

Kayaking on Lake Ashi

Kayaking on Lake Ashi is an excellent way to appreciate a body of water formed from a volcanic eruption 3,000 years ago. Guided tours of 60–90 minutes are offered year-round, starting from Hakonemachi port at the southern shore. Before departure, participants receive a quick hands-on lesson in paddling and balancing a one- or two-person kayak. As the kayak tours circle north along the forested coast, birds fly by, fish swim past, and in the distance tourist ferries, designed to look like pirate ships, ply between one end of the lake and the other. On clear days, the sights around the lake stand out: the bright red Heiwa no Torii (“Torii of Peace”) in the water in front of Hakone Shrine; the smaller torii gate marking the entrance to Kuzuryu Shrine, dedicated to the nine-headed dragon god worshiped as the protector of Lake Ashi; and majestic Mt. Fuji towering in the distance. The tours go ahead even in case of light rain and/or fog, so remember to dress for the weather.