



Kumano Kodo Walk

4 nights/5 days post Japan tour extension April 20–24, 2023.

For over 1000 years, people from all levels of society, including retired emperors and aristocrats, have made the arduous pilgrimage to Kumano. These pilgrims used a network of routes across the Kii Mountains. These trails are now called the Kumano Kodo and accorded UNESCO Heritage status since 2004.

The walk itself was an integral part of the pilgrimage process as they undertook rigorous religious rites of worship and purification. Walking the ancient Kumano Kodo today is a fantastic way to experience the unique cultural landscape of Kumano's spiritual countryside.



About this extension

- 4 nights 5 days
- Accommodation: listed on the itinerary
- All ryokans include onsen
- Breakfast and dinner will be provided by our accommodations.
- Lunch is not included on this tour

Day 1 April 20

Join Kumano (Accom: Yunomine Onsen - Iseya Ryokan or similar)

Tonight we enjoy a lovely traditional dinner with our friendly hosts and run over the walking plans and highlights of the trip ahead. After dinner, we can enjoy a natural hot spring bath (onsen) where we are staying, a treat that will become an morning and evening institution. meals: D

- Your main tour guide will help you take the train to Kii Tanabe Station from Kyoto's Kansai International Airport (KIX). Kii Tanabe is one of the gateways to the Kumano region.
- Assuming that you will be arriving at Kii Tanabe Station at 15:06 on the Kuroshio13 train. This is a very small train station. Take the local bus to Yunomine Onsen in Hongu Town. It will take approximately 2 hours on the bus. There is time for a coffee before the bus leaves around 16:25.
- Arriving just past 18:00, your tour leader will be waiting for you at the Ryokan.
- We will be having a traditional Japanese dinner at the ryokan



Day 2 April 21

Hike in the Northern mountains to Hongu shrine (Accom: Yunomine Onsen - Iseya or similar)

Today we start by heading to the Northern mountains and walking back to Hongu, the Shrine that many Kumano Kodo trails pass by. Our path is stunning with North and South views giving us great perspective of the isolation of this area we are calling home for a few days. We will see farmland and tea plantations at times on the journey. We allow time today after the walk to explore the spiritual town, its shrine and pretty riverside structures before finishing our day with a soak in the famous Onsen.

meals: B, D

- After a traditional Japanese breakfast at the minshuku, we will start our walk from Yunomine Onsen along the Akagigoe trail of the Kumano Kodo, which will lead us along a ridgeline to Funatama Shrine (approx 6 km; 2hours).
- From there we will join the Nakahechi trail of the Kumano Kodo and walk in direction of the Kumano Hongu Shrine where we have sweeping views of terraced rice fields and tea plantations before arriving at the entrance of Hongu Shrine (approx 8km; 3 hours).
- We will explore the Kumano Hongu Shrine, as well as Oyunohara, an island in the Kumano River where the Hongu Shrine originally stood. You can admire Japan's largest torii gate and wonderful views of the Kumano River. On our way to Oyunohara, we will be passing through the main part of Hongu Town where there is an opportunity to visit some souvenir shops. Lunch will be a lunch box with local delicacies, (on your own expense) or at a local restaurant in Hongu Town.
- After exploring Hongu, we will commence our walk along the Dainichigoe section of the Kumano Kodo trail, which will lead us from Hongu Town back to Yunomine Onsen (approx 3.5km; 1.5 hours).
Alternatively, we can take a bus from Hongu to Yunomine. We will have dinner (Japanese food) at the minshuku in Yunomine.
- After dinner, there is time to explore this picturesque little onsen village and even try the famous Tsubuyu Onsen, the only onsen that is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Day 3 April 22

Visit Nachi Shrine and waterfall, then hike from Nachi to Koguchi (Accom: Koguchi Shizenno ie or similar)

Today we view the highest waterfall in Japan before heading on our toughest but most



rewarding walk. Again temples and views spoil us on the challenging but wonderful trail. We arrive in the small mountain village of Koguchi and we have bused away to our home for the night in Kumano.

meals: B, D

- Today we will have a very early start taking the bus from Yunomine Onsen. Our luggage will be transferred to Koguchi, where we will stay tonight. The bus will take us



to Shingu City. From Shingu we take the local train to Kii Katsuura Station where we will catch a local bus in direction of Nachisan, our starting point for today's hike. After about 30 min on the bus, we will get off Nachi Taki, Japan's highest waterfall, which we will visit first.

- Then we will walk up to Nachi Shrine, the second of the Three Kumano Grand Shrines. Near the shrine is a Seigantoji, a Buddhist Temple of the esoteric Tendai Sect. This temple is the starting point for a 33 Temple Pilgrimage dedicated to Kannon, the Goddess of Mercy. It is also a center for Shugendo, an ancient tradition of mountain worship. Many yamabushi (mountain ascetics) still come here to worship and practice.
- We will have an early and quick lunch (around 11 am) in the Nachi area (udon, soba noodles) before starting our hike. We will walk the Ogumotorigoe trail of the Kumano Kodo from Nachi Taisha to the settlement of Koguchi (approx. 14.5km; 6 hours).
- After arriving in Koguchi, we will catch a local bus, and change buses a couple of times, to reach Nachi Katsuura. We will have dinner at the minshuku in Hotel in Katsuura.

Day 4 April 23

Kogumo Tori goe Hike (Accom: Kawayu Onsen - Omuraya)

Today, we will walk the Kogumotori-goe section of the Nakahechi Kumano Kodo pilgrimage route link the Hongu area and Kumano Nachi Taisha.

meals: B, D

- Breakfast at the ryokan.
- Take a local train from Kawayu Onsen to Ukegawa trailhead. (approx. 1 hour)
- Walk from Ukegawa to Koguchi (approx. 13 km / 4 hrs)
- Lunch at a local restaurant (at your own expense)
- We will take a bus from Koguchi to Kawayu Onsen (approx. 1 hour)



- We will have a Japanese traditional dinner at the ryokan tonight.

Day 5 April 24

Kumano, trip concludes

*After a large and filling local breakfast and another soak we say goodbye to this great area.
meals: B*

- We conclude our stay in Kumano with breakfast at the ryokan
- Our tour leader will provide you with instructions to catch the bus to Kii Tanabe Station for connection to Kyoto's Kansai International Airport.

If you would like to acquire a certificate of dual pilgrimage hike, you will have to go to the tourism office to show the stamps you have collected along the hike, by bus and on your own expense after the tour.



Inclusions

- Meals - All breakfasts, 4 Dinners
- Transport - all transport as part of the including itinerary
- Luggage transfers - 1 luggage transfer is included, 1 big piece of luggage per guest.
- Guests should bring with them a smaller daypack that they can use to carry essentials for 2 nights maximum when they will be without their main piece of luggage
- Accommodation - 1 night at hotel 3-star standard, 3 nights at Japanese inns (Ryokan)
*please note that at Japanese inns, guests will get traditional Japanese rooms with Futon bedding on tatami floors. Also, toilet and bath facilities will be shared/public and not private
- English-speaking guide- will accompany throughout

Cost (provisional)

#pax	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
USD pp	4815	3025	2335	2025	1770	1640	1310	1460

Enquire shila@eyhotours.com

[Terms and conditions](#)

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