

Off Season 2 day Tour Detailed Itinerary

The 2 day tour during the off season (Mid September-October), compared to climbing in July/August, has a more laid back approach to climbing and allows participants sufficient time to enjoy Mt. Fuji. Beginning in Tokyo inside the Tocho-mae train station at 8:30 a.m., participants will travel to Gotenba (11:30 a.m. pick up) and arrive at the Subashiri 5th station a little after noon. Lunch on day 1 is included in the tour and will be eaten in one of the mountain huts at the 5th station. The Subashiri area of Mt. Fuji is known for growing many different types of mushrooms and the mountain huts here offer a large variety of delicious mushroom as well as mountain vegetable cuisine.

The climb up Mt. Fuji will begin around 1:00-1:30 p.m. and will be a relaxed hike up to the 7th station, Taiyokan mountain hut, located at 3,000 meters (9,850 ft.). From the 5th station to Taiyokan it is on average a 3-4 hour climb. Taiyokan mountain hut is a very easy going, family style run mountain hut. This is the only hut that operates on Mt. Fuji during the month of October and one of only two huts still open past mid September. Accommodations at Taiyokan consist of a bunk, futon and sleeping bags, all in the Japanese style. During the off season, the mountain hut is often less crowded than during the months of July/August, which allows for more sleeping room. Still, the sleeping room is one big common area and you will not have the privacy or the space you would in a hotel room. Eye masks and ear plugs are recommended and provided to each participant by FMG.

For dinner you will be served hamburger with all you can eat rice and pork soup, eaten in the traditional Japanese style, on the floor in a tatami mat room. Bring along a book to read, pack a deck of cards for some extra entertainment, exchange your travel stories with fellow hikers and experience the camaraderie that you will never find in a five star hotel.

During the offseason, rather than climb to the summit during twilight, we will sleep in till just before the sunrise (sunrise is around 5:30 a.m.) and watch the sunrise from outside our mountain hut. Right before the sunrise, we will be served a hot breakfast of grilled salmon and all you can eat rice and miso soup.

After sunrise, participants will gather their belongings and prepare for the climb up to the summit. From Taiyokan, it is about a 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 hour climb to the summit of Mt. Fuji. Arriving at the summit of Mt. Fuji some time between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m., participants will be given the option of circling the crater, weather permitting (a full circuit takes about 1 hr 1/2).

After spending some time at the summit, we will journey on back down the mountain, using a separate descending trail. From the summit to the 5th station, it is about 3-4 hours of slipping and sliding. Climbing down Mt. Fuji is for many, more strenuous on the body, than climbing up. Descending Mt. Fuji requires the use of many muscles you would not normally use. This, combined with the fact that your body is already exhausted from a long climb, can spell trouble, and it is very important to act with caution as you descend, in order to avoid injury. The majority of injuries on Mt. Fuji occur while descending, whether that be twisting an ankle, falling and scraping a hand/knee or something more serious. For this reason, it is important to stay focused and attentive, in order to reach the 5th station safe and sound.

Participants should reach the 5th station some time between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. After grabbing a bite to eat and checking out souvenirs, we will head back to Shinjuku, or wherever your final destination might be.