



Ultimate Indulgences Expeditions: the Wakayama Edition

This 6-day, 7-night itinerary takes guests on a daily gastronomic and wellness adventure, featuring the best of Wakayama: fabulous food, spiritual hikes, healing baths

Day 1

Koyasan

Sansou Amanosato

Your adventure begins the moment your plane touches down at Kansai International Airport. Here, a chauffeur will be waiting to drive you from the airport to the Sansou Amanosato, in the quaint hamlet of Amano in the foothills of the sacred Koyasan. This gorgeous onsen retreat earned the Good Design Award in 2015 for its elegant and unique design that utilizes cedar and hinoki wood from the Kii Peninsula. The property offers three types of luxurious guest cottages, as well as three private hot springs.

Day 2

Koyasan

Sansou Amanosato

After a relaxing evening by the inn's beautiful copper hearth and a restful night's sleep, wake up bright and early to soak up the refreshing mountain air and mild morning light. On your second day, you'll enjoy a privately guided hike along an ancient route, the Koyasan Choishi Michi Pilgrimage trail, about half an hour from the inn. The trail, which will take about six to seven hours, meanders past gurgling brooks, into misty and enchanting forests, through serene mountain temples.

Day 3

Shirahama

Infinito Hotel & Spa
Nanki Shirahama

After your second day's big hiking adventure, a reward awaits on your third day: ancient temple cuisine, now a popular dining trend around the world. After a privately guided and chauffeured tour of Koyasan, listed as a World Heritage Site, you'll enjoy lunch at Sojiin, in the heart of the Koyasan temple complex. The otherworldly experience of dining on clean Buddhist devotional cuisine, vegan meals known as Shojin Ryori, in the birthplace of Shingon Buddhism is truly one for the books. After lunch, you'll return to Sansou Amanosato, then chauffeured to your next stop, the stunning Infinito Hotel & Spa Nanki Shirahama.

Day 4

Shirahama

Infinito Hotel & Spa
Nanki Shirahama

On the fourth day of your adventure, wake up in the beautiful onsen town of Shirahama, where baths are supplied with restorative waters from the historical Muro no Yu spring. It's an historic town that appears in ancient literature dating back to the 6th century for the quality of its onsens. In your luxurious accommodations, the Infinito Hotel & Spa Nanki, you'll be spoiled for choice of several onsens: the Umi, an infinity pool bath that gives evokes the feeling of soaking in the ocean; the Sora, which is enchanting at twilight; and the recently added Subaru, a semi-alfresco hot spring bath. In between soaking, you can indulge in the wonderful cuisine of nearby Tanabe City, defined by rare and incredibly fresh ingredients sourced from the Kii Peninsula.

Day 5

Katsuura Bay

Bettei Nakanoshima

The ancient Kumano Kodo is a network of pilgrimage trails spread across the Kii Peninsula once traveled by aristocrats, warriors, monks and poets. The long hike, with arduous stretches along steep mountain passes, was a process of purification as pilgrims made their way to three sacred sites across the peninsula, one after the other. In July 2004, the Kumano Kodo pilgrimage routes were registered as UNESCO World Heritage as part of the "Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range" property.

On Day 5, you'll enjoy a private, guided hike along the Daimonzaka Slope, a beautiful stretch of trail paved in moss-covered cobblestone. The hike will take you to the Kumano Nachi Taisha Grand Shrine, a Shinto shrine, and to the town of Nachi-Katsuura.

Day 6

Katsuura Bay

Bettei Nakanoshima

The six and final day of your wellness and gastronomic adventure will be given over entirely to rest and relaxation, and to enjoying the Bettei Nakanoshima, a ryokan situated in the island of Nakanoshima, a small island at the mouth of Katsuura Bay. Kumano Bettei benefits from six natural hot spring sources on the island, its baths filled with an abundance of warm thermal waters. Enjoy a good long soak and inspiring views.

Day 7

Departure from Kansai International Airport

About Japan Luxury Travel Alliance

Formed in 2016, the Japan Luxury Travel Alliance (JLTA) is a group of several Japanese localities, each offering unique and inspired experiences in luxury travel. The members of the alliance are: Kyoto, one of Japan's leading historical and cultural destinations; the city of Sapporo, renowned for its fine, powder-like snow; Ishikawa Prefecture, where the fascinating samurai culture endures to this day; and Wakayama Prefecture, home of Mt Koya and the spiritual trail known as the Kumado Kodo. The group's objectives are to collaborate on delivering consistently high quality travel experiences and to promote Japan as an ideal destination for luxury travelers from around the world. The Ultimate Indulgences Expeditions Series is a project with curated content by luxury travel specialists members of Japan Luxury Travel Alliance project.