Hatsumode is the Japanese term for the first visit to a shrine or temple in the new year. During New Year’s, visitors flock to shrines and temples throughout Japan to pray for happiness and health in the year ahead.

Eto Originating in China, the Japanese sexagenary cycle includes 12 animals to represent the years: Rat, Cow, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Cock, Dog, and Boar (as opposed to the pig in the Chinese zodiac). The Japanese call this cycle “Eto” or “Ju-ni shi.” 2019 will be the Year of the Boar.

Enjoy the sight of Mt. Fuji from Hakone! Recommended viewing spot
The colder, clear air of winter makes it the best season for seeing Mt. Fuji in all its glory.

Onshi-Hakone-Koen Park
This park is the site of the former Hakone Imperial villa. The second-floor balcony of the lakeside observation building offers a commanding view of snow-capped Mt. Fuji and Lake Ashi.

Access
Right in front of Onshi-koen-mae Bus Stop, after traveling 40 minutes via the Hakone Tozan Bus from Hakone-Yumoto Station

Hakone Shrine
With a history stretching back some 1,260 years, this shrine is a popular destination known locally as a “power spot” (location with spiritual energy). Located next to Hakone Shrine is Kuzuryu Shrine, another popular destination known as a place to gain love-related blessings.

Access
About 10 minutes on foot from Moto-hakone Port, landing place of the Hakone Sightseeing Cruise

Hakone Ropeway
The Hakone Ropeway connects Sounzan Station and Togendai Station via a 24-minute ride. In clear weather, Mt. Fuji is visible on the right-hand side of the ropeway.

Access
About 10 minutes from Gora Station via the Hakone Tozan Cable Car to Sounzan Station

Celebrating New Year’s in Japan

Hakone Shrine
箱根神社
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Column
Celebrating New Year’s in Japan

Hatsumode
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Recommended Spots
in the Hakone Area
New Year’s brings a distinct liveliness to the Hakone area. Worshipping at Hakone Shrine or taking in the sights of Mt. Fuji are highly recommended during this time of year. Experience and enjoy the brilliance of New Year’s in Japan.
**Recommended Spots in Other Areas**

This section introduces various shrines easily accessible from the Odakyu line. Visit these popular shrines to pray for happiness in 2019.

**Meiji Jingu Shrine**
 Established in 1920, Meiji Jingu Shrine is located in a vast man-made forest with an estimated 100,000 trees donated by people throughout Japan. During New Year’s, more than 3 million people visit the shrine, making it the most popular Hatsumode destination in Japan.

**Access**
3 minutes on foot from Sangubashi Station

**Information on the Odakyu Hakone Winter Campaign**
From December 1 to February 28, we will be holding special offer campaign for Hakone in the winter. During this period, buying a Hakone Freepass or a reserved seat on a limited express Romancecar, or other designated products, will get you a free gift of a guidebook with all sorts of coupons to make your trip to Hakone and its environs all the more special!

* Photo is for illustrative purposes only.

**Railway Event Schedule**

*The date and content of the events may change.*

**Crystal Love Tree**
Place: Hakone Venetian Glass Museum
The museum garden features a pair of crystal glass trees with heart motif.
Closed from January 15 to 25.
**Access**
About 25 minutes from Hakone-Yumoto Station via Hakone Tozan Bus bound for Togendai to “Hyoseki/Hakone-garasuminori-mae,” and then a short walk to the museum

**Hakone Shrine New Year’s Fireworks Celebration**
Place: Motohakone Port
Fireworks will welcome in 2019 just as the clock strikes midnight and January 1 begins. The show will last 15 minutes.

**Access**
About 38 minutes from Hakone-Yumoto Station via Hakone Tozan Bus bound for Hakonamachi-ko to “Motohakone-ko”, and then a short walk to the port

**The Jewel of Shonan**
Place: Enoshima Samuel Cocking Garden, etc.
Enoshima will be lit up this Christmas, with illuminations at various sightseeing and other venues!
5:00p.m.-8:00p.m. (Saturday and Sunday 5:00p.m.-9:00p.m., January 15 to February 17 at 5:30p.m.)
**Access**
About 20 minutes walk from Katase-Enoshima Station

**Gotemba Premium Outlets Winter Illumination**
Place: Gotemba Premium Outlets
The illuminated flower arches and flower garden of Gotemba Premium Outlets—one of the largest in Japan—offers a magnificent display of beautiful colors. The illuminations can be seen after sunset.
**Access**
About 45 minutes from Gora Station via “KANNO SHISETSU-MEGURI” Bus

**Hakone Freepass**
Valid Period: 2 days or 3 days
This is the pass to get maximum enjoyment in the Hakone area. It comes with a return ticket from Shinjuku to Odawara, and provides unlimited access to 8 rides in the Hakone area such as the Hakone Ropeway and the Hakone Pirate Ship!

> [https://www.odakyu.jp/english/passes/hakone/](https://www.odakyu.jp/english/passes/hakone/)

**Hakone Kamakura Pass**
Valid Period: 3 days
Unlimited access to Hakone, Enoshima and Kamakura with this one ticket!
1. Unlimited use of Odakyu trains on the entire Odakyu network, including the Odakyu Odawara Line, Odakyu Enoshima Line and Odakyu Tama Line.
2. Hakone Area: 8 Rides in the Hakone area (the same as the Hakone Freepass)

> [https://www.odakyu.jp/english/passes/hakone_kamakura/](https://www.odakyu.jp/english/passes/hakone_kamakura/)

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**Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine**
Known as the symbol of Kamakura, this shrine sees many visitors during New Year’s. The shrine complex features magnificent buildings including the main shrine built in 1828.

**Access**
About 10 minute walk from Kamakura Station