

Call for Abstracts

5th International Asia Pacific Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage Conference (APIRTP)



**Takasaki City University of Economics,
Takasaki City, Japan, 8th – 11st January 2027**

Announcement

The Asia Pacific International Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage Conference (APIRTP) organised by the Institute for Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (IRTP) in conjunction with the International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (IJRTP), Takasaki City University of Economics invites abstracts for their 5th International Conference to be held from 8th – 11st January 2027, at Takasaki City University of Economics, Takasaki, Gunma, Japan.

The aim of the conference is to provide both empirical and personal insights into the changing nature of religion in society and to further the debate for both policymakers and academics to consider these evolving challenges within the future development of faith tourism and pilgrimage. The main emphasis for acceptance at this event is based on participants presenting papers, which apply to the main themes of the conference.

Conference Themes

The key themes of the conference include (but are not limited to) the following:

- AI and Pilgrims Experience to Religious Sites
- Cultural Heritage
- Crowd Control and Crowd Dynamics for Religious Sites
- Digital and Virtual Religious Tourism
- Diaspora and Ancestral Religious Tourism
- Environmental Impacts on Religious Sites
- Faith and Gastronomy in Religious Tourism
- Gastronomy in Religious Tourism
- Globalisation / Impacts at Religious Sites
- Healing, Wellness, and Religious Health Tourism
- Heritage and Religious Architecture
- Interfaith and Multi-faith Tourism
- Legal, Security and Safety issues for Pilgrims
- Pilgrimage and Religious Tourism Motivations
- Mobilities, Pilgrimage, and Tourism
- Physical Environment and Sacred Tourist Destinations
- Pilgrimage, Spirituality, Religion and Tourism
- Pilgrimage and Sacred Journeys
- Poetics and Politics of Religious Tourism
- Overtourism at Religious Sites
- Regenerative Tourism of Religious Pilgrimage and Tourism Sites
- Religious Commemoration and Remembrance
- Religious Tourism and Political Economy
- Risks and Conflicts of / at Sacred Sites
- Spiritual Reflection and Cemeteries
- Social Media and Information Technology for Pilgrimage
- Sustainability in Pilgrimage and Religious Tourism
- Sustainable Practices for Religious Tourism
- Terrorism, Migration and Religious Tourism
- Theory, Philosophy and Theology of Religious Tourism

Organisation

Hosted by:

Takasaki City University of Economics, Takasaki, Gunma Prefecture, Japan

<https://www.tcue.ac.jp/>

Please check the conference website for further information, www.irtp.co.uk

Organising Committee:

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Scientific Committee

- Honey Libertine Achanzar-Labor – University of the Philippines Manila
- Vitor Ambrósio – Higher Institute for Hotel and Tourism Studies, Portugal
- Anne Marie F. Bagadion – Ateneo de Naga University, Philippines
- Pascal von Beuningen – Hiroshima University, Japan
- Celestina P. Boncan, University of the Philippines Manila
- Rodney W Caldicott, Hue University, Vietnam
- Carlos Fernandes – Polytechnic of Viana do Castelo, Portugal
- Lynn I-Ling Chen – National Pingtung University, Taiwan
- Tina Clemente – University of the Philippines Diliman
- Kevin Griffin – Technological University Dublin, Ireland
- Maureen Griffiths – Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
- Dian Mohmammad Hakim – Universitas Islam Malang, Indonesia
- Tomomi Hanai, Takasaki City University of Economics
- Imam Wahyudi Karimullah, Universitas Islam Malang, Indonesia
- Indrawati – Telkom university, Jarkata, Indonesia
- Md Javed Kawsar – University of Salford, UK
- Yasushi Kosugi, Ritsumeikan University / Kyoto University, Japan
- Isilda Leitao – University Nova de Lisboa, Portugal
- Darius Liutikas – Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences, Lithuania
- Maskuri – Universitas Islam Malang, Indonesia
- Stuart McDonald, Travel Fish, Bali, Indonesia
- Dennis Montera – University of the Philippines Cebu
- Subhash Kizhakanveatil Bhaskaran Pillai – Goa University, India
- Progano Ricardo Nicolas – Wakayama University, Japan
- Parichay Parivesh, Katharos Techie
- Razaq Raj – Leeds Beckett University, UK
- Matthew Santamaria – University of the Philippines Diliman
- Carlos Santos – Center of Applied Economics Studies of the Atlantic, Portugal
- Kohtaro Suzuki, Takasaki City University of Economics
- Lien Tran Thi Ngoc – Hue University, Vietnam
- Tuan Tran – Hue University, Vietnam
- Shin Yasuda – Teikyo University, Japan

Keynote Speakers

Prof. Dr. Kikuko Hirafuji, Kokugakuin University, Japan
Dr. Kiyomi Doi, Nishogakusha University, Japan
Dr. Andrea de Antoni, Kyoto University, Japan

Important Dates

Abstract submissions:	15th September 2026
Notification of Abstract Acceptance:	30th September 2026
Conference Registration Deadline:	1st December 2026
Full Paper Submission:	15th March 2027

Fees

There is no presentation fee for those who are selected to deliver papers. Costs will be kept to a minimum and will be approximately \$250 for participants (which includes tea and coffee, lunches and Gala Dinner). Accommodation recommendations will be provided.

Email: apirtp2027@gmail.com

For all payment details, please see: www.irtp.co.uk

Publications

The conference organisers have an impressive track record of successfully publishing papers from their events. Following review, suitable papers that are submitted according to the deadline, will be published in the International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (IJRTP) and/or selected for inclusion as chapters in forthcoming books in the organisers' Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage Book Series with CABI publishers.

Conference Abstracts (extended abstracts) will be available online at <https://arrow.dit.ie/irtp>

Conference Location

Takasaki City University of Economics

Takasaki City University of Economics is a public university in Takasaki city, Gunma, Japan, known for its research in applied economics, regional policy, and community development. Its scholars focus on issues such as local economy, regional revitalisation, and sustainability of local communities, often using empirical data and field researches. The university collaborates with local governments and industries to produce policy-oriented research with practical impact in the region. In particular, the university has contributed studies on local economic resilience, tourism strategies, and small business innovation. Through these efforts, it plays a significant role in generating knowledge that supports regional growth and addresses contemporary socioeconomic challenges in Japan

About Takasaki, Gunma

Welcome to “Lucky Town” Takasaki.

Takasaki is a mid-sized city located in Gunma Prefecture, about 100 kilometres northwest of Tokyo. It serves as an important transportation hub, with multiple Shinkansen (bullet train) lines connecting it to major cities across Japan. Takasaki is known for its production of “daruma” dolls, traditional symbols of perseverance and good luck. The city offers a mix of urban convenience and natural surroundings, with nearby mountains and hot spring areas. It also has historical sites and local festivals, making it an accessible destination for visitors seeking both culture and regional attractions in Japan.

Travel Information

From Airports in Tokyo to Takasaki City

Tokyo has two airports (Haneda and Narita). From Haneda and Narita, we have airport shuttle bus or train to Takasaki.

From Haneda Airport (HND) to Takasaki

By Bus (3 hrs): To JR Takasaki Station East Exit / JR 高崎駅東口): Maebashi and Takasaki Line (前橋・高崎行) (4,500 JPY) * Direct bus from airport bus stop No. 1 at Terminal 3 / No. 4 at Terminal 2

By Train (2hrs): ✓ Traveling by train from Haneda Airport to Takasaki Station is convenient and efficient. First, take the Tokyo Monorail (東京モノレール) or Keikyu Line (京急本線) to central

Tokyo (Hamamatsucho (浜松町) or Shinagawa (品川)). From there, transfer to the JR Yamanote Line (山手線) or go directly from Shinagawa to Tokyo Station (東京駅) . Then board the Joetsu Shinkansen (上越新幹線) or Hokuriku Shinkansen (北陸新幹線) to Takasaki (高崎) .

From Narita Airport (NRT) to Takasaki

By Bus(4.5hrs): To JR Takasaki Station East Exit / JR 高崎駅東口): Maebashi and Takasaki Line (前橋・高崎行) (5,300 JPY) * Direct bus from airport bus stop No. 8 at Terminal 1 / No. 10 at Terminal 2 / No. 11 at Terminal 3

By train (2.5 hrs): To JR Takasaki Station (JR 高崎駅)

Via Tokyo Station: ✓ First, take JR the Narita Express (成田エクスプレス) to Tokyo Station (東京駅) . ✓ From there, transfer to the Joetsu Shinkansen (上越新幹線) or Hokuriku Shinkansen (北陸新幹線) bound for Takasaki

Via Ueno Station: ✓ First, take the Keisei Skyliner (京急スカイライナー) to Keisei Ueno Station (京成上野駅) . ✓ Then walk a few minutes to JR Ueno Station (JR 上野駅) . ✓ From there, transfer to a Joetsu Shinkansen (上越新幹線) or Hokuriku Shinkansen (北陸新幹線) to Takasaki

How To Get To Tokyo, Japan?

Our nearest airports are in Tokyo (Haneda and Narita). By plane, here's how long it would take to reach Tokyo from certain major cities which have direct flights to Tokyo:

London: 14 hrs Paris: 14 hrs Frankfurt: 13 hrs

Helsinki: 11 hrs Rome: 13 hrs Istanbul: 12.5 hrs

New York: 14.5 hrs Singapore: 7.5 hrs Seoul: 2.5 hrs

Tokyo also has several LCC flights from various cities in East Asian and Southeast Asian cities

Abstract Submission Details

Format of Abstracts

Please provide the following information in your Abstract:

- ⊗ A clear and precise **title** for your paper.
- ⊗ The **name(s)**, institutional **affiliation**, and **email** address for **all** contributing authors.
- ⊗ A list of **five keywords** that describe the research.
- ⊗ A concise abstract – **max. 300 words** – in good English, which provides an overview of your proposed paper.
- ⊗ 3 key **bibliographic references** at the end of the abstract.

Please use 12-point Arial font, single-spaced, making sure to spellcheck and proofread your abstract before submitting.

Abstracts will be subjected to blind review by a minimum of two referees from the Scientific Committee.

Submission Process

- Submit your paper via the link on the conference website at: www.irtp.co.uk

Publication Opportunities

Book Chapters

Potential publication opportunities for book chapters are available in the **CABI Book Series on Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage Management**.

Additional opportunities may also be available in the **CABI Book Series on Tourism and Society Book Series**.

Journal Papers

Selected papers will be considered for a Special Issue of the International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage: <https://arrow.tudublin.ie/ijrtp/about.html>

Once accepted, papers will be published on the journal platform.