



SUGGESTED TOUR ROUTE

Shinjuku Sta. - 1 hr. 30 min. by Odakyu Railway limited express - Hakone-Yumoto Sta. - 35 min. by Hakone Tozan (mountain) Railway - Chokoku-no-Mori Sta. - 2-min. walk - Hakone Open-Air Museum - 10-min. walk - Gora Sta. - 10 min. by cable car - Souznan Sta. - 10 min. by ropeway - Owakudani Sta. - 25 min. by ropeway - Togendai Sta. - 30-40 min. by boat - Hakone-Machi - 5-min. walk - Hakone Checkpoint - 45 min. by bus - Odawara Sta. - 40 min. by JR Shinkansen "Hikari" or "Kodama" - Tokyo Sta.

WHAT TO SEE

Miyanoshita Area

Hakone-Yumoto (箱根湯本), 1 hr. 30 min. by Odakyu Railway's limited express from Shinjuku, is a main gateway to the Hakone Onsen District. Yumoto Onsen, the oldest in the district, sprang up at the confluence of the Sukumo River and the Hayakawa River, the outlet of Lake Ashi. Well-appointed inns are located in quiet settings along the picturesque gorge.



Miyanoshita (宮ノ下), 25 min. by rail from Hakone-Yumoto, is the most thriving spa town in Hakone, with many excellent hotels and inns as well as souvenir shops. This spa is so popular with foreign travelers that many English signboards are seen around town. It is a starting point for side tours to Lake Ashi, Gora Onsen and the Sengokuhara Plain. Delightful walks and drives can be enjoyed through the wooded hills and vales.

Kowakidani (小涌谷), 5 min. by rail from Miyanoshita, is another popular spa town featuring bubbling sulfurous hot springs. Steam that spurts violently out of hissing vents is diverted to hothouses. In April, the entire spa is awash in cherry blossoms.

Gora, Mt. Souznan & Owakudani Area
Gora (強羅), 10 min. by Hakone Tozan Railway from Miyanoshita, is a mountain railway terminal. It grew up on the slope of Mt. Souznan, a nucleus of volcanic activity. Mt. Myojogatake, close to the spa, is the site for the Daimonji-yaki Festival (Aug. 16) featuring a bonfire built on the mountainside in the shape of a huge Chinese pictogram. From here, a cable car climbs to the peak of Mt. Souznan. Gora is a base for visiting Hakone parks and museums.

Hakone Gora Park (箱根強羅公園), a 5-min. walk from Gora Station, is the large rock park. Passing through the rose-draped archway, visitors enjoy a stroll along brick paths. The main attraction is a gigantic fountain pond. The park boasts a natural museum, an alpine plant garden and a tropical botanical garden.

The Hakone Open-Air Museum (彫刻の森美術館) a 2-min. walk from Chokoku-no-Mori Station of Hakone Tozan Railway, is a

roaming hills park for the outdoor and indoor exhibition of sculptures, the first of its kind in Japan. A number of exceptional works created by modern sculptors like Rodin, Bourdelle and Moore are on display. The Picasso Pavilion, another feature of the museum, houses many of the works done throughout his life.



Owakudani (大涌谷), 10 min. by ropeway from Souznan Station, lies in the ancient crater of Mt. Kamiyama. The entire gorge reeks of sulfurous fumes. Clouds of steam rise from crevasses, hot springs bubble out, and in some cases, hot water has been tapped and piped to distant places.



Sengokuhara & Lake Ashi Area

Sengokuhara Onsen (仙石原温泉), 10 min. by bus from Miyanoshita, is a quiet hot spring resort hidden away in deep forest. The Sengokuhara Plain, spreading outward to the west, is overgrown with clusters of marshy plants. It is also a sports mecca with excellent golf courses. To the south, the plain tails into Lake Ashi. Some

characteristic museums are situated in this area such as Hakone Botanical Garden of Wetlands (箱根湿性花園) which displays 1700 species of marsh and alpine plants, Lalique Museum, Hakone (箱根ラリック美術館), Museum of Saint-Exupery's the Little Prince in Hakone (星の王子様ミュージアム), Venetian Glass Museum (箱根ガラスの森美術館), Pola Museum of Art (ポーラ美術館) and Meissen Museum (箱根マイセンアンティーク美術館).

Lake Ashi (芦ノ湖), 724 m (2,375 ft.) above sea level, is a principal attraction of Hakone. It has a circumference of 21 km (13mi.) with an aquatic area of 703 ha. (2.7 sq. mi.). The lake abounds in black bass and trout, which makes angling a main leisure activity, along with swimming. It is also well known for the inverted reflection of Mt. Fuji seen on a clear day. Regular pleasure boat service links Togendai or Kojiri on the north and Moto-Hakone or Hakone-Machi on the south, some with a stopover at Hakone-en Park en route.



Moto-Hakone & Hakone-Machi Area

Moto-Hakone (元箱根) forms a base for pleasure boats on the lake and for buses shuttling to and from Atami and Odawara. Within a 10-min. walk is the famous Hakone-jinja Shrine, said to have been founded in the 8th century. The shrine is also noted for ceremonial rites "Kosui-Sai", observed on July 31 each year. Thousands of lighted lanterns are set afloat on the lake.

Ancient Cedar Avenue is superb for strolling. This winding road lined with old Japanese cryptomerias runs between Moto-Hakone and Hakone-machi. In the Edo Period, feudal lords and their retainers in procession took this road to Edo(Tokyo).

Hakone-machi (箱根町), the terminal for a lake cruise boat, lies at one end of the cedar avenue. It is a popular summer resort. The nearby replica of the old Checkpoint indicates that Hakone was one of the most important guardposts for travel in feudal Japan during the 17th to 19th centuries.

Hakone Checkpoint (箱根関所跡), a 5-min. walk from Hakone-machi, was originally established in 1619 by the Tokugawa Shogunate for the defense of Edo. It was removed in 1869, but now an exact replica of the former Checkpoint House with life-size figures in feudal costumes stands on a plot opposite the old site. The adjacent exhibition hall displays historical Checkpoint materials, including weapons, armor and palanquins, as well as old documents and utensils showing feudal life and customs.

Onshi-Hakone-Koen Park (Hakone Detached Palace Garden) (恩賜箱根公園), a 5-min. walk from Hakone-machi, lies on the lake's eastern shore. A former Imperial Villa, it is now open to the public.



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CLIMATE

The climate in Hakone, 800 m (2,624 feet) above sea level, is much cooler than Tokyo in summer and colder in winter. This wonderful summer resort, in other seasons has cherry blossoms and azaleas in spring and maple leaves in autumn.

HOW TO GET THERE

Hakone can be reached by Japan Railway (JR) from Tokyo Station via Odawara or by Odakyu Railway from Odakyu Shinjuku Station. To get around Hakone, different modes of transportation include a unique mountain railway and cable car. In combination, they add an extra excitement to any Hakone tour.

- HyperDia http://www.hyperdia.com/en/
Japan Transit Planners https://world.jorudan.co.jp/mln/en/
Ekispert for WEB https://roote.ekispert.net/en/

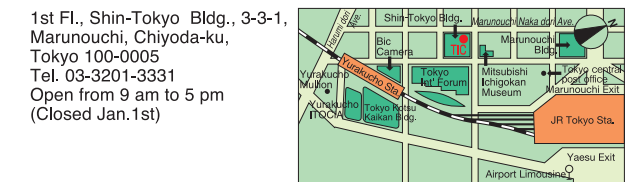
Discount Pass

Hakone Free Pass : Unlimited travel on seven types of transportation in Hakone Area, 2 days pass for ¥ 5,140, 3 days pass for ¥ 5,640 from Shinjuku. The limited express "Romance Car" surcharge is not included.

More info : https://www.odakyu.jp/english/passes/hakone/

Free Travel Information and Language Assistance

Tourist Information Center (TIC) of Japan National Tourism Organization is your helping hand while in Japan. Its services range from providing travel information and free literature on Japan to offering suggestions on tour itineraries.



Tourist Information Centers (Narita International Airport):

- Terminal 1: Arrival Fl., Passenger Terminal 1 Bldg., Narita International Airport, Chiba 282-0004
Terminal 2: Arrival Fl., Passenger Terminal 2 Bldg., Narita International Airport, Chiba 282-0004

JNTO Japan National Tourism Organization
日本政府観光局
http://www.jnto.go.jp



Overseas Offices

- Seoul: #202, Hotel President 2F Euljiro 16, Jung-gu, Seoul, Korea
Beijing: Beijing Fortune Bldg., Suite 410, 5 Dong San Huan Bei Lu Chaoyang District, Beijing 100004, China
Shanghai: Room 2111, Shanghai International Trade Centre, 2201, West Yan An Road, Shanghai 200336, China
Hong Kong: Room 807-809, 8/F, Prosperity Millennium Plaza, 663 King's Road, North Point, Hong Kong
Dahli: Unit No.203, 2nd Floor, East Wing, World Mark 1, Aseef-11, Aerocity, New Delhi-110037
Jakarta: Summitmas I 2F, Jalan Jenderal Sudirman, Kavling 6142, Jakarta Selatan 12190, Indonesia
Singapore: 16 Raffles Quay, #15-09, Hong Leong Building, Singapore 048581
Bangkok: 10th Floor Unit 1016, Serm-Mit Tower, 159 Sukhumvit 21Rd, Bangkok 10110, Thailand
Hanoi: Unit 4/09 on the 4th Floor, Corner Stone Building, 16 Phan Chu Trinh Street, Hoan Kiem District, Hanoi, Vietnam
Kuala Lumpur: 1st Floor, Chuan Tower, 3 Jalan Conlay, 50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Sydney: Suite 1 Level 4, 156 Clarence Street, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia
New York: One Grand Central Place, 60 East 42nd Street, Suite 448, New York, NY 10165, U.S.A.
Los Angeles: 707 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 4225, Los Angeles, CA 90017, U.S.A.
Toronto: 481 University Avenue, Suite 711, Toronto, M5G 2E9, Canada
Rome: 3rd Floor, Via Barberini 95, 00187 Rome, Italy
London: 3rd Floor, 32 Queensway, London, W1G 3JX, U.K.
Madrid: Carrera de San Jeronimo, 15 - 3C, 28014 Madrid, Spain
Frankfurt: Kaiserstrasse 11, 60311 Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Paris: 4, rue de Valenciennes 75001 Paris, France
Moscow: 3rd Floor, S. Bryanskaya Street, Moscow, Russia

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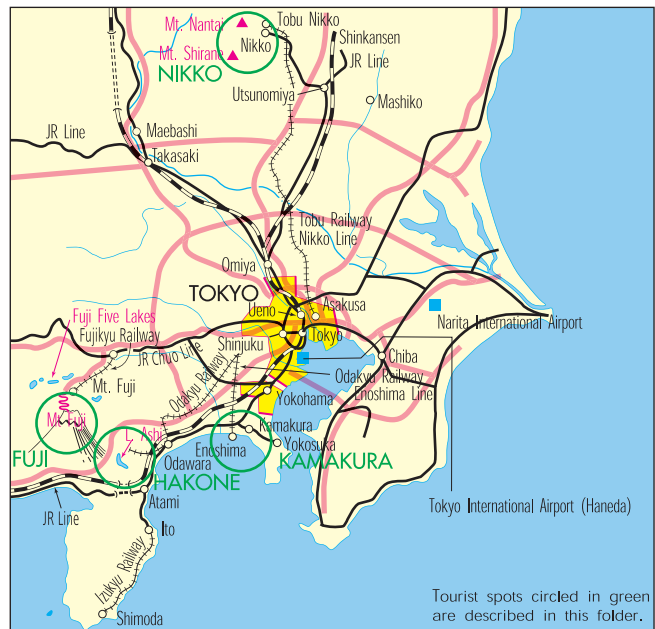
Fuji Hakone Kamakura Nikko

Tokyo, Japan's capital city, blends the old and the new in fascinating ways. As the starting point for a Japan tour, its transportation network extends radially in all directions. When in Tokyo with one or two days to spare, a side trip to Mt. Fuji, Hakone, Kamakura or Nikko is recommendable. All can be reached within a two-hour train or bus ride.

Mt. Fuji, 2 hrs. by bus from Tokyo, is a symbol of Japan. Its majestic presence is most attractive when snow-capped. The five lakes that dot its foothills make up an excellent recreation area. One can climb to the summit from July to early September for a stunning sunrise view.

Hakone, 1 hr. 30 min. by rail, is a spa town and mountain resort set against the backdrop of Mt. Fuji. Visitors enjoy an aerial view of the surroundings by cable car and mountain railway rides. Lake Ashi, bubbling hot springs, and a historic checkpoint near an avenue of aged cryptomeria trees charm the sightseer's eye.

Kamakura, 1 hr. by rail, was once a feudal seat of government. It is most noted for time-honored temples and shrines as well as many historical treasures. Other local highlights include the Great Buddha, Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine, and picturesque Enoshima Island. It is easy to explore Kamakura on your own.



Nikko, 2 hrs. by rail, is a fine blend of splendid architecture and natural wonders. As a recreation land, it offers camping, fishing, boating and hiking. Its major attractions include the resplendent Toshogu Shrine, Kegon Falls, and Lake Chuzenji with its densely wooded shores. Mashiko, a pottery town, adds another dimension en route to Nikko.

READY-MADE PACKAGE TOURS

A ready-made package tour provides an overall sampling of tourist attractions. This type of tour is ideal for visitors with little time to spare. Experienced travel agents offer a wide variety of tour packages escorted by professional guides.

For bookings and further information, please contact:

- Japan Holiday Tours https://www.nbcw.co.jp/jht/
JTB Sunrise Tours Tel: (03) 6743-1597 https://www.japanican.com/en/tour
Japan Gray Line Tel: (03) 5275-6525 https://www.jgl.co.jp/inbound/
Club Tourism YOKOSO Japan Tour Tel: (03) 6734-5115 https://www.yokosojapan-tour.com
Hato Bus Tour Tel: (03) 3435-6081 https://www.hatobus.com/int/en/

ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations range from the best world-class hotels (¥20,000 - ¥60,000 for a single) that offer multitude of services. Traditional style inns, Ryokan, let you experience some of the graciousness of old Japan; and your bedding is folded up and stored away during the day. Fresh tatami mats, softly sliding doors and luxurious Japanese baths (¥20,000-¥100,000 per person, including two meals)

All hotels are clean, safe and comfortable. Budget accommodations such as youth hostels, (¥4,000 - ¥4,500 excluding meals), Minshuku, family run accommodation, (¥6,000-¥15,000 including two meals) are also available.

Useful Website

- You can find every kind of accommodations.
Japan Hotel & Ryokan Search https://www.jnto.go.jp/ja-search/eng/index.php
Japan Hotel Association (For first class hotel) http://www.j-hotel.or.jp/en/
Japan Ryokan & Hotel Association (Traditional Ryokan) http://www.ryokan.or.jp/english/
Japanese Inn Group (Family Run, Ryokan & Minshuku) http://www.japaneseinngroup.com
Japan Youth Hostels https://www.jyh.or.jp/e/

FOLK ARTS AND CRAFTS

Hakone Yosegi Zaiku is an elaborate inlaid and mosaic craft features a feudal lord procession with retainers. July 31: Kosui-sai (Lake Festival) featuring candle-lighted lanterns floating on Lake Ashi with fireworks.



Ancient Cedar Avenue

ANNUAL EVENTS

May 3: Odawara Hojo Godai Matsuri at Odawara Castle Park features a feudal lord procession with retainers.
July 31: Kosui-sai (Lake Festival) featuring candle-lighted lanterns floating on Lake Ashi with fireworks.
August 5: Torii-yaki Matsuri on Lake Ashi is highlighted by burning a huge wooden shrine gate built on the water and floating 1,000 lighted lanterns on the lake.
August 16: Daimonji-yaki Festival on Mt. Myojogatake presents a grand view of huge burning torches that form the Chinese character "DAI" (Great) on the hillside. A fireworks display is also held near Gora Station.
November 3: Daimyo Gyoretsu (Feudal Lord Procession) at Hakone-Yumoto reproduces an impressive journey by feudal lords and retainers to and from Edo. Some 170 people in period costumes parade along the street.



JNTO

Mt. Fuji & Five Lakes

from early July to early September. There are four climbing trails, the most popular starting from Lake Kawaguchi. Each trail is divided, from starting point to the summit, into ten stages of unequal distance. Trail lengths range from 15 km (9.4 mi.) to 25 km (15.6 mi.). The ascent takes about five to eight hours and the descent three hours. Bus service is available from Tokyo, Lake Kawaguchi and Gotemba up to the 5th Stage. Each stage has stone huts for rest and lodging. Average temperature at the summit is 5.6°C (42.8°F) in July and 7.1°C (44.8°F) in August. It is advisable to bring warm clothes, as well as a rainwear, gloves, and head lamp.

Fuji Five Lakes (富士五湖)

The Fuji Five Lakes District lies at the northern foot of Mt. Fuji. In order of location east to west, the lakes are Yamanaka, Kawaguchi, Saiko, Shoji and Motosu. The district offers a wide range of recreation options from summer camping and fishing to winter skiing and ice skating. Autumnal tints create magnificent vistas.

Lake Kawaguchi (河口湖), 1 hr. 50 min. by bus from Shinjuku, is a toponch recreational resort in the summer and winter seasons. Covering 570 ha. (2.2 sq. mi.), the lake is noted for the fine view of Mt. Fuji from its northern shore, where the majestic peak may be seen in both its natural form and as an inverted figure reflected on the placid water. The nearby Fuji-Q Highland is a huge amusement park.

Lake Yamanaka (山中湖), 30 min. by bus from Gotemba or Lake Kawaguchi, is the largest of the five lakes, with an area of 680 ha. (2.6 sq. mi.). As a year-round resort, its shores make good camping sites in summer, whereas winter brings skating and fishing for surf smelt through holes cut in the ice. The annual Lake Festival (August 1) includes a spectacular evening fireworks display.

Lake Saiko (西湖), 30 min. by bus from Lake Kawaguchi, is noted for its quiet environs.

Lake Shoji (精進湖), 40 min. by bus from Lake Kawaguchi, is the smallest of the five lakes, with a modest area of 50 ha. (0.20 sq. mi.). Secluded on three sides by wooded mountains which open towards the southeast, facing Mt. Fuji, Lake Motosu (本栖湖) is the westernmost of the five lakes. With a depth of 138 m (453 ft.), it seldom freezes in the winter season, and the beauty of its deep blue water is a sure reward.

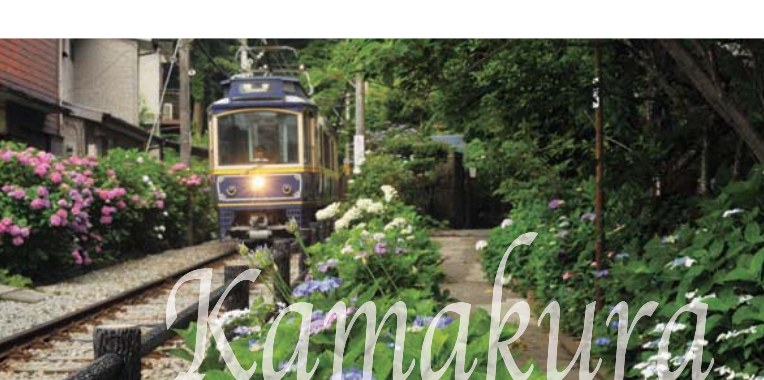
Koyodai (紅葉台) to the south of Lake Saiko, affords a magnificent view in every direction, with a close-up view of Mt. Fuji.



TOWN OF FUJIKAWAGUCHI Mt. Fuji and Lake Kawaguchi



FUJI KYUKO CO.,LTD Fujiyu Highland



©Kamakura City Tourist Association

Kamakura, 1 hr. by rail from Tokyo, was once the seat of a feudal government set up in 1192 as the first of its kind in Japan. It is now noted for its historic sites, seaside bathing beach, and residential district within commuting distance to Tokyo.

Flanked by wooded mountains on three sides and Sagami Bay on the south, the city has many renowned temples and shrines as well as well-preserved historical treasures surrounded by beautiful hills in a rustic setting. Exploring on your own is the best way to enjoy a tour of Kamakura.

The Great Buddha, the colorful Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine and picturesque Enoshima Island draw large numbers of visitors to Kamakura throughout the year.

CLIMATE

Kamakura enjoys a mild climate, since it is tucked away among thick woods, ringed with hills. This also makes it a very pleasant summer and winter resort. Each season presents a different appearance. Fresh greenery in spring and colorful foliage in autumn decorate its surroundings.

Many temples have spectacular seasonal floral displays that attract visitors.

HOW TO GET THERE

A convenient transportation network connects Kamakura and Tokyo. Local transportation around the town and its surroundings is well developed, covering major spots of visitor interest.

From Tokyo Sta.

About 1 hr. by JR Yokosuka Line; ¥800 to Kita-Kamakura, ¥920 to Kamakura.

From Shinjuku Sta.

1 hr. by JR Shonan Shinjuku Line. Change to Yokosuka Line at Ofuna Sta. ¥920 to Kamakura.

SUGGESTED TOUR ROUTE

Kita-Kamakura Sta. – 1-min. walk – **Engakuji Temple** – 15-min. walk – **Kenchoji Temple**– 15-min. walk – **Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine** – 2-min. walk – **Kamakura Museum** – 10-min. walk – **Kamakura Sta.** (lunch & shopping) – 10 min. by bus – **Great Buddha** – 5-min. walk – **Hase-dera Temple** – 5-min. walk – **Hase Sta.** – 20 min. by Enoden Line – **Enoshima Sta.** – 15-min. walk – **Enoshima Island** – 15-min. walk

– **Enoshima Sta.** – 10 min. by Enoden Line – **Fujisawa Sta.** (or – **Shonan Enoshima** – 15 min. by monorail – **Ofuna Sta.**)

WHAT TO SEE

Kita-Kamakura Station Area

Engakuji Temple (円覚寺), a short. walk from the station, is one of the city’s most celebrated Zen temples, once ranking second among the Five Great Zen Temples of Kamakura. Its various buildings are arranged in a straight line, and the precincts flanked by old Japanese cedars. Stone-paved steps, worn down under the tread of visitors, recall the temple’s long history.

Two structures open to the public throughout the year are the Butsunichian and Obaiin. The former has a tea room where tea and refreshments are served to visitors. The garden attached to the latter is a mass of Japanese apricot blossoms in February.

Tokeiji Temple (東慶寺), a 10-min. walk from Engakuji Temple, is a Zen temple founded in 1285. It was called a “divorce temple” in feudal days, as the only place of refuge for wives mistreated by their husbands. Nowadays, it is popular as a temple of flowers: the aforementioned apricot blossoms in mid-February, magnolias and peach blossoms in late March to April, peonies in late April to May, irises in mid-May to early June, and hagi (Japanese bush clover) in September.

Kenchoji Temple (建長寺), a 10-min. walk from Tokeiji Temple, is foremost among the Five Great Zen Temples, and is situated in a grove of magnificent Japanese cedar trees. Founded in 1253, the original buildings were damaged by several fires and the disasters. But many important structures and properties survive. A bronze bell cast in 1255 is designated a national treasure. Other highlights include the main hall, a Chinese gate, and a wooden figure of Tokiyori Hojo, the fifth Regent of the Kamakura Government. On view in the main hall, it is considered one of the finest examples of art in the Kamakura Period.



● Kenchoji Temple

Side trip from Kita-Kamakura

Ofuna Botanical Garden (フラワーセンター大船植物園) is a flower park filled with beautiful flowers in its open ground

and also in its green houses all year round. Hours : 9:00-17:00 (Mar. - Oct.) /-16:00 (Nov. - Feb.) Closed : Mon. & Dec. 28 - Jan. 4 Admission : 360 yen Access: 15-min walk from JR Ofuna Sta.

Kamakura Station Area

Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine (鶴岡八幡宮), a 10-min. walk from the station, ranks with the “Daibutsu” (Great Buddha) as one of Kamakura’s foremost tourist attractions.



● Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine

A pleasant stroll to the shrine leads one along Wakamiya Oji Street, which runs straight from the shrine to Yuigahama Beach. The street section between the second and third torii gates is somewhat elevated, and lined with cherry trees and azaleas that cast the shade of their leaves and flowers in season. This perspective lends a solemn impression to the shrine.

The stone-paved approach closer to the shrine begins at the third torii gate. Originally built in 1191, the shrine’s existing structure dates back to 1828. Its bright vermilion veneer creates a striking contrast with the subdued hues of its surroundings. Pass through the gate and cross the steeply arched bridge to view the Genji and Heike Ponds. White lotus blossoms float on the Genji Pond and red blossoms on the Heike Pond. Beyond the two ponds are the Lower worship hall in front and Wakamiya Shrine to the right. The colorful main hall stands at the top of 60 stone steps.

Komachi-dori Street is a very enjoyable shopping street that runs parallel to Wakamiya Oji Street. It is the best place for picking up beautifully crafted souvenirs.

During the New Year holidays, the shrine is packed with masses of people in their finest attire. In April, September and October the unique Yabusame festival, featuring feudal-period archers on horses, is staged in the shrine compound.



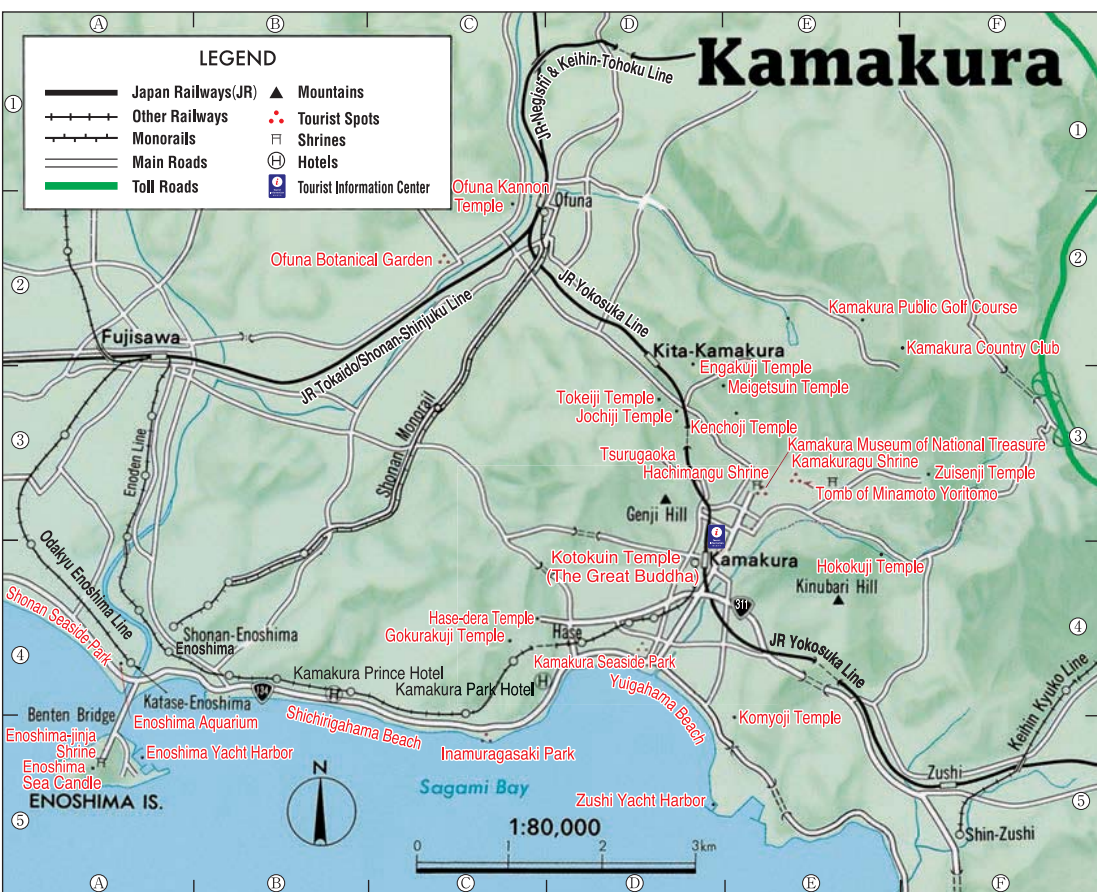
● Komachi-dori Street ©Kamakura City Tourist Association

Kamakura Museum of National Treasures (鎌倉国宝館) exhibits some 100 items of fine art, sculpture, arts and crafts, and historical documents. Built in 1928, the museum was constructed on the model of the Shosoin in Nara, resembling a large lighthouse on stilts. It is noted for its fine collection of Zen Buddhism artifacts and “ukiyo-e” (woodblock print) collection of more than 100pieces. Hours : 9:00-16:30 (enter by 16:00) Closed : Mon. (except national holidays) & the New Year’s holidays.

Hokokujii Temple (報国寺), a 30-min. walk from Kamakura Station is a Zen temple founded in 1334. The temple is famous for its beautiful bamboo garden.

Hase Station Area

Hase-dera Temple (長谷寺), a 5-min. walk from the station, apparently dates back to the year 736. On the outskirts of Kannonzan Hill stand the Kannondo and Amida Halls. The main hall houses a famed 11-headed gilt statue of Kannon, a goddess of mercy. This 9.18 m (30.1 ft) figure, seemingly carved in 721, is the tallest wooden image left in Japan. Another major feature is a gigantic temple bell cast in 1264. Designated an “Important Cultural Property,” this is the 3rd oldest temple bell in Kamakura. Yuigahama Beach can be viewed from the temple grounds.



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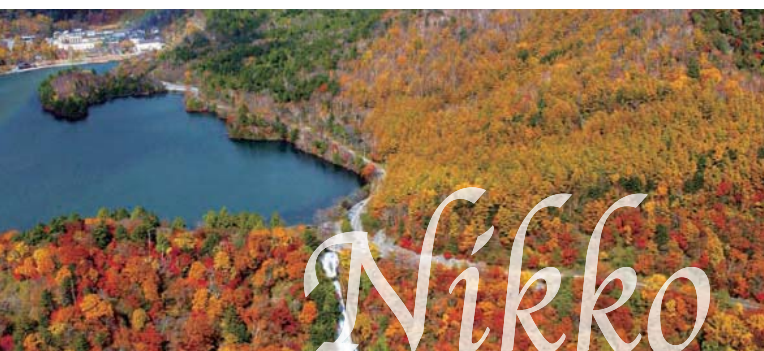
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Nikko National Park, about 2 hrs. by rail from Tokyo, is unmatched in its scenic beauty as a natural wonderland of rivers lakes and wooded highlands.

The city of Nikko is renowned worldwide for the magnificent architectural felicities of Nikko Toshogu and Futarasan-jinja Shrines and Rinnoji Temple, which together were designated the World Cultural Heritage in 1999. In this beautiful setting, Kegon Falls, Lake Chuzenji and stunning seasonal changes combine to attract many visitors to Nikko year-round.

This vast area has excellent facilities for sports and recreation, including hiking, camping, mountain climbing, boating, fishing, skiing and skating.

Mashiko, a charming pottery town, can be visited en route.

CLIMATE

Nikko National Park has a high-altitude mountain climate. The summer heat is not severe, with an average maximum temperature at 26°C (78°F). Winter brings snowfalls sufficient for skiing. Nikko’s forests put on dazzling displays of foliage colors in both spring and autumn.

HOW TO GET THERE

Nikko is easily reached from Tokyo by Japan Railway (JR) and Tobu Railway.

From Ueno Sta. / Tokyo Sta. (JR)

Takes 50 min. by Shinkansen to Utsunomiya and then 40 min. by local train to Nikko. Total fare is ¥5,350 including the Shinkansen charge.

From Asakusa Sta. (Tobu Railway)

Takes 1 hr. 50min. by limited express. The fare is ¥2,800 including the limited express charge. Reserved seats only. Reservation preferred. Or 2 hrs-2 hrs. 30 min. by rapid. The fare is ¥1,360. Unreserved seats only.

From Shinjuku Sta. (JR and Tobu Railway)

Takes 2 hrs. by limited express. Total fare is ¥4,000 including the limited express charge. Reserved seats only. Reservation preferred.

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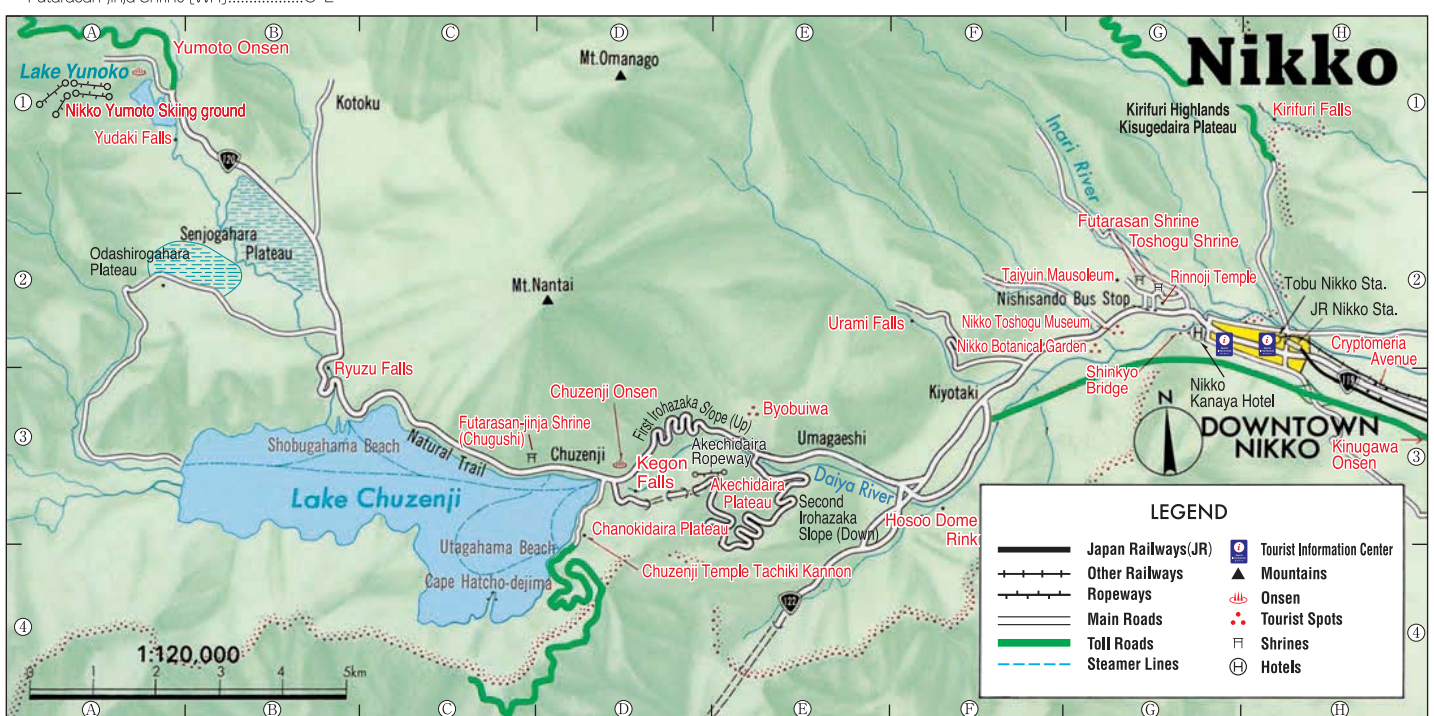
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Discount Pass

Tobu Railway offers several special discount passes for foreign tourist. **2 Day Nikko Pass** include one round trip between Asakusa and Shimoimaichi, discounts for admission to various rides and attractions and for the shops. Valid for two days. Adults:2,670 yen The limited express “SPACIA” surcharge is not included. More info.: <http://www.tobu.co.jp/foreign/en/pass/> Or Tobu Sightseeing Service Center (Tel.03-3841-2871)

SUGGESTED TOUR ROUTE

Nikko Sta. – 5 min. by bus or 15 min. walk – **Shinkyō Bridge** – 10 min. walk – **Rinnoji Temple** – 5 min. walk – **Nikko Toshogu Shrine** – 4 min. walk – **Futarasan-jinja Shrine** – 10 min. walk – **Nishi Sando Bus Stop** – 25 min. by bus via Irohazaka Winding Road – **Akechidaira** – 3 min. by ropeway – **Observatory** – 3 min. by ropeway – **Akechidaira** – 5 min. by bus – **Lake Chuzenji** (Chuzenji Onsen Bus Stop)– 5 min. walk – **Kegon Falls** – 40 min. sightseeing cruise on Lake Chuzenji (Spring-Autumn only) – 40 min. by bus – **Nikko Sta.**

WHAT TO SEE

Nikko Toshogu Shrine & Vicinity

Cedar Avenue (杉並木), 37 km (23 mi.) long, leads to Nikko Toshogu Shrine. It is lined on both sides with some 13,000 Japanese cedars planted three centuries ago.

Rinnoji Temple (輪王寺), is noted for its “Sambutsudo” main hall containing three gigantic figures: the Senju Kannon (Thousand-armed Goddess of Mercy) at right, Amida Nyorai at center, and Bato (Horse-capped) Kannon at left. On the hall’s northwest side is the Sorinto, a bronze pillar holding thousand volumes of holy sutras.

Taiyuin Mausoleum (家光廟大猷院), dedicated to Tokugawa

World Cultural Heritage: There are four historical properties (marked [WH] in the Index) in Nikko: Nikko Toshogu Shrine, Futarasan-jinja Shrine, Rinnoji Temple, and Shinkyō Bridge registered on the World Cultural and Natural Heritage list.

Iemitsu (1604 – 1651), the third Tokugawa Shogun, is a short distance to the west of Futarasan-jinja Shrine.

Nikko Toshogu Shrine (日光東照宮), dedicated to Tokugawa Ieyasu (1542 – 1616), the founder of the Tokugawa Shogunate, was constructed by his son Hidetada in 1636. This synthesis of Buddhist and Shinto architecture includes a five-story pagoda, belfry, drum tower, torii gate, sacred cistern and oratory. The Five-Story Pagoda stands to the left of a huge stone gate which is the first entrance to the shrine. The 35 m (115 ft.) pagoda is lacquered in red and gold, with the doors painted a striking black. Next is the Buddhist-style Nio (Two Deva Kings) Gate which serves as the main entrance to the shrine. Deva Kings are considered the Buddhist guardians of the shrine. Near the gate is the Sacred Stable, bearing on its eaves the celebrated three monkeys who signify “hear no evil, speak no evil, see no evil.”

The most fascinating of all Toshogu structures is the two-story **Yomeimon Gate** (陽明門). It is small at only 30 sq. m (36.6 sq. yds.), but leads all others in complexity of construction and in the splendor of its carvings and other decorations. It is also called “Higurashi-no-mon” (Gate of the Setting Sun), implying that it could grip one’s fixed attention till twilight falls.

Nikko Futarasan-jinja Shrine (日光二荒山神社), located between Nikko Toshogu Shrine and the Taiyuin Mausoleum, is the oldest complex in the district, dating from 767. It includes 23 buildings designated as Important Cultural Properties.

Shinkyō Bridge<the sacred bridge> (神橋), is vermilion lacquered sacred bridge over the Daiya River and entrance of sanctuary Nikko. This bridge belongs to Futarasan-jinja Shrine and is designated as an Important Cultural Property. In addition, it was registered as the World Heritage in December 1999. Shinkyō Bridge is the oldest bridge in Japan in terms of drawbridge style built over the gorge.

Nikko Botanical Garden (日光植物園), 10 min. by bus from Nikko Sta., contains about 2,200 varieties of plants, including many Nikko alpine flora. Near the garden is the **Nikko Tamozawa Imperial Villa Memorial Park** (日光田母沢御用邸記念公園). There stands a three-story copper-shingled building, which was once an Imperial Villa.



● Nikko Toshogu Shrine

Lake Chuzenji & Vicinity

Irohazaka Drive (いろは坂), starting from Umagaeshi, spirals up the mountain and over to Lake Chuzenji. This about 16-km roadway with its numerous hairpin curves combines a thrilling drive with breathtaking views of Nikko’s natural beauty.

Akechidaira (明智平), 35 min. by bus from Nikko Sta. commands a bird’s-eye view of the national park. From this observation spot, reached by cable car, Mt. Nantai, Lake Chuzenji, Kegon Falls and their entire surroundings can be viewed.

Kegon Falls (華厳ノ滝), 97m (318 feet) in height, is one of Japan’s finest waterfall. It originates from Lake Chuzenji. Flanking the main cascade are twelve minor falls called the Juni-Taki, adding further splendor to the scene. In winter, the frozen falls create a different kind of visual delight. Go down by elevator to the lookout point at the base of the gorge to see the falls plummeting downward.

Lake Chuzenji (中禅寺湖) lies at the foot of Mt. Nantai. It is 1,269 m (4,163 feet) above the sea and 25 Km (15.5 mi.) in circumference. The water is a beautiful indigo blue. Formed by a lava flow from Mt. Nantai which blocked the Daiya River, the lake has a shoreline which follows the river’s winding contours. The lake and its environs form a year-round holiday resort. Because of its high altitude, it is an ideal summer retreat. Tinted maples in autumn and skiing in winter attract a constant flow of visitors.

Mt. Nantai (男体山), north of Lake Chuzenji, 3-4 hrs. climb. alt.2,486 m (8,156 feet). The trail is open to climbers from early May through late October.

Shobugahama Beach (菫葎ガ浜), 20 min. by bus along the lake’s north shore from Chuzenji Onsen, is ideal for camping, swimming and hiking in the summer season.

Senjogahara Plateau (戦場ヶ原), a vast marshy plateau, stretches from the lake’s northwestern shore to the west of Mt. Nantai. It is noted for unique alpine plants.

Around Nikko

Kinugawa Onsen (鬼怒川温泉) is a popular hot spring resort with many large-capacity, multi-storied ryokan or Japanese inns. Minshuku or family lodgings are also available. Trips on the Kinu River by man-oared boat are operated from mid. April through late November. A nice nature trail is laid out in Ryukyo Gorge, 10 min. by bus from Kinugawa Onsen Sta.

Edo Wonderland (江戸ワンダーランド) is an amusement park which reproducing Edo Period culture and Life. Hands-on experiences



● Image of The Great Buddha ©Kamakura City Tourist Association

FOLK ARTS AND CRAFTS

Kamakura-bori, a craft with a 800-year tradition, is a fine local product chiseled in hardwood and repeatedly lacquered in black and vermilion. Good souvenirs for tourists are trays, cake boxes and hand mirrors.

Shishigashira, a lion-head lucky charm with two small wood plates, is sold at Kamakuragu Shrine. It is believed that the lion will bring a fortune by eating a demon.

ANNUAL EVENTS

April (from 2nd Sun. to 3rd Sun.): Kamakura Matsuri features a procession of people dressed in ancient costumes, and open-air tea ceremony, Japanese dances and Yabusame horseback archery.

Early August: Bonbori Matsuri (Lantern Festival) at Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine. Some 400 lanterns stand on the grounds, and when lighted at night create a fantastic ambience.

September 14-16: Reitaisai (Annual Ritual) of Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine, highlighted by a *Mikoshi* (Portable Shrine) parade and Yabusame horseback archery on the 16th.

September 18: Menkake Gyoretsu or masked parade of men wearing grotesque and comic masks.



● Yabusame horseback archery (Kamakura Festival at Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine in April)

Nikko

are available <http://edowonderland.net/en/> **Tobu World Square** (東武ワールドスクエア) displays 1/25 replicas of famous and historical architectural structures from around the world. <https://www.tobuws.co.jp/en/>

Mashiko (益子), 1 hr. by bus from Utsunomiya Sta. is the home of Mashiko-yaki, a typical rustic pottery admired for its fresh simplistic beauty. About 260 kilns turn out local ware. The late Shoji Hamada, designated as “Living National Treasure,” built a kiln in this town in 1930 and introduced Mashiko ware throughout Japan. Pottery lessons are given at some kilns. Try your hand at the wheel and make a tea cup or tray.

FOLK ARTS AND CRAFTS

Nikko-bori, or wood-carving in Nikko style, is a local specialty. Its designs are based on those seen in the sculptures at Nikko Toshogu Shrine. Peonies, crysanthemums, irises, orchids and Japanese apricot blossoms are among the popular subjects carved in trays or small bowls.

Miniature tea ceremony utensils made of wood make good souvenirs, and are sold near the Shinkyō Bridge.

ANNUAL EVENTS

January 4: Mhashai, an archery rite held at Futarasan-jinja Shrine.

April 13-17: Yayoi Matsuri, the annual festival of Futarasan-jinja Shrine, features a parade of gaily decorated floats.

May 16-17: Spring Festival of Nikko Toshogu Shrine, featuring the *Sennin Gyoretsu* (Thousand People Procession) comprised of various groups of people in ancient costumes.

Early August: Waraku Odori, a summer folk dance held at Kiyotaki in Nikko City.

October 16-17: Autumn Festival of Nikko Toshogu Shrine, featuring the same grand procession as the Spring festival.



● Sennin Gyoretsu, Thousand People Procession with samurai armors on