

Explore Shizuoka

SHIZUOKA NEWS UPDATE



*From L-R: New restaurant at Mt. Komuro, Lake Hamana Flower Expo 2024 and Kunozan Toshogu Shrine.
Images are available for download [here](#).*

08 September 2023 - Below is the latest news from Shizuoka Prefecture, one hour by bullet train from Tokyo, including upcoming events, new tours and experiences and new dining options.

Tickets go on sale for Lake Hamana Flower Expo 2024

In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the 2004 Lake Hamana Flower Expo, which attracted over 5 million visitors, Lake Hamana Flower Expo 2024 is set to take place next spring with tickets on sale from September 1. Set against the stunning backdrop of Lake Hamana, the colourful event will take place for almost two months at two venues: Hamamatsu Flower Park from March 23rd to June 16th and Hamanako Garden Park from April 6th to June 2nd. Visitors will be able to enjoy stunning gardens such as the ‘Cherry Blossom and Tulip Garden’, one of the most beautiful in the world, as well as those designed by world-famous garden designers including Kazuyuki Ishihara, who to date has won 12 gold medals at the Chelsea Flower Show and has been praised by the late Queen Elizabeth as ‘the gardening magician’. Additionally, new gardens are being exclusively designed for the expo alongside cutting-edge attractions including interactive digital installations and Japan’s largest nighttime projection mapping. For more information: <https://hanahaku2024.jp/>

DAIDOGEI World Cup to take place in November

The four-day DAIDOGEI World Cup, an event dedicated to street performance artistry, is scheduled to take place from November 2nd to November 5th in Shizuoka City. Held yearly for more than 30 years under the moniker ‘The City is a Theatre’, this international event is one of Asia’s top street performance festivals gathering the most talented street performers from around the globe. For more information: <https://daidogeicom/en/>

New restaurant at Mt. Komuro

On the Izu Peninsula travellers will find Mt. Komuro, known as one of the most scenic spots in the area for its gorgeous azalea blooming season from mid-April to early May and the picturesque “MISORA” ridge walk. The latter opened in 2021 at the mountain’s summit at 321 metres above sea level and is a loop-shaped promenade offering visitors spectacular views of Mt. Fuji (weather permitting). A new restaurant, [Kitchen 218](#), has just opened at the foot of Mt. Komuro, perfect for travellers to refuel after exploring the area. The space has been designed to represent Mt. Komuro’s history and serves specialities from the Izu Peninsula such as Yogan-yaki (steak grilled on lava stone) and bountiful fresh seafood.

New one-day private tour of Shizuoka

The new '[Classic Shizuoka 1-Day Private Tour](#)' is perfect for travellers looking to discover some of the prefecture's key treasures in one day. The tour guide meets participants at Shizuoka Station (served by bullet train and just one hour from Tokyo) to take a local bus to Nihondaira Plateau (boasting panoramic views of Mt. Fuji, the Suruga Bay and tea plantations in the area) and take the ropeway to Kunozan Toshogu, a shrine dedicated to shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu (also known as the leader who unified Japan) and a designated National Treasure. The tour continues with a visit to UNESCO-listed Miho-no-Matsubara, a breathtaking scenic area stretching along the coast and renowned for its stunning expanse of pine trees and awe-inspiring views of Mt. Fuji across the bay - a landscape that served as inspiration for many pieces of art and poems. The tour starts from JPY 60,000 (approx. £323) per person.

New calligraphy experience

The newly launched '[Experience Authentic Japanese Zen Calligraphy Culture](#)' is ideal for travellers looking to boost their calligraphy knowledge as well as challenge their inner calligrapher. The session takes approx. 1.5 hours and starts with an overview of calligraphy history and must-know details followed by a technique demonstration. Participants will then try their hand at writing their name in Japanese Kanji characters - a fantastic souvenir to take back home and frame as a reminder of their visit to Shizuoka. The experience starts from JPY 13,000 (approx. £70) per person.

Note to editors

Required image credits:

Image 1 - New restaurant (Kitchen 218) at Mt. Komuro. Credit: Tourism Shizuoka Japan.

Image 2 - Lake Hamana Flower Expo 2024. Credit: Tourism Shizuoka Japan.

Image 3 - Kunozan Toshogu Shrine. Credit: Tourism Shizuoka Japan.

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About Shizuoka

Just one hour from Tokyo by bullet train, Shizuoka prefecture is home to the iconic Mount Fuji. It boasts a spectacular natural environment of coastline, mountains and lakes including the beautiful Izu Peninsula, which has been described as "Japan's Riviera" and was designated as a Global Geopark by UNESCO in April 2018. The region is steeped in history, has a huge choice of traditional ryokan inns and onsen hot springs, and is also a gourmet paradise. Its natural environment produces some of the country's best food and drink, from green tea and wasabi to fresh seafood. In fact, Shizuoka is Japan's biggest producer of green tea.

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