

ACCESS MAP



World Heritage

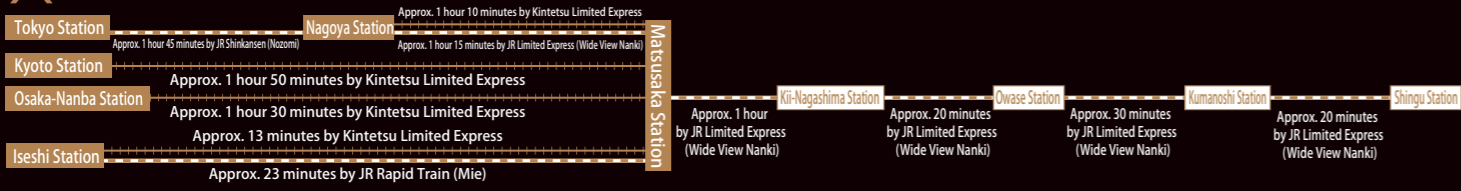
Kumano Kodo Iseji Route

熊野古道 伊勢路

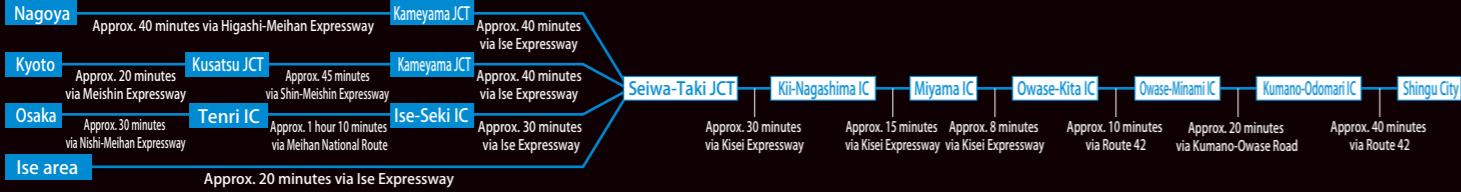
English
Take free

—Pilgrimage to Holy Sanctuaries
through the Paths of Prayer

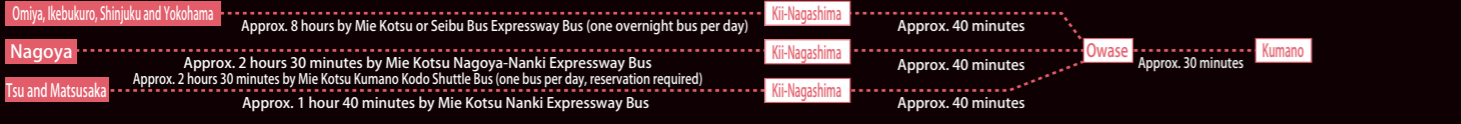
Access by Train



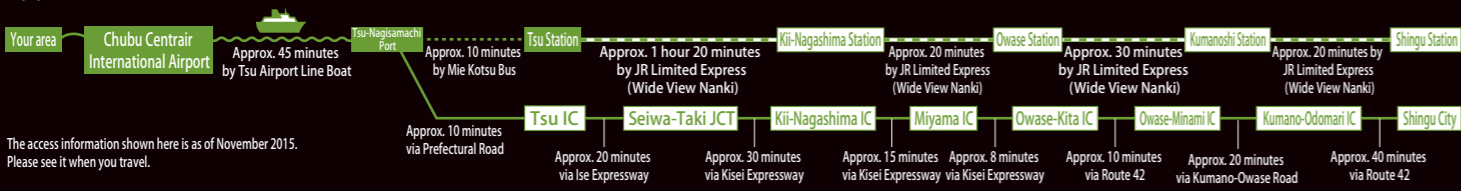
Access by Car



Access by Bus



Access by Air



The access information shown here is as of November 2015. Please see it when you travel.



Mie Prefecture

World Heritage

Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range

There are three sacred sites, namely the “Kumano Sanzan (Three Grand Shrines of Kumano),” “Koyasan” and “Yoshino and Omine,” in the Kii Mountain Range located roughly in the center of Japan, and different types of religion, such as Shinto based on nature worship, Buddhism introduced from China and developed in a unique way in Japan and Shugendo spread as a mixture of Shinto and Buddhism, have been fostered there.

In July 2004, the three sacred sites and the pilgrimage routes connecting them as well as their traditional cultures developed in harmony between nature and human beings over time were finally recognized by UNESCO as shared properties of all humankind and registered on its World Heritage List as “Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range.”



“Kumano Kodo” as the Paths of Prayer that lead to Kumano Sanzan

Kumano Sanzan, which is known as one of the sacred sites in the Kii Mountain Range, consists of three grand shrines of Kumano, namely “Kumano Hongu-taisha Shrine,” “Kumano Hayatama-taisha Shrine” and “Kumano Nachi-taisha Shrine.” The origins of those shrines have something to do with nature worship respectively, but they came to enshrine the same deities called “Kumano Sansho Gongen,” which have been widely venerated by the public. Since ancient times, many people have made a pilgrimage to Kumano Sanzan from all over Japan, and the major pilgrimage routes, such as the “Nakahechi Route” from Tanabe to those shrines (through mountains), the “Kohechi Route” along the coast, the “Iseji Route” from Ise-jingu Shrine to those shrines, have been gradually formed as a result. The pilgrimage routes connecting those shrines and many different places are generally known as the “Kumano Kodo.”



Kumano Hongu-taisha Shrine



Kumano Hayatama-taisha Shrine



Kumano Nachi-taisha Shrine

“Kumano Kodo Iseji Route” as the Path to Connect the Two Major Sacred Sites

The “Kumano Kodo Iseji Route” is the path to connect Kumano Sanzan (Three Grand Shrines of Kumano) and Ise-jingu Shrine that is a very special sacred site for Japanese people. As the old proverb “Seven times to Ise, three times to Kumano” says, people in the Edo Period (1603 to 1868) generally had a strong desire to visit them in their lifetime. It is said that pilgrims in pilgrimage costume crossed a lot of steep mountains to get to Kumano to give a prayer to the deities enshrined there after they had visited Ise-jingu Shrine. Today, you can still enjoy the traditional landscapes and feel the rich history and culture of each area along the “Kumano Kodo Iseji Route.”