



Mt Fuji & Around Tokyo

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Best Places to Eat

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- ➔ Kawatoyo Honten (p208)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ K's House Itō Onsen (p177)
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- ➔ KAI Hakone (p171)

Why Go?

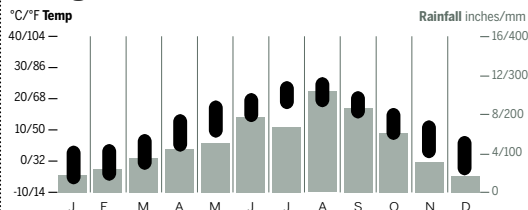
With ancient sanctuaries, hot springs, mountains and beaches, the region surrounding Tokyo is a natural foil for the dizzying capital. Really, you couldn't design it any better if you tried.

Authentic country ryokan, regional cuisines and cedar-lined trails are all within two hours of central Tokyo, as well as the symbol of Japan itself, alluring Mt Fuji. There's history here too, including a medieval capital and ports that were among the first to open to the West. These are, for better or for worse, well-visited places and you'll find transport and communication to be a comparative breeze.

Ferries and flights also provide easy access to the Izu Islands, but if you're really looking to get away, then set sail for the World Heritage-listed Ogasawara Archipelago, some 1000km south from Tokyo, where you can spot whales, swim with dolphins and snorkel alongside green turtles and a rainbow of tropical fish.

When to Go

Kawaguchi-ko



Apr & May

Experience the flush of spring in the mountains north and west of Tokyo.

Jul & Aug

The official season for Mt Fuji climbing and beach hopping around the Izu Peninsula.

Sep–Nov

Pleasant temperatures and fewer crowds, save when the autumn leaves blaze red.



Mt Fuji & Around Tokyo Highlights

- 1 Mt Fuji (p159)** Watching the sunrise from the majestic summit of Japan's highest mountain and national symbol.
- 2 Nikkō (p200)** Taking in the grandeur of old Edo at the dazzling shrines and temple.
- 3 Izu Peninsula (p175)** Flip-flopping between sandy beaches and hot springs.

- 4 Kamakura (p187)** Resetting your senses in the Zen temples of Japan's medieval capital.
- 5 Hakone (p167)** Hopping between onsen, art museums and hiking trails while enjoying gorgeous scenery.
- 6 Yokohama (p192)** Sampling craft beer,

contemporary art and jazz tunes in this port city.

- 7 Mitake (p199)** Hiking at Mitake-san, on the mountainous and forested western edge of Tokyo.
- 8 Ogasawara Archipelago (p208)** Getting back to nature on this pristine, subtropical island chain.