

## 2 Day Mt. Fuji Tour Detailed Itinerary

Our summit takes place over 2 days. On the first day we will hike up to Fujisan Hotel mountain hut and rest for the night. On the second day we shall finish the ascent of Mount Fuji, descend to the 5th station and return to your hotel in Tokyo.

The hike from the 5th station (1,980m / 6,494ft) to our reservations at the Fujisan Hotel mountain hut (3,350m / 10,990ft) is 5km, which will take up the majority of our first day. The climb starts from Mt. Sho-Fuji; a panoramic view point which on a clear day offers a 360 degree view opening up grand vistas of the wooded lowlands and flanking mountains. The trail begins by walking through a Shinto temple in sub-alpine shrubs and trees and then gradually ascends into alpine climbing. Once in the alpine, the terrain gets steeper and we start walking on multi-color green and red rocks unique to volcanoes. Groups typically climb for one hour and then rest for 10-15 minutes.

Once at the Fujisan Hotel, the team leader will address specifics regarding the rest of the climb, including route conditions, food, equipment, clothing recommendations, as well as answer any questions you may have. Our accommodations at the Fujisan Hotel are the best you will find on Mt. Fuji. Because of our relationship with the mountain hut owners, we are able to reserve the quietest and most comfortable area of the hut. However, this is not the Marriott. You will still be sleeping in a sleeping bag, in a bunk, in crowded conditions. Also, please be advised that sleeping arrangements at the hut are mixed gender. Each person is allocated 1.6 square meters so please be aware you may not sleep comfortably. Depending on our descending route, some groups will have the option of leaving behind at the hotel any extra luggage not needed at the summit. Please consult your guide as to which trail you will be descending on.

Everyone will be woken up between 1:00 a.m. - 3:00 a.m. in order to get to the summit in time for the sunrise. Before hiking we encourage everyone to munch on some energy bars, to prepare for the final ascent. This final ascent is the physical crux of the route; it is truly a spectacular hike. At 3,400m (11,316ft) we join the main trail and zigzag up in line with other pilgrims in the pre-sunrise darkness. We climb at a relaxed steady pace with long breaks every hour.

The sunrise atop Mt. Fuji, known as goraiko or "Buddha's Halo", is stunningly brilliant. The sun gradually appears in dazzling shades of purple, pink, and orange over the sea of clouds that Japanese call "The ocean of cotton". The summit of Mount Fuji is very spectacular.

Various temples, shrines, and tori's (Shinto "gateways for the gods") scatter the large dominating crater on the summit. We always hope to cross the half-kilometer wide crater so as to tag the 8 highest points, including the 3,776m (12,388ft) peak Kengamine, the highest point in Japan. After spending some time on top and eating our "Banzai! Sunrise Breakfast", we begin the descent to Kawaguchi-ko 5th station, Gotemba 5th station or Subashiri 5th station. This takes about half the time of the ascent but still requires significant effort. Once at the 5th station we will take the bus back to Shinjuku Station. We plan on arriving in Shinjuku late in the afternoon or evening. We will have a presentation of summit certificates and the 2 day Mt. Fuji tour will be officially completed.

The duration of the climb depends on many variables including weather conditions, route conditions, temperature, etc. For this reason our arrival time in Shinjuku might vary from climb to climb. Therefore we do not recommend scheduling an airline flight before noon the day after your scheduled arrival in Shinjuku.