

# Yugawara and Hakone – 2 days and 1 night: Itinerary example

Autumn foliage season: Early October - Early December



Hakone Shrine

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# Day 1 - Tokyo / Yugawara / Hakone

Departure for Yugawara by car (about 1h45).

Scheduling of sightseeing and lunch are at your convenience. Dinner is included.

Yugawara Onsen is a thermal spa easily accessible from Tokyo.The hot springs of Yugawara has a history of more than 1250 years old, having been mentioned in the Manyoshu, the most ancient anthology of poems in Japan. Their waters were considered to be very precious as they were known to heal wounds sustained by warriors.



Momiji no sato (Yugawara)

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Suggested visits and hiking trails:

- <u>Ikemine hiking course (mid-November to early December, duration 1h30)</u> Hiking stages: Ikemine Bridge ~ Momiji-no-sato ~ Manyo Park This hiking course passes through a 5-kilometer-long tunnel of Japanese maple trees.
- Shiroyama hiking course (mid-November to early December, duration 3h) Hiking stages: Joganji Temple ~ Ruins of Doi Castle ~ Shitodo Cave ~ Gosho Shrine This hiking course has beautiful views and historical relics and locations dating back to the time when Yugawara was called Doi-go.



#### • Joganji Temple

This temple belongs to the Sanehira family and is where the cemetery of the Doi clan is located.

#### Momiji-no-sato (Maple tree village)

It is a famous location in the Yugawara region where hundreds of Japanese maple trees are planted. In November the streets are tinted with vivid colors.

#### • Ruins of Doi Castle (at the top of Mount Shiroyama)

The panoramic view from the summit of Mount Shiroyama is superb. From there can be admired not only Sagami Bay but also Izu Peninsula and even the Hatsushima and Oshima islands.

#### • Shitodo Cave

More than 20 stone-Buddha statues are aligned in this cave.

#### Gosho Shrine

The biggest attraction of Gosho Shrine is the Shinboku, a sacred tree more than 850 years old. Its size and branches are impressive.



Ikemine Hiking Course (Yugawara)

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Transfer to Hakone by car (about 40 min).

Dinner and night at the ryokan.



## Day 2 : Hakone / Tokyo

Breakfast at the ryokan. Scheduling of sightseeing and meals are at your convenience.

The city of **Hakone** is located at the heart of Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park. Hakone is famous not only for its superb landscapes and its lakes with fantastic views on Mount Fuji but also and above all for its many hot springs, renowned all over Japan.

#### Suggested visits:

• Sengokuhara (from mid-October to mid-November)

The biggest susuki fields in the Kanto region is located at Sengokuhara. Their gleaming golden feathery plumes at the foot of Mount Daigatake offer a spectacle characteristic of the autumn season in Hakone. Their beauty is such that they were listed as one of the "50 most picturesque spots in Kanagawa".

• Owakudani Valley (from end of October to early November)

This valley is well known for its hot springs and its sulfurous vapors as well as being an observation point on Mount Fuji. This "great boiling valley" sinks into the ancient crater of Mount Kamiyama. Vapor clouds seep through the crevasses, water sources are boiling hot and create an extraterrestrial-looking landscape with Mount Fuji as the backdrop. Subject to closing due to seismic and volcanic activity.

## Hakone Museum of Art (from beginning to mid-November)

The Hakone Art Museum is located in a domain that also includes a magnificent garden and a traditional Japanese tea house. A collection of Japanese potteries, some of them dating back to the Jomon period (about 5000 years ago) are displayed. The museum is famous for being exceptionally beautiful in the autumn with about 130 types of moss and 200 maple trees in the garden turning bright red during that season. The beauty of the scenery is extraordinary.

Komagatake Ropeway (from beginning to mid-November)
 In the autumn, you can admire the mountains colored in red, orange and yellow as well as the spectacular view on lake Ashi from the top of the mountain.

Return to Tokyo by car (about 1h45).

We are here to help you plan and achieve your wishes. 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,

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

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