



NEW: Kumano Wayfarer

We are delighted to announce the new [Kumano Wayfarer](#), the latest in our new series of [Wayfarer Tours](#). These self-guided tours provide independent visitors to Japan with the means and support for an enjoyable journey exploring at their own pace.

Walk Japan's Kumano Wayfarer, which joins the original [Nakasendo Wayfarer](#) self-guided tour, is a walking tour of the Kumano Kodo, an ancient pilgrimage way travelled by the devout for centuries. The route follows hilly, winding trails through Kumano, a region of verdant forests and deep valleys that is still deeply redolent of an older, sometimes primeval, age. En route are many reminders of Kumano's spiritual past from wayside statues and altars to the imposing Kumano Sanzan three grand shrines.

Today, pilgrims are few in number but the importance of the Kumano Kodo has been recognised with UNESCO World Heritage status, one of only two pilgrimages in the world to be awarded this distinction. The other is the renowned Camino de Santiago.

[:: See photo gallery](#)



Shikoku Temple Pilgrimage

Inadvertently, 2016 has become a year of pilgrimages for us. Along with the [Kumano Wayfarer](#) above, earlier in the year we also introduced the [Shikoku Temple Pilgrimage](#), a guided tour that follows, in part, the 1,300 year-old 88 Temple Pilgrimage, yet another of Japan's wonderful ancient trails.

The Shikoku Temple Pilgrimage takes us to a sparsely populated and beautiful, rural region on Japan's fourth main island for a journey from one charming temple to the next. Completing the full pilgrimage on foot and stopping at each temple of the 88 temple takes 40 days or more. During our 11-day tour we visit 27 of these temples on a route that leads us to the rugged, cliff-lined shores facing the Pacific Ocean, to Shikoku's interior of towering mountains and deep valleys, and to the coastal plains abutting the Seto Inland Sea.

[:: See photo gallery](#)



Rokugomanzan: 1,300 years of Kunisaki's Esoteric Buddhism

The Kunisaki Peninsula is a little-known, idyllic rural area on Kyushu. Even

less well-known is that it is also home to *Rokugomazan*, the ancient and distinctive esoteric Buddhism found here. However, 2018 marks the 1,300th anniversary of Rokugomanzan and the celebrations will bring Kunisaki to the fore for the first time in centuries.

Paul Christie, Walk Japan's CEO, is a long-term resident of Kunisaki. Well-known locally for his work leading Walk Japan and its [Community Project](#), he has been honoured by being made a member of the steering group tasked with overseeing the Rokugomanzan celebrations and related developments for Kunisaki.

Currently, we have three scheduled tours on the Peninsula; the [Kunisaki Trek](#), [Kunisaki Trek: Yufuin & Kunisaki](#) and [Kunisaki Retreat](#). In addition, international schools visit the area on tours specially tailored for them by us. For our part in the celebrations, by 2018 we are planning to introduce new tours so that more overseas visitors can access Kunisaki for an enjoyable and fulfilling time exploring this special area. Please look out for updates from us during the intervening time on what is being planned by the local community and ourselves to celebrate this special anniversary.



Izu Geo Trail additional tour dates

Scheduled tour dates for the [Izu Geo Trail](#), another new tour we introduced in 2016, quickly sold out, which is a nice vindication of our belief that the Izu Peninsula is a delightful and interesting area to visit. So, to cope with demand we have added two more tours for this year: 29th November ~ 5th December; and 13th ~ 19th December. For more information, or to book, please [contact us](#).



25 years pioneering tours in Japan

Another anniversary though this time only for 25 years. In 2017 Walk Japan marks its 25th year pioneering walking tours in Japan. We are starting celebrations a little early in December 2016 with an exploration of the Tokaido, Japan's most famous ancient highway, in the company of our Managing Director, Llew Thomas. Other events will follow throughout 2017 and we will update you as our plans come to fruition. Please [contact us](#) for more information.



Walk Japan is the pioneer of off-the-beaten-track walking tours in Japan.

Authentic and enjoyable tours to discover Japan, its people, society and culture. Beginning in 1992 with our innovative and best-selling Nakasendo Way tour, we were the first to successfully introduce the real Japan, geographically and culturally, that often remains inaccessible for most visitors to the country. Since then, Walk Japan has created more original tours throughout Japan and been widely recognised for its work, including selection by National Geographic as one of the 200 Best Adventure Travel Companies on Earth.

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