

# 2-Day Mt. Fuji Tour via Fujinomiya Route

## Detailed Itinerary

Our summit takes place over 2 days. On the first day we will hike up to Akaiwa Hachigo 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 Akaiwa Hachigo mountain hut (3,300m / 10,826ft) is around 4km, which will take up the majority of our first day. The climb starts from Fujinomiya 5th station; a panoramic view point which on a clear day offers views of the pacific and surrounding mountains, including Hakone and Lake Ashiko. The trail begins at 2,380 meters and is the shortest in distance to cover to Mt. Fuji's summit, but is also steeper in comparison. Groups typically climb for one hour and then rest for 10-15 minutes.

Once at the Akaiwa Hachigo mountain hut, 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 Akaiwa Hachigo, tend to be quieter in comparison to mountain huts located on the Yoshida or Fujinomiya trails. However, this is not the Marriott. You will still be sleeping on a Japanese style futon, in a bunk, and on occasion, 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 mountain hut 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. Away from the masses of pilgrims climbing the Yoshida and Fujinomiya trail, our twilight climb to Mt. Fuji's summit is a more secluded experience.

Ascending at a relaxed steady pace with a couple of breaks in between, the summit of Mt. Fuji is about a 2 hour climb from Akaiwa Hachigo.

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 we return to eat breakfast at Akaiwa Hachigo, before descending to the Fujinomiya 5th station. This takes about half the time of the ascent but still requires significant effort. Once at the 5th station we will return to your designated drop off hotel. Generally our arrival in the Mt. Fuji area is around noon and mid to late afternoon for Tokyo drop offs. We will have a presentation of summit certificates and the Two Day Mt. Fuji tour via Fujinomiya 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 Tokyo might vary from climb to climb. Therefore we do not recommend scheduling an airline flight before noon the day after your scheduled arrival in Tokyo.