



3-day weekend in Gunma Ikaho Onsen Resort: Example Itinerary

Day 1: Tokyo / Ikaho

Depart Tokyo for Ikaho Onsen via train and bus.

Activities and lunch at your convenience. Dinner and night at the ryokan.

Free use of the ryokan's famous onsen for the duration of your stay.

*With its hot spring, **Ikaho Onsen** is one of the most famous spa towns in Gunma Prefecture. It was founded by warlord Takeda Shingen during the Sengoku period to treat the wounds of his soldiers. The Ryokan where you will stay is the oldest in Ikaho and was founded in 1502.*

Visit Suggestions:

- **Ikaho Shrine**

The shrine was founded in 825, and worships the deity of the hot springs and medicine. The view of the city is magnificent thanks to its location at the top of the 365 steps.

- **Kajika-Bashi Bridge**

The Kajika-bashi Bridge is a 15-minute walk from Ikaho Shrine. The bridge is surrounded by trees and is particularly beautiful in autumn and winter.

- **Walk up the 365 steps, visit some of the quaint shops and stalls during the evening.**

The 365 stone steps symbolize prosperity for the spa town of Ikaho on every day of the year. They were built more than 400 years ago and were renovated in 1980.



The 365 steps of Ikaho Onsen with hot spring flowing down the middle (Shibukawa)

Day 2: Ikaho / Takasaki

Breakfast at the ryokan. Check out. Activities and meals at your convenience.

Transit by bus and train to Takasaki.

Night at the hotel.

Visit Suggestions:

- **Haruna Shrine**

1400-year-old shrine that was built on the mountainside. The temple contains a small waterfall and its entrance is nestled between two huge rocks.

- **Lake Haruna**

Lake Haruna is a crater lake located near the summit of Mount Haruna. Visitors can take a cable car to the top of Mount Haruna which offers a beautiful view of the lake and the surrounding mountains.

- **Ice-skating**

In winter, weather permitting, ice skating is available on Haruna Lake. If the weather is not favorable, Ikaho also has a large skating rink with indoor and outdoor slopes a few minutes from the hot springs.

- **Ice fishing**

For fishing enthusiasts, it is possible to do ice fishing on some of the surrounding lakes, including Haruna and Onuma Lakes.

- **Illumination Festival**

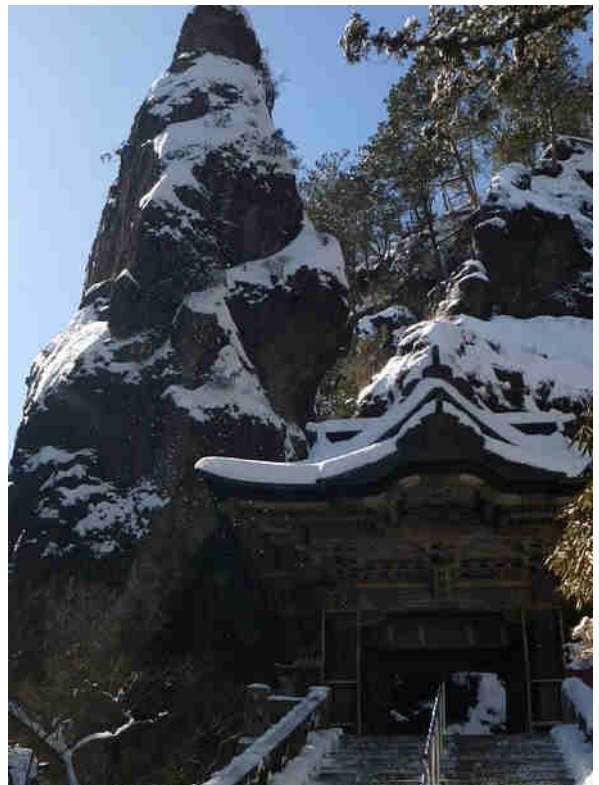
On December evenings, Lake Haruna is illuminated and offers visitors a fireworks display.

- **Takasaki Pageant of Starlight**

This illumination festival takes place on evenings from November to January and features several pavilions throughout the city.



Statue of Kannon Byakue (Takasaki)



Haruna Shrine (Takasaki)



Day 3: Takasaki / Tokyo

Breakfast at the hotel. Check out. Activities and meals at your convenience.

*In the past, **Takasaki** was a checkpoint on one of Japan's main roads in Edo. Today, the city is a hub town for Japan's rail and highway transportation network. Located 50 minutes from the Tokyo Metropolitan Area, Takasaki is now a bustling commercial city. It is the origin of the Daruma figurines, popular in Japan as carriers of luck, prosperity and good wishes.*

Visit Suggestions:

- **The Great Buddha Kannon Byakue**

This statue is located atop Mt. Kannon in Takasaki. This statue of Buddha Kannon was erected in 1936. It is 41.8 meters high and weighs almost 6000 tones. The interior is hollow and visitors can climb up to admire the winter landscape from the top of the statue.

- **Shorinzan Darumaji Temple**

The Shorinzan Darumaji temple is the origin of the "Takasaki Daruma" doll, which is said to grant wishes. The temple was built in 1697 and the dolls that have fulfilled the wishes of their owners are placed there. On January 6th and 7th, a festival takes place where many visitors come to pray and pick up new daruma dolls.

Depart Takasaki for Joshutomioka by train.

Visit Suggestions:

- **Tomioka silk mill**

Registered to UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, it is a silk mill that has greatly contributed to the production of modern silk in Japan. It was built in 1872 with the help of Paul Brunat, a French silk technician. It remains one of the most important landmarks in Japan's history of silk manufacture.

Return to Tokyo by Train.

We can shorten or extend your stay, or add other destinations.

Do you enjoy **freedom and lack of constraints?**

We can leave you with a personalized list of interesting activities and locations, giving you the freedom to wander around as you please during your stay.

Do you want a bulletproof plan and **hassle-free getaway?**

We can arrange everything for you in advance, whether it be reserving activities, luggage shipments, car rental or guided tours, and more.

Don't hesitate to contact us for a personalized itinerary.