

## **TITLE: “Ipponsugi,” the Single Cedar**

The Ipponsugi, or Single Cedar, was planted in this location over 550 years ago to serve as a living landmark for travelers on the Nyonin Michi (Women’s Pilgrimage Route). Cedars (*Cryptomeria sp.*), known as *sugi* in Japan, grow extremely tall and straight, making them easily visible at a distance. This was especially true before the Meiji period (1868–1912), when many of the surrounding native trees in this area were harvested for timber and did not grow as tall or as close together as they do today. For centuries, travelers and pilgrims used the Ipponsugi as a meeting point and a landmark to help them navigate the forested slopes between Kotsugi Pass and Mt. Tenjiku.

Similar landmark cedars, as well as donated decorative cedars, stand in other locations on Koyasan. A trio of ancient cedars, known as Sanbonsugi (Three Cedars), grows about five minutes’ walk from Ipponsugi, marking the end of a shortcut to Kuroko Pass. Additionally, the paths of Okunoin cemetery are lined with massive cedars, donated as saplings that now tower above the grounds. More donated cedars stand near the Daimon, or Great Gate, at the official entrance to Koyasan.