

Professional Profile: Tak Homma

Artistry, Ecology, and Spirit:
Your Wilderness Guide to
Kumano Kodo and Kii Peninsula



When you stand upon the ancient cobblestones of the Kumano Kodo, you are doing more than just trekking a path; you are embarking on a journey through a thousand years of spiritual devotion and the raw beauty of the Kii Peninsula. My name is Takafumi (Tak) Homma, and I am a wilderness guide dedicated to bridging the gap between the visible landscape and the profound stories beneath.



A Global Perspective and Aesthetic Vision

My journey began in the United Kingdom, where I lived for twelve years. After completing a Master of Fine Arts (MFA), I spent five years as a media coordinator, managing technical visits and professional publisher for Japanese clients. This decade in Europe refined my ability to cater to high-level expectations and provided me with a deep understanding of the "cultural nuances" international travelers seek.

Expertise in Ecology and Trail Development

I dedicated the next 15 years to the wilderness of Hokkaido, including three years at the Sarobetsu Wetland Center and 12 years in Kuromatsunai—home to Japan's northernmost primeval beech forest. As a specialist in footpath development and ecological tour design, I focused on designing meaningful ways for people to connect with nature, also with the local community.

Through my work, I realized the Kumano Kodo represents the pinnacle of Japan's trail culture. After visiting Kumano Kodo once a year for the past decade, I was captivated by its unique spirituality. In the autumn of 2024, I followed this passion and relocated to the region to share this sacred heritage with the world.



New Forest / England



Utasai Beech forest / Hokkaido



Daimonzaka / Kumano-Kodo

Unwavering Safety and Holistic Hospitality

In the wilderness, safety is paramount. I hold the Wilderness Advanced First Aid (WAFA) certification, ensuring my guests are in the safest hands. My background as a certified Green Tourism Coordinator / Local Guide and owner of Cottage Kirihata, it allows me to provide holistic hospitality, understanding that a great journey is defined by both the hike and a warm, restful welcome.



A Curated Journey

Viewing the landscape through a compositional lens, I identify the subtle beauty in the moss, the light, and the sacred architecture. Whether navigating the iconic Nakahechi route or a custom-curated itinerary of hidden gems, I ensure a journey that is as intellectually enriching as it is physically revitalizing. I look forward to welcoming guests from around the world to experience Kumano Kodo and Kii peninsula, where Japanese history and spirituality come alive.



Remarks

- : Wakayama Prefectural Operator Service No.16
- : WAFA expert Class Practical Training in English Communication Skills for Adventure Travel Guides
- : Certificate of Water Safety & Rescue

Takafumi Homma / Kii Adventures

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