

## Recommended destinations on the way from Tokyo to Kyoto

### 高山ルート（京都～東京）

#### Takayama～Matsumoto route (Kyoto～Tokyo)



Whenever a couple of days are available when moving between Tokyo and Kyoto, taking a detour such as by this Takayama route is highly recommended. Ski in Japan alps and a night in a thatched roof house in Shirakawa-go in the snow must be a memorable winter experience.



郡上八幡 Gujo Hachiman

A small, riverside town on the way from Takayama 高山 (1hr 10min by bus) to Kyoto (3 hr 15min by bus), founded in the 16th century after the construction of Hachiman-jo Castle 八幡城 and is known for its pristine waterways and Gujo 郡上 odori summer dance festival.



高山 Takayama city

The central city in the mountainous Hida region of Gifu prefecture, 3.5 hrs to Kyoto and 4.5 hrs to Tokyo by trains, is known for old towns, Takayama Jin-ya 高山陣屋 (the local government office of Edo period), asahi morning market 朝市, and Takayama festival.



白川郷 Shirakawa-go

The village in a mountain area is famous for their up to 250 year old gassho-zukuri 合掌造り farmhouses designed to withstand heavy snow. The large attic space was used for cultivating silkworms. Good bus access from Takayama 高山 (50min) and Kanazawa 金沢 (75 min).



乗鞍高原 Norikura-kogen Highland

Base to visit the summit of Mount Norikura-dake (2702m) and for a small ski resort, onsen, water falls and hiking. Good bus access from Matsumoto 松本 (90min), Kamikochi 上高地 (67 min), and Takayama 高山 (90min from the summit of Norikura-dake 乗鞍山頂)



松本 Matsumoto

The second largest city in Nagano prefecture, known for Matsumoto-jo castle 松本城, is also a good base for Kamikochi 上高地 (105 min), Norikura 乗鞍 (90min), and Tateyama-Kurobe 立山黒部 Alpine route. 2hr45min from Shinjuku 新宿 st. in Tokyo by JR express Azusa.

### 中山道・中央道ルート（京都～東京）

#### Nakasendo/Chuo free way route (Kyoto～Tokyo)



This route accommodates Nakasendo 中山道 (a major route between Tokyo and Kyoto during Edo 江戸 period, 17th to 19th century) where former post towns are well preserved. Highly recommended to visit more than one as each town has its own unique ambiance.



馬籠宿 Magome-juku (@中山道Nakasendo)

The post town served travelers of the Nakasendo (a major Tokyo-Kyoto route in Edo period). Embellished preservation contrasts with the rugged authenticity of Tsumago 妻籠. 30 min bus from JR 中津川 Nakatsugawa st. or 20 min walk from Magome highway bus stop.



妻籠宿 Tsumago-juku (@中山道Nakasendo)

Tsumago is one of the best preserved post towns in Japan and is connected with Magome by Magome-Tsumago trail (8km) in Kiso Valley on Nakasendo route. Tsumago-juku 妻籠宿 is 9min bus from JR Nagiso 南木曽 st. or 26 min bus from Magome-juku 馬籠宿



奈良井宿 Narai-juku (@中山道Nakasendo)

Compared with Magome 馬籠 and Tsumago 妻籠, the access from JR station is easiest (almost in front of Narai 奈良井 st.), the preservatoin houses stretch on longest, and cars are permitted to enter. 50 min from Matsumoto 松本 and 2.5 -3 hr from Naogya 名古屋



屋神温泉 Hirugami onsen

The alkine hot spring mineral water was found in 1973. The resort town is known for night sky view (spring to fall) and flowering peach trees (April) and as well as the morning farmer market. 40 min bus from JR Nakatsugawa 中津川 or 1.5hr bus from JR Kamisuwu 上諏訪



寝覚ノ床 Nezame-no-toko

The gorge consists of bed of rocks harmonizing with emerald green colored river. Colored leavels in fall here are also breathtaking. The views of the area can be enjoyed from JR Chuo line 中央線 as well. 2hr10 min from JR Nagoya 名古屋 and 1 hr 10 min from JR Matsumoto 松本

## 北陸新幹線ルート（京都～東京）の見どころ

### Hokuriku Shinkansen route (Kyoto ~ Tokyo)



The route containing the Japan Sea side became much easier and faster after the extension of Hokuriku shinkansen up to Kanazawa金沢. The further extension in 2023 covering Fukui 福井 (neighboring prefecture to Kyoto) will make this fun and beautiful route even more popular.



富山 Toyama

Being a base to Tateyama Kurobe 立山黒部 Alpine Route, the area also boasts Toyama bay that creates a magnificent view of Alps over the water and mirage (spring - summer) and nutures fresh and unique seafood (thus great sushi). 2hr 30min (from either Kyoto or Tokyo)



宇奈月温泉 Unazuki onsen

Located in Kurobe 黒部 of Toyama Prefecture 富山県, the onsen area is also known for green buds and wild plants in spring and colored leaves in fall. 25 min local train from Kurobe-Unazuki Onsen 黒部宇奈月温泉駅 of shinkansen (3hr10min from Kyoto & 2hr20min from Tokyo)



野沢温泉 Nozawa onsen

Hot spring (characterized by 13 traditional free public baths 外湯) and ski resort town (used for Nagano Winter Olympics) in northern Nagano prefecture 長野県. 4hr from Kyoto via 金沢 Kanazawa or 2.5hr from Kyoto to Shinkansen Iiyama 飯山 st. followed by 25 min bus ride



白馬村 Hakuba village

One of Japan's most popular ski resorts located in Northern Nagano 長野, which hosted 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics. Trekking in green season and colored leaves are recommended too. 4.5hr trains from Kyoto (via Nagoya), 70 min bus from Nagano or 4hr train from Tokyo.



小布施町 Obuse town

A small town half an hour away from Nagano 長野 city by local train, where Hokusai museum is a highlight as Hokusai 北斎, known for 浮世絵 ukiyo-e woodblock print, stayed in his later yrs. Obuse is also well known for its locally grown chestnuts 栗 in various forms of sweets.



富岡製糸場 Tomioka Silk Mill

As Japan's first modern silk factory in late 19th century for processing silkworm cocoons into raw silk in an effort to catch up the West, the plant is designated as World Heritage Site. 35 min by Joshin Railway 上信電鉄 from Takasaki 高崎 after 50 min shinkansen ride from Tokyo