiri Festival. You can learn about the festival, and experience the musical instrument used in the festival.

Depart from Kishiwada Station.

21 min. on the Nankai Line

Tengachaya Station

9 min. on the Nankai-Koya Line

Mikunigaoka Station

#### • Tomb of Emperor Nintoku

The Tomb of Emperor Nintoku represents the Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group, which was registered as a UNESCO world heritage site in 2019. The Tomb of Emperor Nintoku is known as one of the world's three biggest tombs, along with the Pyramid of Khufu and the Mausoleum of the first Qin Emperor. It has an overall length is about 486 m and an incredible length of 840 m including moats.

#### • Daisen Park

A Japanese garden created through the use of traditional gardening techniques.

#### • Jikko Japanese Cutlery

110 years after the founding of the cutlery factory in Sakai, Osaka, this store aims to bring the beauty of Sakai knives to people all over the world.

#### • Sakai City Traditional Crafts Museum

A collection of knives, incense sticks, traditional Japanese confectionery, and other traditional products of Sakai.

Start from Sakai Station.

27 min. on the Nankai-Limited Express

Namba Station

Overnight: Fraser Residence Nankai Osaka or similar  
[Breakfast]

### Day 2: Namba » Mt. Koya

#### Suggested self-sightseeing course

Depart from Namba Station.

80 min. on the Nankai-Limited Express

Gokurakubashi Station

5 min. on the Nankai Koyasan Cable

Koyasan Station

#### • Konpon Daito Pagoda

The present structure was rebuilt in 1937. The 48.5-meter-high tower painted in vermilion lacquer enshrines a statue of Taizokai Dainichi Nyorai and four statues of Kongokai Buddha.

#### • Kongobuji Temple

Established as a place for learning the techniques of the Shingonshu sect of Buddhism. The Kongobuji Head Temple, which refers to the entire mountain of Koya san, was developed by the monk Kobo Daishi upon his return from China in 816.

#### • Shukubo (a Buddhist Monastery) Experience

Many of Koyasan's temples open their doors to visitors, offering accommodation, meals and an insight into Buddhist life. Each has its own unique character. Some have meticulously raked gravel gardens while others display splendid collections of Buddhist art. Staying at a temple, or 'shukubo', gets you a behind-the-scenes look at some of the area's most prestigious temples. Enjoy Shojin ryori, the traditional vegan Buddhist cuisine, for dinner. Based on the concepts of five flavors, five cooking methods, and five colors.

Overnight: Souji-in (a Buddhist Monastery stay) or similar  
[Breakfast / Dinner]

### Day 3: Mt. Koya » Namba

#### Suggested self-sightseeing course

#### • Okunoin

The Okunoin, or Inner Sanctuary, of Kobo Daishi's Gobyō mausoleum is one of the most sacred sites on Koyasan. The roughly 2 km path to the Gobyō is lined with ancient cryptomeria trees that are up to a thousand years old, as well as more than 200,000 stone monuments, combining to create a subtle yet profound atmosphere.

Depart from Koyasan Station.

5 min. on the Nankai Koyasan Cable

Gokurakubashi Station

90 min. on the Nankai-Limited Express

Namba Station

Overnight: Fraser Residence Nankai Osaka or similar  
[Breakfast]

Let's plan your next vacation and see the different side of Japan with JTB.  
We can customize your personalized itinerary designed based on your interests!!

