

NEWS LETTER

July 22, 2026

Odakyu Hakone Co., Ltd.

Even More Reasons to Enjoy a Lake Ashi Cruise and Owakudani Geo-experience!

**Hakone Sightseeing Cruise Ship *Royal II* newly renovated
OWAKUDANI KITCHEN opened at the Earth Valley observation area**

Odakyu Hakone Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Odawara City, Kanagawa Prefecture; President: Hidehiro Mizukami) completed the refurbishment of the Hakone Sightseeing Cruise Ship *Royal II* on Saturday, July 18, 2026. The ship's first class has been renovated based on the concept of "a truly exceptional cruise evoking the lavish elegance of 18th century France." Meanwhile, the OWAKUDANI KITCHEN restaurant opened on Friday, July 17 on the second floor of Owakudani Station on the Hakone Ropeway. Operated by Odakyu Hakone Group company Hakone Pleasant Service Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Odawara City, Kanagawa Prefecture; President: Akihiko Nagamine), OWAKUDANI KITCHEN promises "a culinary experience to savor the dynamism of Owakudani with your five senses."

The Hakone Sightseeing Cruise Ship *Royal II* was built in 2013, modeled on the 18th century French navy vessel *Royal Louis*. The newly renovated first class features a white and deep red color scheme with Rococo-style furniture and artwork evoking the charm of 18th century France, transforming it into a glamorous and elegant space. A draft beer tower has been installed in the ship's café, which now serves a *Royal II*-inspired original cocktail to enhance the luxury cruise experience. The Trick Art installations in the standard cabin on the first deck have also been updated, featuring powerful designs telling the story of a pirate ship sailing on Lake Ashi.

OWAKUDANI KITCHEN has been renovated with a comfortable and luxurious interior, making it a special space to enjoy a leisurely meal while taking in spectacular views of Owakudani—a dramatic landscape where you can feel the earth breathe. A menu highlight is the Owakudani Curry, a longstanding favorite since the restaurant opened. Details such as the cutlet and vegetable toppings have been refined to create an even more satisfying dish, while carefully preserving the signature flavor. New iron pot dishes evoking the billowing vapors of Owakudani have been added to the menu, allowing diners to enjoy the dynamic nature of Owakudani with all five senses.

Lake Ashi and Owakudani are popular destinations for Hakone visitors. We hope you will enjoy an extraordinary cruise aboard our newly enhanced sightseeing ship and a geo-experience at the Earth Valley observation area at the Hakone Ropeway's Owakudani Station.

Here is more information about *Royal II* and OWAKUDANI KITCHEN.



Hakone Sightseeing Cruise Ship *Royal II*



OWAKUDANI KITCHEN

Refurbishment of *Royal II*

◇ First Class

The interior has been transformed into a glamorous and elegant space featuring a white and deep red color scheme with Rococo-style furniture and seating, perfect for any occasion. Updated artwork with unique designs and hidden pictures, along with plenty of other features to help passengers enjoy the cruise. Nods to 18th century French culture can be found all over the ship, including the new crest on the wall above the regal seat in the center of the second deck.



◇ Onboard Café Serving an Original Cocktail

Just like the first class, the onboard café boasts an elegant new look with a deep red color scheme. The café now serves a new *Royal II* cocktail, inspired by the color of the ship's hull. A dash of cassis liqueur is added to a base of sparkling wine to create a glamorous cocktail with a touch of luxury.



◇ Trick Art

Three Trick Art installations can be found at the back and sides of the first deck. The new designs are more realistic and impactful than ever before. Featuring local elements such as Lake Ashi's famous rainbow trout and the floating torii gates of Hakone-jinja Shrine, the updated artworks tell the story of a pirate ship sailing on Lake Ashi.

* Produced under the supervision of SD Corporation, creators of the world's first Trick Art Museum.



Trick Art®
作品提供：株式会社エス・デー

Hakone Sightseeing Cruise Ship *Royal II*

1. Passengers: 565 (including 111 in first class)
2. Route: Togendai-ko to Hakonemachi-ko and Motohakone-ko
3. Fare example: One way fare
First class supplement (one way)
4. Barrier free (one elevator, one multipurpose toilet)

Adults: 1,700 yen, Children: 850 yen

Adults: 800 yen, Children: 400 yen

OWAKUDANI KITCHEN

◇ Interior

The restaurant's interior has been refurbished in a comfortable and luxurious style, making it a special place to enjoy a leisurely meal while taking in spectacular views of Owakudani—a dramatic landscape where you can feel the earth breathe. Warm light fills the space, creating a luxurious atmosphere in harmony with the spectacular scenery. Counter seating by the windows offers incredible close-up views of Owakudani's majestic landscape. With a range of sofas and round tables around a large central table, this is a welcoming space for everyone, from solo diners to groups.



◇ Menu

As well as upgrading our signature Owakudani Curry, a favorite since the restaurant opened in 2013, three new iron pot dishes have been added to the menu. These piping hot dishes, expressing the dynamic energy of Owakudani, can also be enjoyed risotto-style by adding the accompanying cheese and rice to the dish. A range of side dishes are also available, including our original Owakudani Mango Pudding dessert and lassi drinks which perfectly complement the Owakudani Curry.



Top left: Owakudani Curry Rice
 Top right: Vegetable Curry Rice
 Bottom left: Baked Cheese Curry Rice
 Bottom right: Owakudani Pork Cutlet Curry Rice
 From 1,650 yen (tax included)



Top: Seafood with Tomato Sauce Meal
 Middle: Demi-glaze Hamburg Steak Meal
 Bottom: Chicken with Cream Sauce Meal
 2,100 yen each (tax included)



Owakudani Mango Pudding Drink set
 From 1,360 yen (tax included)



Lassi 750 yen each (tax included)
 (Strawberry, Honey & Apple, Matcha)

OWAKUDANI KITCHEN

1. Location: Owakudani Station 2F,
 1251 Sengokuhara, Hakone-machi, Ashigarashimo-gun, Kanagawa Prefecture
2. Seats: 119
3. Opening hours: 10:30–16:00 (last order 15:30) * No regular holidays

Hakone Sightseeing Cruise

Hakone Sightseeing Cruises link the three ports of Togendai-ko, Hakonemachi-ko, and Motohakone-ko, with one-way trips taking around 25 to 35 minutes. From one of our three ships—*Queen Ashinoko*, *Royal II*, and *Victory*—passengers can enjoy views of Mount Fuji and the floating torii gates of Hakone-jinja Shrine, admire the beautiful scenery of Lake Ashi through the seasons, and indulge in a leisurely drink in the onboard café.

For a supplement of 800 yen, passengers can upgrade to a reserved seat in one of our first-class cabins, which are lavishly decorated to evoke the history and culture of each ship's concept. Featuring spacious seating and an exclusive front deck affording the finest views, our first-class cabins offer a truly extraordinary experience.



Hakone Ropeway

Hakone Ropeway runs a total length of around four kilometers from Sounzan to Togendai via Owakudani. Between Sounzan and Owakudani, passengers enjoy breathtaking views of the valley floor 130 meters below. Continuing on toward Togendai reveals stunning vistas of Mount Fuji and Lake Ashi.

The world’s first gondola equipped with a 3D sound system, OTOBACO, started operating in April 2026 between Sounzan and Owakudani. The name OTOBACO, derived from the Japanese words for “sound” and “box”, reflects the concept of “an audio experience box.” Available for private hire, OTOBACO immerses passengers in an original soundtrack created especially to suit the views and weather conditions.



Earth Valley

Earth Valley (Chikyu no Tani) observation area opened in Owakudani in April 2025. With “Black, Geo, and Wind” as its theme, this dramatic stage allows visitors to experience the magnificence of the living Earth, with its interplay of dynamic terrain and winds, and encounter the grandeur of nature.

Culinary options at this tourist destination include OWAKUDANI KITCHEN, serving a full restaurant menu, as well as Valley Marche which offers light meals and snacks alongside local products.



Official Website

Your Guide to All Things Hakone <https://www.hakonenavi.jp/international/en/>

Hakone Area Map

Use the convenient, economical Hakone Freepass to explore Hakone

Discounted R/T fare on the Odakyu Line
+
Unlimited use of 8 Hakone-area transportation modes
Approx. 70 attractions with entrance & other discounts

Fare example: Valid 2 days

Departure	Adults	Children
Shinjuku	7,100 yen	1,600 yen
Machida	6,820 yen	
Odawara/Hakone-Yumoto	6,000 yen	1,500 yen