

SIGHTSEEING

Popular destinations for fall foliage and historical sites close to Tokyo

KAMAKURA was the seat of a feudal government during the Kamakura Period (1192-1333). Fortified by wooded mountains from three sides and the Sagami Bay to the south, the city boasts many historical treasures in a rustic setting. The best way to enjoy a tour of Kamakura is by exploring on your own. Among the highlights are the 13-meter-high bronze statue of the Great Buddha, the magnificent Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine, the tranquil and dignified Zen Buddhist temples, such as Engakuji Temple and Kenchoji Temple, and the picturesque Enoshima Island off the coast. There are also many restaurants and souvenir shops.

★ Best time for fall foliage is from late Nov. to early Dec.



Access: 1 hour by JR Yokosuka Line from Tokyo (¥890) or 1 hour by JR Shonan-Shinjuku Line from Shinjuku (¥890)



The Great Buddha at Kotoku-in Temple (above) Hasedera Temple in autumn (illuminated Nov. 20-Dec. 5 from sunset to 7 p.m.)
KAMAKURA CITY TOURIST ASSOCIATION

Kamakura Enoshima Free Kippu is a round-trip ticket from any station on the JR Yamanote Line in Tokyo with unlimited rides on the JR and Enoden lines and the Shonan Monorail in the Kamakura and Enoshima area.

Enoshima Kamakura Free Pass is a round-trip ticket from any station on the Odakyu Line to Fujisawa, with unlimited rides on the Enoden and Odakyu lines in the Kamakura and Enoshima area.

Seasonal events:

Kamakura Takigi Noh (open-air torchlight noh performance) Oct. 8-9 (5 p.m.-8 p.m.) at Kamakuragu Shrine. Tickets cost ¥6,000 (reservations required). Call 0467-23-3050.

Juya Hoyo (10-night memorial service) Oct. 12-15 at Komyoji Temple. An annual celebration, consisting of three days and three nights of uninterrupted sutra chanting.

Shichi-Go-San Nov. 15 at Tsurugaoka Hachimangu, Kamakuragu and other shrines. A traditional Japanese rite of passage and festival for girls at the age of 3 and 7 and for boys at age 5.

HAKONE is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Japan due to its historical significance and natural landscapes, and because it is the closest *onsen* (hot springs) resort area to Tokyo. During the Edo Period (1603-1867), Hakone was a very important checkpoint along the Tokaido route that connected Edo (present-day Tokyo) and Kyoto.

Among the sightseeing highlights is riding the Hakone Ropeway, which allows visitors to take in the spectacular scenery of the crystal-clear waters of Lake Ashinoko, the rising volcanic fumes of Owakudani and the grandeur of Mount Fuji. Another recommendation is Sengokuhara Plains, which is covered with golden-colored Japanese pampas in October. For art lovers, Hakone is home to various museums, such as the Hakone Open-Air Museum, the Pola Museum of Art and the Venetian Glass Museum.

★ Best time for fall foliage is early Nov. to early Dec.



The Hakone Ropeway over Owakudani in autumn with Mount Fuji (above)
HAKONE ROPEWAY
Sengokuhara Plains covered with Japanese pampas
HAKONE TOWN TOURIST ASSOCIATION

Seasonal event:

Hakone Daimyo Gyoretsu (Feudal Lord's Procession) Nov. 3 at Yumoto Onsen. A procession of around 170 people dressed up as samurai warriors and princesses parade over a distance of 6 km in the hot springs town. The suite of retainers, armed with a spear, bow and arrow, or gun, march on as they carry their lord in the palanquin while those leading the procession chant words meaning, "Down! Down! The Lord comes!"

Access:

85-min. by Odakyu Limited Express Romance Car from Shinjuku to Hakone-Yumoto (¥2,020; seat reservation required), or 90-min. by Odakyu Express from Shinjuku to Odawara and then 15-min. by Hakone Tozan Railway to Hakone-Yumoto (total ¥1,150)

Hakone Free Pass is a special ticket that covers travel to and from Hakone, plus unlimited use of transportation facilities within Hakone. For more information, see www.odakyu.jp/english

NIKKO in Tochigi Prefecture has been a popular pilgrimage spot since Toshogu Shrine was built in 1617, dedicated to Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543-1616), the founder of the Tokugawa Shogunate. Toshogu is one of the most lavishly decorated shrines in Japan and, together with Futarasan Shrine and Rinnoji Temple, composes the Shrines and Temples in Nikko, designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Its scenic natural setting, with mountains, lakes, hot springs and waterfalls, is famous for the beautifully colored autumn leaves. Among the highlights are the 97-meter-high Kegon-no-Taki waterfall and Lake Chuzenji at the foot of Mount Nantai.

★ Best time for autumn leaves is from mid-Oct. to early Nov.

Seasonal events:

Shuki Taisai (Grand Autumn Festival) Oct. 16-17 at Nikko Toshogu Shrine. The main attraction is a grand procession on Oct. 17, consisting of one *mikoshi* (a portable shrine) and a train of about 1,000 men dressed in samurai costumes (known as Hyakumono-Zoroe Sennin Gyoretsu). Also, on Oct. 16, there is the performance of *yabusame*, a contest combining equestrian skills and *kyudo* (Japanese-style archery).

Access: 110-min. by Tobu Railways Limited Express Kegan or Kinu from Asakusa to Tobu-Nikko (¥2,620; reservations required), or 150-min. by Tobu Railways from Asakusa to Tobu-Nikko (¥1,150), or 50-min. by JR Shinkansen Express Yamabiko from Tokyo to Utsunomiya (reserved seats ¥4,800; unreserved ¥4,290) and then 40-50 min. by JR local trains from Utsunomiya to Nikko (¥740)

The World Heritage Pass is a round-trip ticket between Asakusa and Nikko by Tobu Railways with unlimited rides on Tobu trains and buses within the designated area.



Rinnoji Temple in autumn (above) NIKKO TOURIST ASSOCIATION
Kegon-no-Taki waterfall JAPAN NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANIZATION



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No.1 Tokyo Morning Tour

Enjoy a vivid atmosphere in the hustle and bustle of the fish market and a divine atmosphere of esoteric ritual service!

Tour
Tuesday, October 19, 2010

Meeting Time & Place
9:00 a.m. Tsukijishijo Station → Visit to the fish market (no tuna auction) → Monzen-nakacho Station → Fukagawa Fudo Temple → Tomioka Hachiman 12:30 p.m. Tour disbands.

No.2 Tokyo Morning Tour

Discover something new in two popular spots in Tokyo!

Tour
Thursday, November 11, 2010

Meeting Time & Place
9:00 a.m. Otemon of Imperial Palace → San-no-maru Shozou Kan (Museum) → Higashi Gyoen (East Garden) → Yasukuni Shrine 1:00 p.m. Tour disbands.

Details of free guided tours

- Maximum number of participants: 25
- Eligibility Requirements: Japan Times subscribers
Max 3 people per application.
Under 15 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.
- Tour Fee: Free except for transportation fees and entrance fees.
- Selection Method: Lottery
Those not selected are entered into a second lottery in which 10 people will win a Hato Bus Tour (Cityrama Tokyo Morning).
- Deadline: Tour No. 1: October 12, 2010
Tour No. 2: November 4, 2010
- Meeting Place: Tour starting place.
- Application Method: The Japan Time Online
<https://form.japantimes.co.jp/special-issue/>
- Inquiries: <https://form.japantimes.co.jp/special-issue/inquiries.html>

Hello, everyone. I am quite interested in the history and culture of Japan. I passed the certification exams on history and culture of the following old cities:
1. Edo (present Tokyo) 2. Kamakura (capital city about 800 years ago) 3. Nara (the oldest capital city, about 1,300 years ago; placed on World Cultural Heritage list) 4. Kanazawa (the city of the Maeda clan, the biggest local lord during the Edo period) 5. Nikko (famous for its gorgeous shrines and temples; placed on World Cultural Heritage list).

One of the most popular tours of mine is a One-Day Walking Tour in Tokyo and vicinity with only your friends and families (only one group). Friends who are guides are also available for this tour.
Please contact **Susumu Yoshida** yoshi-su@ops.dti.ne.jp

I have been a housewife most of my life, however, I think one of my essences as a guide was fostered during so-called "Yomeiri Shugyo" (valuable training for finding a good husband): To master tea ceremony, flower arrangement, sewing kimono and Western clothes; cooking; how to clean rooms; calligraphy; playing Japanese musical instruments and so on. I am also sure that my long-term volunteer activities gave me enough historical and cultural knowledge for my own country. "Seeing is believing" is my favorite saying, so I do hope every visitor has a good time in Japan. My walking tour "Ukiyo-e Museum and Shinto Shrine" is on the JGA Walking Tour site.
Please contact **Tomie Shibata** y.shibata@sweet.ocn.ne.jp

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