YAMANASHI-JAPAN

The Scenery, History, and Culture of Yamanashi Nature

This guidebook showcases the scenery, history, and culture of Yamanashi. Enjoy your tour of Yamanashi!

Takeda Hishimaru
Captain of the Tourist Caravan
Yamanashi, Home of Mt. Fuji
Scenery

The Four Seasons of Mt. Fuji

Spring
1. Cherry Blossoms and Mt. Fuji at Lake Kawaguchiko
   - The scenic view of Mt. Fuji from the cherry blossom trees at Ubuyagasaki. The Sakura Festival also takes place during the cherry blossom season.
   - 10 min. by bus from Kawaguchiko Station

2. Mt. Fuji is spectacular all year round!

Summer
2. Red Mt. Fuji: Arakurayama Sengen Park
   - Mt. Fuji in summer, when the mountain is dyed red by the light of the sun, is a must-see.
   - 30 min. by bus from Fujisawa Station

Fall
3. Fall Leaves and Mt. Fuji: Momiji Tunnel
   - This spot is very popular for photo opportunities provided by the colorful fall leaves. A tunnel of fall leaves about 100 m in length has been created by the shores of Lake Kawaguchiko.
   - 15 min. by taxi from Kawaguchiko Station

Winter
4. Mt. Fuji with Fresh Snow: Oshino Hakai
   - The snowy scenery at Oshino Hakai. A typical Japanese snow scene.
   - 20 min. by bus from Fujisawa Station

Concierge
Christine Haruka
A Japanese TV personality who loves Yamanashi
Scenery

Cherry Blossoms Heralding Spring in Yamanashi

Japanese Jindai-zakura
This two-thousand-year-old cherry tree is one of Japan’s three great cherry trees, Japan’s oldest giant tree and one of its largest, it has been designated a national natural monument.
15 min. by taxi from Hinoharu Station

Shinden no Oto-zakura
This giant tree is a 400-year-old weeping cherry tree. The greatly outstretched branches hang down like threads, giving the tree incredible grace and beauty.
15 min. by taxi from Kobuchisawa Station

Sanohara Cherry Trees
This tunnel of cherry trees spans 750m in the village of Sanohara at the foot of the Minami Alps.
20 min. by taxi from Hinoharu Station

Wanizuka Cherry Tree
A lone giant cherry tree dominates the rural landscape here. This tree is estimated to be about 320 years old.
10 min. by bus or taxi from Nirasaki Station

Spring in Yamanashi Dyed by Vibrant Flowers

The View of Togenkyo from Shakado
Fuefuki City, Japan’s top peach producer, has distinctive scenery in spring. During this season, you can see the rear slopes of the Minami Alps covered in pink.
About 5-15 min. by taxi from Yamanashi Station

Fuefukigawa Fruit Park
A large fruit-themed park. The park overlooks a landscape covered with pink in one direction, and it also affords a panoramic view of the surrounding mountains, including Mt. Fuji.
10 min. by bus or taxi from Yamanashi Station

Fuj Shihazakura Festival [Fujisawa Resort]
The foothills of Mt. Fuji are blanketed with moss phlox flowers. Many tourists visit from across the country each year to see this sight.
30 min. by bus from Kawaguchiko Station

Concierge
Makita Sports
A musician and astro born in Yamanashi.
Scenery

Summer in Yamanashi

Sun-Drenched Flowers in Full Bloom

**Hana-no-Miyako Park**
This is a flower and nature-themed park by Lake Yamanakako. Fields of seasonal flowers stretch as far as the eye can see, with Mt. Fuji in the background.
- 30 min. by bus from Fujinomiya Station

**Mt. Amari**
The whole summit is colored by a large colony of Japanese azaleas, and the scenery includes a view of Mt. Fuji.
- 40 min. by taxi from Narusaki Station

**Akeno Sunflower Field**
600,000 large sunflowers all blooming in unison with the Minami Alps as the backdrop. This summer scenery is fitting for the town of Akeno, which receives the most sunlight hours in Japan.
- 20 min. by bus from Narusaki Station

The Allure of Highland Breezes and Refreshing Water

**Makiba Park**
This is a large livestock farm located in the Mt. Yatsugatake highlands. Visitors can enjoy close contact with sheep, goats, and other farm animals.
- 10 min by taxi from Kiyosato Station or Kari-Oizumi Station

**Makibai Gorge**
This refreshing river, which flows down from Mt. Kai-Komagatake, has been designated one of Japan’s top 100 waters.
- 30 min. by taxi from Nakatsugawa Station

I want to go see the beautiful field of flowers!

Lavender at Kawaguchiko Oishi Park
Mt. Fuji in summer and the lakeshore lavender in full bloom—the distinctive scenery that can be seen at Lake Kawaguchiko in early summer.
- 30 min by bus from Kawaguchiko Station
Scenery

Fall in Yamanashi

Yamanashi Dyed by Colorful Leaves in Fall

- Saiko Iyashi-no-Sato Nenba
  Visit traditional village homes with beautiful thatched roofs where you can enjoy local dishes and traditional handicraft activities.
  - 30 min. by bus or taxi from Kawaguchiko Station

- Mt. Minobu
  Mt. Minobu is where the monk Nichiren first lived in a thatched cottage. The wondrous atmosphere is made all the more spectacular by the colorful fall leaves.
  - 10 min. by bus or taxi from Minobu Station

- Lake Shojiko
  The scenery here, with Mt. Fuji and the lakeshore covered in colorful leaves, is one of the most famous nature spots on Mt. Fuji.
  - 40 min. by bus or taxi from Kawaguchiko Station

- Higashizawa Ohashi Bridge
  The view of this red bridge with Mt. Yatsugadake covered in colorful fall leaves in the background is one of the most scenic spots in the Mt. Yatsugatake highlands.
  - About 10 min. by bus or taxi from Kyoisato Station

Some of Japan’s Most Beautiful Gorges

- Oyanagawa Gorge
  A beautiful river flows between steep cliffs. The boulders and curiously-shaped rocks make the gorge very scenic. The beauty in fall with the colored leaves is even more impressive.
  - 30 min. by bus or taxi from Kofu Station

- Showenkyo Gorge
  The river here flows through the village of Jakkoku, where visitors can still enjoy the original Japanese landscape. You can also see about 10 rope bridges and eight waterfalls on foot.
  - 20 min. by taxi from Kajikazawaguchi Station

- Nishizawa Gorge
  There is a trail about 9km in length that goes along Nishizawa Gorge. Nanatsugama Waterfall in particular is a must-see.
  - 50 min. by taxi or by bus from Yamanashi Station to Gorge Entrance

- Hirogawara
  A hub for mountaineering in the Minami Alps. The colorful fall leaves and scenery with a view of Mt. Kintadake are spectacular.
  - 2 hours by Minami-Alps Tozan Bus from Kofu Station
Scenery

Yamanashi’s Scenery, Beautiful as Ever in Winter

1. Saruhashi Bridge in Winter
   A wooden bridge on the Koshu Kaido. It was designed to resemble numerous monkeys joined together to cross to the other side.
   • 15 min. on foot from Saruhashi Station

2. The Night Sky in the Mt. Yatsugatake Highlands
   Mt. Yatsugatake, towering 1,000m into the sky, affords one of Japan’s most spectacular nighttime views.
   • 5 min. by taxi or 15 min. on foot from Kiyosato Station to Kiyosato-no-Mori

3. Narusawa-hyoketsu Ice Cave
   This is one of the most beautiful ice caves in the Mt. Fuji foothills. Visitors can tour the cave and see the ice stalagmites, formed by the freezing of water drops. This cave can be enjoyed even in summer.
   • 30 min. by bus from Kawaguchiko Station

The “Diamond Fuji”, a Magical Moment

Lake Yamanakako, a Mecca for the Diamond Fuji
   Lake Yamanakako is the place from which the Diamond Fuji can be seen the longest. Numerous camera-toting people gather on the lakeshore.

Beat in February
   The Diamond Fuji is most clearly visible in February when the sky is clear with few clouds.

Dates and Times
   At sunset during the four-month period from mid-October to late February.

Ice candies adorn the seashore from early to mid-February.

1. Panorama-dai View Point area
   Around Oct. 16, Feb. 25
2. Ashigakusa lakeshore
   Around Oct. 18, Feb. 22
3. Hirano lakeshore
   Around Oct. 27, Feb. 16
4. Hirano lakeshore #2
   Around Oct. 31, Feb. 12
5. Below Mama-no-Mori
   Around Nov. 3, Feb. 8
6. Nagakke lakeshore
   Around Nov. 11, Feb. 5
7. Oike beach
   Around Nov. 13, Jan. 30
8. Yanajiri
   Around Nov. 15, Jan. 27
9. Hana-no-Miyako Park
   Late Nov. – Mid-Jan.
Yamanashi, the Birthplace of Japanese Wine-Making

Koshu Wine
Approximately one-third of all Japanese wine is produced in Yamanashi. The Koshu wine produced from the distinctive Koshu grapes is particularly well-regarded worldwide among Japanese wines.

Takano Masanari and Tsuchiya Sukejiro
The first grapes to be cultivated in Japan were Koshu grapes grown in Katsunuma, Yamanashi some 1300 years ago. Full-scale winemaking began during the Meiji era (late 19th century).

Daizen-ji Temple’s Yakushi Nyorai Statue
A famous monk named Gyoki enshrined this Yakushi Nyorai at Daizen-ji Temple. According to legend, this is also where cultivation of Koshu grapes, a fruit believed to have medicinal properties, was first taught to the villagers.

Katsunuma-Budokyo

Koshu Grapes
“Koshu” is a grape variety unique to Japan. It is an ingredient in Koshu wine.

Muscat Berry A
Muscat Berry A, a grape variety unique to Japan, is a grape for making red wine that is cultivated in large numbers in Yamanashi.

Kosui Tunnel Wine Cave

Kosui City Bus
Kosui city bus from Katsunuma-Budokyo Station is a convenient way of touring the area’s wineries. There are two bus tours, the “grape tour” and the “wine tour,” which run six times a day.

Katsunuma-Budo-no-oka
Visitors can taste-test around 200 varieties of Yamanashi wine at the underground wine cellar located in a hill that is surrounded on all sides by vineyards.

5 min. by taxi from Katsunuma-Budokyo Station

Kosui Tunnel Footpath
This 1376-meter Meiji-Era railway tunnel is now used in its original state as the Ohiage Tunnel Footpath and a wine cave. The brick-lined tunnel interior is perfect for the long-term preservation of wine.

10 min. by taxi from Katsunuma-Budokyo Station

Daizen-ji Temple (Budo-ji Temple)
This temple is known by the nickname “Budo-ji,” meaning “grape temple.” The main hall is a precious wooden structure from the Kamakura period that is now a national treasure.

5 min. by taxi from Katsunuma-Budokyo Station
Sacred Mt. Fuji, the Soul of the Japanese People

Mt. Fuji, a World Cultural Heritage Site

Since ancient times, people have devoted prayers to Mt. Fuji as a great mountain. Its universal beauty has also been the inspiration for numerous works of art. Thus, Mt. Fuji has become a symbol of Japan itself, and it was registered as a World Cultural Heritage Site in 2013.

Fujiko

Religious devotion to Mt. Fuji grew during the Edo period (1603-1868), and many people made trips to Mt. Fuji. This sect became known as Fujiko.

Mt. Fuji Tour Buses

These tour buses take you around to see the sites on Mt. Fuji. Fujikyu Bus

Yoshida Ascending Route

This mountain road was used by Fujiko pilgrims. Today, this old road is a unique way to hike from the foothills to the summit.

Mt. Fuji, a World Cultural Heritage Site

Kitaguchi Hongu Fuji Sengen-jinja Shrine

This magnificent, tranquil shrine is situated at the northern gateway to Mt. Fuji.

Mountaintop Worship Sites

The various shrines and other religious structures can still be found around the summit of Mt. Fuji.

One way to enjoy Mt. Fuji is to tour its important sites!
History and Culture

Oshino Hakkai

Mt. Fuji and Eight Mystical Ponds
Eight beautiful ponds fed by spring water from Mt. Fuji. Melting snow from Mt. Fuji seeps through underground lava, and after several decades of filtration, the water attains mystical levels of transparency.

20 min. by bus from Fujisan Station

Wakuike Pond
Deguchike Pond
Kagamike Pond
Shobuike Pond
Okamaike Pond
Sokonashike Pond
Choshike Pond
Nigorike Pond

Mt. Minobu

A Magnificent Buddhist Temple Tucked Away on Mt. Minobu

Kan'ei-ji Temple is the head temples for the Nichiren sect, one of Japan's main Buddhist sects. It was built by the priest Nichiren, founder of the Nichiren sect, 735 years ago during the Kamakura period.

10 min. by bus from Minobu Station

Why not stay at a temple guesthouse?
A shukubo, or temple guesthouse, refers to lodging facilities for temples. Mt. Minobu has about twenty such guesthouses.

Nichiren Shonin
Nichiren was one of Japan’s most well-known Buddhist priests. He founded the Nichiren sect during the Kamakura period and walked throughout Japan, expounding on the teachings of Buddha.

Bodai-ji at Mt. Minobu

Vegetarian cuisine for Monks

Scan this QR code with your smart phone to see a 360° panoramic view.
The Museum with Masterpieces of Millet

Jean-François Millet
Born on a farm in northwestern France in 1814, Millet moved to the village of Barbizon in 1849. Millet became a distinctive painter of farm scenes.

The Connection Between Yamanashi and Millet
The village of Barbizon is a scenic community, where Millet among other painters lived and drew inspirations directly from nature. Works of them was seemed to deserve as collection of the museum of Yamanashi with plenty of venue.

History and Culture

Millet Museum

The prefectural museum is popular for having about 70 pieces by Jean-François Millet, including The Sower and Summer, the Gleaners. Visitors can also enjoy plenty of works by the Barbizon school painters, and modern and contemporary Japanese artists.

See the Futuristic Maglev with Speeds of 603 km/hour

The Chuo Shinkansen maglev train is currently under development, with opening planned for 2027. At the Yamanashi Prefectural Maglev Exhibition Center, visitors can see up close the world’s fastest maglev train, which travels at speeds of 603 km/hour.

In the future, it will only take 20 minutes to get from Yamanashi to Tokyo!
History and Culture

Warring States Period

Lord Takeda Shingen, Hero of the Warring States Period

Japan’s Warring States period produced many heroes. Of these, Takeda Shingen is one of the most popular of the Warring States samurai along with Oda Nobunaga and Tokugawa Ieyasu. Shingen is famous as a tragic hero who died from illness before the country could be unified.

38 Kozan-ji Temple

This temple was built by Takeda Shingen. It houses a public exhibition of an invaluable Buddhist statue once every seven years.

7 min. on foot from Zenkoji Station

39 Erin-ji Temple

This is the family temple of Takeda Shingen. The temple garden exemplifies the beauty of Japan and is said to have been the work of Muso Kokusho.

10 min. by bus or taxi from Erin-ji Station

Relive the Past with the Warring States Picture Scroll

The picture scroll is a remanctment of a battle from the Warring States period. The event unfolds with participants divided into two factions: Takeda’s army and Uesugi’s army.

Event period: Late April
Contact: Fuelkai Tourism and Commerce Alliance
Tel: 055-281-2825

6 min. by bus from Isawa Onsen Station

53 The Shingen-ko Festival

Travel back in time to the Warring States period and the ancient Kai Province where cherry blossom trees danced. This festival is a reenactment of the marching of Takeda’s forces, known to be the strongest cavalry of the Warring States period.

Event period: Every year in early April
Festival location: Around Kofu Station and Maizuru Park
Contact: Yamanashi Tourism Organization
Tel: 055-231-2722

37 The Kai no Katsuyama Yabusame Festival

This festival goes back more than 900 years and features horseback archery competitions. The bravery of the Warring States warriors is the climax of this event.

Event period: Late April
Contact: Kofu Kai Tourism Festival Executive Committee
Tel: 055-72-3168

10 min. by bus or taxi from Kofu Station
History and Culture

Festivals in Yamanashi

Fireworks Lighting Up the Yamanashi Night

- **The Shinmei Fireworks Display**
  This is one of Japan’s top fireworks displays, with some 20,000 individual fireworks. It attracts about 200,000 spectators.
  Event period: Every year on August 7
  - 10 min. on foot from Ichikawa-Daimon Station

- **Kai-Ichinomiya Daimonji-Yaki**
  At 8:00 p.m., a torch is used to light a fire that burns in the shape of a giant Japanese character (火) on the side of a mountain.
  Event period: Every year on August 16
  - 15 min. by taxi from Isawa-onsen Station

- **The Yoshida Fire Festival**
  This is one of Japan’s three major strange festivals. Roughly 80 three-meter-tall torches are all lined up and lit at sundown.
  Event period: Every year on August 26
  - 5 min. on foot from Fujiyoshida Station

- **The Yatsugatake Horse Show**
  Visitors can see an impressive horsemanship show up close. The event closes with a major fireworks display.
  Event period: Every year in early August
  - 30 min. on foot from Kofu Station

- **Hassaku-sai Festival**
  This spectacular event involves a large parade with townsmen participating and luxuriously decorated Hasadou boats pulled by parade members.
  Event period: Every year on September 1
  - 5 min. on foot from Yamanakako Station

Map of Yamanashi

You can enjoy Yamanashi all year round!
About Yamanashi Prefecture

Yamanashi Prefecture is situated in the center of Japan. Located next to Tokyo, almost 80% of the prefecture consists of mountains and forests, and it is famous for its rich natural scenery.

The local topography is known as the “Kofu basin,” being completely encircled by mountains. Mt. Fuji, which towers over the land to the south, is Japan’s highest peak, a distinctive symbol of Japan, and listed as a world heritage site. To the north is the Yatsugatake mountain range with the Kiyosato Highlands at its foot. To the west is the Southern Alps, a mountain range listed as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve (also known as a UNESCO Eco Park in Japan), with some of Japan’s greatest mountains, including Mt. Kai-Komagatake and Mt. Kitadake, its second-highest peak.

The climate of Yamanashi includes large temperature swings between summer and winter; thus, the prefecture undergoes distinctively visible changes between the four seasons. Fruit cultivation thrives by making use of the climate’s temperature range.

Yamanashi has also been famous since ancient times as a source of rock crystals, and it produces more jewelry than anywhere else in Japan thanks to its superior grinding techniques.

No. 1 in Japan

Tallest mountain: Mt. Fuji

No. 1 producer of peaches, grapes, and plums

No. 1 producer of jewelry

No. 1 producer of mineral water
**Directions to Yamanashi**

Access to Yamanashi is very good. Please come and visit!

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**Fujisan Activities**

Official FUJISAN experience guide provided by Yamanashi Prefecture

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**Yamanashi-Bound Train and Bus Travel Times**

- **From TOKYO**
  - From Narita International Airport or Haneda Airport
    - Narita International Airport
      - Shinjuku: JR Chuo Line Limited Express 1 hour and 30 minutes
      - Kofu: JR Chuo Line Limited Express 1 hour and 30 minutes
    - Narita International Airport
      - Express bus
    - Haleda Airport
      - Tokyo Monorail: 24 minutes
      - Hamamatsu: 27 minutes
      - Shizuoka: 33 minutes
      - Haleda Airport
        - Express bus: 3 hours and 15 minutes
  - By train
    - Shinjuku: JR Chuo Line Limited Express 1 hour and 30 minutes
    - Shizuoka: JR Chuo Line Limited Express 3 hours and 10 minutes
  - By bus
    - Shinjuku: Chuo Expressway: 2 hours and 10 minutes
    - By bus
      - Expressway: 2 hours and 10 minutes

- **From OSACA**
  - From Kansai International Airport
    - Kansai International Airport: Shin-Osaka
      - Shinkansen: 30 minutes
      - Bus: 2 hours
    - Kansai International Airport
      - JR Minobu Line: Limited Express 2 hours
    - By bus
      - Osaka Bus Terminal: Limited Express 2 hours

- **From KYOTO**
  - From Kansai International Airport
    - Kansai International Airport: Shin-Osaka
      - Shinkansen: 30 minutes
      - Bus: 2 hours
    - Kansai International Airport
      - JR Minobu Line: Limited Express 2 hours
    - By bus
      - Osaka Bus Terminal: Limited Express 2 hours

- **From SHIZUOKA**
  - From Mt Fuji Shizuoka Airport
    - Mt Fuji Shizuoka Airport
      - Shizuoka: JR Minobu Line Limited Express 1 hour
      - Shinkansen: 3 hours and 40 minutes
    - Bus: 55 minutes
  - By bus
    - Shizuoka: Chuo Expressway 4 hours

- **From NAGOYA**
  - From Central Japan International Airport Centrair
    - Central Japan International Airport: Nagoya
      - Shinkansen: 2 hours
      - JR Minobu Line: 7 hours
    - By train
      - Nagoya
        - Shinkansen: 2 hours
        - Shinkansen: 4 hours
    - By bus
      - Nagoya Bus Terminal: Chuo Expressway 4 hours

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**Access to Yamanashi is very good. Please come and visit!**
Arakurayama Sengen Park (Fujiyoshida City)