



# Kobo Trail 2026

～弘法大师の道～

## Race Information

Dates: May 16<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) and 17<sup>th</sup> (Sun.), 2026 (Minimum number of participants required: 150 people)

Organizer: Kobo Trail Running Committee  
(Nara Prefecture, Yoshino Town, Tenkawa Village, Gojo City and Nosegawa Village)

Course Director: Minehiro Yokoyama

Guest Runner: Tsuyoshi Kaburaki (Route "K to K") / Yuri Yoshizumi (Route "D to K")

Entry Coordinator: Nanto Kankosha Company (Registered by the Commissioner of the Japan Tourism Agency: No. 1220)

Tour Coordinator: Same as above

### Qualifications:

1. Those who are 18 years of age or older as of the date of the event (May 17th, 2026).
2. Those who are confident in their ability to complete the course without getting lost within the time limit.
3. Those who understand the Kobo Trail and observe the event rules.

(Past Results) Completion rate in the last three races:  
75.4% in 2023, 82.5% in 2024, 75.6%

/// Stage "K to K" /////////////////////

Kimpusenji, Yoshinoyama – Kongobuji, Koyasan

55.7 km (of which 14.7 km, or 26%, is paved)

Maximum Number of Participants: 150 people (The first 150 to apply)

Entry Fee:

Domestic Payment:      ¥28,000 (includes lodging at a "ryokan" or Japanese-style hotel)

                            ¥25,000 (includes lodging at a guesthouse)

Overseas Payment:      ¥29,500 (includes lodging at a "ryokan" or Japanese-style hotel)

                            ¥26,500 (includes lodging at a guesthouse)

(75 people for each type of accommodation)

(Accommodation fees (including one night lodging in shared rooms separated by gender, two meals), baggage transport fee, insurance fee, etc.)

There are dress rules.

The course runs along part of the Omine Okugake-michi trail, which is regarded as a sacred training place for Shugendo practitioners. As it is the traditional color of Shugendo, we ask runners to **wear as much white as they can**. The white T-shirt you receive for participation may be used for this purpose.

#### Day 1: Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>

12:00 - 14:45      Registration at Yoshinoyama Furusato Center  
(Drop off your luggage and explore Yoshinoyama)

15:00 - 16:00      Briefing at Yoshinoyama Furusato Center

16:30 - 17:00      Buddhist evening service at Zaodo Hall, Kimpusenji Temple

17:15              Lodging check-in, dinner and bath at each facility

#### Day 2: Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

4:30      Breakfast

5:30      Check out (Leave baggage at the entrance of the lodging facility)  
Gather at the starting point

5:45      Starting Ceremony (Zaodo Hall at Kimpusenji Temple)

6:00      Start (The route includes four aid points and five checkpoints.)

### /// Stage "D to K" ////////////

From the Tenkawa Village Dorogawa Eco-Museum Center Parking Lot in Tenkawa Village to Kongobuji Temple at Koyasan 43.2km (of which 15.2km, or 35%, is paved)

Maximum Number of Participants: 100 people (The first 100 to apply)

Entrance Fee:

Domestic Payment: ¥28,000 (includes lodging at a "ryokan" or Japanese-style hotel)

Overseas Payment: ¥29,500 (includes lodging at a "ryokan" or Japanese-style hotel)

(The fee includes accommodation (two meals, one-night lodging in shared rooms separated by gender), bus fee, baggage transportation, insurance, etc.)

There are no dress rules.

#### Day 1: Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>

9:30 - 10:30 Registration at the South Exit of Yamato Yagi Station  
(Kintetsu Railway)

10:30 Depart from the South Exit of Yamato Yagi Station by bus

12:00 Arrive at Dorogawa Onsen (hot spring) in Tenkawa Village

12:30 - 13:30 Briefing at the Tenkawa Village Gymnasium

14:00 - 14:30 The Goma Fire Prayer Ritual at Ryusenji Temple

14:30 - 15:00 "Suigyo", or water ablutions at Ryusenji Temple  
(only for those who wish to try) (500 yen fee)

15:00 Lodging check-in, supper and bath at each facility

#### Day 2: Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

6:30 Breakfast

7:30 Check out (Leave baggage at the entrance of the lodging facility)  
Gather at the starting area (Tenkawa Village Dorogawa Eco-Museum Center Parking Lot)

7:45 Starting Ceremony

8:00 Start (The route includes three aid points and four checkpoints.)

/// Information Common to Both Routes /////////////////

Day 2: Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

Closing Times of Checkpoints: 13:50 at Bushigamine Pass, 15:30 at Tentsuji Pass, 16:05 at Deyashiki Pass, 17:25 at Kiwa Zuido Pass, 18:55 at Tenguki Pass, and 20:00 at the finish line

\*Closing time means the last arrival time at each point. If you cannot reach each point before its closing time, you will have to stop running.

\*After dark, please use a headlamp and wear reflective materials.

Goal: Konpon Daito Pagoda at Danjo Garan, Kongobuji Temple

Baggage Pickup: Saizen-in Temple ("Shukubo") ∕ 13:00~21:00

Awards Ceremony: Konpon Daito Pagoda at Danjo Garan, Kongobuji Temple

16:00 Top 3 men finishers of each Route K to K and D to K will receive awards.

17:00 Top 3 women finishers of each Route K to K and Route D to K will receive awards.

The schedule may be subject to change depending on road restrictions, climate, or other conditions.

/// Information on Lodging in the Koyasan Area /////////////////

Please note that lodging on the night of May 18th (Sun.) after the race is not included in the entrance fee. If you are looking for lodging for that night, please request the lodging when you apply.

\*Each "shukubo" (lodging offered by temples) sets the time for dinner, and it may not be served after that time. Please inquire in advance. Restaurants near the shukubo are for sightseers and most of them close early in the evening.

\*If you arrange your post-race lodging by yourself, please tell the lodging facility in advance that you may check in late. Please be aware that some shukubo set their latest check-in time rather early.

/// For Inquiries Concerning the Event: /////////////////

Kobo Trail Running Committee Office (c/o Oku-Yamato Regional Revitalization Division, Nara Prefecture)

<https://forms.office.com/r/v7rFAiiysg>



/// For Inquiries Concerning Registration /////////////////

Nanto Kankosha Company

(MAIL) [info@nanto-k.jp](mailto:info@nanto-k.jp)

## /// Other Directions ////////////////

## (1) What to Bring

## Must-have items

- Race bib (Given at registration)
- Headlamp
- Portable food (suitable amount and contents for the race)
- 1500 ml or more of beverage(s) (race start)
- Warm clothing to prevent hypothermia
- Portable toilet
- Rain wear
- Health insurance card
- Bear bell
- Reflective materials
- Mobile phone

#### Other recommended items

- Hat/Cap
- Extra clothes
- Cash
- Map
- Bear bell
- Extra batteries for headlamp
- Extra batteries for mobile phone
- Waterproof case
- Portable cup
- First-aid kit (Band-Aids, antiseptic solution, etc.)
- Disinfecting wipes, alcohol spray
- Bear spray
- Items for personal use

## (2) Course Guidance

Guidance tape (10 cm-wide white plastic tape with the race logo and "Kobo Trail" in red) and arrow signboards will be visible along the course.

Guidance tape will be tied to branches on the course.

If you lose sight of the guidance tape, go back to the previous guidance tape and take the right course.

Course guides will be standing at some road forks, but runners are asked to check the route themselves before moving on.

\*Please be sure to confirm the race course on the map before participating in the race.

### (3) Notices and Instructions

1. For the "K to K" route, there are clothing rules. For the "D to K" route, there are no clothing restrictions.
2. Other people (hikers, etc.) will also be using the race course. Before passing others, call out, slow down, and pass them with care. Try to make way for each other and greet others with a smile.
3. If you start to feel sick or decide to withdraw from the race, please inform staff members at the aid stations or checkpoints.

It may take some time to pick up runners who have withdrawn, so inform staff members about your withdrawal at the aid station or checkpoint that you most recently passed.

4. The course takes place at a high altitude and the event is held in the rainy season. Please bring clothing and items appropriate for rainy/cold weather to prevent hypothermia and to stay healthy.
5. Although snacks and beverages are served at the aid stations, at the start of the race make sure that you have all the food and drinks you will need.
6. Water is available only at designated aid stations and checkpoints.
7. It is your responsibility to look after your own valuables.

8. Do not harm the natural environment on the course and the surrounding areas. Do not hunt, gather, or cause damage to animals and plants. Please take all trash home with you.

As for the shoes you will wear during the race, please wash the soles before the race to protect the natural environment.

9. Please be sure to fill out the questionnaire after the event.
10. Travel costs to and from the designated meeting places before and after the race are not included in the entrance fee.
11. There are only makeshift or simple mountain toilets on the course. Please understand that the number of these is limited.
- 12. Please note in advance that this event has not been registered with the ITRA.**
13. Video footage, photos, articles, records of the event (and personal information included therein, such as name, age, gender, records, images, etc.) may be publicized, displayed or used in newspapers, TV programs, magazines, the internet, brochures, etc. The Organizer owns the right to publicize or use them.

14. The briefing of the event will be given in Japanese.
15. Accommodation for both the K to K and D to K races will be in shared rooms separated by gender. If there is someone you would like to share a room with, please write the person's name in the "Notes" section of the entry form.
16. The personal information you provide will be used only for the purposes of the event.

#### (4) Prohibited Matters

Runners who violate the following rules or do not follow the instructions of event staff may be disqualified:

1. The use of trekking poles or canes with exposed metal tips is prohibited. Please note that the use of trekking poles or canes of any kind is totally prohibited on the Omine Okugake-michi section.
2. Runners who do not cooperate with the preservation of the natural environment, such as by leaving litter or walking into areas off the course;
3. Runners who are found cheating in any way (vehicle use, running for someone else, and other similar prohibited actions);
4. Runners who continue running even after the checkpoints have been closed;

#### (5) Event Cancellation

When the Organizer regards it as difficult to hold or continue the race due to the following reasons, the Organizer will make the decision to cancel or stop the race. In any case, the race will not be postponed. If the race is canceled/discontinued, the Organizer will decide whether the travel expenses and/or entry fees will be refunded, participation gifts will be given, etc.

1. If weather warnings have been issued for the municipalities along the course (Yoshino Town, Tenkawa Village, Gojo City, Nosegawa Village, and Koya Town) as of 6:00 p.m. on the day before the event.  
Even if a decision to hold the event has been made at 6:00 p.m. on the day before, the decision will be reconsidered if weather conditions worsen on the morning of the event.
2. If the organizer decides that the safety of the runners cannot be guaranteed due to landslides, collapses, falling rocks, etc. along the course;
3. If earthquakes, wind and flood damage, incidents, accidents, diseases, etc. break out;
4. If the organizer decides that it is impossible to hold or continue the event.