

MT. FUJI

Many visitors to Japan dream of climbing Mt. Fuji, the 12,388 high symbol of Japan. Mt. Fuji, a dormant (?) volcano, is the tallest and most celebrated mountain in Japan. People have been making pilgrimages to the top for at least 1,000 years. According to geologists, Mt. Fuji was formed about 600,000 years ago, and kept erupting for many years. The dirt now on the Kanto Plain is made up from the eruptions of Mt. Fuji and of Mt. Asama, located north of Mt. Fuji. Mt. Fuji has been inactive for over 200 years. One of the worst eruptions occurred in 1707 in the EDO period. Prior to the Meiji Restoration (1858), women were not allowed to set foot on the slopes of Mt. Fuji. Today, women, children, and men of all ages ascend Mt. Fuji by the thousands during the annual climbing season.

The climbing season runs from July 1st through the end of August. During the two months, about 300,000 people step on the summit of the mountain. There are 5 climbing trails: KAWAGUCHIKO, FUJI-YOSHIDA, GOTEMBA, SUBASHIRI and FUJINOMIYA. The closest trail from YOKOSUKA is the GOTEMBA TRAIL. The trail is divided from the starting point to the summit into 10 different stations. Buses are available up to the 5th station. Almost all stations on the way to the summit have stone huts, which dispense refreshments, allow you to rest, and provide accommodations for overnight lodging. Sleeping accommodations include futon mats with a blanket in an open room. One night's lodging, without reservations or meals, will cost a minimum of ¥5000. However, with reservations and 2 meals, it will cost around ¥8000 and up. You can have a simple supper there at your own expense. All food available on the mountain is Japanese-style.

It is important to stop early in the afternoon and pick a hut to stay in. No one is turned away on the mountain, so conditions can get crowded on the mountain throughout the climbing season and especially on weekends. Quarters will be cramped, everyone sleeps together, and you will be getting up very early in order to reach the peak in time to witness the glory of the sunrise from the peak of Mt. Fuji. Most climbers will start their ascent early in the afternoon, reaching the 7th or 8th station before dark, and stay at a hut for the night. This flier provides some hints that could help make your climb of Mt. Fuji a treasured memory.

It is the ambition of most Japanese people and foreign visitors to climb Mt. Fuji at least once in their lifetime, and to watch the sunrise on the world. It is a grand sight, and can also be a very satisfying experience. Climbers should realize that there are LIMITED comforts available on the mountain and precautions should be taken to protect themselves against adverse and sometimes hostile environmental conditions during the climb. It is a steep, rocky climb.

When climbing Mt. Fuji, you must be equipped properly with the most important items. Leather hiking boots are best, but whatever footwear you decide on, it should have high tops. Otherwise, you will be troubled by volcanic sand and gravel especially when you descend the mountain. Dress lightly during the climb, but make sure that you have a warm sweater and a windbreaker or a warm jacket with you. Average temperatures at the summit are 40.8 degrees Fahrenheit in July and 43.6 Fahrenheit in August if the weather is fair. A canteen or other container filled with water is a MUST! There is NO water on the mountain other than that which is sold at the stations during your climb. Rain gear (an umbrella is not recommended), gloves and a flashlight are necessary. Do not forget to bring a hand towel and toilet paper as well. You should also carry enough food for one or two meals, as well as snacks. While food and drink are available on the mountain, they are very expensive. A backpack may prove useful. Remember PACK AS LIGHTLY AS POSSIBLE!

Japanese Proverb

“One who has never climbed Mt. Fuji is a fool! But, the person who climbs it more than once is a BIGGER fool!”

CLIMBING DOs

1. Set a slow steady pace from the beginning.
2. Make several short stops along the way; they are more effective than long ones.
3. Eat a little bit at each rest stop to keep up your vitality.
4. Use your climbing stick to push and pull yourself up the steep parts.
5. Climb with a friend in case you develop any trouble.
6. Should you develop altitude sickness, inform your friends and head back down. You may experience one or more of the following symptoms: **nausea, severe headache, and field of vision turning yellow or spotted.**
7. Keep an eye out for falling rocks, especially when descending. Should you see any falling rocks, shout "ABUNAI" ("DANGER"), to warn others below.
8. In case of a lightning storm, go to the nearest hut. Stay as low as possible en route and DO NOT grab the chain along the trail.
9. Be courteous to the other climbers.
10. Do enjoy your climb and the scenery around and below you.

CLIMBING DON'Ts

1. Don't drink too much water and don't drink any alcohol before or during the climb.
2. Don't keep staring at your destination. It will make you feel as if you are not making any progress.
3. DO NOT stray from the climbing path.
4. Never throw rocks or cut switchback, as you may start a rockslide. Many people have been injured by falling rocks.
5. Never run down the mountain, you may cause serious injury to yourself.
6. Never litter on the mountain. What you carry up, you must carry back down.
7. Don't feel bad if you have to call it quits before you reach the 8th station.

A very important tip to remember when descending Mt. Fuji

**Make sure to stay on the CORRECT trail going down the mountain.
Take the SUBARU CLIMBING TRAIL and NOT the Subashiri climbing trail.**

DRIVING to 5TH Station of Mt. Fuji: Kawaguchi-ko guchi trail 河口湖
(Approx. Time: 3 hours; Approx. Toll Fee: ¥5,200 for one way)

From YOKOSUKA:

1. Turn right onto **Rt. 16** as you exit the main gate. After driving past Daiei, move into the rightmost lane.
2. Drive up the ramp onto **HONCHO-YAMANAKA Toll Road** (本町山中有料道路) and pay ¥200. Keep **left at the 1st Y-split** and follow the signs for **YOKOHAMA-YOKOSUKA Toll Road** (横浜横須賀).
3. At the next tollgate, take a ticket, **keep right at the 2nd Y-split**, and follow the signs for **YOKOHAMA** (横浜). Continue straight on Yoko-Yoko Rd. heading toward **HACHIOJI** (八王子). Pay ¥900 at the Kariba tollgate.
4. After the tollgate, the Yoko-Yoko Toll Rd. merges with **Hodogaya Bypass** then with **Rt. 16**. Continue straight on Rt.16 toward **TOMEI EXPWY/HACHIOJI** (八王子).
5. Stay in the left lane for the **TOMEI Expressway** and follow the signs for Tomei Expressway.
6. Take Tomei Expressway heading toward **Nagoya**.
7. Exit at **GOTEMBA** (御殿場) **exit #7**. Keep left in the exit lanes, and pay ¥1,900 toll fee.
8. After paying the fee, turn left onto **Rt. 138** toward **FUJIYOSHIDA** (富士吉田) at the next stoplight. Rt. 138 merges with **HIGASHI FUJI GOKO Toll Road** (東富士五湖自動車道).
9. Continue driving on the Higashi Fuji Goko Toll Road. Currently no toll is being charged, however a toll fee of **¥1,050** may be resumed in the future so be prepared to pay if necessary.
*****Note*** This is an automated toll booth. Be sure to have yen coins ready.**
10. Exit at **FUJIYOSHIDA**, turn left, and soon another left to the **FUJI SUBARU LINE** (スバルライン).
11. Upon entering the **FUJI SUBARU LINE**, you will have to pay the round-trip toll fee of ¥2,300 at the beginning, since the toll way dead ends at the Fifth Station.

****Note****During Peak Climbing times, the **Fuji Subaru Line** toll road from the bottom of Mt. Fuji to the Fifth Station will be closed to private cars.
Shuttle buses are provided from the temporary parking lots to the Fifth Station.

From IKEGO:

1. Go straight from Ikego main gate and **turn left onto Rt. 24** at the 7-Eleven store T-junction.
2. At the 6th stoplight, turn right and drive up onto the ramp to Yokohama-Yokosuka Toll Rd. toward YOKOHAMA.
3. Continue straight on Yoko-Yoko Rd. heading toward **HACHIOJI** (八王子). Pay ¥800 at the Kariba tollgate.
4. **Continue with Step #4 above.**

RETURN TRIP to YOKOSUKA

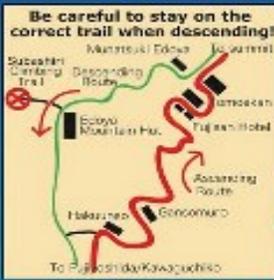
1. Take **FUJI SUBARU LINE** all the way down and go straight until it meets the intersection with the sign of **HIGASHI FUJI GOKO Toll Road**. Turn right at the intersection and toward the entrance to the HIGASHI FUJI GOKO Toll Road on your right.
2. Take HIGASHI FUJI GOKO Toll Road toward GOTEMBA/TOMEI EXPRESS WAY, which merges with **Rt. 138**. Continue driving on Rt. 138 and follow the signs for TOMEI EXPRESS WAY.
3. Take **TOMEI EXPRESS WAY** toward **TOKYO**.
4. Exit at **YOKOHAMA-MACHIDA** to go to **Rt. 16** and follow the signs for **YOKOSUKA**.
5. Stay on Rt. 16 until it becomes **YOKOHAMA- YOKOSUKA Toll Road**.
6. Take YOKOHAMA- YOKOSUKA Toll Road toward YOKOSUKA.
7. To Ikego: Use **Exit #6: ZUSHI**.
To Yokosuka: Use **Exit #7: YOKOSUKA** and take **HONCHO-YAMANAKA Road** to Yokosuka and the base.

In case you got lost, call the Yokosuka Base emergency number at 046-816-5000.

Fujisan Yoshidaguchi Climbing Trail

Official climbing season is July 1st through August 31st.

Summit 3,776m

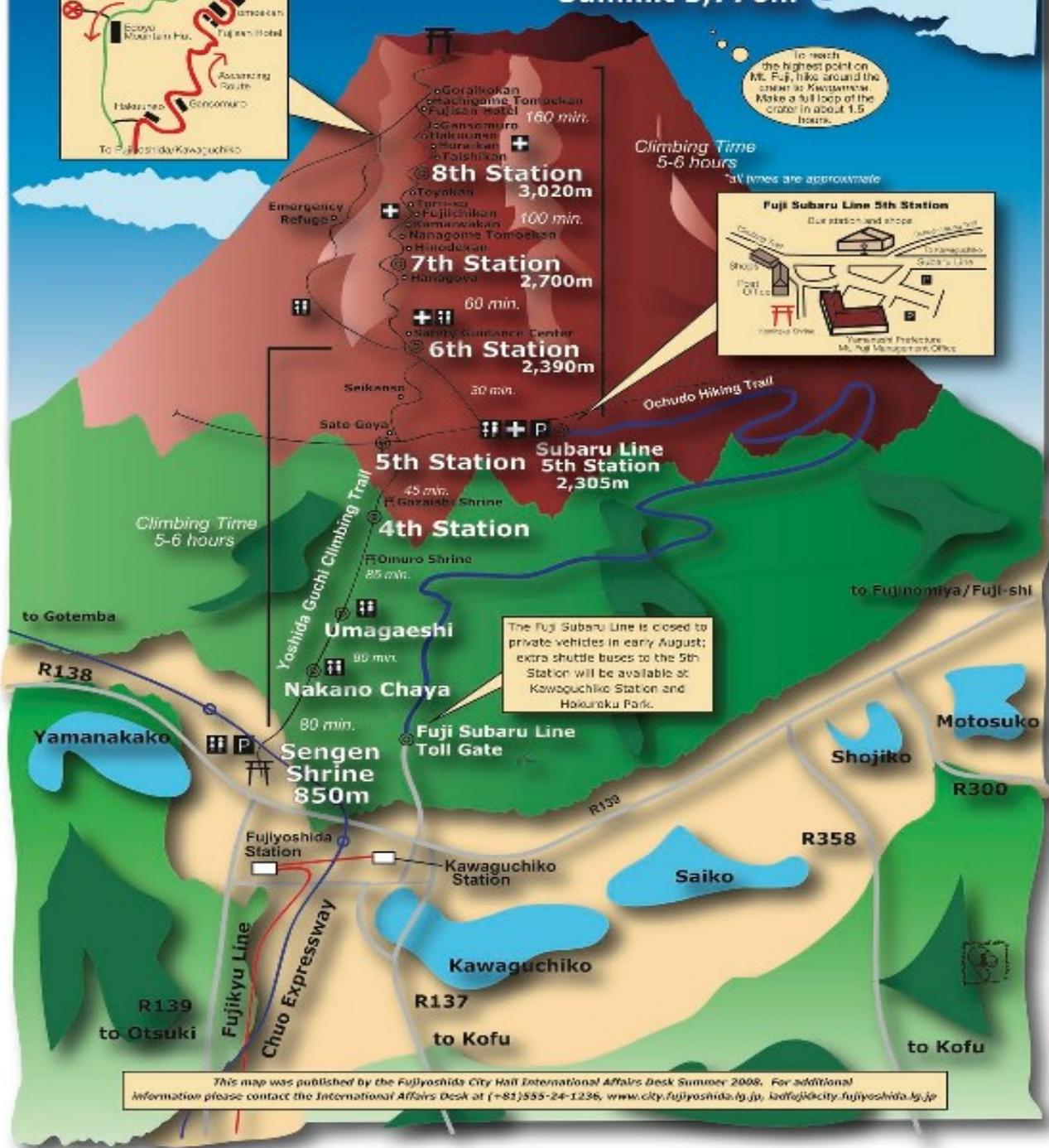


To reach the highest point on Mt. Fuji, hike around the crater as Kawaguchiko. Make a full loop of the crater in about 1.5 hours.

Climbing Time 5-6 hours



The Fuji Subaru Line is closed to private vehicles in early August; extra shuttle buses to the 5th Station will be available at Kawaguchiko Station and Hakuraku Park.



This map was published by the Fujiyoshida City Hall International Affairs Desk Summer 2008. For additional information please contact the International Affairs Desk at (+81)555-24-1236, www.city.fujiyoshida.lg.jp, info@city.fujiyoshida.lg.jp

<http://www.city.fujiyoshida.yamanashi.jp/div/english/html/images/climbing%20map%20FINAL%20comp.pdf>



Updated January 2012

Map is not to scale. All information is subject to change without notice. If you observe any information which needs updating, please call the Information and Referral Desk of the Fleet and Family Support Center, Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan at 243-6716 or 243-3372. Thank you.