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## **A Winter Trip to Hakone Means Hot Springs! Four Secrets to Help You Enjoy Them**



Hot spring healing in the "Ukigumo" open-air infinity pool at Hakone Kowakien Ten-yu

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!.

Nothing symbolizes a winter journey in Japan like a hot spring, or onsen. Hakone-Yumoto Station can be reached in as little as 73 minutes from Shinjuku Station via Limited Express Romancecar. Whether you're looking to be healed by nature, enhance your own beauty, or detox in a sauna, you're sure to come away completely satisfied. In this article, we present four secrets to help you enjoy Hakone's winter hot springs.

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

## ● Secret 1: Let nature heal you

The feeling of freedom you can enjoy in one of Hakone's open-air baths, or rotenburo, is not to be missed. A relaxing soak under the sky, with spectacular views of the Hakone outer rim mountains, the Sengokuhara Plateau, and white-clad Mt. Fuji, is guaranteed to heal your body and soul. In winter, you may find the ground covered with snow, surrounding you in a silver world. Perhaps you'll have a chance to see Mt. Fuji crowned with snow, and see snowy scenery. In an onsen in winter, when the air is clear and you can see into the distance, you're sure to experience the allure of Hakone in a way you won't in any other season.



The "Ukigumo" open-air bath at Hakone Kowakien Ten-yu

## ● Secret No. 2: Gentle onsen waters are beauty magic

An onsen can do far more than just relieve your fatigue after a long journey. Hakone has nearly 20 different hot spring types, and many are especially beneficial for the skin. Some of these springs can benefit your metabolism and blood circulation. Choose one that best suits your skin type and aim for beauty inside and out. It is also perfect for the solo traveler—reward yourself.



Mt. Fuji from the open-air bath at Hotel Green Plaza Hakone

### Best hot springs for winter

#### ✓ Alkaline simple type

Recommended for those seeking beautiful smooth skin. With low amounts of minerals, this type of water is also gentle to the skin. Where to enjoy: Hakone Yuryo hot spring resort, Kansuiro Ryokan

#### ✓ Sulfur type

Looking for a brighter, clearer complexion? Sulfur-type hot springs can firm up your skin and promote melanin metabolism. Where to enjoy: Bihada no Yu (beautiful skin hot spring) Kinokuniya

#### ✓ Chloride type

For those with dry skin and sensitivity to cold. The sodium in the water creates a film that retards evaporation, preventing the skin from drying. In addition, the high heat retention of

the sodium means the water resists cooling. Where to enjoy: Shiki-no-Yuzashiki Musashino-Bekkan, Merveille Hakone Gora

**● Secret 3: Combine onsen exploration with your outings around Hakone**

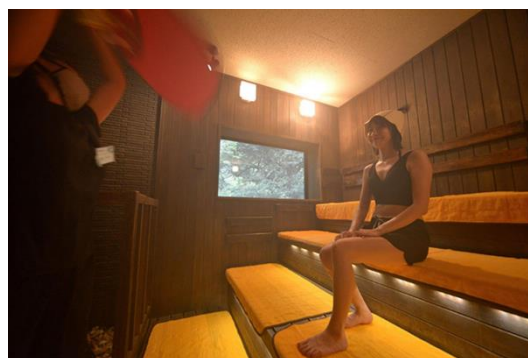
Hakone features gourmet food, art museums, wonderful natural vistas and so much more. Prime tourist areas include Hakone-Yumoto Station, Hakone's gateway, as well as Lake Ashi with its magnificent scenery. Wouldn't it be great if you could include some onsen warmth into your tour from one attraction to the next? Try a hot-spring day trip or Hakone's many footbaths. Enjoy a massage, a private room to rest and sweets and take in the scenery as you warm up in a footbath and share the experience on social media. Once you've mapped out the restaurants, museums and other spots you plan to visit, look for drop-in hot spring facilities and footbaths along the route. If you do some research before your trip, you'll save time after you arrive in Hakone.



Onsen footbath at Okada Museum of Art

**● Secret 4: Detox at one of Hakone's best-kept secrets—saunas**

Hakone's saunas are wonderful, yet surprisingly few know about them. Yumoto Fujiya Hotel, Yunosato-Okada and Hakone Yuryo are all excellent spots for a sauna experience. In Hakone, where the average temperature is lower than in Tokyo, the difference between the heat of the sauna and the outside air can be significant. It makes the cool-off time after your sauna more effective, and your body can relax more deeply. Whether you're looking to make your sauna debut or are a seasoned veteran, why not slow down and enjoy something truly out of the ordinary? Hakone offers saunas where you can commune with nature and enjoy delicious meals. It's the perfect way to reward yourself for all your hard work.



Löyly steam in a Hakone sauna

People often associate Hakone with autumn, its landscapes adorned with autumn leaves and Japanese pampas grass fields. Yet if you visit Hakone in winter when the peak tourist season has passed, not only can you avoid the crowds and enjoy sightseeing at a relaxed

pace, but also enjoy the hot springs from which you can see beautiful scenery in the distance through the crystal-clear air. There are so many ways to enjoy hot springs. Take a winter trip to Hakone and discover more!

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

Website: HakoneJapan (<https://hakone-japan.com/>)

Instagram: ([https://www.instagram.com/hakone\\_japan/](https://www.instagram.com/hakone_japan/))

Facebook: (<https://www.facebook.com/HakoneTravel/>)

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