



# Intercultural Consulting Group

## **Suggested Autumn Japan Kumano Kodo 2023 Itinerary.**

**Dates are tentative and may change due to a number of booking conditions.  
Final dates will be confirmed .**

**\$500 deposit required upon booking.**

Tour will be made up of 2 parts depending on interest .....

Dsy 1-6 Walking tour and non walking separate sightseeing tour of Wakayama and Kumano Kodo components.

Day 7-17 Japan highlights tour.

12-17 days  
Return economy airfares  
Exceptional Accomodation  
Traditional meals and Ryokens  
All private transport  
Shinkansen travel  
Japan guide services

Tour cost.

\$7350.00  
Single supplement \$1000.00

### **29th November**

Depart Brisbane for Osaka  
Overnight Nikko Hotel Kansai airport

### **30th November**

Depart Osaka for Wakayama by private transport  
Kumano Kodo area overnight  
Koyasan

### **1st December**

Depart for 4 day walk of Kumano Kodo.  
2nd /3rd/4th/5th December

Non walkers suggested sightseeing

Explore a bit more Koyasan and depart to **Kumano Kodo(Yunomine)**

Visit the Hongu Taisha and some other shrines and tourist points. Maybe a small trekking route? Sleep at Yunomine Onsen

Day 3 Explore a bit more Kumano Area  
Depart to Nachi Falls and enjoy the area  
overnight in Shingu

## **Koyasan**

In the year 816 AD, a monk by the name of Kukai (774 ~ 835 AD), posthumously named Kobo Daishi, founded Shingon Buddhism and the monastery complex known as Koyasan. Located in the lush Koya-Ryujin Quasi-National Park, it is said that the 8 peaks and basin resemble a lotus, making it an auspicious location. For over 1,200 years Koyasan has flourished as an active monastic center, and is one of Japan's most sacred sites.

The contemplative surroundings that make Koyasan spectacular have welcomed emperors, feudal lords, aristocrats and politicians, acolytes and ordinary citizens. Its 117 intricately crafted buildings are the vestiges of the more than 2,000 temples that existed during the height of the Edo era (1603 - 1868). Whether richly textured in autumn leaves, covered in winter snow, or abloom with spring cherry blossoms and rhododendrons, Koyasan offers Shingon devotees and non-believers alike respite from the stresses of everyday life.

## **Shukubo**

For a culturally illuminating encounter, staying overnight at one of the 52 temples offering accommodations is an experience of a lifetime. Each temple's design uniquely showcases aspects of Japanese philosophy and aesthetics. All visitors are welcome, and can not only see the inner workings of Shingon monastic life, they can also take part. To enter the quietude, practices such as meditation (ajikan), listening to sutra teachings and a calligraphic sutra copying practice (shakyo) are offered.

## **Okuno in**

The approximately two kilometer road that leads to the mausoleum of the monk Kobo Daishi - who is said to be carrying out his pursuit of knowledge even now - is surrounded by trees that are several hundred years old. There are also over 200,000 memorial towers, including those of feudal lords who made their mark on history. The groups of rocks illuminated with a divine light will surely make you feel a sense of perpetual history.

## **Kumano Sanzen**

The sacred sites collectively known as Kumano Sanzen, are Kumano Hayatama Taisha Grand Shrine (Shingu), Kumano Nachi Taisha Grand Shrine and neighboring

Nachisan Seiganto-ji Temple (Nachi-Katsuura), and Kumano Hongu Taisha Grand Shrine (Tanabe). The region's landscape and sacred sites, are often described as possessing mysterious auras. These characteristics are said to have been influenced by their differing origins, and worship practices around the natural world. Despite these differences, that also manifest architecturally, resolutely they continue to exist harmoniously with their environments, and leave visitors markedly impressed.

On July 7, 2004, the three sacred shrine sites, Nachisan Seiganto-ji Temple, and the arterial pilgrimage routes, were designated as World Heritage Sites as the "Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range." The site includes the Kumano Sanzan and Koyasan in Wakayama Prefecture, and Yoshino & Omine in Nara Prefecture. The UNESCO World Heritage Site designation states that these sites form a cultural landscape that reflect the fusion of Shintoism and Buddhism, and a persistent and well-documented tradition of sacred mountains maintained over 1200 years.

### **7th December**

Return to Osaka for Shinkansen trip to Hiroshima. Check in Riga Royal Hotel

### **8th December**

Travel to Miyajima

Check in Iwaso Ryoken

Set in a traditional wooden building and cottages dating from 1900, plus a modern annex, this tranquil hot spring inn surrounded by trees and next to the Momijidani River is an 11-minute walk from the nearest gondola lift and a 5-minute walk from the iconic Itsukushima Shrine.

### **9th December**

Miyajima sightseeing

Overnight Iwaso Ryoken

### **10th December**

Travel to Hiroshima Station

Shinkansen to Kyushu and Fukuoka

Travel to Beppu And hot springs region

Check in Suginoi Hotel Beppu

### **11th December**

Sightseeing Beppu

Beppu is a city and spa resort on the southern Japanese island of Kyushu. Set between Beppu Bay and volcanic mountains, it's home to more than 2,000 onsen (hot springs).

Kannawa Onsen district has facilities for bathing in nutrient-rich water, mud and sand. The 8 Hells of Beppu—6 in Kannawa, 2 in outlying Shibaseki—are dramatic landscapes of thermal pools. To the west is Mount Tsurumi, accessible by cable car.

Hot sand bath  
Viking buffet  
Suginoi Hotel

### **12th December**

Travel to Nagasaki by bus.  
Overnight

### **13th December**

Sightseeing Nagasaki  
Nagasaki is a Japanese city on the northwest coast of the island of Kyushu. It's set on a large natural harbor, with buildings on the terraces of surrounding hills. It is synonymous with a key moment during World War II, after suffering an Allied nuclear attack in August 1945. The event is memorialized at the city's Atomic Bomb Museum and Peace Park.  
Overnight hotel

### **14th December**

Travel to Fukuoka for flight to Tokyo  
Check in Shinjuku Granbell Hotel

### **15th December**

Sightseeing Tokyo and surrounds or Free day  
Shinjuku Granbell Hotel  
Neighborhood - Kabukichō, Tokyo  
Kabukicho is a famous entertainment district best known for adult-oriented nightlife. Small clubs, smoky pubs, and late-night snack bars are crammed into lantern-lit alleys in Golden Gai. Robot Restaurant hosts kitschy sci-fi dinner shows, while rock bands play at Marz and Ashibe Hall. Daytime visitors can dress up in warrior armor at the Samurai Museum and learn sneaky feudal combat tactics at the Ninja Trick House.  
Robot restaurant

### **16th December**

Return evening flight Australia  
Arrive 17th December early morning .

