

How to drive yourself from Rokko Island to Kobe Union Church

These directions assume that you know how to drive off the island! There are a number of ways to reach the church; this is probably the simplest ... once you've used this route two or three times, experiment. It's not all that difficult. The church is both north (up into the hills of Rokko Mountain) and west (towards Sannomiya) of the Island. So put simply, you can either drive west and then north .. or north and then west! We will go west and then north! And we will also ask you to "push" your mileage recorder at one set of traffic lights which will make the drive even easier.

Leaving the Island

Drive onto the elevated highway that takes you from the Island to the mainland. When you are on the three lane bridge (Rokko liner tracks either side of you), move over to the left lane. No hurry .. you have plenty of time. The highway veers 90 degrees to the left (west) and very soon traffic from Osaka and the Kansai airport merge into your lane. Keep in the left lane. Ahead, you will see two orange bridge spans ... you leave this highway immediately after you drive under the second of the bridge spans Look out for the exit signs ...

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Maya Wharf Hanshin Expw

As you exit, there is just the one lane. But it soon splits into two - keep left!
You come to your first set of lights ...

**push your mileage recorder as you pass under those lights
... and drive straight ahead.**

As you continue on, you can't miss the steel mill on your left, and the canal and two-level elevated highway on your right (the one you were driving on). Keep driving straight ahead ... and go through two sets of traffic lights (at 0.4km and 1.0km)

- 1.4 At the next set of lights (your 4th) **you turn right** ... there is a large, colorful gas station on your left (just beyond the intersection), called the "*Truck Station*." Once you turn right, you will see the river on your right. That river has its source just beyond the church .. we now follow the river all the way to the church - simple!
- 1.7 You cross Highway 43.
- 2.0 You pass under the Hanshin Oishi station.
- 2.2 You cross Highway 2 - again don't deviate. You go straight up toward the hills. But notice diagonally on your right ... Konan homeware shop, one of the best in the city! Stop off and visit sometime! Plenty of parking.
- 2.3 Drive under JR rail bridge.
- 2.8 Cross another major road (notice ahead the large orange "three-quarter" circle .. it is the Daiei store that you will pass on your left "Gourmet City").

- 3.1** You drive under the Hankyu rail bridge. The road is getting narrower, but don't worry. You are on track. Continue straight ahead at the lights ... up the one-way road. ***We will soon be turning right!***
- 3.4** Turn right over the bridge ... (you will see the large children's park on the right, across the river).
Keep going straight ahead once you cross over the bridge, to the next intersection (about 50 meters after the bridge) and turn left. You are now driving towards Rokko mountain again. You will notice traffic lights ahead.
- 3.5** These are your final traffic lights ...
a police box is across the other side of the road (on your right).
Now drive straight up the hill, following the winding road. As the road steepens, follow the white line in the middle of the road ... it will take you first right and then left. It gets steeper, and you may begin to wonder .. "*is there really a church up here?*" But there is, and you are almost there! Further up there is a fork in the road... and you will see the sign "*Kobe Union Church*" directing you to the left. Keep on for another 200 meters, and suddenly you will round a corner and see the carpark .. and then the church building.

<p>Congratulations. When you get out of your car, look over the far edge of the car park, and you will see the river you have been following from its mouth.</p>
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July 2000