



## Wakayama city, Japan

Wakayama (Wah-kah-yah-mah) is located on the Kii Peninsula in the Kansai region of Japan's main island of Honshu. With a population of about 370,000, less than 1 percent of its people believe in Jesus Christ.

Mount Koya, a popular tourist destination in Wakayama, is home to the headquarters of the Shingon sect of Japanese Buddhism. This is also where one of the first Japanese style Buddhist temples was built, and Japanese pilgrims often visit this site. The temple is at the top of the mountain among some beautiful cedar trees.

Wakayama tends to receive a lot of rainfall, both during rainy season and when typhoons hit Japan. Both in 1953 and in 2011, Wakayama experienced severe flooding that resulted in over 1,000 deaths and extensive property damage.

Pickled plums and rice are a very common culinary combination in Japan. A great majority of these plums are grown in Wakayama. One pickled plum nestled in a bed of rice is referred to as "The National Lunch" as it resembles the Japanese flag with the risen sun on a white background.

Wakayama still has many unchurched areas, and there are few Christian workers in the city and surrounding communities.

### Priority Focus People Group

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Map courtesy of The World Factbook 2012

## Prayer Starters

- Pray that Japanese pilgrims who visit Mt. Koya will continue their quest for spiritual answers until they meet Jesus Christ who can fill the void in their hearts.
- Pray for the people of Wakayama who, in the aftermath of the 2011 flooding, received aid from Christian volunteers. Ask that they will come to understand Christ's love demonstrated to them through those who went to help.
- As pickled plums are sold throughout the country and various business deals take place regarding the sale of this crop, pray that Christians who interact with citizens of Wakayama will share their testimony and God's Word.
- Pray for doors to open so every unchurched area will have a Christian witness.