



Hiking through History

Visit Koya Sankei-michi Pilgrimage Route Choishi-michi Route

Wakayama Prefecture World Heritage Koya Region Association

2018.1

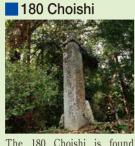
[Choishi-michi Route] Kudoyama St. (Kudoyama, Nankai Koya Line) - Kobo-Daishi Mausoleum (Koya) ** Niutsuhime-jinja Shrine stop-in route also shown.

Off you go following the markers to the holy land!

Sanada-an Temple



Sanada-an is a temple connected with the about halfway up the stone resourceful general Yukimura Sanada. In late steps on the south side of April, the peonies come into bloom and, every Tahoto Pagoda of Jison-in May 5, is staged the Sanada Matsuri featuring Temple. It is the first Choishi a procession of epoch warriors, including the for those who climb the famed 10 Warriors of Sanada's Private Guard, mountain along the front-side that winds its way through the streets.



Jison-in Temple



The temple stands where the mother of Kobo Daishi spent her later years since women were forbidden from entering Koyasan until 1872. Afterwards, it was the administrative office of Kongobu-ji Head Temple.Many visitors come here to pray for conceiving children, safe delivery, etc.

Niukanshofu-jinja Shrine

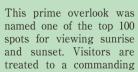


Niu Myojin and Koya Myojin, the guardian deities of the privileged estates of Kongobu-ji Head Temple.

Shori-ji Temple

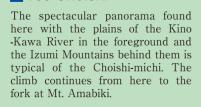
shi Yakuyoke Kannon, an avatar for protecting the faithful against evil. There recently opened an studio for making paper using the same technique reportedly handed down from Kobo-Daishi.

Observation Deck 🌋 Sunrise Viewing Spot



and sunset. Visitors are treated to a commanding view of the Kino-Kawa River Basin and, to the south, the Koyasan Range.

163 Choishi







On the left is 144 Choishi. On the right is Riishi 1, one of 36 Choishi that demarcate one ri, or 36 cho, from Jison-in Temple. In spring, the area is opular for bracken picking.

Ropponsugi Cedar Pass



the "6 cedars", does not come from there being six edar trees at the pass of e mountain. Instead, it is elieved to describe the nagnificent row of giant cedars found along the way. This path is used to get to

Amano no Sato: Trove of history and legend

Saigyo-do Arbor



Saigyo was a well-traveled poet who relocated to Koyasan to dedicate himself Buddhism. It is said that is wife and daughter, who ad come to visit him in Koyasan, which then was orbidden for women to enter, ouilt this arbor in Amano became nuns and eventual

Niutsuhime-jinja Shrine



This complex of four shrine pavilions, built in the Kasuga-style with an extended roof to the front and turned-up eaves at the corners, reveres local deities of the northwestern corner of the Kii Mountains, which includes Koyasan. The inspiring cinnabar arched bridge and gate are named Important Cultural Properties

Hattyo-zaka Slope



connects Niutsuhime-jinja Shrine to Choishi-michi. Two Shinto arches marking the path of worship and quaintly referred to as Futatsu-Torii Gate, literally "two gates", stand at the convergence point with Choishi-michi.

This pilgrimage path

Futatsu-Torii Gates

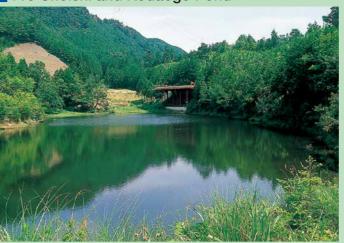


Said to have been built by Kobo-Daishi, these two Shinto arches are made of granite and stand about 6 m tall. A single post weighs about 4.5 tons. The pair is presumed to belong to Niutsuhime-jinja Shrine, which reveres both the deities Niu Myojin and Koya Myojin.



This rest point is near to Futatsu-Torii Gate. It is an ideal spot to park your weary body with a panoramic view of Amano.

113 Choishi and Kodaogo Pond



This sacred rice paddy produced rice for offering to Niutsuhime-jinja Shrine. The pond was relandscaped by the Priest Ogo who lived in the times of the warlord Hideyoshi Toyotomi (1536-1598). The name originates from koda, meaning "sacred paddy", and Ogo's name.

Kodajizo-do Hall



where the maiden Yokobue, after leaving her home, would come and wait from eyes on him for herself. This where Kobo-Daishi, the Monk Ogo and the deity of hildbirth are revered.

Riishi 2



Three Stones That Recount the Teachings of Kobo-Daishi

The Kesakake Stone

draped his surplice over this stone to mark the sanctity boundary of Koyasan. It is said that crawling through the crack brings long life.



The Oshiage Stone

It is said that, when Kobo-Dai shi's mother attempted to cross the sanctity boundary and ascend the mountain, a fierce thunderstorm brought down a deluge of fire. Taken by a sense of filial piety, Kobo-Daishi pushed the boulder to shelter his mother. His handprints can be seen in the rock.

The Kagami Stone

It is said that, if you sit on a corner of this flat mirror-like rock and recite mantra, your wishes will be achieved.



Choishi along the Koyasan Road (Route 480)





A vast universe developed on a mountaintop through space and time a long time ago. Discover the secrets that have enticed people for centuries!

X Sunset Viewing Spot

Views of the sunset from here will transport you back in time to

the realm of esoteric Buddhism.

Dai-mon Gate

37 Choishi



Standing 25.1m tall, the principle gateway to Kovasan. This 2-story gate is guarded on each side by a statue o Kongo Warriors carved by Uncho.

Its magnificent architec cinnabar is perhaps the

greatest sight on the mountain. And, there is a wondrous view from in front of the gate that on clear days lets you see as far as the Kada Sea and Awaji Island

Konpon Daito Pagoda



Shingon Sect of esoteric Buddhism, the raised monastery is the core of all Koyasan. Reaching to a height of 48.5m, the pagoda marks one pole of the sanctuary of Koyasan, Okuno-in being the other.

1 Choishi from Jison-in Temple Choishi on Temple Complex was donated by the Emperor's mother in 1773.

1 Choishi

from Okuno-in This Choishi is to the left in front of Aizen-do Hall on the Danjo Garan Sacred-Temple Complex. It was rebuilt in autumn of 1913.

Miyashiro Shrine

Konpon Daito Tower, while the riishi start from Jison-in Temple.

As the only place in Japan to have these choishi, the Choishi-michi Route was designated a

Historical Site of National Importance in July 1977. Amidst the 180 choishi are found riishi, another type of choishi, every 36 cho (approx. 4 km). The starting point of the choishi is



This is the main temple of Shingon Buddhism on Koyasan and sits almost at the center of the mountaintop sanctuary. When Kobo-Daishi first established Koyasan, the entire area was called "Kongobu-ji". The structure itself was built by the warlord Hideyoshi Toyotomi in 1593 to honor his departed mother. It is today the axis of branch temples located all across Japan.

Karukaya-do Hall



of Doshin Karukaya and Ishidoma u. Doshin was Ishidomaru's fathe The legend is told throughout Japan and a number of paintings inside the hall provide visuals that stimulate the imagination.

This hall is the origin of the legend

Okuno-in

The sanctuary from Ichi no hashi Bridge to Kobo-Daishi Mausoleum where Okuno-in is found is about 2 km, but it is the course that priests walk to gather their body and soul in worship. The road is lined with cedars hundreds of years old and makes its way quietly past tens of



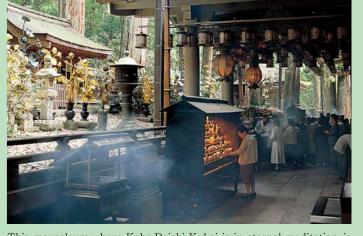
Basho Matsuo's

Gobyo no hashi Bridge



waters of the Tama-gawa River. On the other side is the sacred ground of Kobo-Daishi.

Kobo-Daishi Mausoleum



This mausoleum, where Kobo-Daishi Kukai is in eternal meditation, is the heart of this sacred site of the Kobo-Daishi Faith. It is situated on a plateau surrounded by the three mountains of Tenjiku, Yoryu and Mani. At the base of the mountains flow the crystal waters of the Tama-gawa River. Before passing away, Kobo-Daishi set this area aside for ascetic training aimed at attaining Buddhahood.

