

Kamakura

Kanagawa Prefecture · Japan

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Kamakura is a coastal city about one hour south of Tokyo. It was the seat of the Kamakura shogunate from the late 12th century to 1333, and many Zen temples and shrines from that time remain in the wooded hills.

It suits a day trip from Tokyo or a stay of two or three nights. Temples, hill trails and the sea are close together, and most sights are on or near three train stations.

When to visit

Spring and autumn are the most comfortable seasons. Summer is hot and very humid, and winter is cool. Rain falls on many days from March to November.

The main event to plan around is the hydrangea bloom in June and July. Hase-dera has a well-known hydrangea path. June is also in the rainy season, so bring a light rain jacket.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Fair Fair for hiking	9° / 14° Feels like 3°	4° / 1°	Dry air
February	Fair Fair for hiking	10° / 15° Feels like 4°	4° / 1°	Dry air
March	Good Good for hiking	13° / 17° Feels like 7°	7° / 3°	13 rainy days · Dry air
April	Good Good for hiking	16° / 20° Feels like 12°	11° / 6°	13 rainy days · Dry air
May	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 23°	16° / 12°	12 rainy days
June	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 26°	19° / 16°	14 rainy days · Muggy, humid air
July	Good Good for sightseeing	26° / 29°	23° / 20°	13 rainy days · Oppressive humidity
August	Good Good for the beach	28° / 30°	25° / 22°	12 rainy days · Oppressive humidity
September	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 29°	22° / 18°	14 rainy days · Muggy, humid air
October	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 25°	17° / 13°	14 rainy days
November	Good Good for hiking	16° / 21° Feels like 13°	12° / 8°	12 rainy days · Dry air
December	Good Good for hiking	12° / 17° Feels like 7°	7° / 3°	Dry air

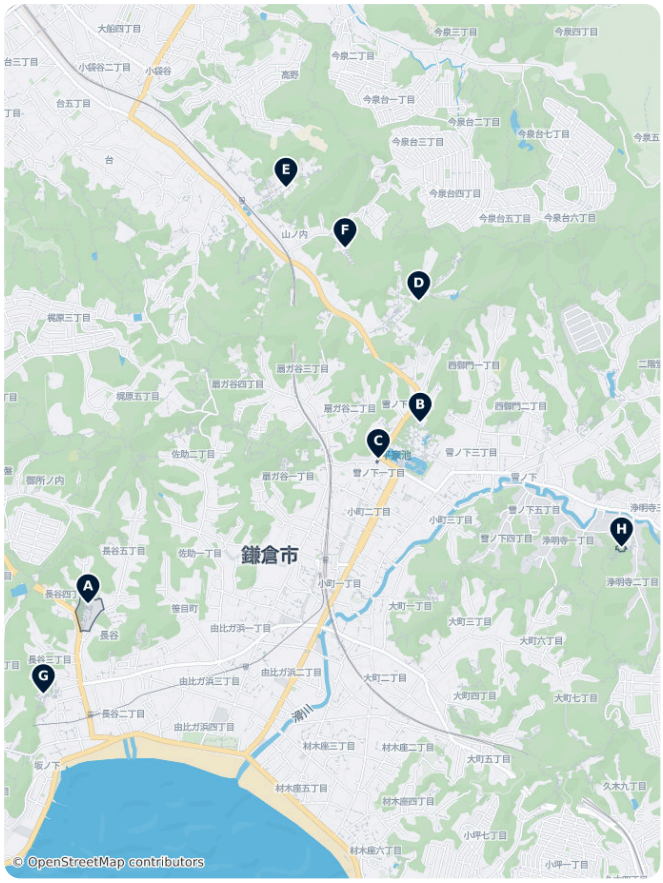
Best months: June

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights

The sights fall into three areas: Kita-Kamakura, central Kamakura and Hase.

- **A** Great Buddha of Kamakura is a bronze statue of Amida Buddha cast around 1252. It has stood in the open air since a tsunami destroyed its hall in 1498. Entry to the temple grounds is 300 yen, and 50 yen more lets you go inside the statue.
- **B** Tsurugaoka Hachimangū Shrine is the most important Shinto shrine in Kamakura. It is the centre of the city's festivals.
- **C** Komachi Dori is a pedestrian street with food and souvenir shops near the station. It is the easiest place to buy snacks.
- **D** Kenchō-ji was completed in 1253 and is the oldest Zen training monastery in Japan. Its large gate and the pond garden behind the main hall are the main sights.
- **E** Engaku-ji was founded in 1282 and is right beside Kita-Kamakura Station. Its Great Bell and its Shariden hall are National Treasures. Entry is 500 yen.
- **F** Meigetsuin Temple is a Zen temple in Kita-Kamakura known as the Temple of Hydrangeas. It is known for its flowers in the rainy season.
- **G** Hase-dera Temple is a hillside temple with a 9.18 m wooden statue of Kannon. It has a view over Yuigahama bay and a small cave with Benzaiten statues.
- **H** Bamboo Garden is a paid bamboo grove at the Hōkoku-ji temple. A matcha tea set can be added to the ticket.



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What to experience

- Horseback archery: yabusame is held on the main approach to Tsurugaoka Hachimangū Shrine in mid-April and mid-September.
- Hydrangea path: walk the path at Hase-dera Temple in June and July, when the flowers bloom.
- Zazen: Engaku-ji holds open meditation sessions, mostly at weekends.
- Money washing: at Zeniarai Benzaiten, visitors wash coins and notes in a cave spring. Many believe the money will multiply.
- Enoden ride: take the small train along the coast from Kamakura to Enoshima, about 25 minutes.
- Hill walks: paths in the hills around the city link some temples.

Day trips

Closest trips are listed first.

- **Enoshima**: a small island with a shrine, caves and a viewing tower. Take the Enoden from Kamakura Station, about 25 minutes. On clear days in autumn and winter you can see Mt Fuji from the tower.
- Ⓐ Yokohama: a large port city, about 30 minutes by JR from Kamakura.
- Ⓑ Hakone: a mountain area with hot springs and lake views. The trip takes about 2 hours each way with transfers, so an overnight stay works better.



Where to explore

Other nearby destinations in Kanagawa:

- Yokohama is the main port city to the north.
- Hakone is a hot spring and mountain area to the west.
- Yokosuka is a coastal city to the south-east.
- Shōnan is the coastal region that includes Kamakura.

Getting there

- By air: Kamakura has no airport. Most visitors land at Tokyo Haneda or Narita and continue by train via Tokyo or Yokohama.
- From Tokyo by train: the JR Yokosuka Line runs direct from Tokyo Station to Kamakura in about 1 hour.
- From Shinjuku: the JR Shonan-Shinjuku Line takes about 1 hour. Only trains for Zushi run direct to Kamakura, so otherwise change at Ofuna.
- From Yokohama: about 30 minutes by JR.
- Information: timetables are on the JR East site.

Getting around

- Train: JR stops at Kita-Kamakura (Engaku-ji and the Kenchō-ji area) and at Kamakura (central sights). The Enoden line starts next to JR Kamakura Station.
- Enoden: a small coastal railway to Fujisawa. Hase Station is the third stop and is 5 to 10 minutes on foot from the Great Buddha and 5 minutes from Hase-dera. The line also stops at Enoshima.
- How to pay: IC cards such as Suica and PASMO work on the Enoden. The Noriorikun day pass costs 800 yen. See the Enoden site.
- Buses: city buses serve sights away from the stations. Traffic can delay them in busy seasons.
- On foot or by bicycle: the town is small enough to explore on foot or with a rental bicycle.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

Sights cluster around three stations, and each cluster is walkable. Some temples are on hills and steps.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Rental bicycles work for the flat central area. Roads are narrow and hills are steep.

Driving

- Is a car worth it?: no. Trains and the Enoden reach the main sights, and buses can be delayed by traffic in busy seasons.
- Driving side: traffic in Japan drives on the **left**.
- Licence: visitors need an International Driving Permit under the 1949 Geneva Convention. Some countries' licences instead need an official Japanese translation from JAF.

Food & drink

The local specialty is shirasu, small whitebait from the Shonan coast. It is served on rice bowls and in set meals, especially around Enoshima.

For a quick meal or snacks, go to Komachi Dori, which is lined with restaurants, sweet shops and food shops. More restaurants cluster around the stations.

What to eat & drink

DINNER

Sushi · 寿司 (Sushi)
Vinegared rice paired with raw fish, seafood, or vegetables; ranges from casual conveyor-belt shops to high-end counters.

Ramen · ラーメン (Ramen)
Wheat noodles in a meat or fish-based broth, with countless regional styles.

Tempura · 天ぷら (Tempura)
Lightly battered, deep-fried seafood and vegetables.

Okonomiyaki · お好み焼き (Okonomiyaki)
A savory grilled pancake with cabbage and a choice of fillings, popular in Osaka and Hiroshima.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Onigiri · おにぎり (Onigiri)
Rice balls wrapped in seaweed, often with a savory filling; an everyday convenience-store staple.

Yakitori · 焼き鳥 (Yakitori)
Grilled skewers of chicken, popular at izakaya alongside beer or sake.

DRINKS

Green Tea · 緑茶 (Ryokucha)
The everyday non-alcoholic drink, served hot or cold.

Sake · 日本酒 (Nihonshu)
Rice wine served warm or chilled, a traditional accompaniment to a meal.

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Safety & health

- Safety: Kamakura is a safe destination. Crime against visitors is low.
- Rain and trails: hill trails can be slippery after rain. Wear shoes with good grip.
- Sea and earthquakes: Kamakura is on the coast, and a tsunami destroyed the Great Buddha's hall in 1498. After an earthquake near the sea, move to high ground.

History

Minamoto no Yoritomo moved into Kamakura in 1180 and became shogun in 1192. After his death in 1199, the Hōjō family ruled as regents. The shogunate lasted until 1333, when *Nitta Yoshisada* attacked and entered the city by bypassing the cape at Inamuragasaki at low tide.

Zen temples from this period still stand. Kenchō-ji was completed in 1253 for the regent *Hōjō Tokiyori*. Engaku-ji was founded in 1282 at the request of *Hōjō Tokimune* after the Mongol invasions.

Great Buddha of Kamakura was cast around 1252. Its wooden hall was destroyed by storms and then washed away by a tsunami in 1498, so the statue now sits in the open.

Country facts

Here are the essentials for traveling in Japan:

CURRENCY
JPY ¥

ELECTRICITY

Type A / Type B
100 V

LANGUAGES
Japanese

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Kamakura's Absolute Essentials

Kamakura served as Japan's political center during the Kamakura period, leaving a legacy of significant religious sites. The city features the 13.35-meter bronze Great Buddha at Kōtoku-in and the first-ranked Zen temple, Kenchō-ji. Tsurugaoka Hachimangū stands as the primary Shinto shrine, while Hase-dera offers views over the Sagami Bay. Beyond the temples, the coastal landscape includes Yuigahama Beach and the rocky cape of Inamuragasaki, providing a blend of medieval history and Pacific scenery accessible via the Kita-Kamakura railway gateway.





A Great Buddha of Kamakura (Daibutsu)

Known as the Great Buddha of Kamakura, this huge bronze statue of Amida Buddha is the second highest in the country (13,35 meters).

Japan (35.31685, 139.53572)

Apr-Sep Mo–Su	08:00–17:30
Oct-Feb Mo–Su	08:00–17:00

kotoku-in.jp/en/, +81 467 22 0703



B Tsurugaoka Hachimangū Shrine

Tsurugaoka Hachimangū is the most important Shinto shrine in the city of Kamakura, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan.

(Unnamed Road), Kamakura, Japan (35.32603, 139.55630)

hachimangu.or.jp, +81 467220315



C Hase-dera temple

Hase-dera, commonly called the Hase-kannon is one of the Buddhist temples in the city of Kamakura in Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan, famous...

Kamakura, Japan (35.31237, 139.53332)

Mo–Su 08:00–17:00

hasedera.jp, 0467-22-6300



D Engaku-ji

Zuirokusan Engaku Kōshō Zenji, or Engaku-ji, is one of the most important Zen Buddhist temple complexes in Japan and is ranked second among...

Ofuna, Japan (35.33792, 139.54799)



E Kenchō-ji Temple

Kenchō-ji is a Rinzai Zen temple in Kamakura, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan, which ranks first among Kamakura's so-called Five Great Zen...

Ofuna, Japan (35.33218, 139.55621)



F Kita-Kamakura

Kita-Kamakura Station is a railway station on the Yokosuka Line in Kamakura, Kanagawa, Japan, operated by East Japan Railway Company.

(35.33739, 139.54514)



G Yuigahama Beach

Yuigahama is a beach near Kamakura, a city in Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan.

Japan (35.30913, 139.53913)



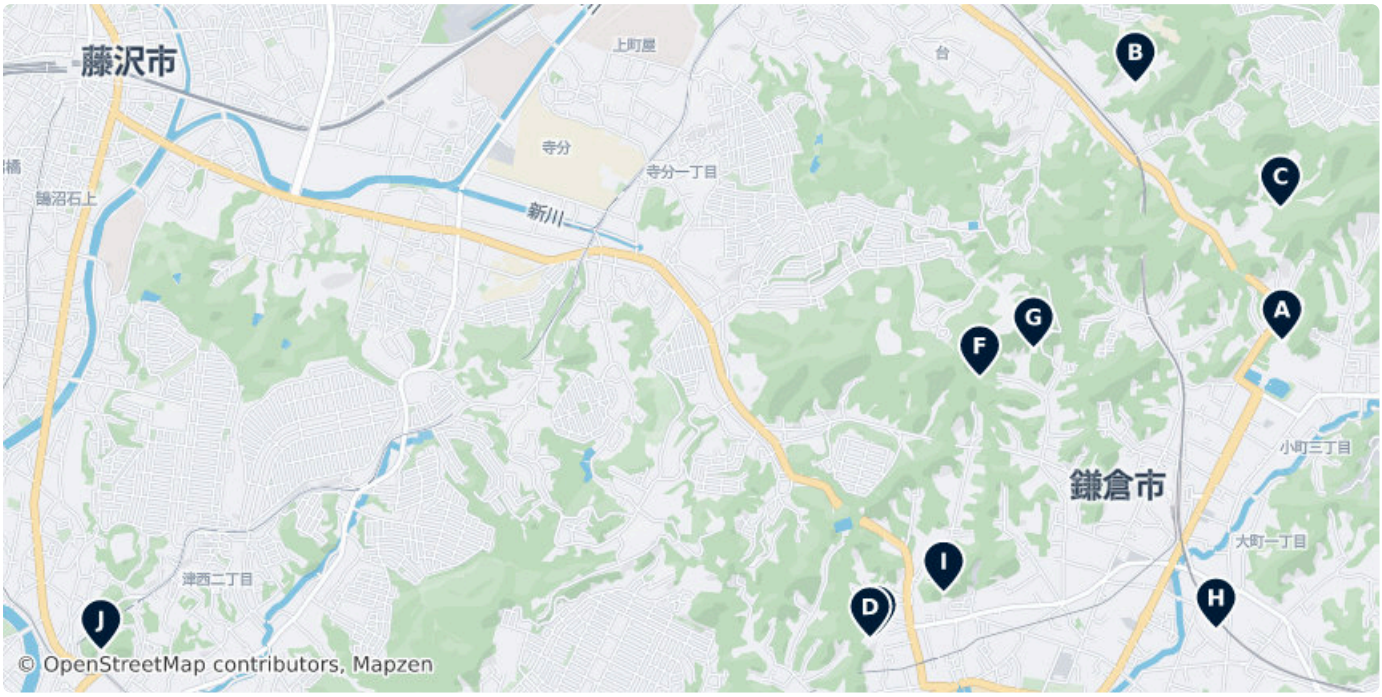
H Inamuragasaki

Inamuragasaki is a cape at the western end of Yuigahama in Kamakura, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan.

Japan (35.30170, 139.52546)

Kamakura's Sacred Sites

Kamakura serves as the spiritual heart of Kanagawa Prefecture, housing some of Japan's most significant Zen Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines. This collection features Kenchō-ji and Engaku-ji, the top-ranked of the city's Five Great Zen Temples, alongside the historic Tsurugaoka Hachimangū. Visitors can explore unique sites like Zeniarai Benzaiten, where tradition involves washing money for good fortune, and the ancient Amanawa Shinmei Shrine, dating back to 710. From the hillside views at Hase-dera to the secluded red torii gates of Sasuke Inari, these sites represent centuries of Japanese religious architecture and history.





Ⓐ Tsurugaoka Hachimangü Shrine

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hachimangu.or.jp, +81 467220315



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Ofuna, Japan (35.33218, 139.55621)



D Hasedera Museum

Hase-dera, commonly called the Hase-kannon is one of the Buddhist temples in the city of Kamakura in Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan, famous...

3-11-2 Hase,Kamakura, Kanagawa, Japan (35.31229, 139.53296)

Mo–Su 08:00–16:30

hasedera.jp/treasure/, +81 467 22 6300



E Hase-dera temple

Hase-dera, commonly called the Hase-kannon is one of the Buddhist temples in the city of Kamakura in Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan, famous...

Kamakura, Japan (35.31237, 139.53332)

Mo–Su 08:00–17:00

hasedera.jp, 0467-22-6300



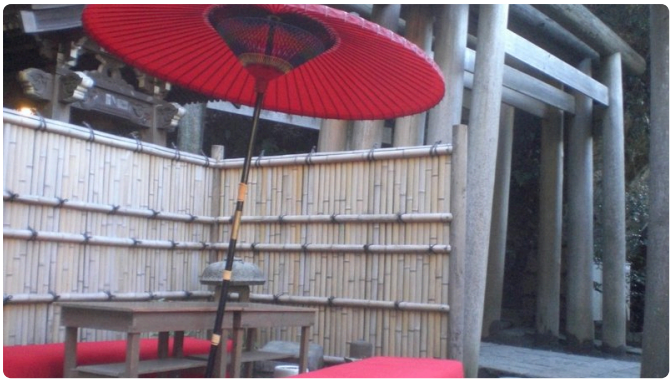
F sasuke inari shine

Sasuke Inari Shrine is a Shinto shrine in Kamakura and the site of the Hidden Village of Kamakura.

Japan (35.32436, 139.53917)

Mo–Su Open 24/7

0467-22-4711



G zeniarai benzaiten

Zeniarai Benzaiten Ugafuku Shrine, popularly known simply as Zeniarai Benten, is a Shinto shrine in Kamakura, Kanagawa, Kanagawa prefecture...

Japan (35.32568, 139.54222)

Mo–Su 08:00–16:30

0467-25-1081

H Moto Hachiman

Moto Hachiman is a small but very old and historically important Shinto shrine in Kamakura, Kanagawa Pref., Japan.

Kamakura, Japan (35.31271, 139.55256)



I Amanawa Shinmei Shrine

Amanawa Shinmei Shrine was founded in 710 and is the oldest Shinto shrine in Kamakura. It is dedicated to the sun goddess Amaterasu.

Kamakura, Japan (35.31439, 139.53713)

Mo–Su Open 24/7

0467-61-3884



J Ryūkō-ji (Fujisawa)

Ryūkō-ji is a temple of the Nichiren Shū in the city of Fujisawa, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan.

3–13–37 Katase, Fujisawa, Kamakura, Kanagawa-ken, 251-0032, Japan (35.31171, 139.48938)

Mo–Su 10:00–16:00

ryukoji.jp, 0466-25-7357

Kamakura Parks and Gardens

Kamakura's landscape features a blend of historical hilltop parks and quiet residential green spaces. Genjiyama Park offers hiking trails that connect major temples and features a bronze statue of shogun Minamoto no Yoritomo. The coastal neighborhoods of Shichirigahama and Koshigoe contain numerous community parks often named after local wildlife, providing small resting spots between the hills and the sea. These sites range from expansive wooded areas with seasonal cherry blossoms to compact gardens tucked away in traditional residential districts.



A 源氏山公園

Hilltop park featuring a monument to Minamoto no Yoritomo. It serves as a hub for hiking trails connecting the Great Buddha, Zeniarai Benzaiten Shrine, and Kita-Kamakura.

Japan (35.32624, 139.54450)

B 浄明寺緑地

Wooded green space located on the hills near Jomyoji Temple, offering natural walking paths.

(35.31382, 139.56934)

C 鎌倉ゲストハウスの敷地

Traditional garden space attached to a local guesthouse, featuring classic Japanese landscaping elements.

(Unnamed Road), Japan (35.32837, 139.52306)

D 七里ガ浜東さざえ公園

Small residential park in the Shichirigahama Higashi district.

(35.30686, 139.51250)

E 田辺公園

Local community park located in the Shichirigahama area.

(35.30687, 139.51141)

F 七里ガ浜二丁目公園

Neighborhood playground and green space in the coastal Shichirigahama district.

(35.30794, 139.50513)

G 七里ガ浜あさり公園

Small pocket park in Shichirigahama named after the Japanese littleneck clam.

(35.30900, 139.51050)

H 七里ガ浜かめ公園

Community park in Shichirigahama featuring a name inspired by sea turtles.

(35.30806, 139.50696)

I 七里ガ浜かもめ公園

Local residential park in Shichirigahama named after seagulls.

(35.30821, 139.50955)

J 七里ガ浜東二丁目公園

Public green space serving the eastern residential hills of Shichirigahama.

(35.30915, 139.51386)

K 稲村ガ崎びわ公園

Small neighborhood park located in the Inamuragasaki district.

(35.30850, 139.52125)

L 腰越くじら公園

Local park in Koshigoe named after whales, situated near the coastal residential area.

(35.31091, 139.49066)

M 丹後ガ谷やまばと公園

Community park in the Tango-ga-yato valley named after the mountain bird.

(35.31466, 139.50321)

N 丹後ガ谷せみ公園

Small residential green space named after the cicada.

(35.31131, 139.50396)

O 日坂あかね公園

Local park located in the Hisaka neighborhood.

(35.31012, 139.50061)

P 丹後ガ谷公園

Central community green space for the Tango-ga-yato residential area.

(35.31212, 139.50367)

Q 御所たぬき公園

Neighborhood park named after the Japanese raccoon dog (tanuki).

(35.31481, 139.50543)

R 梶原こぶし公園

Small public park in the Kajiwara area named after the Kobushi magnolia tree.

(35.32893, 139.52410)

S 西鎌倉山ひばり公園

Residential park located on the hills of Nishi-Kamakurayama, named after the skylark.

(35.32219, 139.50942)

T 鎌倉山西すみれ公園

Small community green space in the western Kamakurayama district named after the violet flower.

(35.32327, 139.50819)

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