

# Trends in Japan

## Food & Travel

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## Hot Springs and Natural Beauty Born of a Volcano

Steeped in ancient Japanese history and tradition, Hakone is the place domestic and foreign sightseers and Tokyoites alike go for rest, relaxation, nature, hot springs and more!



Hakone Tozan Railway provides convenient access to Hakone, operating on some of the steepest slopes in Japan.



In Owakudani Valley, hot vapor continues to spout from the ground after a volcanic eruption 3,000 years ago.



*Kurotamago*, or "black eggs," an Owakudani Valley specialty



An open-air spa at Sengokuhara, one of the "17 hot springs of Hakone," with a view of Mt. Fuji. (Photo: Hotel Green Plaza Hakone)



Hakone offers a wealth of fresh seafood, perfect for skillfully made sushi. (Cooperation: Yamahiko-zushi)

Crafted with parquet design, this "secret box" cannot be opened unless a certain sequence is followed. (Cooperation: Mitsuya)



A spectacular view of Mount Fuji seen from Lake Ashinoko



Skewered or deep-fried *wakasagi* smelt caught in Lake Ashinoko make for a delicious meal.



Lined with cedar trees, the old Tokaido Road offers a glimpse of the Edo era.



*Kamabako* fish cake is a specialty in Odawara, a city next to Hakone.

Many local restaurants serve tofu and *soba* noodles made using Hakone's crystal-clear water. (Cooperation: Hakone Akatsuki-an)



# Sado Island

## A Gold Mining Island Rich in Traditional Arts

Sado Island continues to attract travelers, thanks to its unique culture and fascinating history.



Sado Island is located in the Sea of Japan.



The Dohyu-no-wareto, a goldmine that split in half.



A model shows how gold was mined and coins were made.



A woman dressed in traditional clothes rows a tub boat.



Noh performances illuminated by bonfires are staged outdoors in the summer. (Photo: The Sado Tourism Association)



Kodo is a renowned taiko performing group based in Sado Island. (Photo: Kodo)



Sado sake is savored in pottery cups made from the island's red ocher clay. (Cooperation: Hananoki)



Hair crabs on sale at a local market.



## Historic Castle Town by the Sea



Castle tower of Karatsu Castle atop a small hill

Pine grove of Niji-no-Matsubara as seen from Mount Kagami-yama



With an ancient history and a deep cultural heritage, Karatsu is a peaceful township that features natural beauty, delectable foods, traditional pottery, an old castle, and a festival with floats that attract visitors from everywhere.



Saga beef being served as *shabu-shabu* with vegetables and sesame seed sauce.  
(Cooperation: Yo Yo Kaku)



Squid being hung out to dry is a common scene in the port town of Yobuko.

People enjoying the excitement of the Karatsu Kunchi festival  
©The City of Karatsu



Squid sashimi so fresh that it is almost transparent



The former Karatsu Bank building, a 100-year-old structure that stands in downtown Karatsu



Karatsu ware bowls and cups decorated with painted flowers  
(Cooperation: Yo Yo Kaku)

*Tsugani* crabs boiled in broth. Crabmeat rice is also delicious.  
(Cooperation: Amegen)

# Tokyo Sky Tree

## The New Symbol of Japan's Capital City

A freestanding structure that seems to stretch right up to the sky from the Tokyo plain will open in May and provide new, towering vistas of the city and well beyond.



The view of Sky Tree from sightseeing boats along the Sumida River is also a popular attraction.



*Sakuramochi*, sweet-bean-filled rice cake flavored with cherry tree leaves is good to take home or to give to friends. (Cooperation: Chomeiji Sakuramochi)



Towering over the city, Tokyo Sky Tree has become a new symbol and landmark of Tokyo. ©AFLO



When looking up, the tower appears as though it is twisted.



You can enjoy a majestic view of Sky Tree, reflected in the Kita-Jikkengawa River, if weather conditions allow.

Neighborhoods around Sky Tree are home to traditional craftsmanship, such as *Edo kiriko* glasswork, which has a history of 200 years. (Cooperation: Sumida Monodokoro)



Cider sold in bottles created in the shape of the tower.



"Tower Don" bowl dish (left, cooperation: Sobadokoro Kamimura) and "Tower Parfait" (right, cooperation: Sakura Café Mukojima). Various unique specialties have been created for the opening of Sky Tree.

