

There's Mt. Fuji! Eight Super-Scenic Spots of Hakone



Lake Ashi and Mt. Fuji by twilight

For the second consecutive year, readers of Condé Nast Traveler have voted Japan No. 1 in the "Top Countries in the World" category*. Hakone is one of Japan's top resort areas and boasts convenient access from Tokyo. This area is at its most beautiful during the season of autumn foliage, but winter is assuredly the best for those looking to avoid traffic and crowds, and enjoy Japan at a leisurely pace. Let's take a look at some of Hakone's winter attractions!

Hakone has numerous locations offering spectacular views of majestic Mt. Fuji. While you're sightseeing in Hakone and enjoying its hot springs and gourmet food, take the time to enjoy these views of Japan's tallest mountain. In winter, the air is purer and distant views are easier to appreciate. This is the season when Mt. Fuji is at its most beautiful.

* Source: <https://www.cntraveler.com/story/top-countries-in-the-world>

● SPOT 1: Hakone Komagatake Ropeway

The Hakone Komagatake Ropeway connects Hakone-en Resort Complex, on the shore of

Lake Ashi, to the summit of Mt. Komagatake. The gondolas travel 1,800 meters to the summit, where you'll find a panoramic observation point and Hakone Mototsumiya Shrine. Enjoy a "walk in the sky" as your gondola glides up the mountainside, covered with colorful alpine vegetation, as sparkling Lake Ashi falls away below you. From the summit, enjoy a stunning panoramic view of majestic Mt. Fuji to the northwest, with Suruga Bay and the Seven Islands of Izu, the Shonan Coast and the Boso Peninsula in the distance. Afterward, visit Hakone Mototsumiya Shrine, standing magisterially in the plaza—a hub of spiritual energy where mountain worship has been practiced since ancient times. For luck in everything from career to romance, tap into the shrine's power to fulfill your heart's desire.



Mt. Fuji seen from OwakudaHakone Komagatake Ropeway and Mt. Fujini

● SPOT 2: Owakudani

Volcanic gases rise from fumaroles dotting the desolate mountainside at Owakudani. Enjoy the unique scenery of this area, once called the Great Hell. On clear, cloudless days, you can see magnificent Mt. Fuji. Especially in winter, you can study the mountain to your heart's content from the panoramic observation point outside Owakudani Station. Don't forget to try the famous kurotamago (black eggs), an egg boiled in a hot spring pool that is said to add seven years to your life! The porous shells of eggs boiled in the geothermal ponds absorb minerals in the water, turning them black.



Mt. Fujii seen from Owakudani

● SPOT 3: Hakone Ropeway

This ropeway is popular for the spectacular views it affords as it travels through the sky. Between Owakudani and Togendai Stations, you can get a full view of Mt. Fuji from an elevation of over 700 meters above sea level. From Sounzan to Owakudani Stations, the floor of the volcanic gorge spreads below you. The gorge, visible from 130 meters above the ground, is breathtaking. Mt. Fuji, Lake Ashi,



Hakone Ropeway and Mt. Fuji

Sagami Bay and other Hakone scenery are yours to enjoy in a 360-degree panorama.

● **SPOT 4: Lake Ashi and Hakone Pirate Ship**

Lake Ashi offers panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and Mt. Fuji. Early mornings in winter are a work of art, with the waters of the lake reflecting beautiful Mt. Fuji like a mirror. Lake Ashi and Mt. Fuji, as well as Hakone Shrine's Gate of Peace, all symbols of Hakone scenery, can be seen from the Motohakone area. The Hakone Pirate Ship is also recommended for its views. A fine view of Mt. Fuji can be had from the ship, which travels from Motohakone-ko to Togendai Ports, when it approaches the Gate of Peace. Snow-clad Mt. Fuji is especially spectacular in winter.



Hakone Pirate Ship and Mt. Fuji seen from Lake Ashi

● **SPOT 5: Hotel de Yama**

Hotel de Yama offers one of the best locations on the shores of Lake Ashi. Mt. Fuji is visible from the garden, which is replete with flowers and plants in season. This is a full-fledged resort hotel where you can enjoy a luxurious stay far from the hustle and bustle of the city. Why not relax and unwind while gazing at Japan's tallest mountain? The garden is equipped with ramps, enabling wheelchair users and the elderly to explore with peace of mind.



Mt. Fuji seen from the garden of Hotel de Yama

* Photo: Azalea and Rhododendron Fair, held each May at Hotel de Yama.

● **SPOT 6: Onshi-Hakone Park**

Onshi-Hakone Park spreads out over the site of the former Hakone Palace. The park affords a spectacular view of Lake Ashi and the Hakone mountains around it. On clear days you can even see the peak of Mt. Fuji, leading the park to be selected as one of the Fifty Best Scenic Spots of Kanagawa. The view from the second-floor balcony of the Lakeside Panorama Hall, which is situated close to



Mt. Fuji seen from Onshi-Hakone Park

the center of the park, has remained unchanged since the days of Hakone Palace. Many tourists pause in the park to rest during their travels.

● SPOT 7: Narukawa Art Museum

Narukawa Art Museum has a collection of 4,000 beautiful modern Japanese-style paintings (Nihonga) displayed in rotation according to the four seasons. The popular Panorama Lounge, the museum's observation room, features a 50-meter-wide window with unobstructed views of Mt. Komagatake, Lake Ashi, Mt. Fuji and the Gate of Peace. The lounge joins to Museum Cafe Kisetsufu. After admiring the art collection, enjoy a light meal and coffee in the cafe while taking a leisurely look at Mt. Fuji.



Lake Ashi and Mt. Fuji from the Panorama Lounge, Narukawa Art Museum

People often associate Hakone with autumn, its landscapes adorned with autumn leaves and Japanese pampas grass fields. Yet, after the peak tourist season has passed, winter in Hakone is actually the best time to see Mt. Fuji. And it is also the best season for those in the know to sightsee while escaping the crowds. Be sure to visit Hakone, see Mt. Fuji from our lineup of super-scenic spots, and enjoy a special winter trip!

For more detailed Hakone tourist information, please visit our website and social media below.

- Website: HakoneJapan (<https://hakone-japan.com/>)
- Instagram: (https://www.instagram.com/hakone_japan/)
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