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Kamikochi hiking guide

As the title says, this post is a comprehensive guide for those who plan to visit Kamikochi. This covers all the common questions and things you should know before you go, from basic information to tips that will help you enjoy more of Kamikochi. Kamikochi is a picturesque valley at an altitude of 1,500 m in Nagano Prefecture. It is located between Matsumoto and Takayama City, which makes it a popular detour from the two cities. If you look at the map, it is right in the center of the country, so the distance to Kamikochi from Tokyo and Nagoya is almost the same. However, getting there from Tokyo to Kamikochi is a bit more convenient due to the more frequent direct bus service. Kamikochi is not open to visitors all year round. The official opening hours are from 17 April to 15 November each year and close slated in winter due to heavy snow. During the closing time, no shops or restaurants in the park remain open, which of course does not mean a bus to enter. The only way to get there is on foot. If you are thinking of renting a car and driving around on your own, you need to know that private cars are not allowed in Kamikochi. The reasons are the prevention of noise and air pollution and the facilitation of traffic and congestion. Visitors with private cars must park in the Sawando car park when coming from the Matsumoto side, or in the Akandana car park when coming from the Takayama side. Then use a public bus to get to Kamikochi. See timetable for Sawando – Kamikochi Line > See timetable for Akandana – Kamikochi Line > Although hotel prices in the park are relatively high (from 20,000 to 60,000 yen) to fully enjoy the natural wonders, we recommend staying in Kamikochi for at least one night. If you have a limited budget, you can choose a campsite or stay in a well-equipped cabin at Konashidaira campsite, which is managed by the Nihon Alps Kankou. This campsite is the closest to the bus station. There are about 30 hotels and lodges and 3 campsites in Kamikochi. If you are looking for a relaxing and quiet stay with a cozy natural hot spring during your stay, Kamikochi Lemeiesta Hotel should definitely be on your list. One of the best hotels for star photography, selected by Nikkei Newspaper (2017) Another option is to stay in the nearby downtown like Matsumoto or Takayama and visit Kamikochi as a day trip. This can save you a lot of hotel spending with a wider selection of hotels to choose from. Recommended hotels in Matsumoto Hotel Buena Vista Hotel Shoho Alpico Plaza Hotel Do's: Bring your own garbage home. Bring a bell (to the bears Send your trekking route if you want to climb the mountains. Pay 100 yen if you use a public toilet (no change). Don'ts: Feeding and touching animals. Trespass to inadmissible ranges. Fly drones. Throw away your leftover food (that will make bears come out more often). Kamikochi has so much charm to surprise us every season and will want you to come back and again. We can't really choose the best time, but we can give you an idea of what Kamikochi looks like in each season. Spring in Kamikochi is very different from the city centre. Shortly after the park is open until the beginning of May, there is still some snow on the ground and the temperature can drop to single digits Celsius, making it feel more like winter, especially when the weather is cloudy or windy. So, please come prepared with winter clothes. Another thing you should know is that some shops and hotels are still closed for the first 1-2 weeks after the park is open. Spring - April 27 Spring - April 30 After the Golden Week holidays, all leaves become more vivid in color when the temperature rises. The temperature can fluctuate throughout the day, but is still very comfortable in general. It is considered the low season for domestic visitors, which is another reason for you to travel to Japan after this long holiday. Summer in Kamikochi usually starts from July to mid-September. In general, the temperature in Kamikochi is about 5-9 degrees Celsius lower than in Tokyo, making it a popular destination to escape the harsh summer heat for the Japanese. It is the perfect season for those who want hiking and climbing. But remember to avoid the Obon Holidays (August 11-16), you may have to wait for hours just to get on a returning bus. Yes, it's so hard! Early summer - 20 May Summer - 15 September Without a doubt, this is by far the most popular travel season in Kamikochi. The high season for autumn leaves viewing is very difficult to predict, as it depends entirely on the weather of the year. Normally, the high season is around mid-October. It can be early October for a few years. The bad news is that Japan is often hit by typhoons in September and October. May happiness be with you! The symbol of autumn in Kamikochi are yellow white-birches. The leaves remain yellow for a long time, even until the beginning of November. According to our observations, the number of sunny days at the beginning of November (Nov 1-5) is very high. So we think another great time to visit Kamikochi is during this time. Good weather, autumn leaves and less crowds! In the last week before the closure there is a higher probability of snow and the park is much quieter and colder. But if it's a sunny day, it's still worth going. Early autumn - 3 October Autumn - 25 October Late Autumn - 3 November As mentioned above, Kamikochi is closed during the winter season and the only way to get there is on foot. You need to submit your trekking route before you go, so our advice is to hire a local guide as they can help you with all these processes. Winter - 13. Finally, you should avoid traveling for the next year (2021) during the following dates. 4/29-5/5 Golden Week Holidays 7/17-7/19 3 consecutive holidays (Marine Day) 8/11-8/16 Obon holidays 9/19-9/20 3 consecutive holidays (respect for the day of age) Age) 3 consecutive holidays (sports day) Less crowded periods are in April, May (after Golden Week), June and November. Weather and temperature in the mountain region can be completely different than in the city center. Before you go, make sure you check the forecast and prepare. Temp./ Month Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Oct Nov Highest 14.2 17.6 19.4 22.8 23.3 18.1 13.3 8.6 Lowest 1.0 4.8 8.5 13.4 14.1 9.1 4.6 -0.4 Average highest and lowest temperatures of each month (in degrees Celsius) It is best. Wear clothes in layers, making it easy to adapt to the change in weather. Below is our guide to what you should wear every month for a walk through the flat area of Kamikochi (Taisho Pond Myojin Pond), not for mountaineering. End of Apr – beginning of May: During the day you must wear at least a fleece jacket, gloves and a neck warmer. Dress like in late winter. End of May – beginning of June: The weather gets warmer, but the temperature can vary greatly between day and night. A windbreaker is an essential element. Wear a down jacket and gloves when walking in the morning and at night. June – early July: This is the season of rain, so that besides a windbreaker also a poncho or rain equipment is a must. End Jul – Aug: The temperature is pleasant when you are under the shades. A short or long shirt will do, but it is better to bring a windbreaker in bad weather. September: When the weather gets colder, a fleece jacket is recommended. In the morning, the temperature can drop below 10 degrees at the beginning of the month and even drop below 5 degrees at the end of the month. Early October: Wear a fleece jacket, gloves and a neck warmer. A down jacket is required in the morning and evening. End of October – early Nov. (down jacket, neck warmer and gloves) Our recommended route is from Taisho Pond to Myojin Pond, over the Kappa Bridge. Since this course is very simple, with almost no ups and downs, it is recommended for every healthy adult. Young children can get tired halfway, so you can rest around the Kappa Bridge and decide whether to go further or not. The second half from Kappa Bridge to Myojin Pond is a bit harder to go compared to the first half. Sneakers will do for this course, but trekking shoes are preferable. Distance: approx. 9.2 km Time required: approx. 3 hours (photo that takes time is not included.) Altitude: From Taisho Pond (1,490m) to Myojin Pond (1,520m) Route: Taisho Pond > Tashiro Marsh > Hotaka/Tashiro Bridge > Kappa Bridge > Myojin Pond > Kappa Bridge > Bus Terminal The most efficient way to get off the bus stop K-29 Taisho Pond is to get off the bus and join our recommended hiking course on the to follow. Or get off at the bus station and first drive to Myojin Pond, then go downstream to Taisho Pond and get on a return bus. Convenience stores are located on every corner of the street in Japan, but you won't find any in Kamikochi. that the One city is a 1-minute walk from Shin-Shimashima Railway Station. Souvenir shops and restaurants near the bus station in the park there are a few shops around the bus station and within the tourist visitor center, but they mostly sell souvenirs and equipment for trekking and camping. Around the Kappa Bridge and on the second floor of the bus station there are restaurants serving delicious local dishes at reasonable prices. Hotels and lodges also invite non-resident guests to use their restaurants for lunch. Shinshu Salmon and Unagi Bow! (available in the restaurant on the second floor of the bus station) If you want to avoid the amount, you can buy a packed lunch in a supermarket and go to a picnic wherever you are. Just remember that you need to bring your garbage home. Instead of bouncing between the regions, how about exploring the hidden amazing places in the area? Divided into 2 areas, Norikura Kogen (highlands) and Norikura Tatamidaira (mountainous area). Norikura has so much to offer for those who like to be surrounded by nature with many outdoor activities and natural hot springs. Famous for its iconic Matsumoto Castle and the birthplace of the famous artist Yayoi Kusama, Matsumoto is a must when you're here. It is only 1.5 hours from Kamikochi. There are also many historical and cultural attractions. One of the hidden hot springs with a long history dating back to the Kamakura period (1185-1333). The special thing about this hot spring is its milky white spring water. One of the lodges (Awanoyo Ryokan) also offers a traditional mixed-sex bath, which is highly recommended for the non-shy. Known as Little Kyoto, Takayama is a well-preserved post city that reminds you of Japan in the old days. Not only the beautiful cityscape attracts visitors from all over the world, but also its delicate and juicy Hida beef is another reason for you to visit this city. Just an hour from Takayama, Shirakawa-go is a World Heritage Site with its unique Gassho-style farmhouses. This place is exceptionally beautiful in winter during the light-up event, but that doesn't mean it's not worth going in other seasons! Want to stand above the clouds without sweating? Shin-Hotaka is the place for you. The double-storey cable car takes you to a height of around 2,150 metres with a wink. From up there you can enjoy the majestic view of the Hotaka Mountains. TIPS All areas above are covered by the 4-day Alps WIDE Free Passport Ticket. Kamikochi is one of the most accessible national parks in Japan with an extensive bus network provided by Alpico and other bus companies. With the direct bus service from Alpico You Kamikochi easy and uncomplicated to Kamikochi. Matsumoto is a perfect starting point to start your trip to Kamikochi. JR Matsumoto Station is a 30-minute train ride from Shin-Shimashima Station. The train (Kamikochi line) departs Platform No.7. Please note that this train is not operated by JR and is therefore not covered by a JR Pass. After disembarking at Shin-Shimashima terminus, you will need to change to the bus to Kamikochi and continue the journey for another hour to reach Kamikochi. Trains often run on trains and buses departing hourly. See schedule for Matsumoto – Kamikochi Line > Kamikochi Line train, also known as Matsumoto Dentetsu Line Do you not want to worry about transfers? Then a direct bus is your option. There are 4 bus lines in the Tokyo area. Buses from Tokyo Station and Shinjuku Expressway Bus Terminal run late at night (night bus) and early morning (day bus). Please select your seat category when booking. The 3-row bus (green car) offers a more comfortable seat and free amenities for a small additional fee. (Please note that the night bus has a longer journey time so that it arrives in Kamikochi after sunrise) See Tokyo - Kamikochi Line > See timetable for Shinjuku - Kamikochi Line > 3-row bus (Premium Green Car). Free amenities include a blanket, slippers, leg rests, a power outlet, Wi-Fi and a toilet on board. 4-row seater bus (Standard Car) Buses from Shibuya and Kawagoe have only one day bus service with standard 4-row seat type available. See Shibuya - Kamikochi Line timetable > See Kawagoe/Omiya – Kamikochi Line > Another way to travel from Tokyo to Kamikochi is to use the JR Azusa Express Train (2.5-3 hrs - 6,900 yen) or the Alpico motorway bus (3.15 hrs - 3,800 yen) to get to Matsumoto first and then change to a local train and bus. There are 2 tours a day. The night bus runs late at night, with a 3-row-seater bus (green car) for more comfort for a longer journey, while the day bus departs in the early morning with a standard bus with 4-row seater. (Please note that the night bus has a longer journey time so that it arrives in Kamikochi after sunrise) See timetable for Osaka – Kamikochi Line > This service runs on certain dates with only 1 round trip daily. The journey takes about 3 hours. For this route, the production bus with 4 rows of seats is used. See Schedule for Nagano – Kamikochi Line > From Takayama, take a 1-hour bus ride to Hirayu Onsen, then transfer to a bus to Kamikochi for another 30 minutes. See timetable for Takayama – Kamikochi Line > Kamikochi Bus Terminal Coverage area: Matsumoto, Kamikochi, Norikura and Shirahone Onsen Price: 7,000 yen (8,500 yen for 3-day use) Ticket Info > Coverage Area: Matsumoto, Kamikochi, Norikura, Shirahone Onsen, Takayama, Shirakawa-go, Shin-Hotakaropeway, Gero Onsen and more Price: 11,000 yen (13,000 yen with Shin-Hotaka Round Trip Tickets) Ticket Info > Coverage Area: Matsumoto, Kamikochi and Takayama Price: 5,000 Yen Ticket Info > Highlights Highlights Highlights Resort Kamikochi Admire the breathtaking scenery on the summit of Mt. Norikura from an altitude of 2,700m Tour Info > *It could make changes to some service due to our actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Covid-19.

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