

History of the Hot Springs and Tourism in Hakone (Permanent Exhibition)

Today, with 17 hot springs within the town, Hakone is known as one of Japan's leading hot spring tourist destinations. The history of both hot springs and tourism is deeply connected to Hakone's own history.

Here, we'll introduce you to the history of Hakone from the 17th century under the theme of the development of tourism.

The Era of Hakone Nanayu

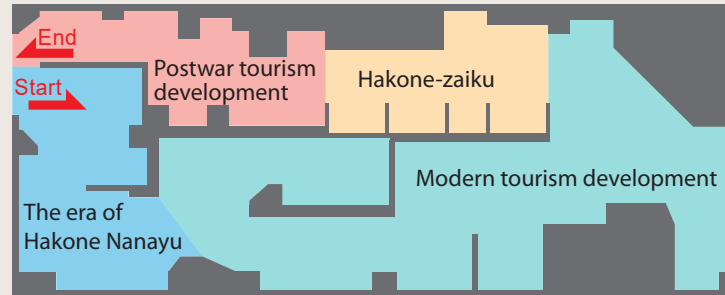
In the latter half of the 17th century, there were already seven hot spring resorts in Hakone, collectively known as *Hakone Nanayu* (Seven Hot Springs). The hot springs, which were originally used to treat illness, would gradually come to be visited alongside picturesque scenery and famous places, becoming destinations for trips to enjoy hot springs themselves. As if to follow this trend, Hakone would also transform into a hot spring tourist destination.



Travel goods in the Edo period



Hakone Nanayu Ichiran (Ukiyo-e)



Modern Tourism Development

After the Meiji period, with the development of new roads and transportation, the shape of modern Hakone would also see diversification as foreigners visiting Japan came to Hakone, influential people built high-class holiday villas, and tourism became more popular.

Under such circumstances, new hot spring resorts were opened in various parts of Hakone, and new transportation systems such as railways, cable cars, buses, and pleasure boats appeared one after another, and Hakone showed further development as a hot spring tourist destination.



Chair (Palanquin for foreigners)



Hakone Meisyo Zue (Guide map of Hakone in the Taisho period)

Hakone-Zaiku (Hakone Woodwork)

Yosegi-zaiku (marquetry) is one of Hakone's most famous crafts and is also a popular souvenir. However, the history of woodworking in Hakone is long, and various products have been made.

Woodturning, which involved carving wood turned on a lathe, was used to make trays, egg shaped nesting dolls, and so on. In addition, joinery work, which combines boards to make chests and small boxes, was also developed, and using it as a decorative technique, marquetry and wooden inlay work were made.



Senganna (Big wood planer)

Postwar Tourism Development

After the 1950s, when high economic growth progressed, the emergence of new roads and transportation, including the opening of highways and ropeways, allowed the development of tourism in Hakone to progress rapidly. On the other hand, competition between companies became overheated due to the intensified development, and became a social issue. In addition, hot springs were opened in areas where there were no hot springs for a long time.

In addition, we will also introduce various cultural properties that remain in Hakone and are now tourist attractions.



Leaflets published after W.W.II

Stone-paved road of the old Tokaido (Model)