

From Tokyo Skytree® to Nikkō in 100 Minutes

From Tokyo Skytree to Shimoimaichi — gateway to Nikkō — in just 100 minutes.



English edition



Nikkō Tourism
Association

The Unique World of Nikkō

A 100-minute train ride takes you from Japan's newest attraction—Tokyo Skytree Tower—to the unique magnificence Nikkō, recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site for its spectacular shrines and temples. Here you can visit many historic buildings, enjoy spectacular mountain scenery, soak in the many famous hot springs, eat some great meals, and engage in a wide range of exciting activities. Nikkō—an experience like no other—awaits you.

The Mysterious Charms of Tokyo Skytree and the Five-Story Pagoda

Tokyo Skytree, the world's tallest tower at 634.0 meters (2,080 ft), opened its doors in May of this year. It was only six years ago that the design concept for Tokyo Skytree took form—to use native Japanese techniques to build the world's most beautiful broadcast tower. In contrast to this new tower, there are currently 22 five-story wooden pagodas still standing in the country, all built in pre-modern times. The oldest, the famous Hōryū-ji, was built at the beginning of the 7th century. All were built as Buddhist structures, and all continue to inspire worship.

All pagodas are built around a central non-bearing beam, with four surrounding beams that form a square, and twelve outer beams. The central beam does not contact the weight-bearing beams, but instead acts a damper to reduce vibration—a design that has enabled these structure to withstand the region's many earthquakes and typhoons. Some pagodas—including the five-story structure at Nikkō Tōshōgū shrine—suspend the central beam from an iron chain that hang down to the fourth level, a sign of considerable architectural sophistication.

A major design goal for Skytree was to build an alluring and sophisticated structure that rivals the beauty of Japan's five-story pagodas.

The tower is supported by steel pipes secured with advanced welding techniques, lifting the structure to a height of 634.0 meters (2,080 ft). A monument of advanced Japanese building technology, the tower suggest the appearance of a sophisticated woman clad in lace. (24 August 2012)

Kiichi Sumikawa

Tokyo Skytree Design Supervisor
Former President of Tokyo University of the Arts
Person of Cultural Merit





100の
日☆
行こう。

Yomeimon Gate, at Nikkō Tōshōgū Shrine

This glittering, vividly colored structure, adorned with 508 sculptures, is the main gate to the most famous of Nikkō Tōshōgū shrine. The shrine is dedicated to Tokugawa Ieyasu, the founder of the Tokugawa shogunate. Many of the sculptures on the shrine are said to represent the leader’s desire for peace.



UNESCO World Heritage Site

Nikkō

UNESCO has recognized Nikkō’s complex of shrines and temples as a world heritage site. The three most important structures are Nikkō Tōshōgū shrine, the Nikkōzan Rinnōji temple, and the Nikkō Futarasan shrine. The area is a rich tribute to the long-lived government of the Edo period, and to the period’s founder and first shogun, Tokugawa Ieyasu.

Sample Itinerary



Nikkō 3-Day Excursion

- Day 1** Tokyo Skytree → [Nikkō] Nikkō Futarasan Shrine → Nikkōzan Rinnōji Temple Taiyūin → Nikkō Tōshōgū Shrine → Nikkōzan Rinnōji Temple → [Ashio] Watarase Keikoku Railway → Ashio Copper Mine → Matsuki Valley → Akagane Shinsui Park → [Nikkō] (Overnight in Nikkō.)
- Day 2** [Okunikin] Kagon Falls → Lake Chūzenji and Vicinity → Futarasan Shrine Chūgūshi → Senjōgahara → Lake Yunoko and Yutaki Waterfall → Nikkō Yumoto Visitors' Center → [Kinugawa and Kawaji] Kawaji Onsen → Ryūkyō Gorge → Kinugawa Onsen → Theme Parks → Kinu Tatewa Suspension Bridge (Overnight at a Kinugawa or Kawaji Onsen.)
- Day 3** [Yunishikawa, Kawamata, and Okukinu] Heike Village → Setoikyō Watarasshai Suspension Bridge → Geysers → Meotobuchi Onsen City Parking → Trekking at Okukinu Onsen → Leave for home.



Lake Yunoko

A dammed lake formed by an eruption of the Mitsudake volcano, Lake Yunoko is situated at an altitude of 1,478 meters (4,850 ft.). A walk around the lake's 3-km (1.9-mile) perimeter can be completed in about an hour.



Yutaki Waterfall



Lake Chūzenji



Kegon Falls

The Lakes and Waterfalls of Okunikkō

Its high altitude—about 1,000 meters above the town—keep this area cool even in mid-summer, and the natural scenery is breathtaking. Nikkō National Park spawns the entire area, including Lake Chūzenji and the Kegon Falls. The high wetlands are registered Ramsar sites, under the Ramsar International Convention on Wetlands. These Ramsar sites include Lake Yunoko, the Yukawa River, Senjōgahara, and Odashirogahara.

Sample Itinerary



Nature and Hot Springs Excursion

Day 1 Tokyo Skytree → [Okunikkō] Kegon Falls → Lake Chūzenji and Vicinity → Futarasan Shrine Chūgūshi → Senjōgahara → Lake Yunoko and Yutaki Waterfall → Nikkō Yumoto Visitors' Center (Overnight in Okunikkō.)

Day 2 [Ashio] Watarase Keikoku Railway → Ashio Copper Mine → Matsuki Valley → Akagane Shinsui Park → [Nikkō] → [Kinugawa and Kawaji] Kawaji Onsen → Ryūōkyō Gorge → Kinugawa Onsen → Theme Parks → Kinu Tateiwa Suspension Bridge (Overnight at a Kinugawa or Kawaji Onsen.)

Day 3 [Nikkō] Nikkō Futarasan Shrine → Nikkōzan Rinnōji Temple Taiyūin → Nikkō Tōshōgū Shrine → Nikkōzan Rinnōji Temple → Leave for home.



100の
日☆光
行こう。

Ryūōkyo Gorge

Ryūōkyo Gorge runs about 3 km (1.6 miles) through hot mountain springs, the Kawaji onsen, and the Kinugawa onsen. This lovely gorge was carved out about 22 million years ago by the combined action of the Kinugawa river flow and the volcanic rock thrown out from undersea eruptions.



Kinugawa Hot Bath



Edo Wonderland



Tobu World Square

The Rivers and Onsen of
Kinugawa
and Kawaji

The Kinugawa onsen runs alongside the ravine of Kinugawa River, adjacent to a theme park area that includes Edo Wonderland (a reproduction of an Edo Period village) and Tobu World Square. Visitors can enjoy the beautiful ravine views while unwinding in the natural springs—just as the locals have done for centuries.

Sample Itinerary



Itinerary for Serious Onsen Enthusiasts

- Day 1** Tokyo Skytree → [Okunikko] Kegon Falls → Lake Chūzenji and Vicinity → Futarasan Shrine Chūgūshi → Senjōgahara → Lake Yunoko and Yutaki Waterfall → Nikkō Yumoto Visitors' Center → [Kinugawa and Kawaji] Kawaji Onsen → Ryūōkyo Gorge → Kinugawa Onsen → Theme Parks → Kinu Tateiwa Suspension Bridge (Overnight at a Kinugawa or Kawaji Onsen.)
- Day 2** [Yunishikawa, Kawamata, and Okukinu] Heike Village → Setoaiyō Watarasshai Suspension Bridge → Geysers → Meotobuchi Onsen City Parking → Trekking at Okukinu Onsen (Overnight at a Yunishikawa, Kawamata, or Okukinu Onsen.)
- Day 3** [Nikkō] Nikkō Futarasan Shrine → Nikkōzan Rinnōji Temple Taiyūin → Nikkō Tōshōgū Shrine → Nikkōzan Rinnōji Temple → Leave for home.

100の
日☆
行こう。



Heike Festival

This festival commemorates the traditional belief that the remnants of the Kiyomori (Heike) clan took refuge in this onsen area following a crushing and decisive military defeat by the Minamoto clan.



Setoaiikyō



Sawaguchi Mini-Kamakura



Hatcho-no-yu

Heike Village and Mountain Yunishikawa, Kawamata, and Okukinu

The struggle between the Heike and Minamoto clans occurred at the beginning of the samurai era, long before the advent of the Edo period. An 800-year literary tradition tells of the Heike's escape to this beautiful mountainous area with its many streams and scattered hot springs. We recommend that you take some time to explore the Yunishikawa Onsen, the Kawamata Onsen, and the Okukinu Onsen.

Sample Itinerary



Mountain Exploration Itinerary

- Day 1** Tokyo Skytree → [Yunishikawa, Kawamata, and Okukinu] Heike Village → Setoaiikyō Watarasshai Suspension Bridge → Geysers → Meotobuchi Onsen City Parking → Trekking at Okukinu Onsen (Overnight at a Yunishikawa, Kawamata, or Okukinu Onsen.)
- Day 2** [Kinugawa and Kawaji] Kawaji Onsen → Ryūōkyō Gorge → Kinugawa Onsen → Theme Parks → Kinu Tateiwa Suspension Bridge → [Okunikō] Kegon Falls → Lake Chūzenji and Vicinity → Futarasan Shrine Chūgūshi → Senjōgahara → Lake Yunoko and Yutaki Waterfall → Nikkō Yumoto Visitors Center (Overnight in Okunikō.)
- Day 3** [Nikkō] Nikkō Futarasan Shrine → Nikkōzan Rinnōji Temple Taiyūin → Nikkō Tōshōgū Shrine → Nikkōzan Rinnōji Temple → Leave for home.



Nikkō Suginami Road

This beautiful and historic road, lined by giant cedars all along its 37-km (23-mile) length, is listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the world's longest tree-lined avenue. The Japanese government has declared that the street is both a national historic site and a national natural monument.

Historic Station on the Nikkō Highway

Imaichi

During the Edo Period, Imaichi was a bustling town serving as a pivotal station along the Nikkō Highway, at a point where the route divided into the Nikkō Reiheishi and Aizunishi Highways. Today's Suginamiki Road—listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the longest tree-lined road the world—gives a hint of what these roads looked like when they were in full use.



Long Wisteria



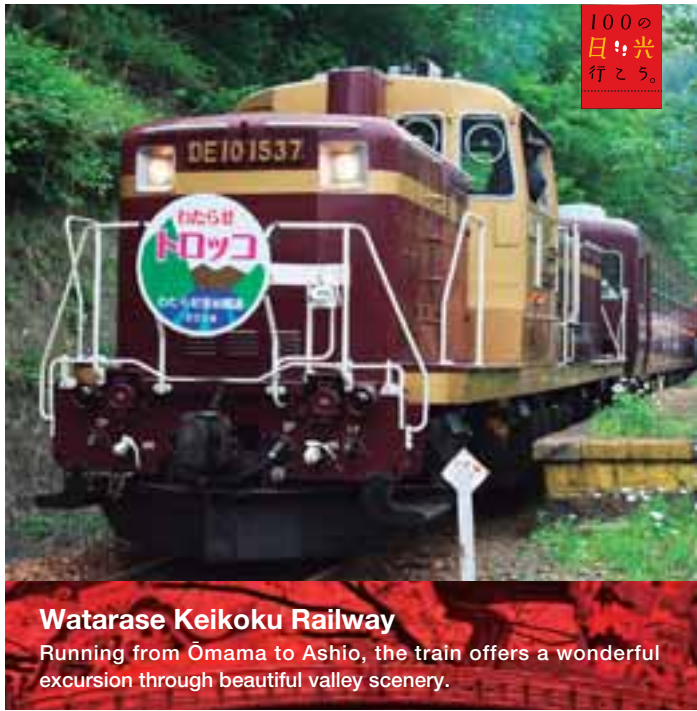
Soba Festival

Sample Itinerary



“Copper History” Highway Itinerary

- Day 1** Tokyo Skytree → [Imaichi] Suginamiki Park → Nikkō Suginamiki Road → Roppōzawa and Kirifuri Plateau → Ōsasa Farm and Kirifuri Plateau → [Nikkō] Nikkō Futarasan Shrine → Nikkōzan Rinnōji Temple Taiyūin → Nikkō Tōshōgū Shrine → Nikkōzan Rinnōji Temple (Overnight in Nikkō.)
- Day 2** [Yunishikawa, Kawamata, Okukinu] Heike Village → Setoaiikyō Watarasshai Suspension Bridge → Geysers → Meotobuchi Onsen City Parking → Trekking at Okukinu Onsen (Overnight at a Yunishikawa, Kawamata, or Okukinu Onsen.)
- Day 3** [Kinugawa and Kawaji] Kawaji Onsen → Ryūōkyō Gorge → Kinugawa Onsen → Theme Parks → Kinu Tateiwa Suspension Bridge → Leave for home.



Watarase Keikoku Railway

Running from Ōmama to Ashio, the train offers a wonderful excursion through beautiful valley scenery.

Copper Mine and Beautiful Valley

Ashio

The city of Ashio is set amidst ravines and mountains running southwest from Nikkō. Copper was discovered here in 1610, and the mine continued running until 1973. During the Edo Period, the copper was used for coins, and for the roof tiling of Nikkō Tōshōgū shrine and Edo castle. Technological improvements during the Meiji Era raised copper output considerably, establishing the town's reputation as the country's top copper provider.



Ashio Copper Mine



Visiting the Copper Mine

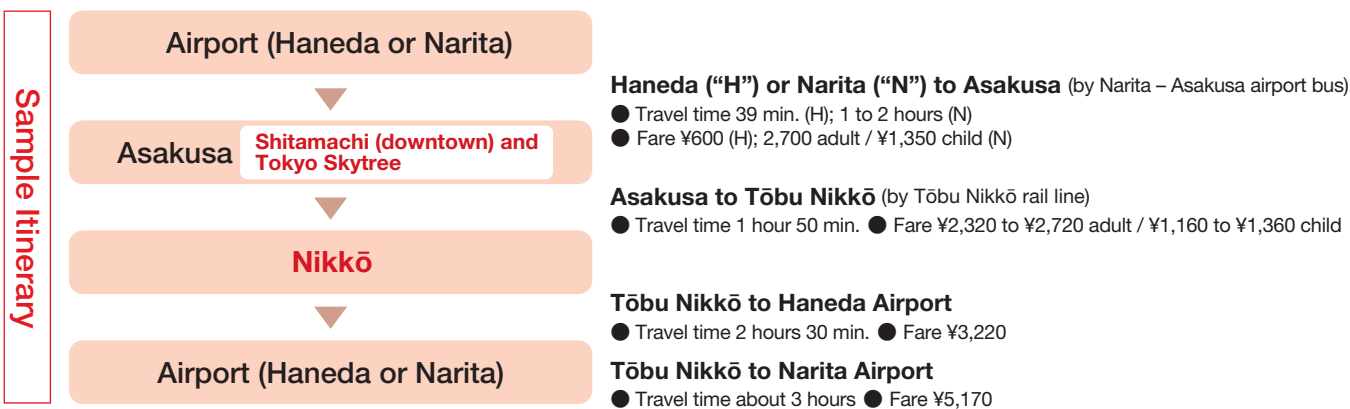
Sample Itinerary



Copper Mine and Onsen Itinerary

- Day 1** Tokyo Skytree → [Ashio] Watarase Keikoku Railway → Ashio Copper Mine → Matsuki Valley → Akagane Shinsui Park → [Okunikko] Kagon Falls → Lake Chūzenji and Vicinity → Futarasan Shrine Chūgūshi → Senjōgahara → Lake Yunoko and Yutaki Waterfall → Nikkō Yumoto Visitors Center (Overnight in Okunikko.)
- Day 2** [Kinugawa and Kawaji] Kawaji Onsen → Ryūōkyō Gorge → Kinugawa Onsen → Theme Parks → Kinu Tateiwa Suspension Bridge → [Nikkō] Nikkō Futarasan Shrine → Nikkōzan Rinnōji Taiyūin → Nikkō Tōshōgū Shrine → Nikkōzan Rinnōji Temple (Overnight in Nikkō.)
- Day 3** [Imaichi] Suginamiki Park → Nikkō Suginamiki Road → Roppōzawa and Kirifuri Plateau → Ōsasa Farm and Kirifuri Plateau → Leave for home.

Tokyo Skytree and Nikkō: Two Top Tourist Spots



Getting to Nikkō

One train,
two great spots:
Tokyo Skytree and
stunning Nikkō

Example 1 Tokyo Skytree ▶ Nikkō City

(A) ●Travel time 1 hour 50 min. ●Adult Fare ¥2,620 (B) ●Travel time 2 hours 20 min. ●Adult Fare ¥2,790
(C) ●Travel time 2 hours 30 min. ●Adult Fare ¥3,300

Tokyo Skytree Stn. – (Tōbu line) – Kitasenju – (Tōbu line) – Shimoimaichi – (A) Tōbu Nikkō
(B) Kinugawa Onsen – Kawaji Onsen – (C) Yunishikawa Onsen

Example 2 Haneda Airport ▶ Nikkō City

(A) ●Travel time 2 hours 30 min. ●Adult Fare ¥3,220 (B) ●Travel time 3 hours ●Adult Fare ¥3,690 (C) ●Travel time 3 hours 20 min. ●Adult Fare ¥3,900

Haneda Airport (International Terminal) – (Keihin Kyūkō line / Toei Asakusa line) – Asakusa – (Tōbu line) – Shimoimaichi – (A) Tōbu Nikkō
(B) Kinugawa Onsen – Kawaji Onsen – (C) Yunishikawa Onsen

Example 3 Narita Airport ▶ Nikkō City

(A) ●Travel time 3 hours ●Adult Fare ¥5,170 (B) ●Travel time 3 hours 20 min. ●Adult Fare ¥5,460 (C) ●Travel time 3 hours 30 min. ●Adult Fare ¥5,670

Narita Airport – (Keisei line) – Nippori – (JR Jōban line) – Kitasenju – (Tōbu line) – Shimoimaichi – (A) Tōbu Nikkō
(B) Kinugawa Onsen – Kawaji Onsen – (C) Yunishikawa Onsen

Example 4 Tokyo ▶ Nikkō City

●Travel time 2 hours ●Adult Fare ¥5,630

Tokyo or Ueno Stn. – (Tōhoku Shinkansen) – Utsunomiya – (Nikkō line) – JR Imaichi – JR Nikkō

Example 5 Asakusa ▶ Nikkō City

(A) ●Travel time 2 hours ●Adult Fare ¥2,620 (B) ●Travel time 2 hours 20 min. ●Adult Fare ¥2,790 (C) ●Travel time 2 hours 30 min. ●Adult Fare ¥3,300

Asakusa – (Tōbu line) – Shimoimaichi – (A) Tōbu Nikkō
(B) Kinugawa Onsen – Kawaji Onsen – (C) Yunishikawa Onsen

Example 6 Shinjuku ▶ Nikkō City

(A) ●Travel time 2 hours ●Adult Fare ¥3,900 (B) ●Travel time 2 hours 30 min. ●Adult Fare ¥4,190 (C) ●Travel time 2 hours 30 min. ●Adult Fare ¥4,400

Shinjuku – (JR and Tōbu lines) – Shimoimaichi – (A) Tōbu Nikkō
(B) Kinugawa Onsen – Kawaji Onsen – (C) Yunishikawa Onsen

Example 7 Ginza ▶ Nikkō City

(A) ●Travel time 2 hours ●Adult Fare ¥2,810 (B) ●Travel time 2 hours 30 min. ●Adult Fare ¥3,100 (C) ●Travel time 2 hours 30 min. ●Adult Fare ¥3,310

Ginza – (Tokyo Metro's Hibiya Line) – Kitasenju – (Tōbu Line) – Shimoimaichi – (A) Tōbu Nikkō
(B) Kinugawa Onsen – Kawaji Onsen – (C) Yunishikawa Onsen

Example 8 Akihabara ▶ Nikkō City

(A) ●Travel time 2 hours ●Adult Fare ¥2,810 (B) ●Travel time 2 hours 30 min. ●Adult Fare ¥3,100 (C) ●Travel time 2 hours 30 min. ●Adult Fare ¥3,310

Akihabara – (Tokyo Metro's Hibiya Line) – Kitasenju – (Tōbu Line) – Shimoimaichi – (A) Tōbu Nikkō
(B) Kinugawa Onsen – Kawaji Onsen – (C) Yunishikawa Onsen

Note: All fares above are for weekday travel. All travel times are approximate.

For more information about Nikkō Tourism, contact:

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Nikkō Tourism Association: Ashio Office
TEL.0288-93-3417 FAX.0288-93-3467 <http://www.nikko-jp.org/ashio/>

Kinugawa/Kawaji Onsen Tourist Association
TEL.0288-77-2052 FAX.0288-77-0201 <http://www.kinugawa-kawaji.com/>

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