

# 静岡 Shizuoka

*Mt Fuji and fields of beautifully manicured rows of tea bushes are quintessential images of Shizuoka. The prefecture, in particular the Izu peninsula, is famous for its many onsen (hot springs). The town of Atami has been a resort town since the 8th century. With the arrival of the Tōkaidō Shinkansen train, the resort boomed. Many international tourists just pass through Shizuoka prefecture on the shinkansen as they speed on their way from Tokyo to Kyoto and Osaka. What might you discover should you choose to stop off in Shizuoka?*



Shizuoka definitely appeals; proof of this, the prefecture has the greatest number of Japanese inns and second homes of all Japan's 47 prefectures. It has many great views, with spectacular coastlines, clear rivers, lakes and mountains. The prefecture includes two national parks, the Southern Alps National Park and the Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park. Mt Fuji itself can be seen

from many spots in Shizuoka.

The prefecture's mild climate and coastal location are excellent for growing food products that Shizuoka is now famous for—green tea, 'mikan' mandarins and naval oranges, strawberries and wasabi. Shizuoka's rivers and springs provide excellent water. Very clean water is needed to grow wasabi which is an essential component of Japan's food culture. Shizuoka is where wasabi was first cultivated and it still has the largest market share. This clear water is also a key factor behind the production of super-premium saké in Shizuoka.

Situated around Japan's deepest bay, Suruga Bay, Shizuoka is well known for its seafood including tuna, whitebait, and cherry-coloured shrimp. Eel cultivated in Lake Hamana is another local delicacy.

While traditional produce and products still thrive, the prefecture has a strong industrial side to it. It is home to the world-famous brands Honda and Yamaha.

The capital city of the prefecture is also called Shizuoka. Shizuoka city was the headquarters of Tokugawa Ieyasu who



founded the Tokugawa Shogunate (1603-1867) in Edo, present-day Tokyo. The new shogunate soon ordered improvements to Japan's major 'highways', including the ancient Tōkaidō road (Eastern Sea road) which connected Edo with Kyoto.

Today's Tōkaidō Shinkansen line follows much the same route. Edo period travellers rested at post towns or stations (*shuku-eki*). Several fall within today's Shizuoka city—Mariko for example still has traces of that time. Another former *shuku-eki*, Yui, is home to the Tōkaidō Hiroshige Art Museum; Hiroshige immortalised the Tōkaidō of the Edo period in his famous woodblock print series *53 stations of the Tōkaidō*. Yui is also the only place to harvest Shizuoka's famous *sakura-ebi*, the cherry-coloured shrimp.



Japan National Tourism Organisation

[www.jnto.go.jp/eng/location/regional/shizuoka](http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/location/regional/shizuoka)

Shizuoka Prefectural Tourism

[www.shizuoka-guide.com/english/](http://www.shizuoka-guide.com/english/)

## Shizuoka snapshots

(a) Green-tea fields and Mt Fuji—a beautiful pairing of cultivated land and nature; (b) visitors can try their hand at picking tea leaves; (c) Mt Fuji seen across Suruga bay from Kumomi on the Izu peninsula; (d) a change of pace from the Shinkansen, a steam locomotive still runs along the Oi River in central Shizuoka;(e) relaxing ryokans, traditional Japanese inns, await visitors; (f) eel from Lake Hamana in western Shizuoka; (g) *sakura-ebi* (cherry shrimps) drying in the sun

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