

Day Trips from Fussa

Hakuunzan

For a day of hiking, picnicking, and looking at small temples, drive 50 minutes to Hakuunzan (White Cloud Mountain), located in the Naguri Valley northwest of Yokota. On a 3,100-ft peak overlooking the valley stands the Torii Kannon Temple with three tall statues dominating the landscape. At least 17 other interesting structures such as shrines, gates, towers, statues, and pagodas are located on the hillside. Many people park their cars and walk the trails that meander through the forest areas. Hiranuma Toko, a wealthy architect, designed the structures which were built between 1957 and 1977. A small temple was built at the foot of the mountain for his mother. To the left of the temple is a home for the Buddhist priest and to the right is a religious library building. There is a ¥300 parking fee. The parking lot is the start of a forty-minute four-mile hiking trail up the mountain. The trail provides a close look at structures, which cannot be reached by car. On the trail is a torii gate in front of a small Shinto shrine. A short distance away is another Buddhist temple with an impressive gate and two statues of mythical beings called "Niozo," who protect the temple from evil spirits. There is also a huge globe of the world which appears suspended in space, plus a Japanese-style arched bridge and covered picnic tables. To drive into the area and up the mountain costs ¥500 for Hakuunzan Offers Country Scenery cars and ¥200 for motorcycles. The road is not paved all the way, narrow in spots, and one-half kilometer from the entrance to the summit. An interesting gate named Gyoku-kamon will be passed on the way up. The gate was modeled after a gate in Thailand, is 34 ft tall, and was completed in 1969. There are many places to stop for a picnic. Next will be an unusual pentagon-shaped bell tower and a little further along is a three-tiered pagoda. Both are worth stopping at for a closer look. The main attraction is the temple with the three giant statues at the summit. To enter the temple, there is a fee of ¥200 for adults and ¥100 for children. At the top, you have a "birds-eye view" of the surrounding panorama. Stained glass windows provide lighting.

DIRECTIONS: Turn right out of the Terminal Gate. Take the underpass, and turn left onto Ome Kaido (fourth light, 2.7km). At about 8.3km from the Terminal Gate (after a TV tower on the right), there is a Y-intersection before a tire store (Grand Slam Yamakawa). Go under the pedestrian overpass and turn right (Central Ome). Turn right again before the railroad tracks (Higashi Ome station) onto Nariki Kaido (9km).

Go through an intersection with Osogi-Kaido, bear left and stay on Nariki Kaido. Drive through the tunnel (12.7km), and at the Nariki 8 light (13.2km), turn right toward Naguri. The road winds up and down as it follows the Nariki River. After a Shell station, at the Nariki 5 light before a bridge, make a left with Nariki Kaido. Continue up through a long tunnel (Rt. 53, 20km).

At the Y-intersection (22km), go left. At the T (24km), turn right and go carefully over a narrow bridge, then turn left (24.8km), bear right on Rt. 53 for Chichibu (not Arima Dam).

Pass a gas station on your right, and at the large white sign hanging over the road (25.5km), turn left toward the Naguri Village Office and school (there's also a sign for a coffee shop on the corner). There is a series of red torii gates on the left, before the entrance road to Hakuunzan, on the left, between two big red stone lanterns (26km, sign with red arrow).

Sharon Chang, Teresa K. Negley, Doriann Geller, Delores Street 8/97

Little Edo a.k.a. Kawagoe

A great historical outing, a trip to Kawagoe located an hour and half drive north of Yokota can be combined with a browse through the shrine sale held each month at Naritasan Temple. Shoppers have purchased rice buckets, pottery, wooden items, brocade obi, and other items such as baskets and lacquer ware. The shrine sale antiques reflect the old buildings of Little Edo (the nickname for Kawagoe's old town), remainders of an older area which was not bombed during World War II.

After shopping, one can visit Kitain Temple around the corner from the shrine sale. Kitain became the main temple of a three-temple complex that prospered due to the friendship of Tenkai, head monk of the complex in 1599, with the first Shogun. Tokugawa Ieyasu. Following a fire in 1638, Kitain Temple was rebuilt with the assistance of Shogun Tokugawa Iemitsu who had part of Edo Castle relocated to Kitain. One ornate room with a floral ceiling is thought to be the room where he was born.

Diagonal to Kitain with its entrance next to a small shop is the place of Gohyaku Rakan or Five Hundred Buddhas. The Buddhas were made between 1781 to 1825 and all are different. They are approximately two and a half to three feet tall. It is said if you find a warm Buddha in the dead of night and mark that Buddha in a non-destructive manner before returning in the daytime, that statue will look most like you (we don't recommend marking statues in any way).

After looking around Kitain, head toward the streets of old town where the Kurazukuri buildings are located. The Kurazukuri symbolize old Kawagoe. These combination store/residence buildings, built by merchants are fireproof, having been constructed from a wood frame packed with clay and plaster. (Fire, next to earthquakes, is a Japanese person's greatest fear.) The 30 or so remaining buildings (out of 200) were mostly built after the Great Fire of 1893. The Osawa family owns Kawagoe's oldest kurazukuri built in 1793, now an Important Cultural Property (and shop specializing in folk art). It is located in Saiwai-cho along with the city-run Kurazukuri Museum and other kurazukuri protected by the city.

Kawagoe, as a castle town, protected the northern flank of Edo Castle (now the Emperor's palace in central Tokyo). An area blessed with resources, a powerful daimyo (martial ruler) was in charge of the Kawagoe domain. The Matsudaira family ruled Kawagoe for 100 years during which its production of rice reached one million bushels. Trade with Edo (now Tokyo) was done by boat using the Shingashi River.



Much of Tokugawa-era Kawagoe remains for you to rediscover. There are restaurants, small shops and museums throughout Little Edo, just a few blocks away from the shrine sale.

DIRECTIONS: Drive north on Rt. 16. For detailed instructions, refer to the article on the Kawagoe Shrine Sale in Shopping.

**Compiled from OSC Tours materials by Teresa Negley and Yokosan story by Catherine L. Sadler
Based on Kawagoe City Bureau of Tourism brochures, Cluck's Japan Inside Out, and Moriyama's
Weekend Adventures Outside Tokyo

Chichibu

The Chichibu area is a delightful destination for a weekend trip or a long one day jaunt to the countryside. There are many parks and points of interest. If you leave early in the morning you can be back by evening. Or, you can spend the night at Nagatoro, a major tourist spot.

DIRECTIONS: (Refer to a map of the Kanto Plain.) Turn right out the Terminal Gate onto Rt. 16. After Iruma and before Kawagoe, take the Kan-Etsu Expressway going north from exit #4. Travel north to exit six. Take the first left fork after the exit, heading north/northeast. About 2km along this road you will come to Musashi-kyaryo Forest Park, a lovely place for hiking and picnics.

Entrance to the Forest Park is ¥300. All-day parking is ¥500. There are many hiking and bicycling trails. Bikes can be rented for ¥300 for three hours. The park is open 9:30am-5pm, March-November; and 9:30am-4pm, December-February. It is closed on Mondays. There is also a children's animal park within the Forest Park.

Next, you can either return to the expressway and head north again to exit seven or stay on the main road you were on and head north to Route 140. In either case, when you reach Route 140, turn left and head west. About 20km or one hour from the expressway you will come to Nagatoro Gorge. You will see a city hall on your left. Go to the main intersection, turn right. Set out to explore the Chichibu area and go under a stone torii gate. Go to the end of this road where you will find a tram that goes up to a shrine. Hiking trails abound in this area, where it is said wild monkeys have been seen.

Back on Route 140, the road follows the river. There are several areas where you can park all day for ¥500 while you enjoy a boat ride or hike some more. There are many tourist hotels around Nagatoro. If you continue west, southwest on Route 140, you will come to Chichibu City. Antique lovers will be in heaven, since there are antique shops all over the city. Because this area was not bombed during the war, many fine old pieces still exist. There is a museum devoted to medicine and old fold remedies. As you enter Chichibu City look for the city hall.

Nearby Mitsumine is a really mountainous area filled with shrines, temples, an old stone Buddha, a four-hundred year old minka (farm house), and more hiking trails. Driving there is only for the stouthearted. It is a steep and curvy road, but the scenery is breathtaking.

There's a toll road to Mitsumine and a side road to Nakatsugawa. Maps in kanji will be helpful should you need to stop and ask directions. However, it really is difficult to get

lost in this area. Route 140 generally follows the river. Any side road you take off Route 140 between Nagatoro and Chichibu will lead up the mountains, most likely to a shrine, temple, or something of interest. Take your adventurous spirit along and explore!

If you spend the night in Nagatoro and continue on to Chichibu the second day, you might enjoy returning via Route 299 through Hanno, well known for its many potters. Route 299, however, from Chichibu to Hanno is quite mountainous with many tunnels. Their views are exquisite and, of course, best enjoyed during daylight hours. These roads are also apt to be icy as late as March, so check the road conditions in advance.

If you want to visit Chichibu in the winter, check the local calendar for the exact date of their annual Hi-matsuri (Fire Festival). Usually the first week in December, they also hold a Yo-matsuri at the Chichibu Jinja Shrine. This is a night festival with elaborately decorated floats holding countless paper lanterns. During daylight hours kabuki and hiki-odori dancers perform on these same floats. This area is ready and able to provide a mini-vacation for all seasons.

Pat Nolan, Masumi Lawrence



Hinohara Falls, Photo compliments Brian & Kristen Marriott

Hinohara Falls

One favorite Sunday drive is into the hills west of the base. In 45 minutes, we are parked and ready to hike up a gradual path to view the Hinohara Waterfalls. We've visited it in all seasons, and it's spectacular, plunging maybe 80ft over a wooded cliff into a shallow pool. The waterfall is worth visiting for several reasons. We have taken dozens of photos, the most striking is when it is mostly frozen over in the coldest part of winter. We have carried a lunch along to eat and watched visitors as they climb; men in hiking gear (unnecessary!), young ladies in high heels and miniskirts, mama-sans in their 80's,



and little kids. We have had fun offering to take photos of couples against the waterfall's backdrop and having our offer reciprocated.

We recommend you wear a comfortable pair of walking shoes. We found the path negotiable but muddy in the fall and slippery because of ice in the winter. As it is a shaded, rocky area, it tends to be cooler than the surrounding countryside, so dress warmly, too.

We recommend you time a Sunday drive for the late morning so the sun is high for photographs and the traffic hasn't jammed up yet coming back toward base (usually 3:00 to 5:30pm). In the summertime, go in late afternoon and take a picnic supper to eat as you take in the view. In the fall and winter, reward yourself with a warm drink at the coffee shop near the car park.

DIRECTIONS: Turn left out the Fussa Gate (0km) and right at the 1st light. You are now on Tamabashi Dori, which changes to Itsukaichi-Kaido after you cross the Tama River bridge (2km). The road goes in a pretty straight line out to Itsukaichi, the first town in the hills (although it curves left after the bridge and merges right at 7km).

In the middle of Itsukaichi, you come to a "T" intersection in front of the train station (11.2km). Turn left and continue on through the town. You will see signs showing Hinohara ahead. At the "Y" (15km), stay to the left. When you come to another "T" intersection at Motoshuku (19.9km), turn right. In about a 1/2 km, just past a school crossing and opposite a bus turnaround (20.5km), turn left up a hill just before crossing the first bridge. After going over a narrow bridge, you may park in a small parking area near a rustic coffee shop or continue further up the road to a larger parking area. (Note: the Okutama Nature Map calls this the Hossawanotaki waterfall.)

From the lower car park, you will find the path to the waterfall after you walk back across the little bridge and go right. From the higher car park, follow the path that starts by the restrooms and meets the main path up to the waterfall. The easy hike will take maybe 15 minutes. Enjoy the exercise, the scenic beauty, and the friendliness of the other visitors.

Rod and Cheryl Mees 8/97

Kanotoiwa Rock

Near Hinohara Falls is a beautiful rock cliff, with a narrow gorge through it cut by a clear mountain stream. You can climb on the rocks along the river and cross through the gorge on a narrow path beside the swift flowing stream holding onto a chain. Unless you see it, you will not know how beautiful it is. It also is a nice quiet place to sit by the river and contemplate, away from the crowds of the city. Getting there is a beautiful drive on narrow road through the woods.

Directions: Follow the directions to Hinohara Falls above. When you come to the "T" intersection at Motoshuku (19.9 km) turn right. Instead of turning left up the hill towards the waterfall, continue straight for another 3 km (24 km from base), until you come to a small sign pointing towards Kitaki-Gawa just before an arched blue bridge. Turn right, and follow the very narrow road along the stream. When you come to a parking lot on the right in 2.3 km, park your car and continue walking up the road towards the cliff for another 100 meters.

If you go over a bridge and through a dark, narrow, rocky tunnel, you can park your car on the other side of the gorge and approach it from the upstream side (not recommended).

Brian and Kristen Marriott 12/01

Kitagawa Museum

On your way to Kanotoiwa Rock, you can stop and spend a few minutes at the small free nature/history museum that is about 0.4 km before the turn towards Kitaki-Gawa. (3.2 km past the "T" intersection at Motoshuku, 23.1 km from base.) The sign is in kanji. (It is helpful if you recognize the "museum" kanji.) There is a small parking lot cut into the cliff along the right side of the road. Go up two wide flights of stairs in the cliff to get to the entrance.

Brian and Kristen Marriott 12/01



Brian Marriott at Kanotoiwa, Photo Courtesy Brian & Kristen Marriott



Tomin-no-Mori (Tokyo Community Forest a.k.a. Tokyo Citizens Woods)

In short, Tomin-no-Mori is a small area in the Chichibu-Tama National Park set aside for Tokyo citizens. There are five zones of forest introduced in nature seminars (edible plants, lumber, places where animals live, etc.), a bird-watching cabin, and hiking trails winding all over the place. A visitors center has a photo gallery showing the woods during the four seasons, plus a restaurant on the first floor and picnic tables on the second. A woodworking center is nearby.

The facilities are open 9:30am to 4pm (closed Mondays except during the summer) and there is free parking 8am-5:30pm. There may not be maps in English available at the site; refer below. (We obtained a wonderful map at another visitors' center; refer to Hiking in Sports.) To buy food in the Woody Restaurant, purchase meal tickets from the vending machine to the left of the door. (Soba noodles were ¥600 and spaghetti ¥850.)

DIRECTIONS: (Set your odometer to 0) Turn left out the Fussa gate and turn right at the 1st light toward Akigawa. This will merge at 7km into Itsukaichi Kaido. Turn left at the T in front of the Musashi Itsukaichi train station. The road will narrow at Konakano, the turnoff for the Black Tea House. At 15km, stay to the left of the Y. Note the road sign for Tomin-no-mori (26km to go), and the tall cedars lining the road. At 18.6 km there is a rest area with a large map of the area where you can pull over, use the restroom, look at the map, and look down at the mountain stream you are driving alongside. At 20km, turn left at the T to Kazuma, the road will wind. At the Y, turn right to Kazuma (28.5km, Kamikawanori Intersection). Drive past the village of Kazuma and a modern onsen hot springs center. (Sign for Mt. Mitohsan). Enter the old tollbooth for the Okutama road. There will be short green poles along the center of the road. At the light at 40.5km, turn left into the parking lot for Tomin-no-Mori just past the dark brown wooden gatehouse (and lookout tower).

The drive via Itsukaichi takes an hour and 15 minutes on a winding, mountain road. We have usually parked inside the entrance to Tomin-no-Mori. Since this parking lot is small, theoretically during peak seasons, a commuter bus will run from the various lots off the road before and after the entrance. To return to base, you can backtrack or continue around the lake. (See Lake Okutama via Itsukaichi Kaido.)

Teresa Negley, George Teitel 6/96



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Lake Okutama via Itsukaichi Kaido

Spring usually arrives at Lake Okutama about mid-April. In the summertime, driving in the mountains provides welcome relief from the heat. For New England-style color, take the trip in autumn. Should you decide to brave the elements in the winter months, take chains to be prepared for icy roads. Also, take note that the toll road closes during the night and is only open from 8am-5pm. This is the scenic route to Okutama!

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: To drive to Okutama Lake, go straight out the Supply Gate onto Itsukaichi Kaido. After you cross Okutama Kaido and a small bridge, the road will curve right and narrow. At the "T", make a left and cross the bridge, continuing past a shrine on the right and a post office on the left to the town of Itsukaichi (approx. 25 minutes). At the next "T" intersection, there will be signs for Ome and Hinodemachi to the right and Uenohara to the left. Take the left for Uenohara and Hinohara. And left again to Hinohara, then left onto the Hinohara Kaido. Continue past a terraced cemetery and bear right toward Kazuma and Okutamako. As you approach Kazuma, there will be Japanese noodle restaurants (some with thatched roofs) along the road, plus a "Campbell" log house restaurant. Cross the bridge and enter a gate for the road through the mountains.

Several curves past the toll road gate, you may notice an entrance to Tomin-no-Mori (Tokyo Community Forest), established by the Tokyo Okutama government to introduce kids to nature. There are parking lots on both sides of the entrance that seem quite far away (you probably have to take a bus from the parking lot). As you continue on the toll road toward the lake, you will pass scenic lookout points, (some with picnic tables) and come to a light and a sign for Yama-no-Furusato-mura to the right. This compound contains a visitor center, campgrounds, and a small restaurant, plus hiking paths around a reservoir.



The road will gradually slope downward to take you to the north end of Okutama Lake. As you come off the toll road, cross the bridge and proceed to the first intersection, turning right toward Ome. You will cross a silver-white arched bridge, then a gold arch bridge, and go through several tunnels before you reach the Ogochi Dam. (To enter the dam/museum area, turn right around the traffic “triangle” just outside a tunnel and head up the slope to the right.) To head back toward civilization, continue toward Ome on Ome Kaido. As you go through Ome, you can also turn right onto Okutama Kaido to return to Yokota via Fussa. The entire trip will take about six hours.

TRAIN DIRECTIONS: You can also reach Okutama (in 45 min.) by taking the Ome Line train from Fussa Station toward Ome/Okutama. You may have to transfer trains at Ome for an Okutama-bound train. Okutama is the very last station on the Ome Line.

Corrie Huggins, Teresa Negley and Susie Shaw

Lake Okutama via Ome Kaido

If you're looking for a relaxing afternoon in the mountains, then Lake Okutama is for you. Surrounded by hills, the lake is a reservoir feeding the Tama River. For most of the drive, the river will be on your left. If you don't want to go all the way to the reservoir, find a place to park and work your way down to the river. Either way, bring a picnic lunch and some yen. There are souvenir stores where you can buy drinks and snacks.

DIRECTIONS: Depending on traffic, it takes about one and a half hours to drive to Lake Okutama. At the Terminal Gate, set your odometer to zero and turn right and go under the overpass. Turn left onto Ome Kaido Ave, (Hakonegasakinishi Intersection, the 4th light after the underpass, appx 2.8 km from terminal gate. McDonalds is on far left corner.) You will wind along Ome Kaido all the way to the lake. At 8.3km, take the left for at the Y. Follow the signs for Okutama. At 10.6km, the road ends (Ome Civic Hall S. intersection), turn right. Take a left at the next light 10.9km. (Ome Shinimkaika Int) This is still Ome Kaido. Pay close attention to the landmarks here for the return trip. At 19.5km, you will pass Mitake Station and the road becomes narrower. The river will be on your left. At 27km, you'll pass through the first of 11 tunnels. At 30.9km, after the fourth tunnel, Ome Kaido forks left. Stay with it. At 36.8km, there is an entrance to the dam area. Turn left here and follow this road up and around to the reservoir. There is free parking to the right. Enjoy your day!

Linda Coffman, Directions updated 7/02 by Brian Marriott

Okutama Visitor Center

This center has the information you need to explore the area, especially if you are hiking or mountain climbing (English language maps available for purchase). A two-minute walk from Okutama Station on the JR Ome Line, the center is open 9am-4:30pm, closed on Mondays; 0428-83-2037. Some parking is available behind the center. See Hiking section in Sports and activities for more information.



Nippara Caverns

For an outing with your family not too far from Yokota, head for Chichibu-Tama National Park and Nippara Caverns. It's a great place to take school-age children.

The caverns are well lit, but nothing like the commercialized ones in the U.S. There are steep stairs to various sections, but they are well protected with handrails and wire netting. Wear shoes with tread, as the pathways are always wet. The temperature is a constant 52 degrees, but short sleeves are fine to wear.

The Nippara Shonyu-Do is about 800m deep, with about 300m open to visitors. It consists of eight caves divided into two sections. The old caves, “Kyu-do,” were used as a training site for “yamabushi” or itinerant Buddhist monks at the Isseki-zan Shrine Temple for 1,200 years before the cavern was opened to sightseers. Visitors to the Kyu-do first purify themselves with water at the nearby waterfall and then offer coins to the guardian god enshrined in the cave. The new caves, “Shin-do,” were discovered in 1963 and have much finer stalactites and stalagmites than the “Kyu-Do.” Scientists estimate the caves were formed 5-7 million years ago. Entrance fees for the caves are ¥600 per adult; ¥400/middle school student and ¥250/elementary school student and younger.

It takes about an hour to drive there and another hour and a half to explore the caves. After you exit the cave, turn right past the parking lots and explore the area a bit. A gigantic wall of lime rocks, named “Bonteniwa” towers over the stream and along the road. There's a waterfall about a three-minute walk up the road. There are some trout fishing pools where anglers can try their luck and roast their catch for lunch. A refreshment stand is available where a few things can be purchased, but a picnic lunch is preferable.

DIRECTIONS: Turn right at the Terminal Gate and go north via the underpass. Turn left onto Ome Kaido at the fourth light, and stay on it for about 6km. In Ome follow blue Ome Kaido (Rt 411) signs carefully to Okutama. The road follows the south side of the Ome railway all the way to Okutama, the end of the line. Just past the sign for Okutama Station, you

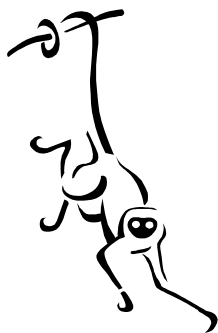


cross a bridge. At the end of the bridge, take a right in front of a Jomo gas. After you make this turn, you should begin to see signs saying Nippara Kaido. Follow this very narrow, winding road for about 10.5km. Along the way, you go through a long tunnel as well as Nippara village, which literally hangs on the mountainside. The road is paved to the end at the caverns, so when you see a parking lot, you have arrived. You will cross two or three bridges. After the last bridge the road forks left and right. Take the right fork to the caverns. (The left fork is a poorly maintained gravel road with no guardrails.) The road while paved and will maintained is extremely narrow with many switch-backs which are posted with convex mirrors to help you see around each bend.

On the return trip, turn left onto the Ome Kaido in Okutama and return to Ome. In Ome, follow signs for Tachikawa and Hachioji to be routed around the shopping area and back to the Ome Kaido toward Rt 16.

By train, take a train bound for Okutama on the Ome Line at Fussa Station. There is a bus from the station to Nippara.

Joyce McKim, Judy Erskine, Margaret Summers
Directions updated by Jane Van Maldeghem 11/01



Mount Takao

Mount Takao (Takao-san), about an hour and a half away, offers sightseeing and hiking. You can take a ten-minute cable car ride to the top and eat at one of two restaurants, both offering a breathtaking view (including Shinjuku, on a clear day of course)! The cable car is ¥810 round trip for adults or ¥420 one-way. The children's fare is ¥410 round trip, ¥210 one-way. You can also climb up one of several trails if you feel energetic. Make sure you have shoes that grip well, one trail follows a streambed and can be slippery. To the left of the cable car exit, at the top along the central path to the temples, there is a monkey zoo; a must if kids are along. Entrance is ¥400 for adults, ¥300 for children. On this main trail you will not need any special gear. Along the road to the cable car, you will pass a museum, open for 9am-4pm and closed the third Monday of the month, as well as December 28 to January 4. Takao-san itself is open year-round although the shops and restaurants may close in accordance with Japanese holidays. One notable festival is the firewalking (Yamabushi Hiwatari) held at the Yakuoin Temple near the summit on the second Sunday of March. (For details, refer to Festivals). Driving there is easy and there are a number of routes. I have found the following the fastest.

DIRECTIONS: Go south out the Terminal Gate toward Hachioji and set your odometer to 0. Turn right just after Keisho's Motorcycle Shop onto Tamabashi Dori at 1.5km. At 4.1, turn left at the stop light just after the top of the hill. There will be a blue sign just before the light directing you to Hachioji. Stay on this road as it turns and bends. You will pass Soka University and cross Route 411. The road will dead-end at the intersection with Route 20. Your odometer should read 10.8 and there should be a Royal Host restaurant on the right corner. Stay on Route 20 and follow the signs to Takao. At 12.8, make a right turn at the stoplight onto Koshu Kaido. Stay on Koshu Kaido and follow the signs to Takao. At one point the road will split. Take the left fork, again following the signs to Takao. At 17.4 you will pass the turn to Takao Station. Continue straight. At approximately 19.5km is the entrance to Takao-San Guchi. Up the hill past souvenir shops is where you will find the cable car and trails. Both before and after this entrance way are many public parking lots, all charging ¥1,000 for the day. We have found it easier to go past the entrance and long parking lines to a lot further up.

TRAIN DIRECTIONS: Getting to Takao-San by train is easy, recommended, and takes about one hour and fifteen minutes. Leave from Higashi Fussa and take the train to Hachioji. Change to the Chuo Line to Takao. Don't take the express train; the train should be marked "Takao" (in English). At Takao, change to the Keio Line for Takao-San by following the signs (in English) past the ticket booths. Take the train to Takao-San Guchi, the end of the line. The cost is about ¥440 one-way for adults.

Viki Lyn Paulson-Cody

Fuchu's Kyodo no Mori

Municipal Museum and Park

Although you may not know it, nearby Fuchu was the capital of an ancient country known as Musashi Koku which included all of the Tokyo area and much of neighboring Saitama and Kanagawa Prefectures 800-1200 years ago during the Nara and Heian periods. This information and other details of local life were painstakingly investigated during local archaeological excavations. The results are displayed in an impressive modern museum based in a very large landscaped park next to the Tama River in Fuchu.

The museum building also contains a planetarium using astrovision and multi-sound effects in its 23m dome. After you've been dazzled by the stars, educated by the anthropological, cultural, and local flora/fauna displays, you can wander through the old buildings (Edo/Meiji Era) set across from the museum. There's an old-time pharmacy, school, and post office. Afterwards, you can have a cup of self-serve tea in the old Tanaka town residence.

Behind the old buildings lies the bulk of the park covered by over a thousand trees of 54 varieties. On a warm summer day, you can cool off by walking through the various streams. The park asks only that you respect nature by not throwing your trash around. There are a couple of picnic table armadas among



the plum orchards in addition to an area of tables next to a copy of Stonehenge near a pond and an obstacle course.

Admission to just the park is ¥50 (for adults, kids ¥30); ¥200 includes the museum (kids ¥100), and ¥500 the planetarium (¥250 for children). The park is open 9-5 (people cannot enter after 4pm) daily except for the first Monday of the month and December 28 through January 4. If the first Monday is a national holiday, the park will be closed on Tuesday instead. Telephone 0423-68-7921 for details.

Bring your picnic and enjoy a sunny afternoon. There's a small coffee shop to the right just inside the museum building and a snack bar near the farmhouses.

TRAIN DIRECTIONS: Although it doesn't seem like a difficult drive to Kyodo-no-mori (it's diagonal to the race-track across the river from Tama Hills), we took the trains and walked along a bicycle/pedestrian path known as the Shimogawara Gyokudo. Altogether, it took us just under an hour including train transfers and the approximately 20-minute walk from Fuchu Honmachi. To get there, we took the Nambu Line 5 stops from Tachikawa (Track 8) to Fuchu Honmachi Station (¥290 from Fussa or ¥310 from Higashi Fussa). We went up and down stairs and then to an exit to the right past a very large temporary racetrack exit on the left.

We departed the station and walked down the hill to the left, past a playground on the corner of Shibama Dori, to an Esso station on the left. Just past it is the Shimogawara Gyokudo with a "street" sign showing 1200 meters to Kyodo-no-mori (the signs show either a forest or an old style house). Turn left and follow this paved path behind people's backyards, past vegetable plots and playgrounds. At the sign showing 1000 meters, go straight and continue past the back of the Suntory Brewery and its thousands of beer bottles in plastic cartons on your left. Continue straight ("right" fork) past the statue of the girl holding her hat above her head at the "Y." The path goes under the Chuo Expressway and past rice paddies. When the path reaches a wide street with a large building enclosed within a white wall across from you, you've reached your destination. Cross the street and walk left past the bus stop around to the main entrance.

Return home from Track 4 at Fuchu Honmachi station via Tachikawa (end of the Nambu Line) and the Ome Line.

Teresa K. Negley

It is also an easy drive about 15 minutes from Tama Hills.

Takahata Fudo Temple

If you don't have time to take the Shikoku pilgrimage, then head to Takahata Fudo Temple. One of the three famous Kanto Fudo temples, it is in nearby Hino, and there is a hiking course with 88 places in Shikoku.

Start in front of the pagoda. A path winds past the statues marked one, two, three and so on, up to an observation point on the hill, then down to the 88th and final statue at the small Daishido Temple building.

Takahata Fudo Temple was founded around the beginning of the eighth century and served the Imperial family. The temple had small rooms on either side of the altar, one for the common people and one for the upper class. The original temple was located on the top of the hill. When it was destroyed in a

storm in 1335, it was rebuilt in its present location. The Niomon Gate was built in 1342 and is now designated a treasure of Japan as is the Fudo Myo O statue in the building next to the office.

The five-story pagoda was completed in 1979. The new temple building was completed in 1987 and is a replica of the older structure. The 200-year-old ceiling with the painting of a dragon was transferred to the new building.

It is customary to stand under the dragon to make a wish and then clap your hands. If you hear the dragon roar (the vibration), the dragon will make your wish come true. The new building still features the chrysanthemum crest, which represents the royal family and indicates the royal family used this particular temple at some time in the past.

There are various monuments around the temple; on the hill just beside the pagoda is a "Nose Well," supposedly the spot where the nose of the Fudo deity landed when it was swept away in the 1335 gale.

Special talismans are available at various prices at the office. Some more popular items are sold to protect the owner from fires, illness and thieves, and to ensure easy childbirth, family harmony, successful business, and traffic safety.

There is a museum of antiquities in the basement of the pagoda. It is open Tuesday through Sunday, 9 am - 4 pm and costs ¥20. It is closed from December 1 through February 28. If the Ennichi Fair falls on a Monday, the museum is usually open.

A good day to visit is the 28th of the month when the regular Ennichi Fair is held. This temple is also a good place to observe New Year, Setsuban on February 3rd, and Buddha's Birthday on April 8th. A statue is decorated, and sweet tea, amacha, is poured on the statue. Participants pray for individual requests. Special parades for children are held on January 28th and April 28th to ensure safety and growth. Hydrangeas bloom in June, and Shichi-go-san is celebrated here on November 15th.

DIRECTIONS: Go right, out of the South Gate and set your odometer to "0". Go straight through two lights, and across a set of tracks. At the next light, stay with the main road, which bends to the right. Continue past a school on the left, and across railroad tracks (1.6 km) and make an immediate left onto a small street. At the stop sign, turn right. At the second light, (2.5 km) turn left. At the "Y" (fifth light), bear right. At the next light, the street ends in a "T"; a red brick building is in front of you. Turn right (3.3 km). At the next "T" (4.4 km) (a tiny street continues straight ahead and Suzuki Motorcycle is on the far right corner) turn left onto Shin Okutama Kaido, a large 4-lane street. (Rt 29) —(You can also get to here by going left on route 16 out the Fussa gate and left onto Route 29)

At 9 km, you will arrive at Tachikawa Five Corners. Turn right onto Rt 20 and cross the Tama River Bridge. At the first signal light after the river, bear right, away from the river. This road goes under the Chuo Expressway. At the next light (elevated monorail and small sign for Takahata), turn left (about 100 yds.) and go over a bridge. At 12.5 km, you will see a large Keio Department Store on your right and you'll cross



through a tunnel. Immediately after the tracks, turn right at the light. Takahata Fudo will be on your left, about 3 blocks after the light. Turn left into a small parking lot. Please note this is a popular temple and parking is scarce.

BY TRAIN: Take the train from Higashi Fussa Station to Hachioji. Leave the station and walk to the nearby Keio Hachioji Station. The station attendants can direct you. Get on the Keio Teito Line. Get off at the fourth stop, Takahata. As you exit the station, turn right and walk down the street about three minutes.

Barbara Kirkwood, Karen Sexton, Meg Gilster 2/97
Directions updated 11/01 by Jane Van Maldeghem

Odaiba Rainbow Town

For a fun day in a trendy, bright, clean neighborhood, take the train to Odaiba (aka: Rainbow Town) in southeast Tokyo. In the summer you can relax on a small man-made beach, rent a sailboat, and walk along a boardwalk reminiscent of Southern California beach towns. In colder weather you can enjoy the interesting architecture, restaurants, shops, and sci-fi activities. Several years ago the Waterfront Project was born, a grand scheme by the Tokyo Government that involved extending the landfill over Tokyo Bay to build a whole new neighborhood.

Just getting there is a treat in itself! The Yurikamome Line to Rainbow Town is unique in that there is no driver. No, that's not a typo...this is a fully automated train. It leaves the JR Shimbashi Station about every 5 minutes, crosses the Rainbow Bridge, and arrives in Rainbow Town about 20 minutes later.

The first station is **Odaiba-Kaihjin Koen** for the beach, as well as several shops and restaurants. Be sure to visit Fuji TV, the large sphere-shaped building. You can take an elevator up into the sphere for a beautiful view.

Two stops on is the Museum of Maritime Science. Get off at **Aomi Station** for the Palette Town amusement area. Stop at **Ariake Station** for the Tokyo Big Sight exhibition center and the Ariake Colosseum.

DIRECTIONS: Take the JR to Shimbashi Station, then buy a new ticket for the Yurikamome Line. The Yurikamome Line costs from 180-370 yen, depending on how far you go. Watch for English/Japanese maps of Rainbow Town as you enter the station for the Yurikamome Line.

Kristen Marriott 11/01

Exploring Yokohama

Yokohama, the maritime gateway to Japan, lies about 20km south of Tokyo. It has been little more than a century since the port was opened to foreign trade in 1859, with the arrival of Commodore Perry. Due in part to the constant inflow of Western culture, it is now one of the world's great industrial port cities and the largest port in eastern Japan. It is also the seat of the government of Kanagawa Prefecture. With a population of 3.1 million people, Yokohama is second in size only to Tokyo.

DIRECTIONS: To get to Yokohama by train, go to Hachioji from either the Ome line at Fussa or the Hachiko

Line at Higashi-Fussa. At Hachioji, change to the Yokohama line and sit back for the remaining hour-ride to Sakuragicho Station. (Shopping enthusiasts and those homesick for a real "mall" depart here.) Exit Sakuragicho Station and get on the moving walkway that leads to Yokohama's tallest building, the Landmark Tower. Take the fastest elevator in the world up 69 floors in 40 seconds flat for a breathtaking view of Tokyo Bay, Mt. Fuji and Yokohama. The cost is Y1,000 for adults, Y500 for students and Y200 for pre-schoolers.

Dockyard Garden

Also worth exploring is the Dockyard Garden, featuring international cuisine at affordable prices. Landmark Hall offers unique exhibits in culture and art. For diehard mall fans, the Landmark Plaza is sure to cure your shopping blues. On the fifth floor is Yurindo, a bookstore with a large selection of foreign books.

Motomachi Street

One hundred years ago, foreigners had to go to Motomachi Street to buy Japanese wares. It is now a bustling, upscale street lined with shops and restaurants. To get there, exit Ishikawa-cho Station's South exit, and head toward the waterfront and Yamashita Park. Motomachi Street begins within a block of the station.

Chinatown

Chinatown is a definite must see for first-time visitors to Yokohama. It is an ideal place to eat with over 100 restaurants offering every imaginable Chinese cuisine. Or enjoy browsing through the exotic medicinals, spices and Chinese goods available. To get there, exit Ishikawa-cho Station's North exit and make a right at the first through street. Walk approximately five blocks until you run into Chinatown.

Yamashita Park

This is the perfect place to take a break. It is the oldest harbor park in the country. It includes 17-acres of lawns, flowers and trees. The park offers an excellent view of the harbor. Permanently moored at the harbor is the Hikawa-Maru, a former passenger liner and hospital ship. For 30 years it operated as a transpacific ship making 238 trips across the Pacific. It now serves as a museum with aquariums, models, and a youth hostel. Open daily from 10am until dark, admission is Y700 for adults and Y350 for children. To get to the park, exit Ishikawa-cho Station's South exit and walk to the end of Motomachi Street until you get to Kaigan-Dori St. Turn left and walk to the Doll Museum where you can cross the street to enter the park.



Cruises

You may want to take one of the forty or sixty-minute cruises. A shorter, 15-minute cruise is also available on the Seabass, which terminates at Yokohama Station. The cruises originate at the piers next to the Hikawara Maru passenger liner. Seabass passengers exit their tour of the harbor into the Sogo Department Store, one of the largest department stores in the world. The train station is in basement 2, (B2) of the Sogo, as is Seiko's Small World wall clock. Chiming on the hour with 20 international dolls, this clock is a crowd gatherer.

Yokohama Museum of Art

Along with its regular display of notable works, Yokohama Museum of Art features monthly exhibitions of local as well as internationally acclaimed artists. To get there, get off at Sakuragicho Station and follow the directions to the Landmark Tower. The museum is just west of the Landmark Plaza.

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Building

This building chronicles the progression of Mitsubishi's seafaring technology and has several visitor-operated displays. Worth a visit is the do-it-yourself area on the second floor where you can try your hand at designing your own airplane or sailboat. It is located just west of the Landmark Plaza and situated next to the Yokohama Museum of Art.

Silk Museum

At the Silk Museum you can learn about silk- where it comes from, how it is made into cloth, as well as the history of silk in Japan. The museum is on the second floor of the Silk Center building, which is located near Yamashita Park. The museum is open daily except Dec. 28-Jan. 4. Admission is Y300 for adults, Y200 for students, and Y100 for children.

Yokohama Maritime Museum

If you enjoy sea navigation, Yokohama Maritime Museum is for you. After a 10-minute walk east of Sakuragicho Station, look for a small sign advertising the museum on your left.

Yokohama Doll Museum

The Yokohama Doll Museum contains over 4000 dolls from Japan and around the world. The building is distinct with its shocking pink exterior and is enjoyable for children and adults alike. It is located directly across from the southeastern end of Yamashita Park.

Yokohama Science Center

The Yokohama Science Center is a great place for children to experience "hands-on" scientific exhibits. There are four different "space" areas to explore: the Space Gym Floor, Space Laboratory, Space Theater, and the Space Factory. The Yokohama Science Center is open daily from 10am to 5pm, Sundays and national holidays, 9am to 5pm. It is closed Mondays, the day after a national holiday, and Dec. 2-Jan. 1. Ad-

mission fees are: adults- Y400, ages 6 to 15 -Y200. Space Theater admission is Y600 for adults and Y300 for ages 6-15. The science center is a three minute walk from Yokodai Station.

Yokohama Hakkeijima Sea Paradise

Operating daily until November 30 from 8:30am to 10:30pm, Yokohama Hakkeijima Sea Paradise is the place to go for family fun. To get there, get off the train at Hakkeijima Station and cross the Kanazawa-hakkei Bridge that leads to Hakkeijima Island. The theme park takes up the entire island and includes a large aquarium and a carnival setting with over 15 attractions. Call (045)788-8888 for ticket prices or further information.

Sankei-en Gardens

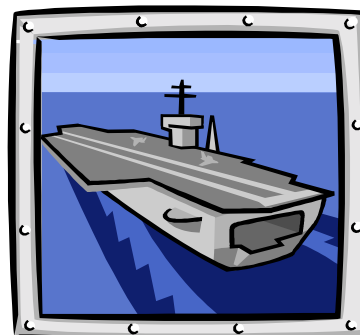
The gardens were originally built in 1906 by Tomitaro Hara, a noted millionaire of refined taste. Open to the public from the start, it was taken over by the Sankei-en Hosokai Foundation in 1953. Sankei-en consists of an inner and outer garden that is filled with ancient buildings that have been designated important cultural properties, such as a pagoda, tea arbor, guest house, and several other interesting structures that vary in age and style. The outer garden costs Y200 for adults and Y40 for children. In the outer garden is the Yanohara House, a 1650 farmhouse that you enter and wander around in for a minimal fee. The outer garden is open daily from 9am to 4pm except December 29-31. To get to Sankeien from Yokohama Station, go to the No. 2 bus area, and take a No. 8 bus. This bus circles back so you can take the same No. 8 bus back to Yokohama Station or get off at Chinatown.

As you can see, there is so much to see and do in Yokohama, you might want to pick up a complimentary sightseeing map of Yokohama at the information booth right outside of Sakuragicho Station.

Carol Woodcock, Norine Carter, Carol Ingmanson, Mary Meckley, Rita Mayer

Kamakura and the "Infinite Light" Buddha

A display of ancient horseback archery known as yabusame highlights the Fall Hachimangu Festival held at Kamakura Sept. 15 and 16. This annual festival was dedicated to Minamoto-no





Yoritomo, the famous warlord who established the first shogunate in the 12th century, and relives the days of 12th century samurai. Dressed in the colorful traditional costume of feudal Japan, archers will shoot arrows at three small wooden targets about 50 centimeters square, while mounted on galloping horses.

Photos courtesy of Brian and Kristen Marriott. For more photos of Kamakura and other areas of Japan, check out the Marriott's web site at <http://www.marriottmd.com>.



The targets are about 75 meters apart along a 250-meter course in the shrine compound area. The first yabusame was held in 1187 to pray for the peace and prosperity of the nation. The god of war in the Shinto religion is Hachiman, and all warriors offered their prayers to him. Thus, the yabusame event was also an event to promote horsemanship and archery as spiritual training for the Kamakura warriors. The event now has become an annual autumn festival to ensure a good harvest and to dispel evil spirits.

The rise of the military class occurred during the Kamakura period (1192-1333), and it was during this same time that the first Japanese sects of Buddhism appeared. Most of the places of interest are connected with Zen Buddhism, the sect that found favor with the military class. The five great Zen temples (imitating the great five in Chinese Zen literature) are Kenchoji, Engakuji, Jochiji, Jufukuji, and Jomyoji. All are still active, and one can participate in Zen study and meditation at the Engakujo and Hokoku-ji Temples.

Once the proud capital of 12th and 13th century Japan, Kamakura is a favored tourist center and features 65 temples and 19 shrines. In addition to the temples and shrines, Kamakura offers a pleasant and peaceful environment nestled between the sea and woodlands. The numerous shops are intriguing to visit and one can find lacquered woodcarvings, Kamakura's best known product. Kamakura is well known for the great bronze Buddha (Daibutsu), which sits in peaceful repose in the Kotokuin Temple courtyard. The original enclosure was damaged in 1369 by a storm, as were the second and third wooden enclosures. The fourth was carried away by a tidal wave in 1495.

The open exposure permits one to view the magnificent work of art unhindered. The circular protrusion on the Buddha's forehead is made of silver and represents a jewel from which light is supposed to flow. The Great Buddha is a representation of Buddha Amitahba, the Lord of the Western Pure Land; Amitahba means "Infinite Light."

The proportions of the Daibutsu are so finely worked that, even though anatomically out of proportion, one feels an intimacy with the Buddha when standing on the ground and looking up to view its 44 feet in height. The head is inclined slightly forward and the Buddha is seated in the traditional meditation posture with hands laid in the lap with palms and thumbs touching, which represents the Buddhist sign for steadfast faith. The half-closed eyes depict the passionless calm and perfect repose, which is the essence of Buddhist doctrine.

Another striking feature of Kamakura is the Hase Kannon Temple, which features the eleven-headed gilt statue of Kannon, goddess of mercy. The tallest wooden image in Japan, the 30-foot high statue is said to have been carved in 721AD by monk Tokudo Shonin. The image of Kannon, which sits in the Hase Temple south of Nara, was carved from half of a camphor tree. A duplicate image carved from the other half of the tree was thrown into the sea. 15 years later, after floating 300 miles, the figure came to rest on a beach in Kamakura. The temple was built to enshrine it. On the path leading to the temple housing the Kannon figure in Kamakura is the Jizo-do (Jizo Hall), which is lined on both sides by thousands of bodhisattva. Jizo is a bodhisattva symbolically representing the blessings of the earth who stands at the border of this life and the next, guiding souls

of the dead on the road to salvation. Thousands of tiny Jizo line the hall, placed there by mothers who have lost infants through miscarriage or abortion, and who dedicate the small images as a means of praying for the guidance of the dead child.

Kamakura is a must see attraction that can be reached by car, tour bus, or train. A walking tour of Kamakura is the recommended way of visiting the sights. For directions, check the Yujo Recreation Center.

Kathleen French

Annual Events In Kamakura

Jan. 1-3

New Year's visit to Hachimangu-Kamakuragu

Feb 3 or 4

Setsubun, bean scattering ceremony at Hachimangu Kamakuragu and Kenchoji Temple

April 1-10

Cherry Blossom Festival at Hachimangu

April 1-14

Kamakura Festival on Sunday, procession of people wearing historical costume from Yuigahama Beach to Hachimangu

April 18

Ofuna Kannon Festival

Aug 7-9

Paper Lantern Festival at Hachimangu

Mid-Aug

Fireworks at Yuigahama Beach

Aug 20

Festival at Kamakuragu

Sep 15-16

Hachimangu Archery Festival

Sep 18

Haramitto; procession of masked people at Gogoro Shrine

Sep 22

Takigi Noh outdoor Noh Performance by torchlight at Kamakuragu

Nov 1-15

Chrysanthemum Show at Hachimangu

Dec 17-18

Year-end Market at Hase Kannon

Late Dec

Last Snake Day Festival of Zeniarai-Benten



Yamanashi Grapes

Yamanashi Prefecture invites visitors anytime, but the arrival of autumn beckons Yokotans to don their sweaters and venture into the scenic Japanese countryside. A fun-filled day waits only two hours from the gates of Yokota. Known throughout Japan for its grape production, Yamanashi Prefecture offers a ten mile drive along a stretch of Highway 20, from Katsunuma to Kofu, lined with what seems like endless vineyards. Travelers soon see the numerous stands set up to sell grapes. They can select a stand and stop for some hearty taste-testing. After deciding which grapes are most desirable, it is time to select ready-picked grapes or the ever popular pick your-own method.

Thanks to Japanese hospitality, grape-picking equipment is usually provided. In the summer months, peaches are offered for sale along the roadside, but people are not permitted to pick their own.

When travelers decide they have seen one too many grapes, it is time to continue along Highway 20, past Kofu, for approximately ten minutes. On a clear day, Mt. Daibosatsu will appear to announce the entrance to the southwest corner of Chichibu Tama National Park. Situated among the colorful mountains is the Shosenkyo Gorge, one of the most scenic river valleys in Japan. The signs directing visitors to the gorge are all in English. Horse-drawn carts wait to pull visitors along the beautiful gorge toward restaurants which offer a hearty variety of soba. It is also possible to spread a picnic lunch near the vineyards.

DIRECTIONS: One enticing feature when considering this trip is the ease in finding this beautiful area. Simply take Highway 16 south to Hachioji. At Hachioji get on the Chuo Expressway. Once on the expressway two signs will appear; one for Shinjuku and the other for Nagoya. Take the road to Nagoya. Stay on the Chuo until Otsuki.

Take the Otsuki exit and that will lead to Hwy 20. Turn right and stay on Hwy 20. The grapes will be straight ahead; no turns, no confusion, plenty of fun.



Pam Watson

