

**The Stone Stairway to Niukanshofu Jinja Shrine**

This long stairway that connects Jisonin Temple to Niukanshofu Shrine (and the beginning of the Choishi Michi trail up to Koyasan) is flanked by ancient cherry trees. The stairway has 119 steps—an odd number that cannot be equally divided, which symbolizes lifelong progress.

The first 12 steps date to 1748, while those above were mainly constructed in 1753, thanks to the donations of many worshippers. The stone torii gate and large stone lanterns towards the top of the stairway were brought to this location for safekeeping after Sarutahiko Shrine (as Niukanshofu Shrine was formerly known) was damaged by a flood.

The 180th stone marker, which marks the beginning of the Choishi Michi trail, is located just in front of the large stone torii gate in the middle of the stairway.