Kamakura, the Ancient City of Samurai

About Kamakura

Kamakura is one of ancient cities where Japan’s central governments used to be located. In the late 12th century, the warrior class came into political power. Its government was formed by warriors, called Bushi or Samurai. Mr. Minamoto Yoritomo, the commander-in-chief, located his headquarters here at Kamakura and this was the beginning of Bakufu (shogunate).

Kamakura also has many attractions and features other than shrines and temples. Being surrounded with small mountains on the three sides, Kamakura faces the Pacific Ocean on the south side, so tourists can enjoy walking through mountain trails and swimming or surf riding in the clean fresh air at the beach.

Outside of the rustic Kita-kamakura station, Engakuji temple which is in the 2nd place of Kamaura Gozan stands at the front.

Tour plan

November, 4

Meeting at **Yokohama Kokusai Hotel** or **Yokohama Bay Sheraton Hotel at 8:00 a.m.**

We will move to Kitakamakura station by train.

At Kitakamakura station,

We will divide into each courses.

**Course 1: Kamakura tour (Visit ancient temples)**

**Finish time: approx. 15:00**

You can see many traditional temples and shrines: Engakuji, Kenchoji, Tsurugaoka Hachimangu, Hasedera, Koutokuin. Kenchoji and Engakuji are the ones of Kamakura Gozan (five high-ranked zen temples in kamakura) and those temples are located in Kita-kamakura. Tsurugaoka Hachimangu is very big and beautiful shrine, it has a history of more than 1000 years. Hasedera is located on a little hill and you can see good sea view. At the last place of this course, you can meet the great Buddha of Kamakura which is the highlight of Kamakura city. The great Buddha is a symbol of Kamakura and the second tallest bronze Buddha.
Course 2: Kamakura and Enoshima tour
(Visit ancient temples and island with great sea view)

Finish time: approx. 18:00

In addition to Kamakura tour (Course 1), you can visit Enosima island. Enoshima island also has some traditional shrines. However, the great point of Enoshima is not only traditional shrines but also the great views. The sea and sunset view are so beautiful and if you have a luck, you can see Mt. Fuji. This course is a little tough course because you have to walk a long distance, but we will have a lot of breaks during tour.

Course 3: Kamakura hiking tour (Walk Kiridoshi pass)

Finish time: approx. 16:00

We call Kiridoshi for Kamakura’s seven entrances. Walk Gokurakuji-zaka where you can see the beautiful green tunnel which is one of the Kamakura’s seven entrances to Jojuin temple. After walking the Kiridoshi pass, we visit many temples and shrines: Kotokuin Hasedera, Tsurugaoka Hachimangu, Engakuji, Kenchoji. Finally, we will back to Kitakamakura station. This course is the toughest course, you will be needed good stamina.

Course 4: Short Kamakura tour (Visit ancient temples)

Finish time: approx. 12:30

We visit only highlight point of Kamakura: Kenchoji, Tsurugaoka Hachimangu, Kotokuin. The finish time is approx. 12:30, if you want to visit some other place on the day, please choose this course.
Course 1: Kamakura Tour

8:00 Meeting at Yokohama kokusai Hotel → Yokohama station

Walk → Kitakamakura station → Walk → Engakuji Temple → Walk → Kenchoji Temple

Train → Walk → Tsurugaoka Hachimangu → Walk → Komachidori street (Lunch)

Walk → Kamakura station → Train → Hase station → Walk → Hasedera temple

Walk → Kotokuin temple (Great Buddha) → Walk → Hase station → Train

→ Yokohama Station at Approx.15:00
Course 2: Kamakura & Enoshima Tour

8:00 Yokohama kokusai Hotel depart → Yokohama station →
① Kitakamakura station → ② Engakuji Temple → ③ Kenchoji Temple
Walk → ④ Tsurugaoka Hachimangu → ⑤ Komachidori street (Lunch)
Walk → ⑥ Kamakura station → ⑦ Hase station → ⑧ Hasedera temple
Walk → ⑨ Kotokuin temple (Great Buddha) → ⑦ Hase station →
→ Enoshima tour (Next page)
Course 2: Kamakura & **Enoshima Tour**

Train → Enoshima station → Walk → Enoshima → Walk → Walking around Enoshima

(Approx. 2 hours)

Walk → Back to Enoshima station → Train → Yokohama Station at Approx. 18:00
Course 3: Kamakura hiking tour

8:00 Meeting at Yokohama kokusai Hotel → Yokohama station →
① Kitakamakura station → ② Tsuruoka shrine → ③ Zeniarai benzaiten
→ ④ Kotokuin temple (Great Buddha) → ⑤ Lunch → ⑥ Hasedera
Train → ⑦ Kamakura station → ⑧ Tsurugaoka hachimangu
Walk → ⑨ Kenchoji Temple → ⑩ Engakuji Temple
Train → Yokohama Station at Approx. 16:00
Course 4: Short Kamakura tour

8:00 Meeting at Yokohama kokusai Hotel → Yokohama station →
① Kitakamakura station → ② Kenchoji Temple →
③ Tsurugaoka Hachimangu → ④ Kamakura station →
⑤ Hase station → ⑥ Kotokuin temple(Great Buddha) →
⑤ Hase station → Yokohama Station at Approx.12:30
Introduction of each spot

**Kenchoji (建長寺)** is the number one of Kamakura’s five great Zen temples. The oldest Zen temple in Kamakura, Kenchoji was founded by the ruling regent Hojo Tokiyori in 1253 during the Kencho Era after which it was named.

[http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3104.html](http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3104.html)

**Tsurugaoka Hachimangu (鶴岡八幡宮)** is Kamakura’s most important shrine. It was founded by Minamoto Yoriyoshi in 1063, and enlarged and moved to its current site in 1180 by Minamoto Yoritomo, the founder and first shogun of the Kamakura government.


**Hasedera (長谷寺)** is a temple of the Jodo sect, famous for its eleven-headed statue of Kannon, the goddess of mercy. The 9.18 meter tall, gilded wooden statue is regarded as one of the largest wooden sculpture in Japan and can be viewed in the temple's main building, the Kannon-do Hall.

[http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3101.html](http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3101.html)

**The Great Buddha of Kamakura (鎌倉大仏)** is a bronze statue of Amida Buddha, which stands on the grounds of Kotokuin Temple. With a height of 13.35 meters, it is the second tallest bronze Buddha statue in Japan, surpassed only by the statue in Nara’s Todaiji Temple.

[http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3100.html](http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3100.html)

**Enoshima (江の島)** is a pleasantly touristy island just off coast but connected by bridge with the mainland. The island offers a variety of attractions, including a shrine, park, observation tower and caves. Views of Mount Fuji can be enjoyed on days with good visibility.


**The Daibutsu Hiking Course** connects Jochiji Temple in Kita-Kamakura with the Great Buddha (Daibutsu) in the west of the city. The Zeniarai Benten and the Genjiyama public park with a statue of Minamoto Yoritomo can be found underway. It takes about 60-90 minutes to complete the entire trail.