



Nikko and Hiking in the Ryuokyo Gorge 2 Days

*In spring, **Ryuokyo** or "Valley of the Dragon King" is a scenic hike that follows the course of a torrent. The color of the water changes from white to blue to purple along the small stream that winds like the body of a dragon. Visitors will be delighted by the many small waterfalls that flow into the river, the mountain slopes full of green and the magnificent flowers of various shapes and sizes.*

Day 1: Tokyo / Nikko / Kinugawa Onsen

Departure by train to Nikko in the morning. Visits and lunch at your leisure. Dinner and night in a hotel.

Nikko is both a marvel of natural beauty and a site of some of the greatest 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:

- **Shinkyo Sacred bridge**
This magnificent vermilion lacquered bridge marks Nikko's entrance.
- **Rinnoji Temple**
This temple is one of the three largest Buddhist temples of the Tendai School.
- **Toshogu Temple**
Built in 1636 in memory of Ieyasu, founder of the Tokugawa shogunate, this shrine is Nikko's main attraction.



Temple Toshogu



- **Futara-san Shrine**

This shrine's main deity is Futarasan-daijin, the personification of the multiple deities of the Nikko Mountains.

In late afternoon, depart for Kinugawa Onsen by train.

Kinugawa Onsen is a very popular spa in the Kanto region. Discovered in the time of Edo, legend has it that this spring was only available to daimyo (lords) and monks during their visits to the shrines. Nearby are the EDO WONDERLAND and Tobu World Square theme parks.

Dinner and night at the hotel (Japanese room with shared bath and toilet)

Day 2: Kinugawa Onsen / Ryuokyo / Tokyo

Breakfast at the hotel. Check out before 10am.

Visits and meals at your convenience.

Around 9:30 a.m., departure by train to The Ryuokyo Gorge

Hiking the Ryuokyo Gorge

"Ryuokyo" literally, "*The Dragon King Gorge*" is a picturesque delta that stretches for about 3 km. The hike takes about two and a half hours. This ravine was formed from the eruption of an underwater volcano 22 million years ago, followed by erosion caused by the Kinugawa River. In spring you can admire the flowering azaleas, Mizubasho (*Lysichiton camtschatcensis*) and irises along the way.



Ryuokyo



Musasabi Bridge

You can enjoy the beautiful view from on top of the Musasabi Bridge. There is a small teahouse called "Musasabi Chaya" near the foot of the bridge where you can taste Miso Oden and Amazake, or just relax with a coffee.

The Nijimi Bridge and Waterfall

The name of the waterfall, which means "Rainbow View", comes from the fact that a beautiful rainbow always appears on sunny days, which has made it famous. With its 20m height and its large water flow, this waterfall, which falls straight and then fans out on the different rocks, is truly beautiful.

Around 12:30pm, end of the hike.

Return to Kinugawa Onsen.

Visit Suggestions:

- **Kinu Tateiwa Otsuribashi Suspended Bridge**

This 140-metre-long pedestrian suspension bridge connects the southern part of Kinugawa Onsen to Tateiwa Rock (The height of the rock is more than 70m). From the bridge you can see the Kinugawa river flowing into the rock with lush mountains in the background. On the other side of the bridge is an observatory, a small pedestrian tunnel dug into the mountain, the Tateiwa Kinuhime shrine and another beautiful waterfall.

- **Kinugawa Onsen Cable Car**

This cable car leads to the top of Mount Maruyama. There is an observatory with a great view of the surrounding area and a shrine that is famous for bringing success in business. In addition, there is a monkey garden where you can observe and even feed them.

Return to Tokyo in the late afternoon. Arrival around 6:45 p.m.

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.