

Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park

Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park was established in 1936, just five years after the first National Parks Law was passed to preserve Japan's "areas of the greatest scenic beauty." This makes it one of the oldest national parks in the country. Today, it receives over 100 million visitors every year.

The Mt. Fuji region is the largest area of the park, consisting of the Fuji Five Lakes, the Aokigahara Jukai Forest, and the remarkable mountain. The area is full of nature trails and historic sites, with something for everyone—from families looking for an easy, picturesque stroll suitable for children to experienced hikers seeking a new challenge.

The popular Yoshida Trail ascends from the fifth station to the peak. There is also a network of walking paths in the mountain's lower reaches that leads to the shrines, hotels, and former pilgrims' lodges of the Five Lakes. Some trails are steep mountain paths, while others are more level; some wind through densely forested areas, while others have less foliage. There are trails that follow the edge of the tree line, with spectacular views of the landscape below. Here and there, stone monuments commemorate visits by pilgrims centuries ago.

Due to the high altitude, the air in the park is crisp and cool, making it ideal for more active outdoor recreation opportunities. Aquatic sports like canoeing, stand-up paddleboarding, and windsurfing can be enjoyed on the Fuji Five Lakes. Some lakes even prohibit Jet Skis and other engine-powered craft to preserve tranquility.

Wherever visitors choose to roam, Mt. Fuji is a constant companion, soaring and majestic, yet seemingly close enough to touch. Few other places in Japan offer such a spectacular backdrop for enjoying the great outdoors.