

KÔYASAN'S CHÔISHI STUPA ROUTE

The Chôishi Stupa Route begins at Jison-in Temple, located a short distance from Kudoyama station and Sanada-an (the one-time residence of Sanada Yukimura, a samurai warrior). Stone signpost number 180 marks the start of the pilgrimage route, and visitors can enjoy counting down each of these pillars as they proceed to the summit of Kôyasan. Standing over three meters in height, each of the stone signposts marking the route is a stupa shaped in the form of a *gorintô* comprising five tiers, representing the five principle elements of the esoteric Buddhist universe. The stupas take Kompon Daitô as their point of origin and are numbered accordingly, with 36 more stupas connecting this central pagoda to the Mausoleum of Kôbô Daishi (or Kôbô Daishi Gobyô). Over eighty percent of the stupas that we see today were constructed in the Kamakura period, and they continue evoke the atmosphere of their distant past. Long ago, pilgrims would stop and offer prayers at each stupa as they made their way up to Kôyasan. Nowadays this well-maintained route offers a pleasant outdoor experience for pilgrims and hikers alike, as they count down the 180 stone signposts.

Access to the Starting Point

From Osaka:
Take Nankai's Kôya Line from Namba Station to Kudoyama, via either Express or Rapid Express bound Kôyasan Gokuraku-bashi. (Note: some trains terminate at Kôya-shita station.)

From Wakayama:
Take JR's Wakayama Line and change at Hashimoto for the Nankai Kôya Line, getting off at Kudoyama. From Kudoyama, it's a 20-minute walk to Jison-in Temple.

One of the three pilgrimage routes cited as important cultural properties is the Kôyasan's Chôishi Stupa Route. This 24-km footpath rising from Kudoyama to Mt. Kôya's Okuno-in serves as the front approach to the sacred mountain and dates back to the time when Kûkai (Kôbô Daishi) founded the Kôyasan monastic complex. The name of the route derives from the many stone signposts (or "chôishi") set at 109-meter intervals.

From Osaka

Nankai Kôya Line (Express/Rapid Express)
Namba stn. → Kudoyama stn. about 1 hr 5 min

Nankai Kôya Line Station Stops (Express/Rapid Express)

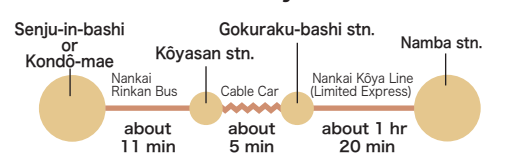
Rapid Express: Namba, Shin-Imamiya, Tengachaya, Sakai-higashi, Kita-Noda, Kongô, Kawachi-Nagano, Mikka-ichi-chô, Mikanodai, and all stations between Rinkan-denen-toshi and Gokuraku-bashi.

Express: From Namba to Kawachi-Nagano, the Express makes the same station stops as the Rapid Express and stops at all stations between Kawachi-Nagano and Gokuraku-bashi.

Return Trip

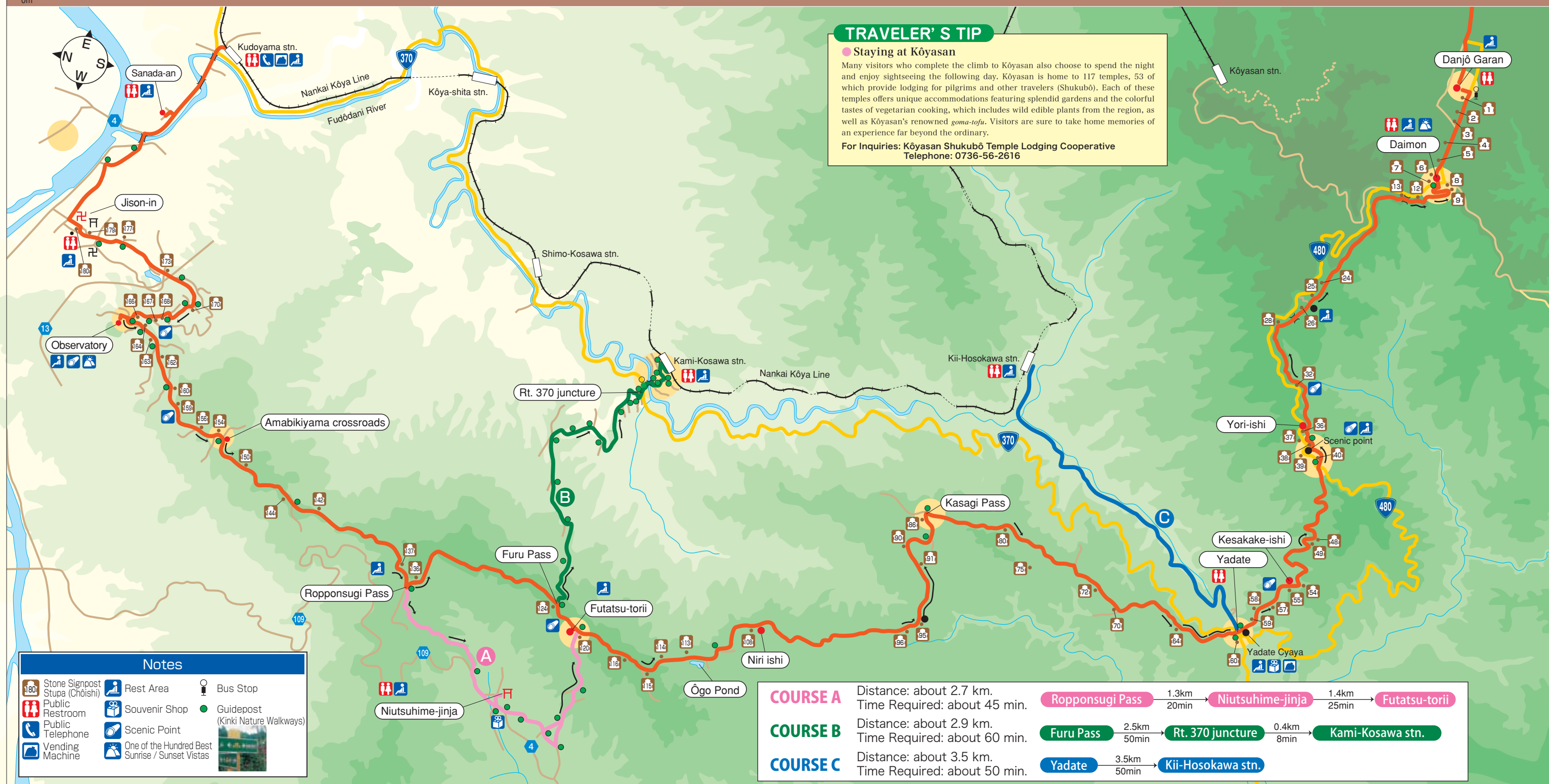
From the trail's end at Danjô Garan, the Nankai Rinkan Bus provides service to Kôyasan Station. Buses can be boarded at the nearby Kondô-mae stop, or visitors may choose to proceed another ten minutes on foot toward Okuno-in and board bus at Senju-in-bashi, located in front of the Kôyasan Tourist Association building. Service from the Senju-in-bashi bus stop is more frequent. A cable car links Kôyasan Station to Gokuraku-bashi, where passengers transfer to Nankai Kôya Line rail service.

For Osaka from Kôyasan



Travel time to Namba Station from Gokuraku-bashi is about 1 hr 35 min by Express/Rapid Express.

KÔYASAN'S CHOISHI STUPA ROUTE(Distance: about 23.5 km. Time Required: about 7 hrs. 10 min.)



TRAVELER'S TIP

Staying at Kôyasan
Many visitors who complete the climb to Kôyasan also choose to spend the night and enjoy sightseeing the following day. Kôyasan is home to 117 temples, 53 of which provide lodging for pilgrims and other travelers (Shukubô). Each of these temples offers unique accommodations featuring splendid gardens and the colorful tastes of vegetarian cooking, which includes wild edible plants from the region, as well as Kôyasan's renowned *goma-tofu*. Visitors are sure to take home memories of an experience far beyond the ordinary.

For Inquiries: Kôyasan Shukubô Temple Lodging Cooperative
Telephone: 0736-56-2616

- Notes**
- Stone Signpost Stupa (Chôishi)
 - Public Restroom
 - Public Telephone
 - Vending Machine
 - Rest Area
 - Souvenir Shop
 - Scenic Point
 - One of the Hundred Best Sunrise / Sunset Vistas
 - Bus Stop
 - Guidepost (Kinki Nature Walkways)

- COURSE A** Distance: about 2.7 km. Time Required: about 45 min.
Ropponsugi Pass → Niutsuhime-jinja → Futatsu-torii
- COURSE B** Distance: about 2.9 km. Time Required: about 60 min.
Furu Pass → Rt. 370 juncture → Kami-Kosawa stn.
- COURSE C** Distance: about 3.5 km. Time Required: about 50 min.
Yadate → Kii-Hosokawa stn.