Travel Guide for Hakone (Ver.2)

Hakone is located about 100 kilometers southwest of Tokyo. It is in the Fuji-Hakone-Izu National park, and is a famous sightseeing area. Because of this reason, it is a bit remote from major cities and airports. Since a travel using public transportations is not straightforward for foreign participants, we ask you to read the following directions carefully for final planning of your trip. It usually takes about 4-5 hours in total from Narita to Hakone, and about 3-4 hours from Haneda to Hakone, when you use public transportations. In the recommended routes given below, you will notice many English signs and announcements to follow.

We will do our best to support you. If you have any questions, please send an e-mail to nro30info@nro.nao.ac.jp .

Transportation from Narita/Haneda to Hakone

1. How to go to Hakone from Narita

There is no direct public transportation from Narita to Hakone. For your convenience, we operate the symposium bus from Narita to Hakone on December 2. The departure time will be 11:00 am for the morning flights and 18:30 pm for the afternoon flights. Details including the meeting place will be announced on our WEB site. We recommend you to use this symposium bus as much as possible.

If you arrive on the other days or later in the evening of December 2, please use public transportation from Narita to Hakone. The easiest way is one via Shinjuku.
First, you get on the Narita Express (NEX) train from Narita Airport (Terminal 1/2) to Shinjuku. It takes about 1.5 hours, and the fare is JPY 3,110. NEX requires seat reservation, but you can readily get it when you arrive at Narita (we are always doing so!). Just go to the ticket booth of JR with the sign of NEX, and buy the ticket with seat allocation. The time table of NEX can be seen in the following WEB site.


Be sure to take the NEX train that goes to Shinjuku. NEX arrives at the tracks 5 and 6 of the Shinjuku station. You get off the train, and find WEST EXIT (or WEST CENTRAL EXIT), which is the closest exit to the bus stop to Hakone. The exits are located on the first basement level, and you have to go up to the aboveground floor for the bus connection.

Instead of NEX, you can use the airport limousine from Narita to Shinjuku. It takes about 1.5 – 2 hours depending on the traffic condition, and the fare is JPY 3,000. You can buy the ticket for the limousine at the ticket booth in front of the exit of the customs, by just saying your destination (Shinjuku). The time table is given below:

http://www.limousinebus.co.jp/en/platform_searches/index/2/212

If you need to stay in Shinjuku for one night, we recommend you to stay at Shinjuku Washington Hotel, although many other choices are available.

http://shinjuku.washington-hotels.jp/
This hotel provides a comfortable room at the moderate price, and is convenient in the access from Narita: The limousine will stop in front of the hotel. If you go to Shinjuku Washington Hotel, please tell your destination (Shinjuku Washington Hotel) at the ticket booth.

As the next step, you get on the highway bus from Shinjuku to Hakone. The time table can be found on the following URL:
The bus is available every hour from 7:00 to 13:00, and the fare is JPY 2,100. The bus stop is close to the JR Shinjuku station (WEST EXIT or WEST CENTRAL EXIT). Please see the attached map. Again, the reservation is required, but you can usually get on the bus without seat reservation, as far as the bus is not full. (It is rare to be fully booked. If necessary, we can make the reservation for you.) You should get off the bus at Hakone-en, which is the nearest bus stop to Prince Hakone, the symposium venue. It takes about 2.5 – 3.0 hours depending on the traffic condition. You can walk from the bus stop to Prince Hakone within three minutes.

**Option** There are several other ways to go to Hakone. One is the way via Tokyo and Odawara. First you get on NEX to Tokyo central station (we call it just as Tokyo). NEX stops on the basement floor of the Tokyo station, and so you have to go up to the concourse level for changing trains. Then, please find the Tokaido line (tracks 7 – 10). You should get on the local train to Odawara. You can also use Shinkansen to Odawara, although it is a bit expensive. In this case, please find the tracks for Tokaido Shinkansen, and get on Kodama (not Nozomi and Hikari) to Odawara. To get Shinkansen, you have to buy the express ticket from Tokyo to Odawara at the booth of the Tokyo station. Reservation is not required for the both cases (Use cars for
passengers without seat reservation for Shinkansen). From Odawara, you have to take the local bus to Hakone. We do not recommend this option, unless you have any Japanese colleague traveling together, or you very much like it.

2. How to go to Hakone from Haneda

Again, there is no convenient direct transportation from Haneda to the hotel. For your convenience, we operate the symposium bus on December 2. Since all the international flights arrive at Haneda in the early morning, the bus departs for Hakone at 9:00 am. If you are coming on other days, please use the public transportation.

Although the limousine bus from Haneda to Togendai (in Hakone) is available, the bus does not go to Hakone-en near Prince Hakone. You have to arrange an additional transportation from Togendai to Prince Hakone.

So, we recommend the route via Shinjuku, particularly for foreign participants. Please take the airport limousine from Haneda to Shinjuku.

It usually takes about 1 hour if the traffic is reasonably smooth, and the fare is JPY 1,200. Alternatively, you can try the Tokyo Monorail to Hamamatsu-cho, or the Keikyu Line to Shinagawa. From Hamamatsu-cho and Shinagawa, you take the Yamanote Line (color coded green) to Shinjuku. When you arrive at Shinjuku, please find WEST EXIT (or WEST CENTRAL EXIT), which is the closest to the bus stop for Hakone. The exits are located on the first basement level, and you have to go up to the aboveground level for the bus connection. Then, you can proceed to Hakone by following the instruction given above.

From Shinagawa, you can take the Tokaido line or the Tokaido Shinkansen (Kodama) to Odawara. As noted above, we do not recommend this.

3. From Hakone to Narita and Haneda

We operate the symposium bus from Hakone to Shinjuku on December 7 (Fri). The bus departs just after finishing the symposium. If your flight is on December 8, we recommend you to stay in Tokyo for one night. Shinjuku, Ueno, and Tokyo areas are convenient for transportation to Narita. From Shinjuku or Tokyo, you can
use the NEX train, whereas you can take Keisei Sky Liner from Ueno. From Shinjuku, the airport limousine is also available.

On December 8, we have excursions to Nobeyama and NAOJ (Mitaka). The both tour buses arrive at Shinjuku around 18:00 pm on December 8.

If you go to Narita/Haneda without using the above symposium buses, you should take the highway bus from Hakone to Shinjuku, and then proceed to Narita/Haneda by the airport limousines or by NEX. If your flight from Narita is in the morning, we strongly recommend you to stay in Tokyo or Narita for the preceding night.

4. Special Arrangements

If you need booking of hotel rooms in Tokyo and/or booking of highway bus seat from Shinjuku to Hakone, we will arrange it. Furthermore, we will make our best for any special requirements of your domestic transportation. Please do not hesitate to ask us.

Please enjoy your trip!

Appendix: Hotel Information

Here is a list of some hotels in Shinjuku and Ueno. They have an English HP. This is just for your reference. Many others are available.

1. Shinjuku
   http://shinjuku.washington-hotels.jp/
   http://shinjukuparkhotel.co.jp/english/index.html
   http://www.nikkanren.or.jp/yado2/main/id/27740

2. Ueno
   http://www.gardenhotels.co.jp/eng/ueno/
   http://www.kinuyahotel.jp/