

## 日本遺産鯨とともに生きる

## Japan Heritage

## Living with Whales

紀伊半島の南東部、黒潮が流れる熊野灘沿岸の人々は、昔から鯨とともに生きてきました。一帯で は江戸時代初期に組織的な捕鯨が始まり、地域の一大産業へ発展。大いなる海の恵みは人々の暮ら しを支え、一方で人々は鯨に感謝し、巨体を余すところなく活用してきました。

そして、捕鯨は現在も続けられています。地域には鯨と人の長い関わりを示す史跡も残り、鯨にま つわる祭りや伝統芸能、食文化も受け継がれています。

熊野に息づくこうした捕鯨文化のストーリー「鯨とともに生きる」が、2016年4月、文化庁の日本遺 産に認定されました。物語の舞台は、和歌山県の新宮市と、太地・那智勝浦・串本の3町。なかでも 太地は"鯨の町"としてよく知られるところです。

本州最南端のこのエリアには、世界遺産「紀伊山地の霊場と参詣道」を構成する熊野三山や熊野古 道もあります。"海の日本遺産"と "山の世界遺産" が織り成す魅力たっぷりの熊野へ、鯨と人の物語を たずねてみませんか。



People living in coastal areas on the southeast tip of the Kii Peninsula along the Kumano Sea, where the Black Current flows, have coexisted with whales since ancient times. In certain areas, organized whaling began during the early Edo period and developed into the region's largest industry. The enormous bounty of the sea provided people's livelihood, inspiring local residents to offer gratitude to the whales and use their enormous bodies without leaving anything to waste.

Whaling continues to this day. Historic sites testify to the long-running connection between people and whales in the region, where whale-related festivals, traditional performing arts, and dietary culture continue to be passed down from one generation to the next.

In April 2016, "Living with Whales," the story of Kumano's whaling culture, was designated as part of the Japan Heritage by the Agency for Cultural Affairs. The story takes place in Wakayama Prefecture in the city of Shingu and in the three towns of Taiji, Nachikatsuura, and Kushimoto. Of the three, Taiji has a particularly close association with whaling.

Located at the southernmost tip of Honshu, this area is also home to Kumano Sanzan, which along with Kumano Kodo make up the Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range, a World Heritage site. Consider visiting Kumano, where the appeal of Japan Heritage by the sea mingles with that of World Heritage in the mountains, to witness this remarkable story of whales and humans!





太地角右衛門頼治墓 和田忠兵衛頼元墓

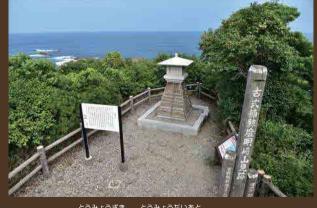


③ 鯨供養碑









⑧ 燈明崎 燈明台跡



⑨ 古式捕鯨 狼煙場跡 Tomyo-zaki Point Smoke Signal Site



⑩ 古式捕鯨 高塚連絡所跡

