

Zen meditation

Meditation session in an atmospheric temple beside the Kumano river



EXPERIENCE / TOUR EXTENSION
1 day

Walking the Kumano Kodo Trail is a spiritual experience. Deepen your spiritual experience with a meditation session in an atmospheric temple beside the Kumano river

Soto is one of the three major Zen sects in Japan, handed down by Dougen. Soto is characterized by the style of meditation, called “shikan-ta-za” or “single-minded sitting.” At Shorinji temple beside the Kumano River, you’ll meet a monk who trained at Eiheiji temple, the main centre of the Soto sect. He’ll explain Dougen’s philosophy and lead you in a meditation session.

Shorinji temple is located beside the departure point for the Kawabune boats on the Kumano River. Experience the meditation session in the morning and then, if you wish, take a leisurely ride on a traditional woodenboat to the Hayatama Shrine at Shingu, the third of the Grand Shrines of Kumano. Return later in the afternoon by bus. We provide instructions on how to get to Shorinji temple, as well as explanations in English so you can make the most of the session.

This experience is an Add-on package

This experience is ideal for those staying in Yunomine Onsen or Kawayu Onsen on the Kumano Kodo Trail. All our Self-Guided Kumano Kodo tours offer the opportunity to spend a leisurely second night in one of these hot-spring villages near the Grand Shrine at Hongu. Clients choosing the two-night stay can request this Experience for their intervening free day.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 > Meet at Shorinji Temple

We provide instructions on how to get to Shorinji temple, as well as explanations in English so you can make the most of the session.

