

### **Koyasujizo Temple**

A small structure perched on top of a hill, Koyasujizo Temple is known as the “flower temple” for the long trellises of 100-year-old wisteria trees that wind around the grounds and bloom purple in early May. A great variety of other flowers are cultivated on the temple grounds so that blooms can be enjoyed 11 months out of the year.

A statue of Jizo, the Buddhist guardian traditionally associated with protecting children, is enshrined in the main hall. The temple once fell into disrepair. In the Edo period (1603–1868), however, the lord of the Kishu domain restored the temple grounds after his prayers to Jizo for the safe birth of his grandchild were answered. Ever since, the temple has been frequented by visitors praying for a safe birth or to be blessed with children.

The grounds are dotted with many Jizo statues, all lovingly dressed in red hats and aprons. Those who come to pay their respects often leave soft drinks, small toys or stuffed animals, candy, or strings of folded origami cranes as offerings to these protectors of children.

The temple is a 30-minute walk from Miyukitsuji Station, and there is a 300-yen entrance fee.