



Hello Kitty will be your
tour guide for Yamanashi,
Home of Mt. Fuji!



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YAMANASHI-JAPAN

Nature

The Scenery, History,
and Culture of Yamanashi



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:
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

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 Fujisan 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 Hakkai

The snowy scenery at Oshino Hakkai. A typical Japanese snow scene.
● 20 min. by bus from Fujisan Station

Concierge
Christine Haruka

A Japanese-Swiss TV personality who loves Yamanashi.

Scenery



Spring in
Yamanashi

Japan's oldest cherry blossom tree, marking the passage of time for two millennia.

Cherry Blossoms Heralding Spring in Yamanashi



⑤ Yamataka 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

⑥ Shinden no Oito-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



⑦ Sanehara Cherry Trees

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



⑧ 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

Recommended spots to visit in spring!



Spring in Yamanashi Dyed by Vibrant Flowers



⑨ 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 Yamanashishi Station

⑩ 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 Yamanashishi Station



⑪ Fuji Shibazakura Festival (Fuji Motosuko 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 actor born in Yamanashi.

Scenery

Summer in Yamanashi



Sun-Drenched Flowers in Full Bloom



⑬ 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 Fujisan Station



⑭ 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 Nirasaki Station

⑫ 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 Nirasaki Station



⑮ 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 Kai-Oizumi Station

The Allure of Highland Breezes and Refreshing Water

I want to go see this beautiful field of flowers!



⑯ Ojiragawa 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 Nagasaka Station



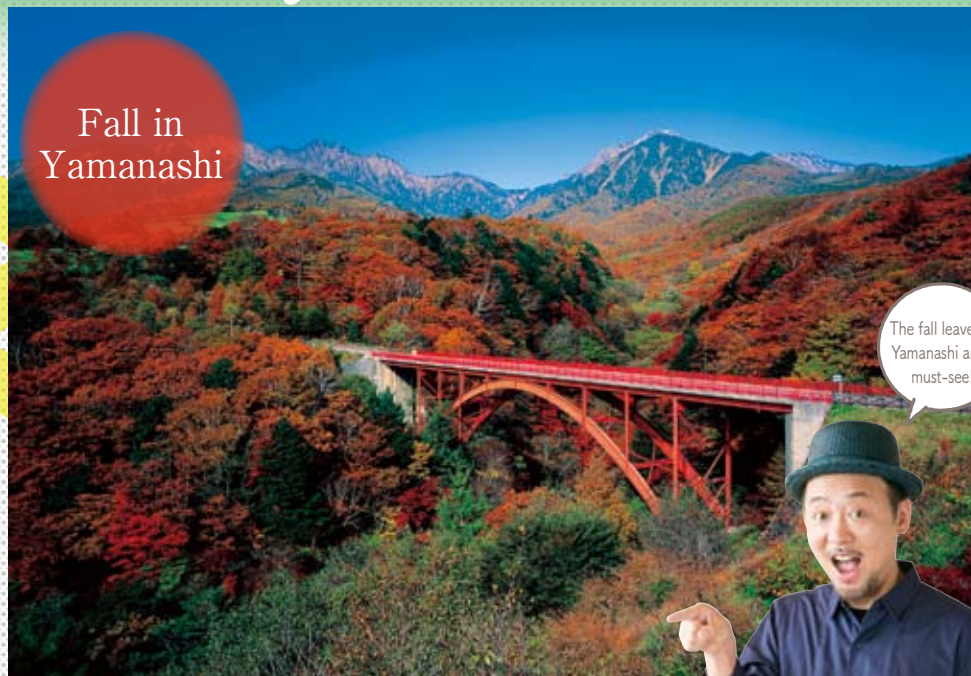
⑰ Lavender at Kawaguchiko Oishi Park

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



The fall leaves in Yamanashi are a must-see!

Yamanashi Dyed by Colorful Leaves in Fall

⑱ 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

⑳ 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



⑳ 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 Kiyosato Station

㉑ 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



Some of Japan's Most Beautiful Gorges

㉒ Shosenkyo 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

㉓ Oyanagawa Gorge

The river here flows through the village of Jikkoku, 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



㉔ 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 Yamanashishi Station to Gorge Entrance



㉕ Hirogawara

A hub for mountaineering in the Minami Alps. The colorful fall leaves and scenery with a view of Mt. Kitadake are spectacular.

● 2 hours by Minami-Alps Tozan Bus from Kofu Station



Scenery

Winter in Yamanashi



An ukiyo-e painting of Saruhashi Bridge by Utagawa Hiroshige

Yamanashi's Scenery, Beautiful as Ever in Winter



②⑦ 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



②⑧ 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

②⑥ 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



Scan this QR code with your smart phone to see a 360° panoramic view.

Take your best Diamond Fuji photo!

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.

Best in February

The Diamond Fuji is most cleanly 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.

②⑨ The Diamond Fuji

The "Diamond Fuji" is a mystical natural phenomenon that appears when the sun is positioned right at the summit of Mt. Fuji. For that brief moment, the sun's rays gleam like a diamond.

● 30 min. by bus from Fujisan Station



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



1. Panorama-dai View Point area
Around Oct. 16, Feb. 25
2. Asahigaoka 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. Nagaike 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.

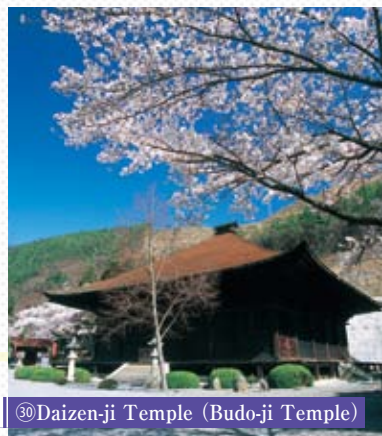
History and Culture



Grapes and Wine



Yamanashi, the Birthplace of Japanese Wine-Making



③① 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

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 1,300 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.



Try wine-tasting all different kinds!

The Katsunuma Budo-no-oka Wine Cellar

③① 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

Katsunuma-Budokyo

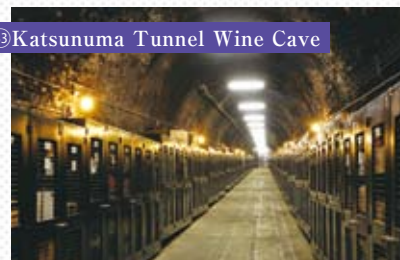
③② Ohikage Tunnel Footpath

This 1,376-meter Meiji-Era railway tunnel is now used in its original state as the Ohikage 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



③③ Katsunuma Tunnel Wine Cave



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.



Koshu wine has such an elegant aroma!



Koshu city Bus

Koshu 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.



History and Culture

Look!



Scan this QR code with your smart phone to view movies.

Mt. Fuji,
a World Cultural
Heritage Site



③ Mountaintop Worship Sites

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

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 would make trips to Mt. Fuji. This sect became known as Fujiko.



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



Mt. Fuji Tour Buses

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

● Fujikyuko Bus



③ 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.



⑥ Kitaguchi Hongu Fuji Sengen-jinja Shrine

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



⑦ Priest's House

(Former Togawa Family Residence) (Osano Family Residence)

A guesthouse for Fujiko pilgrims. Visitors are permitted to tour the remaining structure, which is unchanged over the last 250 years.



⑧ Funatsu Lava Tree Molds

(Open to the Public)

Fujiko pilgrims deified this lava cave as a holy site during the Edo period.



⑨ Yoshida Lava Tree Molds

(Closed to the Public)



⑩ Fuji Omuro Sengen-jinja Shrine

A nationally-designated important cultural property.



⑪ Kawaguchi Asama-jinja Shrine

800-year-old trees line the approach to this shrine.



⑫ Lake Kawaguchiko

This lake features cherry blossoms and views of beautiful Mt. Fuji all four seasons.



⑬ Lake Saiko

This lake is surrounded by Aokigahara-jukai Forest. The black kokanee, a rare species of salmon previously thought to be extinct, was discovered here.



⑭ Lake Shojiko

The lakeshore here is nicknamed "the Switzerland of the Orient" for its scenery.



⑮ Lake Motosuko

This lake is famous for being depicted on the Japanese thousand-yen note together with Mt. Fuji.



⑯ Lake Yamanakako

A lake famous for the Diamond Fuji.



⑰ Oshino Hakkai

Eight beautiful ponds fed by spring water from Mt. Fuji.

History and Culture

Oshino Hakkai



Tour Oshino Hakkai to see unspoilt Japanese scenery!

Mt. Fuji and Eight Mystical Ponds

④8 Oshino Hakkai

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



Deguchiike Pond



Kagamiike Pond



Shobuike Pond



Okamaike Pond



Sokonashiike Pond



Choshiike Pond



Nigoriike Pond



Mt. Minobu



Look!



Scan this QR code with your smart phone to see a 360° panoramic view.

A Magnificent Buddhist Temple Tucked Away on Mt. Minobu

④9 Kuon-ji Temple, Mt. Minobu

Kuon-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



Bodaitei at Mt. Minobu



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.

I want to try staying at a temple guesthouse!



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.



Vegetarian cuisine for Monks

Millet Museum

History and Culture



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 verdure.



They have over 10,000 items in their collection!



⑤⑥ Yamanashi Prefectural Museum of Art

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.

● 15 min. by bus or taxi from Kofu Station

The Maglev Experience



See the Futuristic Maglev with Speeds of 603 km/hour

⑤⑦ Yamanashi Prefectural Maglev Exhibition Center

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.

● 15 min. by bus or taxi from Otsuki Station



Actual Maglev Exhibit



Ride a Mini-Maglev!



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



History and Culture

Warring States Period

Look!



Scan this QR code with your smart phone to view movies.

It's so impressive seeing the warriors all gathered together!

Recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records for largest gathering of samurai warriors



Statue of Lord Takeda Shingen at JR Kofu Station

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.

53 Kai-Zenko-ji Temple



This temple was built by Takeda Shingen. It holds a public exhibition of an invaluable Buddhist statue once every seven years.
● 7 min. on foot from Zenkoji Station

54 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 Kokushi.
● 10 min. by bus or taxi from Enzan Station

52 Takeda-jinja Shrine

Takeda Shingen is venerated as an enshrined deity at this shrine. The original moat and stone fence remain to this day.

● 5 min. by bus or taxi from Kofu Station



Relive the Past with the Warring States Picture Scroll!

55 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 ceremony realistically reenacts 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 Maizurujo Park

Contact: Yamanashi Tourism Organization

Tel: 055-231-2722



56 The Battle of Kawanakajima

The Battle of Kawanakajima Warring States Picture Scroll is a reenactment 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: Fuefuki Tourism and Commerce Alliance

Tel: 055-261-2829

● 5 min. by taxi from Isawa Onsen Station



57 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: Kai no Katsuyama Yabusame Festival Executive Committee

Tel: 0555-72-3168

● 10 min. by bus or taxi from Kawaguchiko Station

History and Culture

Look!



Scan this QR code with your smart phone to view movies.

Festivals in Yamanashi

Fireworks Lighting Up the Yamanashi Night



58 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

59 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 (大) on the side of a mountain.

Event period: Every year on August 16

● 15 min. by taxi from Isawa-onsen Station



60 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 Fujisan Station

61 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 Kobuchisawa Station

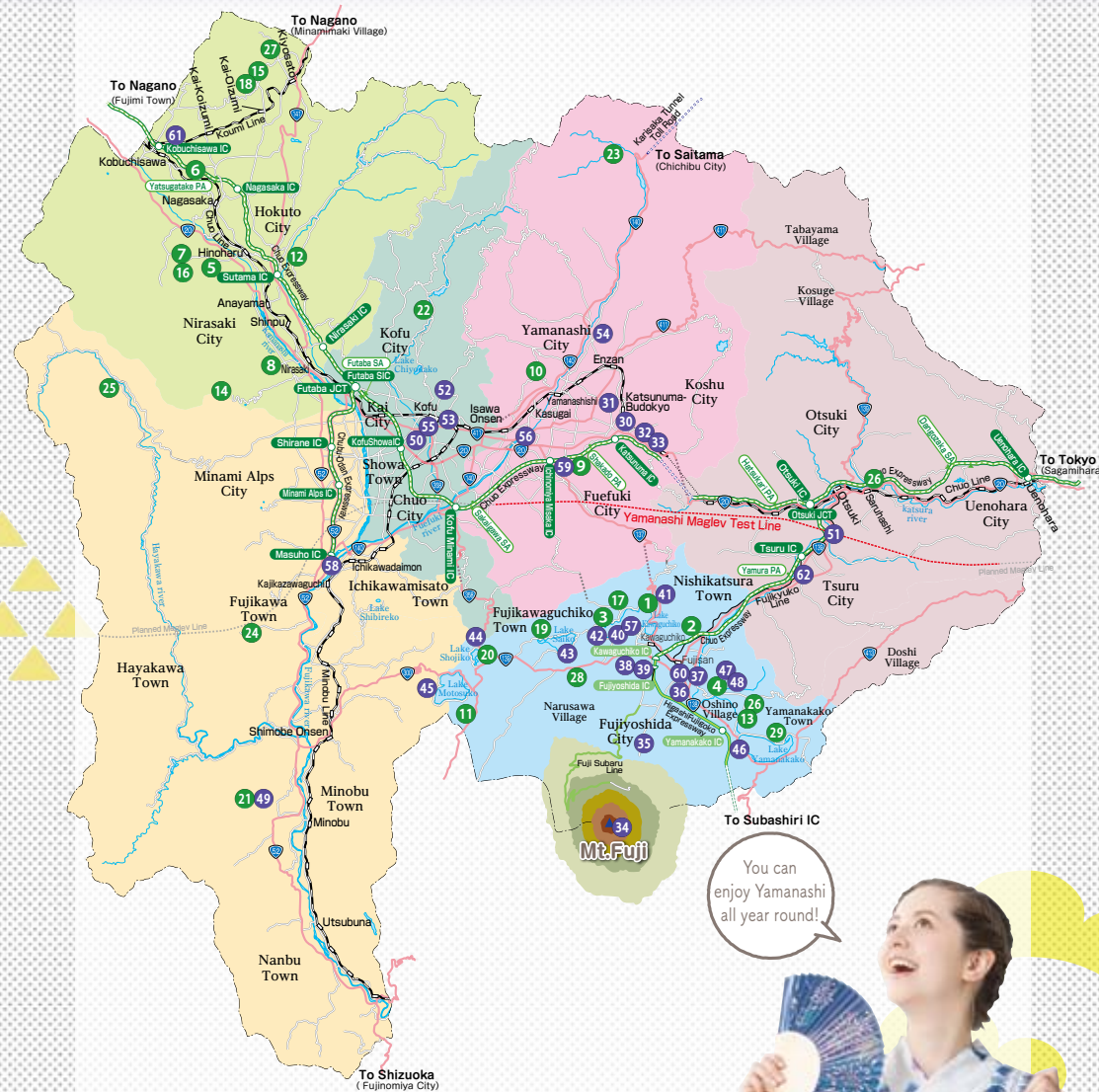
62 Hassaku-sai Festival

This spectacular event involves a large parade with townsfolk participating and luxuriously decorated Hassaku floats pulled by parade members.

Event period: Every year on September 1

● 5 min. on foot from Yamuramachi 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



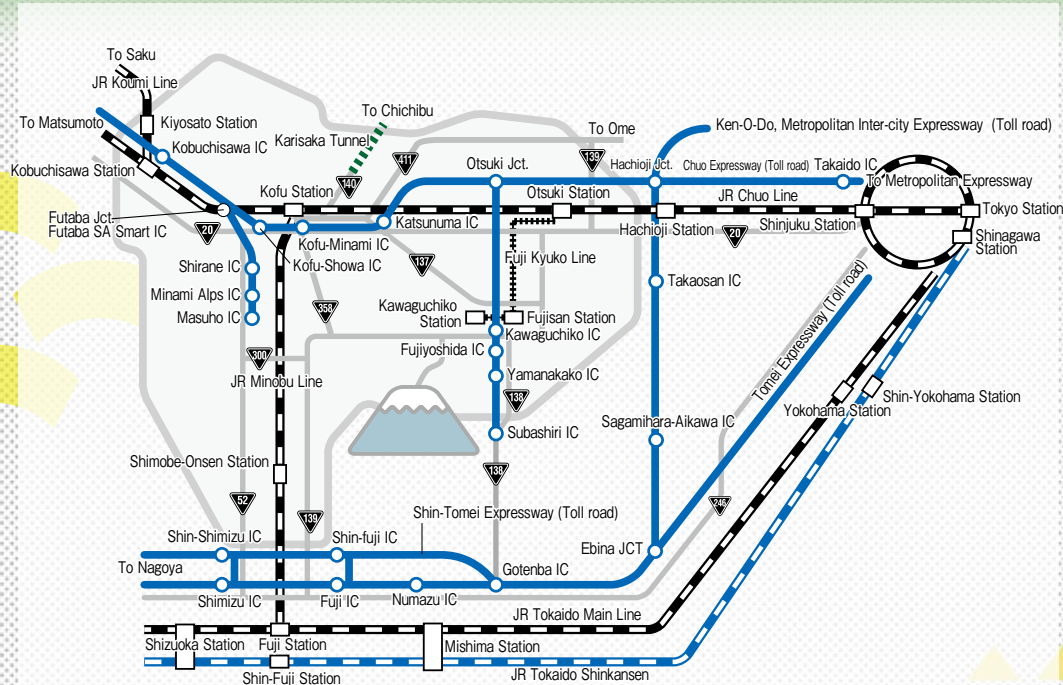
No. 1 producer of jewelry



No. 1 producer of mineral water



Directions to Yamanashi



JR Chuo Line:
Azusa Limited Express
Kaiji Limited Express

Fuji Kyuko Line

Chuo Expressway
Yamanashi Kotsu

Chuo Expressway
Fuji Kyuko



Fujisan Activities

Official FUJISAN experience guide provided by Yamanashi Prefecture



New App
2016
Release



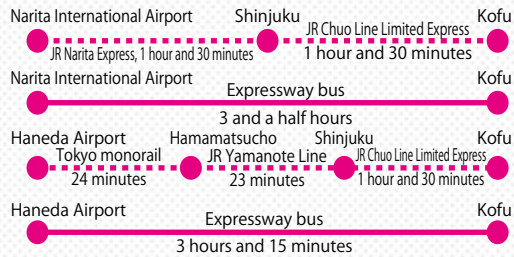
Free Wi-Fi Spots in Yamanashi Available for Any User

Yamanashi Prefecture has promoted prefecture-wide installation of free Wi-Fi access points. 2,000 free Wi-Fi spots should be set up by the end of 2015. Feel free to use this service while sightseeing. www.yamanashi-kankou.jp/wi-fi/

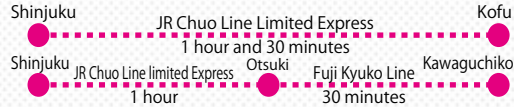
Yamanashi-Bound Train and Bus Travel Times

From TOKYO

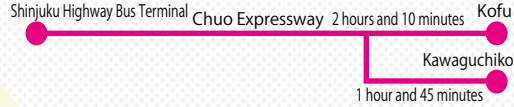
From Narita International Airport or Haneda Airport



By train

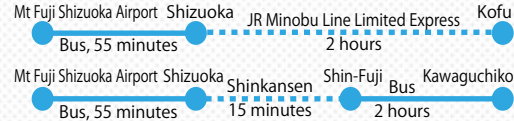


By bus



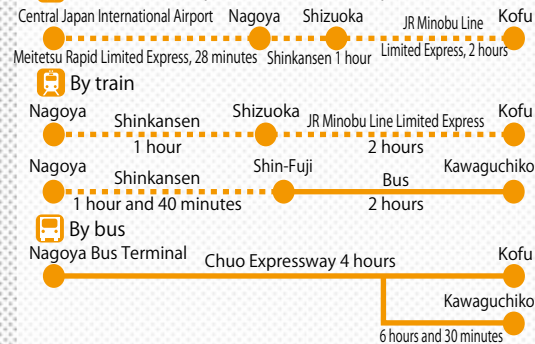
From SHIZUOKA

From Mt Fuji Shizuoka Airport



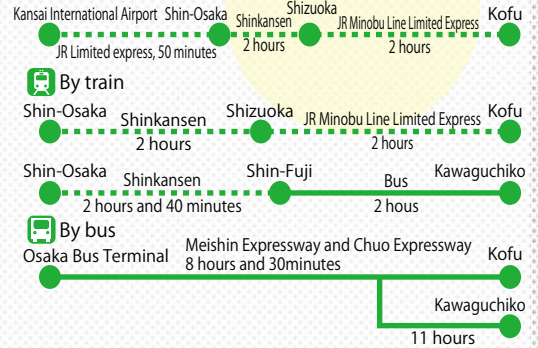
From NAGOYA

From Central Japan International Airport Centrair



From OSAKA

From Kansai International Airport



From KYOTO

From Kansai International Airport



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





Arakurayama Sengen Park (Fujiyoshida City)



Yamanashi Tourism Organization

Yamanashi Prefectural Office Annex 2nd Floor,
1-6-1 Marunouchi, Kofu Yamanashi 400-0031
Tel.055-231-2722 <http://www.yamanashi-kankou.jp/>



※As of September 1, 2015