Mount Fuji

**Mount Fuji** (富士山, *Fujisan*, Japanese: [[ɸɯꜜ(d)ʑisaɴ]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/Japanese) ([https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/8/8a/Loudspeaker.svg/11px-Loudspeaker.svg.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ja-Fuji-san.oga)[listen](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c5/Ja-Fuji-san.oga))), or **Fugaku**, located on the island of [Honshū](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honshu" \o "Honshu), is the [highest mountain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_mountains_and_hills_of_Japan_by_height) in [Japan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japan), standing 3,776.24 m (12,389.2 ft). It is the second-highest [volcano](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volcano) located on an island in Asia (after [Mount Kerinci](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Kerinci) on the island of [Sumatra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sumatra)), and [seventh-highest peak of an island](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_islands_by_highest_point) on Earth.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-Fujiinfo-1) Mount Fuji is an [active](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Active_volcano) [stratovolcano](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stratovolcano) that [last erupted from 1707 to 1708.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H%C5%8Dei_eruption)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-GSJ_active-4)[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-Britannica-5) The mountain is located about 100 km (62 mi) southwest of [Tokyo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokyo) and is visible from there on clear days. Mount Fuji's exceptionally symmetrical cone, which is [covered in snow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snow_field) for about five months of the year, is commonly used as a [cultural icon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_icon) of Japan and it is frequently depicted in art and photography, as well as visited by sightseers and climbers.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-readersnatural-6)

Mount Fuji is one of Japan's "[Three Holy Mountains](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three_Holy_Mountains)" (三霊山, *Sanreizan*) along with [Mount Tate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Tate) and [Mount Haku](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Haku). It is a [Special Place of Scenic Beauty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Special_Places_of_Scenic_Beauty,_Special_Historic_Sites_and_Special_Natural_Monuments) and one of Japan's [Historic Sites](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monuments_of_Japan).[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-channelnewsasia.com-7) It was added to the [World Heritage List](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_World_Heritage_Sites_in_Japan) as a Cultural Site on June 22, 2013.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-channelnewsasia.com-7) According to [UNESCO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNESCO), Mount Fuji has "inspired artists and poets and been the object of pilgrimage for centuries". UNESCO recognizes 25 sites of cultural interest within the Mount Fuji locality. These 25 locations include the mountain and the Shinto shrine, [Fujisan Hongū Sengen Taisha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fujisan_Hong%C5%AB_Sengen_Taisha).[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-8)

History[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mount_Fuji&action=edit&section=3" \o "Edit section: History)]

[*Fine Wind, Clear Morning*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fine_Wind,_Clear_Morning) woodblock print by [Hokusai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hokusai), 19th century

Mount Fuji is an attractive [volcanic cone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volcanic_cone) and a frequent subject of [Japanese art](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_art) especially after 1600, when [Edo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edo) (now Tokyo) became the capital and people saw the mountain while traveling on the [Tōkaidō](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T%C5%8Dkaid%C5%8D_(road)" \o "Tōkaidō (road)) road. According to the historian [H. Byron Earhart](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H._Byron_Earhart), "in medieval times it eventually came to be seen by Japanese as the “number one” mountain of the known world of the three countries of India, China, and Japan".[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-16) The mountain is mentioned in Japanese literature throughout the ages and is the subject of many poems.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-17)

The summit has been thought of as sacred since ancient times and was forbidden to women until the [Meiji era](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meiji_(era)) in the late 1860s. Ancient samurai used the base of the mountain as a remote training area, near the present-day town of [Gotemba](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gotemba,_Shizuoka" \o "Gotemba, Shizuoka). The *[shōgun](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sh%C5%8Dgun" \o "Shōgun)* [Minamoto no Yoritomo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minamoto_no_Yoritomo) held *[yabusame](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yabusame" \o "Yabusame)* archery contests in the area in the early [Kamakura period](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kamakura_period).

The first ascent by a foreigner was by Sir [Rutherford Alcock](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rutherford_Alcock) in September 1860, who ascended the mountain in 8 hours and descended in 3 hours.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-alcock-18): 427 Alcock's brief narrative in *The Capital of the Tycoon* was the first widely disseminated description of the mountain in the West.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-alcock-18): 421–27 Lady Fanny Parkes, the wife of British ambassador Sir [Harry Parkes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Smith_Parkes), was the first non-Japanese woman to ascend Mount Fuji in 1867.[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-19) Photographer [Felix Beato](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felix_Beato) climbed Mount Fuji two years later.[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-20)

On March 5, 1966, [BOAC Flight 911](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BOAC_Flight_911), a [Boeing 707](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boeing_707), broke up in flight and crashed near the Mount Fuji Gotemba New fifth station, shortly after departure from [Tokyo International Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haneda_Airport). All 113 passengers and 11 crew members died in the disaster, which was attributed to the extreme [clear-air turbulence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clear-air_turbulence) caused by [lee waves](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_wave) downwind of the mountain. There is a memorial for the crash a short distance down from the Gotemba New fifth station.[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-21)

Today, Mount Fuji is an international destination for tourism and [mountain climbing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountaineering).[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-climbing-22)[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-23) In the early 20th century, populist educator [Frederick Starr](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_Starr)'s [Chautauqua](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chautauqua) lectures about his several ascents of Mount Fuji—1913, 1919, and 1923—were widely known in America.[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-24) A well-known Japanese saying suggests that a wise person will climb Mt. Fuji once in their lifetime, but only a fool would climb it twice.[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-25)[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-26) It remains a popular symbol in Japanese culture, including making numerous movie appearances,[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-27) inspiring the [Infiniti](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infiniti) logo,[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-28) and even appearing in medicine with the [Mount Fuji sign](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pneumocephalus).[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-pmid10987907-29)[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-pmid15115834-30)

In September 2004, the manned weather station at the summit was closed after 72 years in operation. Observers monitored radar sweeps that detected typhoons and heavy rains. The station, which was the highest in Japan at 3,780 metres (12,402 ft), was replaced by a fully automated meteorological system.[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-upi_2004-31)

Mount Fuji was added to the [World Heritage List](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_World_Heritage_Sites_in_Japan) as a Cultural Site on June 22, 2013.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-channelnewsasia.com-7)

Geography[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mount_Fuji&action=edit&section=4" \o "Edit section: Geography)]

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:MtFuji_FujiCity.jpg)

Mount Fuji seen from [Fuji, Shizuoka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fuji,_Shizuoka)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Chuurei-tou_Fujiyoshida_17025277650_c59733d6ba_o.jpg)

[Arakurayama Sengen Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arakurayama_Sengen_Park) and the Chūrei-tō pagoda in [Fujiyoshida, Yamanashi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fujiyoshida,_Yamanashi" \o "Fujiyoshida, Yamanashi)

Mount Fuji is a very distinctive feature of the [geography of Japan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Japan). It stands 3,776.24 m (12,389 ft) tall and is located near the Pacific coast of central Honshu, just southwest of Tokyo. It straddles the boundary of [Shizuoka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shizuoka_Prefecture) and [Yamanashi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yamanashi_Prefecture) [Prefectures](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prefectures_of_Japan). Four small cities surround it: [Gotemba](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gotemba,_Shizuoka" \o "Gotemba, Shizuoka) to the east, [Fujiyoshida](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fujiyoshida" \o "Fujiyoshida) to the north, [Fujinomiya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fujinomiya,_Shizuoka" \o "Fujinomiya, Shizuoka) to the southwest, and [Fuji](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fuji,_Shizuoka) to the south. It is surrounded by five lakes: [Lake Kawaguchi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Kawaguchi), [Lake Yamanaka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Yamanaka), [Lake Sai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saiko_Lake), [Lake Motosu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Motosu) and [Lake Shōji](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Sh%C5%8Dji).[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-gvp-32) They, and nearby [Lake Ashi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Ashi), provide views of the mountain. The mountain is part of the [Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fuji-Hakone-Izu_National_Park). It can be seen more distantly from Yokohama, Tokyo, and sometimes as far as [Chiba](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chiba_(city)), [Saitama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saitama_(city)), [Tochigi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tochigi,_Tochigi), [Ibaraki](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibaraki,_Ibaraki) and [Lake Hamana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Hamana) when the sky is clear. It has been photographed from space during a space shuttle mission.[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-sts-107-33)

* [](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mt_Fuji_NASA_ISS002-E-6971_large.jpg)

Fuji in early summer seen from the [International Space Station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Space_Station) (May 2001)

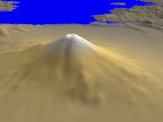
* [](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mount_Fuji_from_space_(shuttle_mission).jpg)

View from space from the [ill-fated Space Shuttle *Columbia* mission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STS-107) (2003)

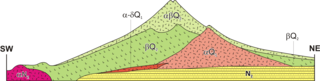
Geology[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mount_Fuji&action=edit&section=6" \o "Edit section: Geology)]

*Further information:*[*Historic eruptions of Mount Fuji*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historic_eruptions_of_Mount_Fuji)*,*[*List of volcanoes in Japan*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_volcanoes_in_Japan)*, and*[*Triple junction*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triple_junction)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mount_Fuji_Relief_Map,_SRTM-1.jpg)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Fuji_3D.gif)

Relief map and animation realized with [SRTM](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shuttle_Radar_Topography_Mission" \o "Shuttle Radar Topography Mission) data

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Geologycal_cross-section_of_Fuji.png)

Geological cross-section of Fuji volcano. [Key](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Key_(map)): N2 = [Tertiary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tertiary) sedimentary rocks; αN2 = Tertiary volcanic rocks; αQ1 = Komitake volcano; α-δQ1 = Ashitaka volcano; βQ2 = Older Fuji volcano; αβQ2 = Younger Fuji volcano.[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-VRC_ERI-35)

Mount Fuji is located at a [triple junction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triple_junction) [trench](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oceanic_trench) where the [Amurian Plate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amurian_Plate" \o "Amurian Plate), [Okhotsk Plate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Okhotsk_Plate), and [Philippine Sea Plate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippine_Sea_Plate) meet.[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-MooresTwiss1995-36)[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-NatGeogFuji-37) These three plates form the western part of Japan, the eastern part of Japan, and the [Izu Peninsula](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Izu_Peninsula" \o "Izu Peninsula) respectively.[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-Piotr-38) The [Pacific Plate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Plate) is being [subducted](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subducted" \o "Subducted) beneath these plates, resulting in volcanic activity. Mount Fuji is also located near three [island arcs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Island_arc): the Southwestern Japan Arc, the [Northeastern Japan Arc](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northeastern_Japan_Arc), and the [Izu-Bonin-Mariana Arc](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Izu%E2%80%93Bonin%E2%80%93Mariana_Arc" \o "Izu–Bonin–Mariana Arc).[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-Piotr-38)

Mt. Fuji's main crater is 780 metres (2,560 ft) in diameter and 240 metres (790 ft) in depth. The bottom of the crater is 100–130 metres (330–430 ft) in diameter. [Slope](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slope) angles from the crater to a distance of 1.5–2 kilometres (0.93–1.24 mi) are 31°–35°, the [angle of repose](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angle_of_repose) for dry gravel. Beyond this distance, slope angles are about 27°, which is caused by an increase in [scoria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scoria). Mid-flank slope angles decrease from 23° to less than 10° in the [piedmont](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foothills).[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-Piotr-38)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Hasshinpo_of_Mt.Fuji_40.jpg)

[Crater](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volcanic_crater) with the Eight Sacred Peaks (*Hasshin-po*)

Scientists have identified four distinct phases of volcanic activity in the formation of Mount Fuji. The first phase, called *Sen-komitake*, is composed of an [andesite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andesite) core recently discovered deep within the mountain. *Sen-komitake* was followed by the "*Komitake* Fuji", a [basalt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basalt) layer believed to be formed several hundred thousand years ago. Approximately 100,000 years ago, "Old Fuji" was formed over the top of *Komitake* Fuji. The modern, "New Fuji" is believed to have formed over the top of Old Fuji around 10,000 years ago.[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-39)

Pre-Komitake started erupting in the [Middle Pleistocene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_Pleistocene) in an area 7 kilometres (4.3 mi) north of Mount Fuji. After a relatively short pause, eruptions began again which formed Komitake Volcano in the same location. These eruptions ended 100,000 years ago. Ashitake Volcano was active from 400,000 to 100,000 years ago, and is located 20 kilometres (12 mi) southeast of Mount Fuji. Mount Fuji started erupting 100,000 years ago, with Ko-Fuji (old-Fuji) forming 100,000 to 17,000 years ago, but which is now almost completely buried. A large landslide on the southwest flank occurred about 18,000 years ago. Shin-Fuji (new-Fuji) eruptions in the form of [lava](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lava), [lapilli](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lapilli) and [volcanic ash](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volcanic_ash), have occurred between 17,000 and 8,000 years ago, between 7,000 and 3,500 years ago, and between 4,000 and 2,000 years ago. Flank eruptions, mostly in the form of parasitic [cinder cones](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinder_cone), ceased in 1707. The largest cone, [Omuro-Yama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_%C5%8Cmuro_(Mount_Fuji)" \o "Mount Ōmuro (Mount Fuji)), is one of more than 100 cones aligned NW-SE and NE-SW through the summit. Mt. Fuji also has more than 70 [lava tunnels](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lava_tunnel) and extensive lava tree molds. Two large [landslides](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landslide) are at the head of the Yoshida-Osawa and Osawa-Kuzure valleys.[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-Piotr-38)

As of December 2002, the volcano is classified as active with a low risk of eruption. The last recorded eruption was the [Hōei eruption](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H%C5%8Dei_eruption_of_Mount_Fuji" \o "Hōei eruption of Mount Fuji) which started on December 16, 1707 (*[Hōei](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H%C5%8Dei" \o "Hōei) 4, 23rd day of the 11th month*), and ended about January 1, 1708 (*Hōei 4, 9th day of the 12th month*).[[40]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-ShizuokaUni-40) The eruption formed a new [crater](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volcanic_crater) and a second peak, named [Mount Hōei](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_H%C5%8Dei) (after the [Hōei](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H%C5%8Dei" \o "Hōei) era), halfway down its southeastern side. Fuji spewed cinders and ash which fell like rain in [Izu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Izu_Province" \o "Izu Province), [Kai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kai_Province), [Sagami](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sagami_Province), and [Musashi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musashi_Province" \o "Musashi Province).[[41]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-41) Since then, there have been no signs of an eruption. However, on the evening of March 15, 2011, there was a [magnitude](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richter_magnitude_scale) 6.2 earthquake at shallow depth a few kilometres from Mount Fuji on its southern side. But according to the Japanese Meteorological Service there was no sign of any eruption.[[42]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-42)

**Recorded eruptions**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mount_Fuji&action=edit&section=7" \o "Edit section: Recorded eruptions)]

About 11,000 years ago, a large amount of lava began to erupt from the west side of the top of the ancient Fuji mountain. This lava formed the new Fuji which is the main body of Mount Fuji. Since then, the tops of the ancient Fuji and the new Fuji are side by side. About 2500-2800 years ago, the top part of ancient Fuji caused a large-scale landslide due to weathering, and finally, only the top of Shin-Fuji remained. There are ten known eruptions that can be traced to reliable recordS.

**Facts:**

**Transportation**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mount_Fuji&action=edit&section=11" \o "Edit section: Transportation)]

The closest airport with scheduled international service is [Mt. Fuji Shizuoka Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shizuoka_Airport). It opened in June 2009. It is about 80 kilometres (50 mi) from Mount Fuji.[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-64) The major international airports serving Tokyo, [Tokyo International Airport (Haneda Airport)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haneda_Airport) in Tokyo and [Narita International Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narita_International_Airport) in Chiba are approximately three hours and 15 minutes from Mount Fuji.

**Climbing routes**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mount_Fuji&action=edit&section=12" \o "Edit section: Climbing routes)]

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Fuji_illustration.jpeg)

Historical illustration of the routes to Mount Fuji

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Torii_near_the_summit_of_mount_Fuji_2015.jpg)

[*Torii*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torii) near the summit

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mt_Fuji_Summit.jpg)

Hikers climbing Mount Fuji

Approximately 300,000 people climbed Mount Fuji in 2009.[[65]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-NPJ-65) The most popular period for people to hike up Mount Fuji is from July to August, while huts and other facilities are operating and the weather is warmest.[[65]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-NPJ-65) Buses to the trail heads typically used by climbers start running on July 1.[[66]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-ClimbingSeason-66) Climbing from October to May is very strongly discouraged, after a number of high-profile deaths and severe cold weather.[[67]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-offseason-67) Most Japanese climb the mountain at night in order to be in a position at or near the summit when the sun rises. The morning light is called 御来光 *goraikō*, "arrival of light".[[68]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-68)

There are four major routes to the summit, each has numbered stations along the way. They are (clockwise, starting North): Kawaguchiko, Subashiri, Gotemba, and Fujinomiya routes.[[69]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-MountainTrails-69) Climbers usually start at the fifth stations, as these are reachable by car or by bus. The summit is the tenth station on each trail. The stations on different routes are at different elevations; the highest fifth station is located at Fujinomiya, followed by Yoshida, Subashiri, and Gotemba. There are four additional routes from the foot of the mountain: Shojiko, Yoshida, Suyama, and Murayama routes.[*[citation needed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed" \o "Wikipedia:Citation needed)*]

Even though it has only the second-highest fifth stations, the Yoshida route is the most-popular route because of its large parking area and many large mountain huts where a climber can rest or stay. During the summer season, most Mount Fuji climbing tour buses arrive there. The next-popular is the Fujinomiya route, which has the highest fifth station, followed by Subashiri and Gotemba. The ascent from the new fifth station can take anywhere between five and seven hours while the descent can take from three to four hours.[[69]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-MountainTrails-69)

Even though most climbers do not climb the Subashiri and Gotemba routes, many descend these because of their ash-covered paths. From the seventh station to near the fifth station, one could run down these ash-covered paths in approximately 30 minutes. Besides these routes, there are tractor routes along the climbing routes. These tractor routes are used to bring food and other materials to huts on the mountain. Because the tractors usually take up most of the width of these paths and they tend to push large rocks from the side of the path, the tractor paths are off-limits to the climbers on sections that are not merged with the climbing or descending paths. Nevertheless, one can sometimes see people riding mountain bikes along the tractor routes down from the summit. This is particularly risky, as it becomes difficult to control speed and may send some rocks rolling along the side of the path, which may hit other people.

The four routes from the foot of the mountain offer historical sites. The Murayama is the oldest Mount Fuji route and the Yoshida route still has many old shrines, teahouses, and huts along its path. These routes are gaining popularity recently and are being restored, but climbing from the foot of the mountain is still relatively uncommon. Also, [bears](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asiatic_black_bear) have been sighted along the Yoshida route.

Huts at and above the fifth stations are usually manned during the climbing season, but huts below fifth stations are not usually manned for climbers. The number of open huts on routes are proportional to the number of climbers—Yoshida has the most while Gotemba has the fewest. The huts along the Gotemba route also tend to start later and close earlier than those along the Yoshida route. Also, because Mount Fuji is designated as a national park, it is illegal to camp above the fifth station.

There are eight peaks around the crater at the summit. The highest point in Japan, Ken-ga-mine, is where the [Mount Fuji Radar System](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji_Radar_System) used to be (it was replaced by an automated system in 2004). Climbers are able to visit each of these peaks.

**Paragliding**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mount_Fuji&action=edit&section=13" \o "Edit section: Paragliding)]

[Paragliders](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paraglider) take off in the vicinity of the fifth station Gotemba parking lot, between Subashiri and Hōei-zan peak on the south side of the mountain, in addition to several other locations, depending on wind direction. Several paragliding schools use the wide sandy/grassy slope between Gotemba and Subashiri parking lots as a training hill.

In culture[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mount_Fuji&action=edit&section=14" \o "Edit section: In culture)]

Outer shrine of [Fujisan Hongū Sengen Taisha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fujisan_Hong%C5%AB_Sengen_Taisha)

**Shinto mythology**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mount_Fuji&action=edit&section=15" \o "Edit section: Shinto mythology)]

In Shinto mythology, [Kuninotokotachi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kuninotokotachi" \o "Kuninotokotachi) (国之常立神[?](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Installing_Japanese_character_sets" \o "Help:Installing Japanese character sets), *Kuninotokotachi-no-Kami*, in *[Kojiki](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kojiki" \o "Kojiki)*)(国常立尊[?](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Installing_Japanese_character_sets" \o "Help:Installing Japanese character sets), *Kuninotokotachi-no-Mikoto*, in [*Nihon Shoki*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nihon_Shoki)) is one of the two [gods](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kami) born from "something like a [reed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reed_bed) that arose from the soil" when the earth was [chaotic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chaos_(cosmogony)). According to the [*Nihon Shoki*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nihon_Shoki), [Konohanasakuya-hime](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Konohanasakuya-hime" \o "Konohanasakuya-hime), wife of [Ninigi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninigi" \o "Ninigi), is the goddess of Mount Fuji, where [Fujisan Hongū Sengen Taisha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fujisan_Hong%C5%AB_Sengen_Taisha) is dedicated for her.

In ancient times the mountain was worshipped from afar. The [Asama shrine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asama_shrine) was set up at the foothills to ward off eruptions. In the [Heian period](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heian_period) (794–1185) volcanic activity subsided and Fuji was used as a base for [Shugendō](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shugend%C5%8D" \o "Shugendō), a syncretic religion combining mountain worship and Buddhism. Worshippers began to climb the slopes and by the early 12th century, [Matsudai Shonin](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Matsudai_Shonin&action=edit&redlink=1" \o "Matsudai Shonin (page does not exist)) had founded a temple on the summit.[[70]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-70)

Fuji-kō was an [Edo period](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edo_period) cult centred around the mountain founded by an ascetic named [Hasegawa Kakugyō](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Hasegawa_Kakugy%C5%8D&action=edit&redlink=1) (1541–1646).[[71]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-71) The cult venerated the mountain as a female deity, and encouraged its members to climb it. In doing so they would be reborn, "purified and... able to find happiness." The cult waned in the [Meiji period](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meiji_period) and although it persists to this day it has been subsumed into [Shintō](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shint%C5%8D" \o "Shintō) sects.[[72]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-72)

**Buddhism**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mount_Fuji&action=edit&section=16" \o "Edit section: Buddhism)]

The Buddhist [Hokkeko](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hokkeko" \o "Hokkeko) believers of [Nichiren Shoshu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nichiren_Shoshu" \o "Nichiren Shoshu) sect piously claim that the [Dai Gohonzon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dai_Gohonzon) mandala grants supernatural protection from the [Buddhist deities](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhist_deities) against possible volcanic eruption of Mount Fuji through the daylight morning ritual of [Ushitora Gongyo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ushitora_Gongyo" \o "Ushitora Gongyo).

**Popular culture**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mount_Fuji&action=edit&section=17)]

As a national symbol of the country, the mountain has been depicted in various art media such as paintings, [woodblock prints](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moku_hanga) (such as [Hokusai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hokusai)'s [*Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirty-six_Views_of_Mount_Fuji) and [*100 Views of Mount Fuji*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/100_Views_of_Mount_Fuji) from the 1830s), poetry, music, theater, film, [manga](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manga), [anime](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anime), [pottery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pottery)[[73]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-73) and even [Kawaii](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kawaii) subculture.

Before [its explosive eruption in 1980](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1980_eruption_of_Mount_St._Helens), [Mount St. Helens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_St._Helens) was once known as "The Fuji of America," for its striking resemblance to Mount Fuji. [Mount Taranaki](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Taranaki) / Mount Egmont in [New Zealand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Zealand) is also said to bear a resemblance to Mount Fuji, and for this reason has been used as a stand-in for the mountain in films and television

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Mount Fuji** | |
| [080103 hakkai fuji.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:080103_hakkai_fuji.jpg)  Mount Fuji seen from the north-east | |
| **Highest point** | |
| [**Elevation**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Summit) | 3,776.25 to 3,778.23 m (12,389.3 to 12,395.8 ft) |
| [**Prominence**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Topographic_prominence) | 3,776 m (12,388 ft)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-Fujiinfo-1) [Ranked 35th](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_peaks_by_prominence) |
| [**Isolation**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Topographic_isolation) | 2,077 km (1,291 mi) |
| [**Listing**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lists_of_mountains) | * [Highest peak in Japan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_highest_point) * [Ultra-prominent peaks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ultra-prominent_peak) * [List of mountains in Japan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_mountains_and_hills_of_Japan_by_height) * [100 Famous Japanese Mountains](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/100_Famous_Japanese_Mountains) * [List of volcanoes by elevation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_volcanoes_by_elevation) |
| [**Coordinates**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system) | https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[35°21′38″N 138°43′39″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Mount_Fuji&params=35_21_38_N_138_43_39_E_type:mountain_scale:100000)[Coordinates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[35°21′38″N 138°43′39″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Mount_Fuji&params=35_21_38_N_138_43_39_E_type:mountain_scale:100000)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji#cite_note-Triangulation_station-2) |
| **Naming** | |
| **Native name** | 富士山  ([Japanese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_language)) |
| **Pronunciation** | [[ɸɯꜜ(d)ʑisaɴ]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/Japanese) |
| **Geography** | |
| [Mount Fuji is located in Japan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Japan_natural_location_map_with_side_map_of_the_Ryukyu_Islands.jpg)  Mount Fuji  Mount Fuji  Location of Mount Fuji in Japan  Show map of JapanShow map of Shizuoka PrefectureShow all | |
| **Location** | [Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fuji-Hakone-Izu_National_Park) |
| **Country** | [Japan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japan) |
| [**Prefectures**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prefectures_of_Japan) | [Shizuoka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shizuoka_Prefecture) and [Yamanashi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yamanashi_Prefecture) However, the summit is neither [Yamanashi nor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yamanashi) [Shizuoka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shizuoka). |
| [**Shikuchōson**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Municipalities_of_Japan) | [Fuji](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fuji,_Shizuoka), [Fujinomiya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fujinomiya,_Shizuoka" \o "Fujinomiya, Shizuoka), [Fujiyoshida](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fujiyoshida" \o "Fujiyoshida), [Gotemba](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gotemba,_Shizuoka" \o "Gotemba, Shizuoka), [Narusawa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narusawa,_Yamanashi) and [Oyama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oyama,_Shizuoka" \o "Oyama, Shizuoka) |
| [**Topo map**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Topographic_map) | [Geospatial Information Authority](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geospatial_Information_Authority) 25000:1 富士山[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Fuji" \l "cite_note-watch_tizu-3) 50000:1 富士山 |
| **Geology** | |
| [**Age of rock**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geologic_time_scale) | 100,000 years |
| [**Mountain type**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_mountain_types) | [Stratovolcano](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stratovolcano) |
| [**Last eruption**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Types_of_volcanic_eruptions) | [1707–08](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H%C5%8Dei_eruption) |
| **Climbing** | |
| [**First ascent**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_ascent) | 663 by [En no Odzunu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/En_no_Gy%C5%8Dja" \o "En no Gyōja) (役行者, En no gyoja, En no Odzuno) |
| [**Easiest route**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normal_route) | [Hiking](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hiking) |
|  | |
| [**UNESCO World Heritage Site**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site) | |
| **Official name** | Fujisan, sacred place and source of artistic inspiration |
| [**Criteria**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site#Selection_criteria) | Cultural: iii, vi |
| **Reference** | [1418](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1418) |
| **Inscription** | 2013 (37th [Session](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Committee)) |
| **Area** | 20,702.1 ha |
| **Buffer zone** | 49,627.7 ha |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Mount Fuji** | |
| [Mt Fuji (Chinese characters).svg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mt_Fuji_(Chinese_characters).svg)  "Mt. Fuji" in [*kanji*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kanji) | |
| **Japanese name** | |
| [Kanji](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kanji) | 富士山 |
| |  | | --- | | show**Transcriptions** | | |