

# 3-day weekend in Tochigi Onsen Resort: Example Itinerary

## Day 1: Tokyo / Nasu

Departure for Nasushiobara by train from Tokyo station.

Activities and lunch at your leisure.

Dinner and night at the ryokan.

Transfer by bus to Nasuyumoto Onsen and then by taxi to Kita Onsen.

**Nasu Onsenkyo** is a group of hot springs scattered on the side of Mount Chausu, in the northwestern part of the city of Nasu. It is the only active volcano in Tochigi Prefecture. Plenty of volcanic hot springs flow naturally into the vast foothills of the volcano, which continues to this day to release white smoke.

## Visit Suggestions:

# Nasu Animal Kingdom

Nasu Animal Kingdom offers many shows and activities that showcase the natural skills and intelligence of animals.

## Nasu Family Resort

The family ski resort of Nasu Onsen is reserved for skiers and highly recommended for families with children. You can also do sledging and snowball fights.

# Snowshoe hike in Nasu Heisei Forest

This 560-hectare forest was part of the old imperial villa in Nasu. In winter, you can rent snowshoes for a pleasant walk on the snow.

#### Shika-no-yu

The famous Shika-no-yu spa is the oldest hot spring in Tochigi Prefecture, and is over 1,390 years old.

#### Sessho seki "Rock of Death"

The name comes from an emanation of volcanic gas around the area in the distant past, and a superstition was born about how it was an evil rock causing the death of anyone approaching it.

#### Sun Valley Illumination

From December to February, after dark, you can admire the lighting up of the Sun Valley, made up of over 500.000 light sources.



Mount Chausu (Nasu)

# Day 2: Nasu / Nikko

Breakfast at the ryokan.

Transfer by taxi to Nasuyumoto Onsen and then by bus to Nasushiobara.

Departure for Nikko by train.

Activities and lunch at your leisure.

Dinner and night at the ryokan.

North of Tokyo, **Nikko** is both a marvel of natural beauty and a site of unique masterpieces of Japanese religious architecture. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1999, most shrines and temples have also been classified as national treasures or important cultural heritages.

# Visit Suggestions:

# • Toshogu Shrine

Built in 1636 in memory of Ieyasu, founder of the Tokugawa shogunate, this shrine is Nikko's main attraction.

#### Futara-san Shrine

The main deity of this shrine is Futarasan-daijin (Great Futarasan deity), patron of all the deities of the Nikko Mountains. This shrine retains a very ancient practice of Shintoism that is the religious heart of Nikko.



# • Rinnoji Temple

Rinnoji is one of the three largest Buddhist temples founded by the Tendai School. The Sanbutsubo, the main hall, is classified as an "important cultural property" by the Japanese government. It is located in the Nikko National Park at the foot of Mount Nantai.



Toshogu Temple (Nikko)

# Day 3: Nikko / Tokyo

Breakfast at the ryokan.

Return to Ueno by train from Tobu Nikko station.

# Visit Suggestions:

#### Unryu Keikoku waterfalls

The waterfalls of Unryu Keikoku (valley of the cloud dragon) turn into ice statues in winter and make for a beautiful landscape. They are now one of the favorite sites for hikers. (a guided tour is recommended.)

# Lake Chuzenji

Created by the eruption of Mount Nantai nearly 20,000 years ago and considered a sacred site by Buddhism, the lake became a tourist attraction at the beginning of the 20th century. Stop and admire the Kegon waterfall, one of the three highest in Japan with its 97-meter height.



#### Senjogahara

Senjogahara is a wetland plateau located 1,400 meters above sea level in the mountainous region of Okunikko and contains a unique flora and fauna—including many wild birds—observable from the many footpaths.

#### • Edo Wonderland Mura Theme Park

Discover Japanese feudal culture at the Edo Wonderland Mura theme park where you can watch shows featuring ninja and samurai fights as well as scenes from the Edo period: a fun way for children and adults to learn about the Japanese Middle Ages and meet Japanese warriors!

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