

Hike the East Shore of Lake Ashi to Experience the Rich Natural Scenery of Hakone



The Hakone Sightseeing Cruise (Hakone Pirate Ship) and Red Gate of Peace (Heiwa no Torii) from the shores of Lake Ashi

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!.

Hiking is an excellent way to experience the abundance of nature in Hakone. Here, we introduce a hiking course that starts at Motohakone-ko and follows the eastern shoreline of Lake Ashi toward Owakudani. The total walking time is about two hours with little challenge. It is an easy way to enjoy the scenery while getting a little exercise. Along the way, there is a spot to take in a view of Mt. Fuji and other excellent places to stop at, including Hakone Shrine, Kuzuryu Shrine and Hakone-en Resort Complex. We recommend this invigorating, easy hiking course for its fresh air and spectacular views.

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

● Start hiking from Motohakone-ko

The starting point for this hiking course is Motohakone-ko. It is located about 32 minutes by Hakone Tozan Bus from Hakone-Yumoto Station, where the Hakone Pirate Ship docks. As you get off the bus, you will see the large torii, and beyond it, the majestic Hakone mountain range and hotels on the hill. There are many souvenir stores and restaurants at the bottom of the hill, creating an exciting touristy atmosphere.

Have a wonderful stroll at the edge of the lake before reaching the starting point of the hiking course! It's rare but possible to get a picture that frames the torii in the water with the pirate ship and Mt. Fuji in the background—only here. This pathway leading to Hakone Shrine is between the lake and the road; it offers a view of the glistening lake.



Townscape around Motohakone-ko while heading toward Hakone Shrine



Townscape around Motohakone-ko while heading toward Hakone Shrine

● On to Hakone Shrine, a power spot surrounded by tall trees beauty magic

The shrine is about a 15-minute walk from Motohakone-ko. The grounds are lined with tall cedars and the sunlight filtering through the trees creates a mystical atmosphere. It is also known as a power spot for the fulfillment of one's wishes and romantic relationships. The Red Gate of Peace (Heiwa no Torii) standing in the water is also a must-see. It is one of the best photo spots in Hakone, the brilliant vermillion of the torii stands out against the blue sky and lake. At Kuzuryu Shrine Shingu next to the main shrine, visitors can draw "divine" water from the mouth of the nine-headed dragon



Arriving at Hakone Shrine

god fountain. You can also buy a "romantic relationship pair amulet" for good luck in love at the souvenir stand near the parking lot.



The Red Gate of Peace appears to float on the lake



Goshinsui ("divine" water) at Kuzuryu Shrine



The popular souvenir "romantic relationship pair amulet"

● Hakone Kuzuryu-no-Mori Therapy Road for peaceful and calm walks

After enjoying Hakone Shrine, head to Hakone-en, a resort complex offering a wide range of activities and souvenir shops; take a break at one of the cafés or bakeries. There is a single road leads from Hakone-en to the forest named Hakone Kuzuryu-no-Mori Therapy Road. The road is lined with trees, and the sound of birds and rustling leaves is a pleasure to the ear. But now you can enjoy a quiet forest bathing experience. The lake will be on your left side, and you can gaze out to the other shore with the mountains in the background. After going just a short way, you will be surrounded by enormous cedar trees. The filtered sunlight and cool lakeshore breeze will put your mind and heart at ease.



Sunlight filtering through the trees on Therapy Road



Entrance to Therapy Road



View of Lake Ashi on the walk

● Lunch at Togendai View Restaurant

Once past Kuzuryu Shrine, you will arrive at the end of your lakeside walk at Togendai-ko. As a reward for your long walk, it would be a fine idea to have lunch at the Togendai View Restaurant, which offers a great view of the lake and sightseeing boats. A popular menu item is the Fluffy Rice Omelette with Mt. Fuji Salmon and Mushrooms (1,650 yen including tax) made with eggs and Koshihikari rice produced in Gotemba. The melt-in-



A popular dish, "Fluffy Rice Omelette with Mt. Fuji Salmon and Mushrooms"

your-mouth omelette and flavorful Mt. Fuji salmon are a perfect combination and will relieve any fatigue from the hike. Another popular dish is the Charcoal-Grilled Demi-Glace Hamburger Steak (1,760 yen including tax), made from Japanese Black Beef and Asagiri Highland yogurt-fed pork. After a hearty meal like this, you're sure to feel recharged. (Please note that the available dishes may change without notice.)

● The grand finale to your hike—taking the Hakone Ropeway to Owakudani

After a filling lunch, take the Hakone Ropeway from Togendai to Owakudani. From Togendai Station, the spectacular ride through the air takes about 20 minutes, giving you time to rest your legs, because you will start walking again when you arrive at Owakudani Station! The volcanic plumes of smoke and bare mountains with the scent of sulfur in the air provide a unique experience. On a clear day, you can even see Mt. Fuji.



Statue of kurotamago, a special Owakudani treat

From the viewing spots around the Kurotamago House (Owakudani Kurotamagokan), you can observe the white smoke rising from the fumaroles in the ground and appreciate the exposed reddish-brown soil and other rugged features of the desolate volcanic mountainside. This is a rare spot in Japan where you can see volcanic activity up close without climbing a steep mountain, allowing you to enjoy the dramatic scenery. Also, don't forget to try the famous kurotamago (black eggs), steamed and hard-boiled slowly in the natural sulfur hot spring. The taste has a rich flavor and a unique smell that lingers. It is also a great way to replenish your protein after hiking.



Observing the white smoke rising from the fumaroles



Take a picture of the egg by removing half the shell and holding it up to the sky

The route back should be planned flexibly, taking into consideration your physical condition and fatigue from the day. You can take the Hakone Ropeway to Togendai and return to Motohakone-ko by the Hakone Pirate Ship or walk on to Sounzan Station, where you can transfer to the Hakone Tozan Cable Car. The excellent transportation system in Hakone allows you to arrange an itinerary that suits your schedule. Discuss the options with your friends and enjoy the hiking trip to the very end.

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/)

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

For More Information Please Contact Us Bellow

Hakone Tourism Association

ADDRESS : Hakone Tourism Association, 256 Yumoto, Hakone-machi, Ashigarashimo-gun, Kanagawa Prefecture, 250-0398

PHONE : (+81)0460-85-8911 (English available)

