

# Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park

National Parks of Japan



In Japan, a “National Park” is a place that has been designated by the national government in accordance with the National Park Act as exemplifying the natural scenic beauty of Japan. Ranging from Rebus Island in the north to Hateruma Island and the Ogasawara Islands in the south, there are 34 National Parks in the country, visited by over 300 million people per year. Besides having picturesque natural landscapes, National Parks are treasure troves of wild flora and fauna, history, culture, and more. Japan’s National Parks include a diverse range of environments — everything from forests to farms and villages. Visitors can not only see places nearly untouched by human hands, but also experience the history and culture of communities where people’s lives are interwoven with nature. Visit a National Park to fully experience Japan’s natural beauty with all its seasonal variations.

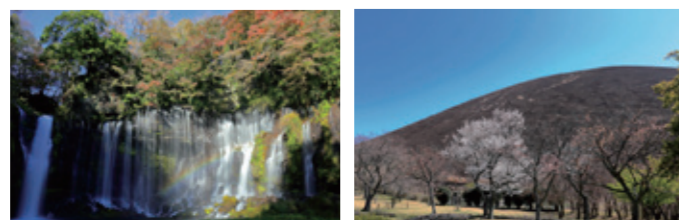
## Geological Features and Landscape



**| Mount Fuji**  
Mount Fuji is a stratovolcano that has a nearly symmetrical shape no matter where it is viewed from. With an elevation of 3,776 meters, it is the highest mountain on the Japanese archipelago. It is surrounded by over 70 volcanoes including Mount Hōei and Mount Ōmuro (satellite volcanic cones on the mountainside and foothills), the lava flows from which have had a profound influence on the formation of Mount Fuji’s surrounding landscape, including forests, caves, and Fujigoko, the “Five Lakes of Fuji” (Lake Yamanakako, Kawaguchiko, Saiko, Shojiko, and Motosuko).

**| Hakone**  
Mount Hakone is the name of a complex of mountains comprising a calderas that was formed by repeated eruptions occurring over a period of about 400,000 years. Several mountains, including Mount Kintoki and Mount Mikuni, make up the outer rim of the calderas. About 3,000 years ago, there was a steam-blast eruption from the central volcanic cone, of which Mount Kami is the highest peak. This caused Hayakawa River to dam up, forming Lake Ashi and the Sengokuhara marshland. The volcanic valley of Ōwakudani created by the landslide from the eruption still emits gases to this day. But it is thanks to this volcanic activity that there is such a wide variety of natural hot springs in the area.

**| Izu Peninsula**  
Today the Izu Peninsula is connected to Japan’s main island



Shiraito Falls

Mount Ōmuro after controlled burning



## Features

### Volcanoes Stretching from the Pacific Islands to Mount Fuji — A Diverse Landscape Created by Volcanic Landforms and Local Culture

Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park is located on the Pacific side of the “Fossa Magna” rift. Home to sacred Mount Fuji, the highest mountain on the Japanese archipelago and a national symbol, it is one of the most well-known National Parks in Japan. The park has a deep connection with the local cultural traditions of mountain worship and *onsen* (natural hot springs), and a distinctive landscape created by richly varied volcanic landforms. The park consists of four areas: the Mount Fuji area, where the foothills of the strato-volcano stretches for hundreds of kilometers; the Hakone calderas, which has been a busy stop for travelers since the days of old; the Izu Peninsula, a place blessed with beautiful forest and coastal landscapes that was an island in the ancient past; and the Izu Islands, volcanic islands each with unique natural landscapes and ways of life. With so much to offer and conveniently located near Tokyo, it is the most visited National Park in Japan. And thanks to measures to maintain its scenery and preserve its natural environment, visitors can enjoy a wide range of experiences among its diverse landscapes.



of Honshu, but once it was a group of submarine volcanoes and volcanic islands in the South Pacific. The volcanoes and islands slid northward on the Philippine Sea Plate until they collided with Honshu, forming its present shape. Diastrophic movement continues to this day. The volcanic activity created Suruga Bay (Japan’s deepest bay), Izu’s beautifully sculpted coastline, distinctive cinder cones such as Mount Ōmuro, the gently shaped Amagi mountains, and gushing hot springs throughout the peninsula.

**| Izu Islands**  
The Izu Islands are a group of volcanic islands that dot the Pacific Ocean south of Tokyo, thought never to have been connected to Japan’s main island of Honshu. Each one is unique. The islands of Niijima, Shikine, and Kozu feature white-sand beaches created by lava made of whitish, highly viscous rhyolite, which contrasts with the landscapes of the other islands that are composed mainly of blackish, highly fluid basalt. The still volcanically active islands of Ōshima and Miyake feature a wide range of volcanic landforms created by both new and old lava flows, and you can see the ecological succession of vegetation resulting from the eruptions — creating a diverse landscape that transitions from desolate sparsely vegetated areas to ancient forest. Toshima Island and Mikura Island, which have not been volcanically active for years, feature cliffed coasts created by erosion, while Hachijō Island is the result of two volcanoes from different geological periods fusing together.



Nambara Senjojita Coast, Hachijō Island

Habushiura Beach, Niijima Island

## Ecosystems, Flora and Fauna

### | Mount Fuji

Mount Fuji features a vertical distribution of flora that varies depending on the elevation. At the foot of the mountain there are Japanese beech and other broad-leaved deciduous trees, which gradually changes to coniferous evergreen trees such as fir, then to subalpine trees like native Japanese larch, and finally to the sparsely vegetated volcanic summit. Since it is a relatively new volcano with a single peak, it differs from other mountains like the Minami Alps in that it lacks clusters of Siberian dwarf pine, but the habitat suitable for alpine plants is thought to be gradually expanding upwards.

### | Hakone

The Hakone region features a natural forest consisting mainly of broad-leaved deciduous trees such as Japanese zelkova and Japanese beech. There are also plants unique to the Fuji-Hakone region such as *sanshō-bara rose* and Fuji cherry. Depending on the elevation, you can also see evergreen trees like Japanese evergreen oak. And precious hygrophytes can be seen in the Sengokuhara marshland, a nationally designated Natural Monument. Due to its diverse flora, Hakone has been a leading location for taxonomic surveys, so there are many plants and animals containing the name Hakone, such as *Hakone kome-tsutsuji* (rhododendron) and *Tribolodon hakonensis* (ugui redfin dace).



Fuji thistle (*Cirsium purpuratum*)



Fuji cherry (*Cerasus incisa*)



Japanese Beech Forest on the Amagi Trail



(Swimming with) Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin

## Culture and Community



### | Mount Fuji

Mount Fuji has inspired awe as a sacred mountain and as a volcano since time immemorial. It has been worshipped as a god since ancient times, and was a popular pilgrimage site in the Edo Period (1603 - 1868). The mountain’s graceful form has had a profound influence on both Japanese aesthetics and Western art, such as Katsushika Hokusai’s masterpiece series of ukiyo-e paintings, Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji. Recognized as both a sacred place and source of artistic inspiration, it was inscribed on the World Cultural Heritage list on June 22, 2013.

### | Hakone

Hakone was gradually developed over hundreds of years into a natural hot spring resort and a sacred site for mountain worship centering around Hakone Shrine. During the Edo Period (1603 - 1868), a highway was rebuilt through the area as it was a key hub for transportation between eastern and western Japan, and *sekisbo* checkpoints were established on the southern bank of Lake Ashi. Since then Hakone has continued to grow as a scenic vacation spot. In 2012 it was certified as a Japanese Geopark in recognition of its unique volcanic landforms, diverse flora and fauna, and distinctive culture and industries.

### | Izu Peninsula

During the Edo Period (1603 - 1868), Izu was under direct control of the shogunate. Stone used to build the walls of



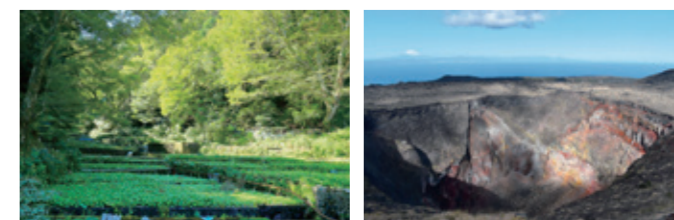
Cedar Avenue, Motohakone

Kaijanzai (Ceremony to Open Mount Fuji Climbing Season)

Edo Castle came from Izu, and important structures such as Egawa Residence (the home of the region’s hereditary magistrate) and the Nirayama Reverberatory Furnaces still remain. The peninsula has inspired many works of literature, including Yasunari Kawabata’s The Dancing Girl of Izu. It also has thriving agricultural and forestry industries: Its unique forestry culture is evidenced by *orei-sugi*, Japanese cedars planted in logged areas as an expression of gratitude to the forest, and today *wasabi* is grown locally in its crystal-clear waters. Recognized for its diverse geological resources and efforts to preserve the culture and natural landscape that has developed in this environment, Izu Peninsula was certified as a UNESCO Global Geopark in 2018.

### | Izu Islands

The communities living on the Izu Islands have uniquely adapted to the volcanic environment of the islands. One example is *kusaya*, a fermented and dried fish made with specially preserved brine inherited for generations to save the precious resources of water and salt. Niijima Island produces a type of pumice called *kōga-seki* that is used to make glass products and building material. Hachijō Island makes a traditional fabric called *kibachijō*. Ōshima Island is home to Mount Mihara, one of Japan’s few active basalt volcanoes, and was certified as a Japanese Geopark in 2010 in recognition of its efforts in monitoring, disaster management, and tour guiding.



Wasabi field on Mount Amagi

Mount Mihara, Ōshima Island



## Conservation Efforts

- Environment-friendly Park Use Promotion -  
At Mount Fuji, the Ministry of the Environment, Shizuoka Prefecture, Yamanashi Prefecture, related municipalities and mountain lodges, etc. are working together to implement the following environmental measures of safety use promotion.

- Provide information on environmental considerations, preparation for safe climbing and spread awareness
- Maintaining environmentally conscious public toilets and mountain lodge toilets.
- Private car restrictions to starting points of mountain trails

- Maintaining the landscapes -  
In the national parks, there are regulations on the size, color, and shapes of man-made structures so that they do not affect the natural landscapes. For example in the Hakone area, the colors of the signboards are all brown with white letters to suit the surroundings better.

- Park Volunteer Activities -  
In the Hakone area, there are park volunteers who provide nature commentaries to help promote environmental protection as well as park use. On a daily basis, they contribute by collecting and sharing information on nature, cleaning and beautification activities, doing safety checks of the mountain trails and minor maintenance and repairs, and conducting wildlife surveys.

- Collaboration with Geoparks -  
There are three certified Japanese Geoparks within this national park - Hakone, Izu Peninsula, and Izu Ōshima Islands. We collaborate to promote conservation and use of the environment through hosting nature walks looking at geological sites etc.

## National Parks Etiquette

Please be mindful of the nature and others and observe the following rules while in the national park, so that everyone can enjoy.

- Do not litter.
- No smoking is permitted while walking.
- Do not pick flowers and plants.
- Bonfires shall be built within the designated area only.
- Do not feed any wildlife.
- Do not collect lava rocks.
- Do not catch/capture any wildlife.
- Please camp in designated camping areas only.

In addition, some areas within the park have rules and manners specific to those areas. Please follow these guidelines, rules, and manners so that everybody can enjoy the park.

- The Mount Fuji Charter (Shizuoka prefecture, Yamanashi prefecture)



- Guidelines for securing safety during climbing Mount Fuji (Council for promotion of the proper use of Mount Fuji)



- Guidelines for Visiting Miyake Island (Miyakejima village, Tokyo)



- Mikura Island Eco-tourism (Mikurajima village, Tokyo)



\* Please note that the highlights & guide map’s purpose is to show an overview of the designated area; therefore, a margin of error shall be allowed.



Also known as the "Sea of Trees," Aokigahara is a primeval forest that has grown over a hardened lava flow caused by the Jogan eruption around 1,200 years ago. There is a hiking course where you can enjoy a light stroll through the forest. Unusual caverns called "lava tree molds" can be found in the forest, some even large enough to enter.



There is so much to see on Mount Fuji — from the ancient remains used in the worship of Mount Fuji to the unequalled vistas from the summit such as the sea of clouds, the sunrise, and its shadow or reflection on the nearby lake. Other highlights include Sengen Taisha Okumiya Shrine, Kusushi-jinja Shrine, Kengamine Peak, the sacred water of the Kinmei-sui and Ginmei-sui wells, Tora-iwa ("Tiger Rock"), and Kaminari-iwa ("Thunder Rock").



The highest peak on the Hakone calderas, Mount Kintoki is the stage for the well-known Kintaro legend. Visitors can learn about the legend at the shrine and other places in the foothills where the trailheads to its peak are located. The summit offers an amazing view of Mount Fuji and Sengokuhara.



Sengokuhara features a marshland with rare plants and animals, and fields of silvergrass that is harvested to use for tools, ornamental grasses, and other purposes. The silvergrass is preserved and maintained by yearly controlled burnings and cutting.



Once called ōjokko (or "Great Hell"), Owakudani valley still spouts volcanic gasses from its slopes. Sparsely vegetated with hardy plants such as a kind of reindeer lichen and rhododendrons that have adapted to its harsh environment, the valley has a distinctive desolate landscape.



Located on the southern bank of Lake Ashi, Motohakone offers a spectacular view of the giant Shinto torii on the water and Mount Fuji. Highlights include Hakone Shrine, and the remains of Hakone Checkpoint, Sugi Cedar Avenue with its 300-year-old trees, and a stone-paved road on the old Edo-era highway.



The Amagi Juso hiking trail is a richly varied route that runs from Mount Amagi past Hacho Pond to the mountain ridge in the western part of the Izu Peninsula. On the top of the ridge there is field of *sasa* bamboo that provides a panoramic view of the coastline of western Izu and Suruga Bay with Mount Fuji and the Hakone mountains in the background.



The "Ōdoriko" hiking trail (named after Yasunari Kawabata's novel, The Dancing Girl of Izu) takes you from Joren Falls along Amagi Pass to Yugano, passing the Kawazu Nanadaru Falls (a series of seven waterfalls) on the way. Walk along the suspension bridge and wooden footpath at Kawazu Nanadaru Falls and enjoy the diverse beauty of the valley all year round.



Cape Iro is a cape on the southernmost point of the Izu Peninsula's jagged cliffed coast. Located almost at the very end is Ishimuro Shrine. Nearby, Yusuge Park and Cape Aiagi offer a great view of Izu's magnificent cliffs and the Izu Islands.



Shikine Island's Tomari Beach was used as a natural harbor in the days of old. A fan-shaped inlet with gentle waves, it boasts crystal-clear waters and is a popular snorkeling spot.



Mount Tenjo is a 572-meter mountain on Kozu Island. The strong winds and fog have created an ideal environment for alpine and other plants, and fields of flowers stretch across the mountainside. The view of the Izu Islands from the summit has been selected as one of the "100 Views of New Tokyo."



The picturesque underwater seascape consists of complex seafloor features such as arches, tunnels, and sheer walls created by lava from volcanic activity, colonies of massive table coral, and many species of fish.

### 100 scenes with Mount Fuji

In February 2016, Fuji Hakone Izu National Park celebrated its 80th anniversary. Taking this opportunity to further promote Mount Fuji, a symbol of Japan, the Ministry of the Environment and local governments collaborated to create the "Top 100 Views of Mount Fuji" to showcase the locations in and around the park with the best scenic views of the mountain as part of the anniversary program. Fully experience the amazing natural scenery that creates "Diamond Fuji" and other phenomena, and the spectacular views of the diverse sea and mountain landscapes with Mount Fuji in the background.

<https://www.env.go.jp/park/fujihakone/topics/100.html>

From Fuji-Subaru Line 5th Station you can walk to Oniwa and Okuniwa (two areas that form natural gardens) on the Ochojō trail, the old pilgrimage route for Mount Fuji worshippers. Nearby you can see the magnificence of Mount Fuji throughout the year.



Located in the western foothills of Mount Fuji, Lake Tanuki is a picturesque setting with a campsite and nature information center. Every year around April 20 and August 20, you can see two spectacular views of Mount Fuji at the same time: "Diamond Fuji," when the sun goes behind the peak of the mountain and sparkles like a diamond, and "Sakasa Fuji," when the mountain is reflected upside down on the surface of the water.



The Shinto shrine on the cape, Ose Shrine, has a juniper grove that has been designated as a national Natural Monument. The grove includes giant trees that are over 1,000 years old. Connected with Suruga Bay where deep sea creatures live, the bay there is a great place for scuba diving.



### Information Facilities

	<b>Hakone Visitor Center</b> 164 Moto-Hakone 164, Hakone Town, Ashigarashimo County, Kanagawa Prefecture 250-0522 (TEL) 0460-84-9981 (URL) <a href="https://hakonevcs.sunnyday.jp/english/info/">https://hakonevcs.sunnyday.jp/english/info/</a>	E5
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	<b>Lake Tanuki Nature School</b> Saori 633-14, Fujinomiya City, Shizuoka Prefecture 418-0107 (TEL) 0544-54-5410	A4
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	<b>Yamanashi Prefectural Fujisan World Heritage Center</b> Kenmarubi 6663-1, Funatsu, Fuji-Kawaguchiko Town, Minami-Tsuru County, Yamanashi Prefecture 401-0301 (TEL) 0555-72-0259 (URL) <a href="https://www.fujisan-whc.jp/en/index.html">https://www.fujisan-whc.jp/en/index.html</a>	C2
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	<b>Shizuoka Prefectural Fujisan World Heritage Center</b> Miyachi 5-12, Fujinomiya Town, Minami-Tsuru County, Yamanashi Prefecture 418-0067 (TEL) 0544-21-3776 (URL) <a href="https://mfuji-whc.jp/en/">https://mfuji-whc.jp/en/</a>	B5
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	<b>Mori-no-Fureai Hall</b> Hakone 381-4, Hakone Town, Ashigarashimo County, Kanagawa Prefecture 250-0521 (TEL) 0460-83-6006	E5
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	<b>Hakone Geo-museum</b> 1F owakudani kuratanagakan black egg, sengokuhara 1251, Hakone Town, Ashigarashimo County, Kanagawa Prefecture 250-0631 (TEL) 0460-83-8140 (URL) <a href="http://www.hakone-geomuseum.jp/english/">http://www.hakone-geomuseum.jp/english/</a>	E5
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	<b>Izu Peninsula Geopark Museum GEORIA</b> Shuzenji synthesis hall, Syuzenji 838-1, Izu Town, Shizuoka Prefecture 410-2416 (TEL) 0558-72-0525	E8
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	<b>Showa-no-Mori Center</b> Yugashima 892-6, Izu Town, Shizuoka Prefecture 410-3206 (TEL) 0558-85-1110 (URL) <a href="http://kanko.city.izu.shizuoka.jp/e.jh.ptranser/form1.htm?c1=5&amp;c2=4&amp;pid=2490">http://kanko.city.izu.shizuoka.jp/e.jh.ptranser/form1.htm?c1=5&amp;c2=4&amp;pid=2490</a>	D9
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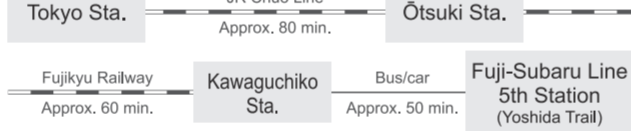
	<b>Hachijo Visitor Center</b> Okago 2843, Hachijo Town, Tokyo Metropolis 100-1401 (TEL) 04996-2-4811 (URL) <a href="https://www.kankyo.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/naturepark/english/kaw/shisetsu/visitorcenter/hatijo.html">https://www.kankyo.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/naturepark/english/kaw/shisetsu/visitorcenter/hatijo.html</a>	G11
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	<b>Izu Oshima Volcano Museum</b> Kandayashiki 617, Motomachi, Oshima Town, Tokyo Metropolis 100-0101 (TEL) 04992-2-4103	G2
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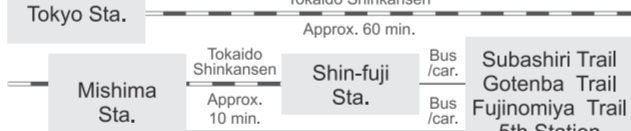
\* Please directly contact each facility for details such as the hours of operation, etc.

### Access Transportation

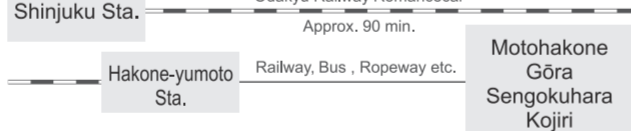
#### Mount Fuji - Yamanashi pref. Side -



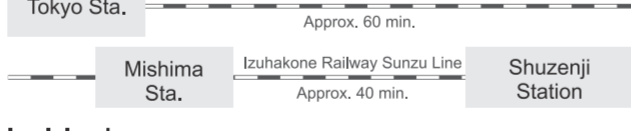
#### Mount Fuji - Shizuoka pref. Side -



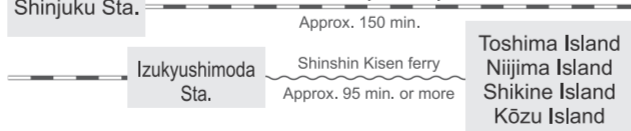
#### Hakone



#### Izu peninsula



#### Izu Islands



#### Takeshiba Port etc.



\* The Izu Islands can be reached by airplane from Chofu Airport (to Ōshima Island, Nijima Island, Kōzu Island, or Miyake Island) or Haneda Airport (to Hachijō Island). An island-to-island helicopter service is also available.

\* The access route above is an example. The time required for each section is an estimate only. Please contact each transportation company or check their websites for more information. Different opening time by mountain trail, please check information.



Please contact each responsible ranger office or regional environment office of the Ministry of the Environment for area details.