YAMANASHI-JAPAN

Enjoy our hot springs you tour Yamanashi!

Onsen

This guide book highlights the appeal of onsens as well as the sightseeing, history, and activities available in Yamanashi. Have a great time in Yamanashi!

Takeda Hishimaru
Captain of the Tourist Caravan
Yamanashi, Home of Mt. Fuji
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
Natural Onsens Arising from the Natural Environment

Yamanashi Prefecture is one of Japan’s leading onsen regions, with many hot springs known as onsenkyos. The entire prefecture is dotted with distinctive hot spring areas. Wherever you go in Yamanashi, you can enjoy an onsen. There is so much diversity as well—historical onsenkyos, highland onsens, onsens by lakes and in river gorges, and more. Another way to enjoy onsen is by visiting outdoor baths. The experience of having an outdoor bath while enjoying the view of Mt. Fuji or the night lights of a nearby town is spectacular.

Mitama-no-Yu on a Hill with a View

These picturesque baths are on a hill with a panoramic view of the night lights of Kofu basin.

5 min. by taxi from Kaiueno Station
Yamanashi Onsens

Kofu and Yumura Onsen
(Kofu City)
An onsen that produces 1T of high-quality water each minute.
Yumura Onsen
- Approx. 10 min. by bus from Kofu Station, JR Chuo Main Line
- Approx. 15 min. by car from Kofu-Shiokawa IC, Chuo Expressway
- Yumura Onsen Inn Association 055-252-2201 • Number of hotels: 13

Kofu Onsen
- Approx. 7 min. on foot from Kofu Station, JR Chuo Main Line
- Approx. 15 min. by car from Kofu-Shiokawa IC, Chuo Expressway
- Kofu Hotel and Inn Association 055-222-9733 • Number of hotels: 22

Minami Alps
- Number of hotels: 19

“100 Best Therapeutic Hot Springs.”

Fuefuki (Isawa/Kasugai) Onsen
(Fuefuki City)
A large onsenkyo with good access to Lake Fujigoko (FUji Five Lakes).
- Approx. 5 min. on foot from Isawa Onsen Station, JR Chuo Main Line
- Approx. 20 min. by car from Ichinomiya-Misaka IC, Chuo Expressway
- Isawa Onsen Inn Association 055-261-2829 • Number of hotels: 36

Fuefuki City Tourism
and Production Federation

Shimobe Onsen
(Minobu Town)
Shingen’s hideaway, one of Japan’s
“100 Best Therapeutic Hot Springs.”
- Approx. 10 min. on foot from Shimobe Onsen Station, JR Minobu Line
- Approx. 45 min. by car from Masuho IC, Chubu-Odan Expressway
- Shimobe Ryokan Promotion Cooperative 0506-36-0316 • Number of hotels: 19

Nishiyama Onsen
(Hayakawa Town)
An onsenkyo with the atmosphere of a mountain gorge.
- Approx. 90 min. by bus from Minobu Station, JR Minobu Line
- Approx. 90 min. by car from Masuho IC, Chubu-Odan Expressway
- Hayakawa Town Commerce and Industry 055-45-2302 • Number of hotels: 7

Mitomi Onsen
(Yamanashi City)
An onsenkyo with scenic scenery.
- Approx. 45 min. by bus from Hayakawa Station, JR Chuo Main Line
- Approx. 50 min. by car from Katsunuma IC, Chuo Expressway
- Yamanashi City Tourism Association 0553-20-1400 • Number of hotels: 2

Enzan Onsen
(Koshu City)
An onsenkyo with 650 years of history, deeply tied to the Takeda clan.
- Approx. 10 min. on foot from Enzan Station, JR Chuo Main Line
- Approx. 20 min. by car from Katsunuma IC, Chuo Expressway
- Koshu City Tourism Association 0553-32-2111 • Number of hotels: 7

How to Use the Baths
- Onsen have baths that are used by many people together. You must bathe in the nude.
- Before going into the bath, rinse your body off in the washing area.
- Sit while you use the washing area to avoid spraying other guests.
- Do not drop your soap or towel in the bath.
- Do not wash your clothes in the bath.
- Dry yourself off before returning from the bathhouse to the changing room.

These rules are a major part of Japanese onsen etiquette, so please take the time to learn them.
Picturesque Onsens
The Mt. Fuji and Fuji Five Lakes area is full of picturesque onsens. Enjoy the view of Mt. Fuji while you soak in an onsen!

1. **Fujikawaguchiko Onsens**
   This high-elevation location is on the doorstep of Mt. Fuji beside Lake Kawaguchiko.
   - 10–20 min. on foot from Kawaguchiko Station

2. **Fuji Chobo-no-Yu Yurari**
   This day-trip onsen offers views of Mt. Fuji from its outdoor baths, with 16 different types of baths to choose from, including a cave bath.
   - 20 min. by bus from Kawaguchiko Station

3. **Yamanakako Onsen Beniufuji-no-Yu**
   Enjoy impressive views of Mt. Fuji from the bath. This day-trip onsen has outdoor baths with beautiful scenery like a Japanese garden.
   - 30 min. by bus from Fujisan Station

4. **Arakurayama Sengen Park**
   At this spot, you can discover a scenery that is portrayed overseas as “symbolic of Japan.” The pagoda here is a prominent feature.
   - Directions to Arakurayama Sengen Park
   - 10 min. on foot from Shimo-yoshida Station, Fujikyuko Line

5. **Tenjoyama Park Mt. Kachi Kachi Ropeway**
   Visitors who take the ropeway to the observation deck can see the whole of Mt. Fuji right down to its base.
   - 15 min. on foot from Kawaguchiko Station

Concierge
Christine Haruka
A Japanese-Swiss TV personality who loves Yamanashi.

Concierge
Makita Sports
A musician and actor born in Yamanashi.
If you want to understand Mt. Fuji, you should check out all the cultural assets that make up the Mt. Fuji World Heritage Site!

**The Holy Land for Mt. Fuji Worshippers**

If you want to understand Mt. Fuji, you should check out all the cultural assets that make up the Mt. Fuji World Heritage Site!

### Museums about Mt. Fuji

1. **Kitaguchi Hongu Fuji Sengen-jinja Shrine**
   - This is one of the Asama shrines centered on the worship of Mt. Fuji. The solemnity and sacredness of the site can be felt in the main shrine and the path to the shrine gate lined with enormous trees.
   - 20 min. on foot from Fujisan Station

2. **Oshino Hakka**
   - The eight ponds of Oshino village, which owes its existence to spring water from Mt. Fuji. The water is so clear you can feel its sacredness.
   - 20 min. by bus from Fujisan Station

3. **Kawaguchiko Museum**
   - Exhibits paintings and photos on the subject of Mt. Fuji.
   - 10 min. by bus from Kawaguchiko Station

4. **Fujiyama Museum**
   - Exhibits paintings of Mt. Fuji by Japan's leading modern artists.
   - 5 min. by bus from Fujisan Station

5. **Fujisan Museum**
   - A museum dedicated to the history of Mt. Fuji worship.
   - 15 min. by bus from Fujisan Station

### Activites

1. **Fuji Visitor Center**
   - Comprehensively showcases the scenery, culture, and history of the Mt. Fuji and Fuji Five Lakes area. Foreign language information also available.
   - 5 min. by bus from Kawaguchiko Station

2. **Fuji-Q Highland**
   - The largest amusement park in Japan at the base of Mt. Fuji.
   - 0 min. on foot from Fuji-Q Highland Station

3. **Fuji-en Snow Resort**
   - A snow resort in a favorable location with a view of Mt. Fuji.
   - 20 min. by taxi from Kawaguchiko Station

4. **Fujiyama Museum**
   - Exhibits paintings of Mt. Fuji by Japan's leading modern artists.
   - 5 min. by bus from Fujisan Station

5. **Canoeing and marathons at Fuji Five Lakes**
   - A spot for cycling and running marathons along the lakeshore at Fuji Five Lakes. Visitors can also row canoes in the lake.

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There are so many places to enjoy sports in the Mt. Fuji and Fuji Five Lakes area!
Fuefuki, Koshu and Yamanashi Area

**Onsens**

1. **Isawa Onsen**
   The largest onsenkyo in Yamanashi with numerous accommodations ranging from hotels to traditional Japanese inns near the train station.
   - 5–10 min. on foot from Isawa-onsen Station
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2. **Isawa Onsen Station Park Footbath**
   There is a free foot bath in the plaza in front of Isawa-onsen Station that will help you recover from the fatigue of traveling.

3. **Hottarakashi Onsen**
   Outdoor baths with a view directly facing Mt. Fuji. The scenic view from these outdoor high-altitude baths is perfect.
   - 10 min. by taxi from Yamanashishi Station

4. **Togenkyo Onsen**
   Enjoy the unique springtime landscape of Fuefuki, Japan’s top peach producer. The city looks like it has been covered with pink carpet.
   - 15 min. by taxi from Yamanashishi Station

**Sightseeing**

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6. **Fuefukigawa Fruit Park**
   A fruit-themed park located on a series of hills. The view of the city lights at night is one of the New Three Major Night Views of Japan.
   - 10 min. by bus or taxi from Yamanashishi Station

7. **Nishizawa Gorge**
   This is one of Japan’s most beautiful gorges and is part of Chichibu Tama Kai National Park.
   - 50 min. by bus or taxi from Yamanashishi Station to Gorge Entrance

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Togenkyo

This onsenkyo becomes a paradise dyed pink with peach blossoms. The area also has great access to Mt. Fuji!

Scan this QR code with your smartphone to see a 360° panoramic view.
History and Culture

The ancient city of Yamanashi
Cultural properties and ruins still remain at the ancient city of Yamanashi. Get in touch with the adventurous spirit of the Warring States period!

Activities

Wine
Koshu wine has become famous around the world. Its refreshing, mild flavor is appealing.

Fruit-picking
This fruit village area has over 200 orchards where visitors can pick fruit. Nothing tastes better than fresh-picked fruit!

Yamanashi Fruit Calendar

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Basin Onsens
The view of the night lights from the outdoor baths is like gazing at a treasure chest!

Sekisui Onsen
This historic onsen is thought to be where Takeda Shingen had his first infant bath. It is popular among history buffs.
10 min. by taxi from Kofu Station

Yumura Onsen — Tokiwa Hotel Garden
One of the best gardens in Japanese hotels. It has had visitors such as the Emperor and numerous writers. It is also popular for its detached guest rooms with outdoor baths.
15 min. by bus or taxi from Kofu Station

Yumura Onsen — The Yakujizo at Entaku-ji Temple
Requests can be made to the Yakuyokejizo statue between noon on Feb. 13 and noon on Feb. 14 in order to avoid bad fortune.
15 min. by bus or taxi from Kofu Station

Shosenkyo Onsen
A mere 30 minutes from Kofu! Encounter beauty like out of an ink wash painting. Come visit one of the most beautiful gorges in Yamanashi!

Take the Shosenkyo Ropeway to the mountaintop and enjoy the panoramic view.
30 min. by bus or taxi from Kofu Station

Millet Exhibit, Yamanashi Prefectural Museum of Art
Yamanashi Prefectural Museum of Art has a collection with many pieces by Millet and the Barbizon school, including one of the greatest peasant farmer scenes, The Sower.
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Activities

Kofu and Shosenkyo Gorge Area

Yamanashi Jewelry Museum
Kofu, city of jewelry. The museum includes an activity workshop and museum shop that sells the Koo-fu brand.
- 5 min. on foot from Kofu Station

Shosenkyo Gorge
— Hoto-making
One fun activity is simply to enjoy a leisurely stroll along the gorge and take in the scenery. You can also enjoy making “hoto,” a traditional food in Yamanashi.
- 30 min. by bus or taxi from Kofu Station

History and Culture

Warring States
Commander Takeda Shingen
Shingen was the feudal lord who appeared in Kurosawa’s film Kagemusha. Take a tour of his territory, the town of Kofu!

Takeda-jinja Shrine
This shrine was built at the site of Tsutsujigasaki Yakata, the castle where Shingen lived. The moat and stone walls still exist today, and the beautiful woods are a must-see.
- 5 min. by bus or taxi from Kofu Station

Kai Zenko-ji Temple
Kai Zenko-ji Temple was built by Takeda Shingen. It is open to the public once every seven years, and the hidden Buddha statue can be viewed.
- 7 min. on foot from Zenko-ji Temple Station

Statue of Takeda Shingen
A statue of Takeda Shingen stands outside Kofu Station.
- 1 min. on foot from Kofu Station

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Kofu, City of Jewelry
The designs and techniques used by Yamanashi jewelry are amazing!

Kofu and Shosenkyo Gorge Area

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Get a commemorative photo taken together with Shingen!

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Mt. Yatsugatake and Nirasaki Area

**Onsens**

1. **Kai-Oizumi Onsen — Panorama-no-Yu**
   You can't beat the outdoor baths here, which face directly opposite Mt. Fuji and give you a view of the star-filled night sky.
   - 5 min. on foot from Kai-Oizumi Station

2. **Kobuchisawa Horseback Riding**
   Get your fill of horseback riding at Kobuchisawa at the southern foot of Yatsugatake. You can even take the horse outside the grounds and go riding through the forest.
   - 10 min. on foot from Kobuchisawa Station

3. **Mt. Amari**
   The mountaintop is colored by huge clusters of Japanese azaleas, and the view of Mt. Fuji is spectacular.
   - 40 min. by taxi from Nirasaki Station

**Sightseeing**

1. **Haiji-no-mura**
   This theme park recreates the world of the popular anime film Heidi, Girl of the Alps.
   - 25 min. by bus or taxi from Nirasaki Station

2. **Yatsugatake Highlands**
   Yamanashi’s highland resort area, with numerous farms and craft shops.
   - 15 min. by taxi from Kiyosato Station

3. **Suntory Hakushu Distillery**
   One of Japan’s top distilleries. This famous whiskey is known by the brand Hakushu.
   - 15 min. by bus or taxi from Kobuchisawa Station

**Activities**

**History**

1. **Kiyosato — Seisen-Ryo**
   This spot is symbolic of the Kiyosato highlands. The fresh ice cream made from Jersey cow milk is very popular.
   - 40 min. on foot from Kiyosato Station

2. **Mt. Amari**
   The mountaintop is colored by huge clusters of Japanese azaleas, and the view of Mt. Fuji is spectacular.
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Dr. Paul Rusch

Paul Rusch was an American missionary who worked hard at restoring universities and hospitals after WWII. He is known as the “father of Kiyosato’s restoration.”
Minami Alps and Fuji River Basin Area

**Onsens**

1. **Shimobe Onsens**
   - Hot springs were discovered in this area some 1,200 years ago. The area is home to numerous traditional lodges. It is also famous for its fireflies.
   - 5-20 min. on foot from Shimobe-onsen Station

2. **Nishiyama Onsens**
   - A historical onsen where water gushes out from the mountain. It is registered in the Guinness World Records for having the world’s oldest hot springs inn.
   - 90 min. by bus or taxi from Minobu Station

3. **Shingen’s Secret Baths**
   - This famous onsenkyo is where Takeda Shingen used to stay and recover from his wounds. I can’t wait to go for a dip!

**Activities**

4. **Ichikawa Fireworks Festival — Shinmei Fireworks**
   - About 20,000 fireworks launched. One of Japan’s top fireworks festivals held every year on August 7.
   - 10 min. on foot from Ichikawa-Daimon Station

5. **Cherry blossom trees at Oboshi Park**
   - One of Japan’s top 100 cherry blossom spots. A small hill here is colored pink with blossoms from late March to early April.
   - 10 min. by taxi from Kajikazawaguchi Station

**Sightseeing**

6. **The Minami Alps — UNESCO Eco Park (Biosphere Reserve)**
   - This range of mountains, over 3,000 meters in height, includes Japan’s second-highest peak, Mt. Kitadake. It is home to many endemic species, including the wildflower species kitadakeso Callianthemum hondoense. The area was officially registered as UNESCO Eco Park (Biosphere Reserve) in 2014.
   - 2 hours by bus from Kofu Station to Hirogawara, approx. 6 hours of mountain-climbing up to the summit of Mt. Kitadake (Overnight stay required)

7. **Minami-Alps Kanjuku Farm**
   - Enjoy fresh-picked fruit and meals.
   - 40 min. by bus or taxi from Kofu Station

8. **Minobu-san Kuon-ji Temple**
   - The head temple of the Nichiren School of Buddhism. Famous for its large weeping cherry blossom tree, which heralds the arrival of early spring.
   - 10 min. by bus or taxi from Minobu Station

9. **Cherry blossom trees at Oboshi Park**
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10. **Minobu Fireworks Festival — Shinmei Fireworks**
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    - 10 min. on foot from Ichikawa-Daimon Station

11. **Oshino Hakkai**
    - A small village with four waterfalls, each of different height.
    - 10 min. by taxi from Kajikazawaguchi Station

12. **The scenery of the Minami Alps is spectacular!**
Headwater Onsens
Mineral water that flows from headwaters includes many nutrients that will help your skin become beautiful. Can’t wait!

1 Tabayama Onsen Nomeko-i-Yu
These baths are famous for being good for the skin; the word "nomeko-i" means "smooth and silky."
60 min. by bus from Okutama Station

2 Kosuge-no-Yu
An onsen popular for its beauty. Nine different types of baths are available.
60 min. by bus from Otsuki Station

3 Doshi-no-Yu
Secret headwater baths on the Doshi River. Take it slow for a relaxing time.
50 min. by taxi from Otsuki Station

Basho Tsukimachi-no-Yu
Hot spring baths in the region that Matsuo Basho wrote haiku about.
10 min. by bus or taxi from Tsurushi Station

Mineral water that flows from headwaters includes many nutrients that will help your skin become beautiful. Can’t wait!

Yamanashi Prefectural Maglev Exhibition Center
This museum shows in an easy-to-understand manner how the maglev train is designed. Visitors can watch the prototype train, which boasts the highest recorded speed in the world, perform test runs close up. The Linear Chuo Shinkansen Line is scheduled to begin service in 2027, linking Tokyo and Nagoya in just 40 minutes.
15 min. by bus or taxi from Otsuki Station

Saruhashi Bridge
A wooden bridge on the Koshu Kaido. Its name comes from its appearance of numerous monkeys seemingly joined together to get to the other side ("saruhashi" means "monkey bridge.").
15 min. on foot from Saruhashi Station

Doshi-no-Yu
Secret headwater baths on the Doshi River. Take it slow for a relaxing time.
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15 min. on foot from Saruhashi Station

This has been selected as one of Japan’s three strangest bridges!
Directions to Yamanashi

Yamanashi-Bound Train and Bus Travel Times

From TOKYO

- From Narita International Airport or Haneda Airport
  - Narita International Airport
    - JR Chuo Line Limited Express: 1 hour and 30 minutes
  - Narita International Airport Expressway bus
  - Haneda Airport
    - JR Chuo Line Limited Express: 3 and a half hours
    - Expressway bus: 3 hours and 15 minutes

From OSAKA

- From Kansai International Airport
  - Kansai International Airport
    - Shin-Osaka
      - JR Minobu Line Limited Express: 2 hours
    - By train
  - By bus
    - Osaka Bus Terminal
      - Chuo Expressway: 11 hours

From KYOTO

- From Kansai International Airport
  - By train
    - Osaka Station
      - Kyoto
        - Shinkansen: 1 hour and 30 minutes
        - JR Minobu Line Limited Express: 2 hours
    - By bus
      - Kyoto Bus Terminal
        - Chuo Expressway and Chuo Expressway: 11 hours

From SHIZUOKA

- From Mt Fuji Shizuoka Airport
  - By train
    - Shizuoka
      - JR Minobu Line Limited Express: 2 hours
    - By bus

From NAGOYA

- From Central Japan International Airport Centrair
  - Nagoya
    - Shinkansen: 1 hour and 30 minutes
    - JR Minobu Line Limited Express: 2 hours
    - By train
  - By bus
    - Nagoya Bus Terminal
      - Chuo Expressway: 1 hour and 45 minutes

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

Fujisan Activities

Official FUJISAN experience guide provided by Yamanashi Prefecture

Fujisan Free WiFi!

Free WiFi spots in Yamanashi Available for Any User

Yamanashi Prefecture has promoted prefecture-wide installation of free WiFi access points. 2,000 free WiFi spots should be set up by the end of 2015. Feel free to use this service while sightseeing: www.yamanashikankou.jp/wifi/
Enjoy our hot springs
you tour Yamanashi!

Diamond Fuji (Yamanakako Village)