

# Itinerary Japan

## Sep 20: Kamakura Day trip

**9:30 Kamakura Arrival**

**9:35 – 10:15 Komachi Street:** street foods like dango, croquettes, or local sweets.

- **Kamakura Naniwaya's** Taiyaki
- **Kamakura Chacha:** best matcha sweets
- **Kamakurakashi Kamakura Goro Main Store:** Mochi sweets

**10:30 – 11:30 Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine** (16 min walk):

- Kamakura's most important Shinto shrine. Dedicated to Hachiman, the god of samurai and protector of the Minamoto clan.

**12:00 - 1:00 Lunch at Hase area:** (40min walk or 8 min taxi)

- streets lined with cafés and shops.
- **Chikaramochiya:** Traditional mochi place with soft red bean
- **Teishokuya Shamoji:** fresh shirasu-don (whitebait rice bowl)
- **Woof Curry:** popular Japanese Curry place

1:00 - Free time

**2:00 - 3:30 Kōtoku-in Temple (Great Buddha)** Must see!!! : (2 min walk).

- Amida Buddha standing about 13.35 meters tall
- Built in the 13th century ( Visitors can step inside the hollow statue)

**4:00 - 5:30 Yuigahama Beach & Seaside Café** (16 min walk)

\*20 min walk back to Kamakura St. or 4 min taxi

## Sep 21: Travel to Matsumoto

**10:20 Ikebukuro St.** (Saikyō Line) \* see Transportation PDF

- You can also buy Bento lunch at the train station before Azusa express!

**1:45 Tabino Hotel** (6min walk from Matsumoto St.)

- Drop off your luggage before checking in to explore Matsumoto

- Lunch recommendation: ( I would try to eat in the train since museum close early)
  - **Menshō Sakurō**: Popular ramen place (in Matsumoto St.)
  - **Miyoda-Matsumoto** : Famous Shinshu Soba (Nagano-style buckwheat noodles).

**2:20 pm - 3:40 pm Matsumoto Castle** (15 min walk or 5min taxi from hotel):

- You can get a taxi by asking the hotel front desk.
- **Free tour guide** at the castle but you can check with them in advance (<https://www.npo-alsa.com/home-en>)

**4pm - 5 pm Matsumoto City Museum of Art** : (close at 5pm)

- Modern art museum best known for works by Yayoi Kusama, a world-famous avant-garde artist born in Matsumoto (18 min walk or 7 min taxi)

\*Dinner Recommendation:

- **Botan-en**: Japanese high-end BBQ place (famous Shinshu pork/Hida beef) Reservation
  - Standard course: 6,600 Yen
- **Suehiro**: Japanese Meat Cuisine (Reservation)
  - Dinner cost: around 15,000 Yen
- **Soba-dokoro Kippō** : soba made with buckwheat flour from Hakuba.
  - course : 3,000 Yen

**Tabino Hotel**

\*Other places to visit for light strolling around the town:

- **Nakamachi Street**: historic street in Matsumoto lined with traditional kura-style (white-walled storehouse) buildings, now home to cafés, craft shops, sake breweries, and galleries
- **Nawate Street**: famous for its retro atmosphere, frog-themed decorations, small shops, and local snacks. It's located along the river, near Matsumoto Castle.
- **Daio Wasabi Farm**: This offers a truly local vibe and a unique Japanese experience! One of **Japan's largest wasabi farms**, located in Azumino, Nagano Prefecture. Visitors can stroll along scenic irrigation canals, enjoy wasabi-themed snacks and souvenirs, and learn about the cultivation of wasabi. (30 min taxi from Hotel)