

Winter Views of Mt. Fuji from Hakone

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Discover the most breathtaking Mt. Fuji viewpoints from lakeside parks to volcanic summits in Hakone



The Magic of Mt. Fuji in Winter

There's something almost mystical about Mt. Fuji in winter. While Japan's iconic mountain is beautiful year-round, it's during the colder months that her true majesty shines. The air becomes crystal clear, the sky deepens to an endless blue, and Fuji's summit glistens with a perfect layer of snow.

Winter offers the sharpest, most photogenic views from Hakone with every ridge and shadow etched in light. For photographers and travelers seeking Japan's most unforgettable vistas, there's no better time to visit Hakone. Hakone is the scenic mountain resort area just two hours from Tokyo and one of the best places to see the famed mountain.

Set among rolling hills, hot springs, and volcanic valleys, Hakone is one of the best places to see Mt. Fuji in all her glory. On clear days, the mountain commands the skyline and at dusk the mountain blushes pink in the fading light. Here are three of Hakone's top spots to witness the full splendor of Mt. Fuji this winter.

1. Onshi-Hakone Park (Benten-no-Hana Observatory)

A timeless Fuji view framed by history and nature



The view from Benten-no-Hana Observatory — a perfect composition of lake, forest, and Fuji.

If one place embodies the classic Fuji view, it's Onshi-Hakone Park. Once the site of the Imperial summer villa, the park now welcomes visitors with beautifully landscaped gardens, walking paths, and panoramic lookouts over Lake Ashi and Mt. Fuji beyond. From the Benten-no-Hana Observatory, Fuji appears in perfect harmony with her snow-capped peak reflected in the tranquil waters below, framed by pine trees and the soft hues of the winter landscape.

“Standing there on a crisp January morning, I could hear nothing but the wind through the pines of the surrounding Japanese garden.. Fuji's white cone gleamed like porcelain. It was so vivid it felt unreal.”

The serenity of Onshi-Hakone Park captures the spirit of old Japan: quiet, contemplative, and breathtakingly beautiful in a historic setting. Onshi Park is also conveniently located on the shores of Lake Ashi among other Hakone highlights including Hakone Shrine, the Sekisho Tokaido Checkpoint, and 300 year old cedar lined Tokaido Trail. The shores of Lake Ashi offer an amazing chance to explore, feel, and see the history of Japan under the cool winter sky with Mt. Fuji in the background.

Access:

From Hakone-Yumoto Station, take a Hakone Tozan Bus bound for Moto-Hakone (approx. 40 minutes). From the Moto-Hakone bus stop, it's a 10-minute walk to the park entrance.

2. Komagatake Ropeway / Mt. Komagatake Summit

A panoramic perspective that will leave you breathless



Hakone-en Ropeway ascends through clouds to reveal Mt. Fuji and Lake Ashi below.

For an unforgettable bird's-eye view of Mt. Fuji, ride the Komagatake Ropeway to the summit of Mt. Komagatake (1,327 meters). The cable car glides over forested slopes, often emerging above the clouds to reveal a 360-degree panorama of Hakone's mountains, Lake Ashi, and Mt. Fuji rising majestically to the northwest.

At the top, the Hakone Mototsumiya Shrine stands dramatically against the sky. This shrine has a history dating back more than 1000 years. The vermilion torii gate, framed by snow and sunlight, creates one of the most striking compositions in Hakone. Hakone Mototsumiya shrine on the summit of Mt. Koma honors the deities of nearby Mt. Kami or Kamiyama, the name of which translates to "mountain of the gods." Local people and pilgrims alike worshiped the peaks of Hakone long before 757 CE, traditionally cited as the year the priest Mangan founded Hakone Shrine. Some form of sanctuary is likely to have existed on Mt. Koma since distant antiquity, so Hakone Mototsumiya can rightfully be called the oldest shrine in the area.

There are panoramic views of the ocean and Kanto plain as well. On clear days you can see Tokyo in the distance.

"Up there, you don't just see Fuji — you feel her presence. The cold wind on your face, the silence, the vastness in a spiritual setting. It's pure exhilaration."

This is the view for those who crave scale and grandeur — a place where the mountain seems close enough to touch.

Access:

From Hakone-Yumoto Station, take the Hakone Tozan Bus to Hakone-en (about 60 minutes). The Komagatake Ropeway departs from the Hakone-en terminal; the ride to the summit takes roughly 7 minutes.

3. Owakudani Valley

Where earth and sky meet beneath Fuji's watchful gaze



The dramatic volcanic landscape of Owakudani where you can feel the raw power of the earth with Fuji rising beyond.

If you want your Fuji view with a touch of drama, the Owakudani Valley is an unmissable site in Hakone. Formed by a volcanic eruption 3,000 years ago, this steaming landscape of bubbling vents and sulfur clouds feels like another world — and beyond it, floating in the distance, rises the pristine white summit of Mt. Fuji. In winter, the contrast is especially striking: the ground dusted with snow, steam curling into the icy air from the sulfur vents, and Fuji glowing serenely beyond the geological marvel that is Owakudani Valley..

“I still remember eating a black onsen egg, boiled in Owakudani's sulfur springs, while watching Fuji shimmer above the valley. It's the perfect symbol of Hakone — wild energy balanced by calm beauty.”

Owakudani is not just a viewpoint; it's a sensory experience. You can see, hear, and even smell the living earth, all under Fuji's peaceful gaze. The views from the ropeway ascending up to Owakudani are also amazing as you glide above the forests, over the valley, and down to Lake Ashi.

Access:

Take the Hakone Ropeway from Sounzan Station or Togendai Station to Owakudani Station. The viewpoint is just outside the station exit.

A Season of Clarity and Calm

Hakone and Mt. Fuji captivates travelers in every season, but winter offers a unique kind of magic with a quiet purity that can't be found any other time of year. During this time of year the crowds thin, the air becomes crisp and sharp, and on most days, Fuji reveals herself in all her glory.

Whether you're strolling through the historic gardens of Onshi-Hakone Park, standing atop Komagatake's windswept summit, or marveling at Owakudani's volcanic drama, each viewpoint tells a different story of Japan's most beloved

So wrap up warm, charge your camera, and head to Hakone this winter. When you see Mt. Fuji rise over the still waters of Lake Ashi or over the mountains of Hakone with her snow crown gleaming under the winter sun you'll understand why this season is the best time of all to meet Japan's sacred peak.

Travel Information

Hakone Bus Information (HAKONE JAPAN official site)

<https://hakone-japan.com/plan-your-trip/getting-around/hakone-bus-information/>

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View details

