



Experiencing Kamakura Through Literature
[Kamakura city YouTube official account]



Japan Heritage Kamakura: A Historical and Cultural Mosaic
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The Beauty of Kamakura Revealed Through Zen
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The Samurai of Kamakura
[Kamakura city YouTube official account]



The Kamakura Bunshi preserved the region's scenery while also creating new culture.
The achievements of the Kamakura Bunshi went beyond literature. They led efforts to protect Kamakura's historic scenery and created events like the Bonbon Festival, preserving and enhancing the region's beauty.

Under wartime conditions, the "Kamakura Bunshi" stood up to protect literature.
In the Meiji to Showa eras, many literary masters lived in Kamakura and were called "Kamakura Bunshi" (Kamakura Literati). During wartime speech repression, they united behind their ideologies and aimed to revive literature through initiatives such as founding literary magazines.

The Kamakura Museum of Literature is currently closed for renovations and is scheduled to reopen in 2029.



The first step in the revival of literature began in Kamakura, where many literary masters gathered.

The Beginning of Literary Revival



As villa culture developed, "Kamakurabori" became a representative craft of the region.
As many wealthy people began to visit Kamakura, Buddhist sculptors who originally created statues started making furniture and household items to meet their needs. This became known as "Kamakurabori," and today it stands as a representative craft of Kamakura.

In the Meiji era, Kamakura gained attention as a retreat, and notable figures flocked to build villas.
As Kamakura's characteristics as a coastal retreat were recognized, the opening of the Yokosuka Line prompted elites of the political and financial worlds to build villas. Some of these villas remain today, creating a unique landscape in Kamakura.



In a place often said to be the most beautiful in Japan, the villa culture blossomed.

The Beginning of the Idea of Retreat



The Zen tradition, originating in China, brought with it the culture of tea and fine arts and crafts.
The development of Zen Buddhism influenced Japanese culture and arts. Zen monk Myouan Eisai (Yousai) introduced tea to Japan, and the Zen temples in Kamakura feature Song Dynasty-style architecture and sculptures on religious artifacts, preserving their beauty to this day.

Kenchoji Temple, Japan's first Zen dojo, was established, with over 1,000 monks training at one point.
Widely practiced Zen Buddhism in Japan began in Kamakura. The teachings of attaining enlightenment through zazen (seated meditation) and kans (Zen arts through discipline, Zen Buddhism developed under the protection of the Kamakura shogunate due to this factor.



Matching the spirit of the samurai, the first Zen boom in Japan arrived in Kamakura.

The Beginning of Zen



Utilizing the topography encircled by mountains and the sea, the Kamakura Shogunate's city planning.
The basic structure of the city was established through urban development after the shogunate's founding. The main axis was Wakamiya Oji, a shrine approach linking Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine to the sea. Kiridoshi Passes cut through mountain ridges, connecting the inside and outside of the city, while large temples were built at the mountain base.

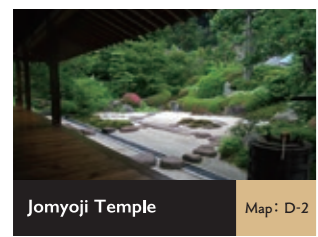
In the late 12th century, Minamoto no Yoritomo established the shogunate in Kamakura, transitioning from an aristocratic society to a samurai society.
The establishment of the Kamakura Shogunate marked the birth of Japan's first full-fledged samurai government. This began an era of samurai rule that lasted for 700 years, changing people's lives and culture, and starting a new era from Kamakura.



A great revolution in Japanese history: The birth of the samurai-led government.

The Beginning of the Samurai Government

Japan Heritage Sites as **Tourist Attractions!**



Jomyoji Temple Map: D-2
A Zen temple founded by Ashikaga Yoshikane. At the tea house "Kisen-an" within the temple grounds, you can enjoy matcha and sweets while gazing at the dry landscape garden.



Zeniarai Benzaiten Ugafukujinja Shrine Map: C-2
Founded by Minamoto no Yoritomo based on a revelation in a dream. It is said that washing money in the water of this shrine will double it, making it a representative power spot of Kamakura.



Zuisenji Temple Map: E-2
Founded by Muso Soseki, a Zen monk and garden designer. Known for its rock garden designed by Soseki, the temple grounds feature seasonal flowers like early spring plums and winter daffodils.



Jojuin Temple Map: C-4
Founded by Hojo Yasutoki, it is known as a temple for fulfilling good relationships. At the top of the 108 steps, you can enjoy a stunning view of Kamakura surrounded by mountains and the sea.

ここから、それから、かまくら。 **鎌倉**

Japan Heritage
KAMAKURA TOUR MAP
Journey through the "Beginning" of History and Culture

日本遺産 JAPAN HERITAGE

Here in Kamakura, new history, culture, and philosophy were pioneered.

Kamakura is known as an atmospheric city. The street scenery, where numerous historical buildings and the seasonal natural beauty are in harmony, exudes a unique atmosphere that is characteristic of an ancient city. However, Kamakura's appeal goes beyond its aesthetics. In fact, it has deep connections with Zen Buddhism and literature. Embark on a journey through the history, culture, and philosophy that originated from Kamakura. Along the way, you're sure to encounter the fascinating aspects and new discoveries of Kamakura that you never knew.



The Japan Heritage "Iza, Kamakura" Consociation
18-10, Onarimachi, Kamakura City, Kanagawa, 248-8686, Japan
Tourism Section in charge of Tourism, Citizen Disaster Prevention Department, Kamakura City
TEL: 0467-23-3000 (representative) FAX: 0467-23-7505
E-mail: kankou@city.kamakura.kanagawa.jp
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Meigetsuin Temple Map: C-1, Asaina Kiridoshi Pass Map: E-2, Koga Residence Map: C-2, Hokokuji Temple Map: D-2

Visit the historic sites of the Kamakura Shogunate, where the samurai once thrived

[Start from Kamakura Station]

Walk: 10 minutes from Kamakura Station East Exit

1 Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine
 2-1-31 Yukinoshita, Kamakura City ☎ 6:30-20:30
 (From April to September: 5:30-20:30)

Walk: 10 minutes

2 Egara Tenjinsha Shrine
 74 Nikaido, Kamakura City ☎ 8:30-16:30

Bus: Board at "Wakaremichi," get off at "Sensuibashi," and walk for 3 minutes

3 Godaido Myooin Temple
 32 Juniso, Kamakura City ☎ 9:00-16:00

Bus: Board at "Sensuibashi," get off at "Junisojinja," and walk for 10 minutes

4 Asaina Kiridoshi Pass
 Juniso, Kamakura City - Asahina, Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama City

Touch the heart of "Zen" rooted in Japan from Kamakura

[Start from Kitakamakura Station]

Walk: 2 minutes

5 Engakuji Temple
 409 Yamanouchi, Kamakura City ☎ 8:30-16:30
 (From December to February: 8:30-16:00)
 *Admission fee required.

Walk: 6 minutes

6 Jochiji Temple
 1402 Yamanouchi, Kamakura City ☎ 9:00-16:30
 *Admission fee required.

Walk: 6 minutes

7 Meigetsuin Temple
 189 Yamanouchi, Kamakura City ☎ 9:00-16:00
 (The schedule may change during the hydrangea season in June.) *Admission fee required.

Walk: 15 minutes

8 Kenchoji Temple
 8 Yamanouchi, Kamakura City ☎ 8:30-16:30
 *Admission fee required.

Tour residences and old shops that convey the villa culture today

[Start from Kamakura Station]

Bus: Board at Kamakura Station East Exit Platform 4, get off at "Jomyoji," and walk for 6 minutes

9 Former Residence of Kachonomiya
 2-6-37 Jomyoji, Kamakura City ☎ Garden tours are from 10:00-16:00 (10:00-15:00 from Oct to Mar)/Closed on Mon, Tue and Wed (open on public holidays; closed on the following weekday).

Bus: Board at "Jomyoji," get off at "Hachimangu," and walk for 3 minutes

10 Yuasa Souvenir Shop
 1-9-27 Yukinoshita, Kamakura City ☎ The cafe and other stores are still open. Please check the website for details.

Walk: 10 minutes

11 Koga Residence
 1-7-23 Ogigayatsu, Kamakura City ☎ Currently operating as a restaurant. Please check the website for details.

Walk: 15 minutes

12 Sunshodo
 5-1 Sasamemachi, Kamakura City ☎ 10:00-17:00 (non-scheduled holiday)

Trace the footsteps of "Literary Giants" who were active in Kamakura

[Start from Kamakura Station]

Bus: Board at Kamakura Station East Exit Platform 7, get off at "Komyoji," and walk for 1 minute

13 Komyoji Temple
 6-17-19 Zaimokuza, Kamakura City ☎ 6:00-17:00
 (From October 15 to March 31: 7:00-16:00)

Bus: Board at "Komyoji," get off at "Shogakkomae," and walk for 10 minutes

14 Myohonji Temple
 1-15-1 Omachi, Kamakura City ☎ 10:00-16:00

Bus: Board at Kamakura Station East Exit Platform 1 or 6, get off at "Hasekannon," and walk for 5 minutes

15 Hasedera Temple
 3-11-2 Hase, Kamakura City ☎ 8:00-17:00
 (From April to June: 8:00-17:30)/Reception is until 30 minutes before closing. *Admission fee required.

Walk: 12 minutes

16 Daibutsu (Great Buddha) of Kamakura in Kotoku-in
 4-2-28 Hase, Kamakura City ☎ 8:00-17:30
 (From October to March: 8:00-17:00)/Admission is until 15 minutes before closing. *Admission fee required.

1 Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine

A shrine revered by Minamoto no Yoritomo and considered the guardian deity of Kamakura samurai. It is said that Yoritomo himself supervised the construction of Wakamiya Oji, the shrine's main approach.

5 Engakuji Temple

Founded by Chinese monk Mugaku Sogen, it is a temple where many samurai, including Hojo Tokimune, practiced Zen. The Sharden (reliquary hall), considered the finest example of Zen architecture, is must-see.

9 Former Residence of Kachonomiya

A mansion built as the residence of Marquis Kacho Hironobu. The Western-style gate and geometric garden reflect the admiration for Western culture at the time.

12 Sunshodo

Built in 1936, this shop of Kamakurabori and residence features unique architecture that combines temple and castle styles, making it a landmark of the city.

2 Egara Tenjinsha Shrine

A shrine located at the Kimon (direction considered unlucky) of the Kamakura Shogunate. Also famous as the god of learning, its vivid vermilion worship hall is worth seeing.

6 Jochiji Temple

A Zen temple founded in 1281. The sammon gate, which also serves as a bell tower, and the main hall exhibit the Chinese style known as "Song style."

10 Yuasa Souvenir Shop

A representative example of "signboard architecture" with Western-style decorations on the facade of a wooden building. Currently, shops such as a cafe and kimono studio are still in operation.

3 Godaido Myooin Temple

The only temple in Kamakura City established by the shogun of the Kamakura Shogunate. It is said to have saved the nation from crisis as the prayer place of the shogunate and the shogun family.

7 Meigetsuin Temple

A sub-temple of Zenkoji, now in ruins. Open only during the seasons of irises and autumn leaves, the rear garden viewed through a round window is like a painting.

11 Koga Residence

The villa of Sho Seijiro, executive director and manager of Mitsubishi Joint-Stock Company. Now operating as a restaurant, it offers a special experience.

4 Asaina Kiridoshi Pass

Connecting Kamakura and Mutsuura, it played an important role in both defense and logistics. Passing through the steep rock walls gives a sense of entering a hidden region.

8 Kenchoji Temple

The first temple in Japan to call itself a "Zen temple." The main buildings, including the main gate and Buddha Hall, arranged in a straight line in the Chinese style, are magnificent.

Japan Heritage Sites Map in Kamakura



14 Myohonji Temple
 A temple in Hikigayatsu surrounded by lush greenery. Crabapple depicted in Kobayashi Hideo's "Recollections of Nakahara Chuya" is in full bloom in April.

15 Hasedera Temple
 It is said to have been founded in 736, this temple houses one of Japan's largest wooden Buddha statues and includes a monument to the residence of critic and thinker Takayama Chogyu, who spent his last years here.

13 Komyoji Temple
 The main hall is the largest of Kamakura's existing Buddhist halls. After the war, "Kamakura Academia," which produced many cultural figures, was established here, and a monument remains on the temple grounds.

16 Daibutsu (Great Buddha) of Kamakura in Kotoku-in
 The only national treasure-designated Buddha statue in Kamakura. In the grounds of Kotoku-in is a monument inscribed with a poem by Yosano Akiko praising the beauty of the Great Buddha.