

# Mount Fuji

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Language

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*"Fujiyama" redirects here. For other uses, see Fujiyama (disambiguation).*

**Mount Fuji** (富士山, *Fujisan*, Japanese: φω<sup>∗</sup><sup>ⓘ</sup>zisan) is an active **stratovolcano** located on the **Japanese** island of **Honshu**, with a summit elevation of 3,776.24 m (12,389 ft 3 in). It is the tallest mountain in Japan, the second-highest **volcano** located on an island in Asia (after **Mount Kerinci** on the **Indonesian** island of **Sumatra**), and **seventh-highest peak of an island** on Earth.<sup>[1]</sup> Mount Fuji **last erupted from 1707 to 1708**.<sup>[4][5]</sup> The mountain is located about 100 km (62 mi) southwest of **Tokyo** and is visible from the Japanese capital on clear days. Mount Fuji's exceptionally symmetrical cone, which is **covered in snow** for about five months of the year, is commonly used as a **cultural icon** of Japan and is frequently depicted in art and photography, as well as visited by sightseers, hikers and mountain climbers.<sup>[6]</sup>

Mount Fuji is one of Japan's "**Three Holy Mountains**" (三霊山, *Sanreizan*) along with **Mount Tate** and **Mount Haku**. It is a **Special Place of Scenic Beauty** and one of Japan's **Historic Sites**.<sup>[7]</sup> It was added to the **World Heritage List** as a Cultural Site on June 22, 2013.<sup>[7]</sup> According to **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**.<sup>[8]</sup>

## Contents

## Etymology

*Further information: wikt:富士 § Etymology 3*

The current ***kanji*** for Mount Fuji, 富 and 士, mean "wealth" or "abundant" and "man of status" respectively. However, the origins of this spelling and of the name *Fuji* continue to be debated.

A text of the 9th century, ***Tale of the Bamboo Cutter***, says that the name came from "immortal" (不死, *fushi*, *fuji*) and also from the image of abundant (富, *fu*) soldiers (士, *shi*, *ji*)<sup>[note 1]</sup> ascending the slopes of the mountain.<sup>[9]</sup> An early **folk etymology** claims that *Fuji* came from 不二 (*not* + *two*), meaning *without equal* or *nonpareil*. Another claims that it came from 不盡 (*not* + *to exhaust*), meaning *never-ending*.

**Hirata Atsutane**, a Japanese classical scholar in the **Edo period**, speculated that the name is from a word meaning "a mountain standing up shapely as an ear (穗, *ho*) of a rice plant". British missionary **John Batchelor** (1855–1944) argued that the name is from the **Ainu** word for "fire" (*fuchi*) of the fire deity **Kamui Fuchi**, which was denied by a Japanese linguist **Kyōsuke Kindaichi** on the grounds of phonetic development (**sound change**). It is also pointed out that *huchi* means an "old woman" and *ape* is the word for "fire", *ape huchi kamuy* being the fire deity. Research on the distribution of place names that include *fujī* as a part also suggest the origin of the word *fujī* is in the **Yamato** language rather than Ainu. Japanese **toponymist** Kanji Kagami argued that the name has the same root as **wisteria** (藤, *fuji*) and rainbow (虹, *niji*), but with an alternative reading, *fujī*), and came from its "long well-shaped slope".<sup>[10][11][12][13]</sup>

Modern linguist **Alexander Vovin** proposes an alternative hypothesis based on Old Japanese reading \*/pu<sup>n</sup>zi/: the word may have been borrowed from **Eastern Old Japanese** \*/pu nusi/ 火主, meaning "fire master".<sup>[14]</sup>

### Variations

In English, the mountain is known as Mount Fuji. Some sources refer to it as "Fuji-san", "Fujiyama" or, redundantly, "Mt. Fujiyama". Japanese speakers refer to the mountain as "Fuji-san". This "san" is not the **honorific suffix** used with people's names, such as Watanabe-san, but the **Sino-Japanese reading** of the character *yama* (山, "mountain") used in **Sino-Japanese** compounds. In **Nihon-shiki** and **Kunrei-shiki romanization**, the name is transliterated as *Huzi*.

Other Japanese names which have become obsolete or poetic include *Fuji-no-Yama* (ふじの山, "the Mountain of Fuji"), *Fuji-no-Takane* (ふじの高嶺, "the High Peak of Fuji"), *Fuyō-hō* (芙蓉峰, "the Lotus Peak"), and *Fugaku* (富岳／富嶽), created by combining the first character of 富士, *Fuji*, and 岳, *mountain*.<sup>[15]</sup>

# History

Mount Fuji is an attractive [volcanic cone](#) and a frequent subject of [Japanese art](#) especially after 1600, when [Edo](#) (now Tokyo) became the capital and people saw the mountain while traveling on the [Tōkaidō](#) road. According to the historian [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".<sup>[16]</sup> The mountain is mentioned in Japanese literature throughout the ages and is the subject of many poems.<sup>[17]</sup>

The summit has been thought of as sacred since ancient times and was therefore forbidden to women. It was not until 1872 that the Japanese government issued an edict (May 4, 1872, Grand Council of State Edict 98) stating, "Any remaining practices of female exclusion on shrine and temple lands shall be immediately abolished, and mountain climbing for the purpose of worship, etc., shall be permitted."<sup>[18]</sup> However, Tatsuo Takayama, a Japanese woman, became the first woman on record to summit Mount Fuji in the fall of 1832.<sup>[19][20][21]</sup>

Ancient samurai used the base of the mountain as a remote training area, near the present-day town of [Gotemba](#). The *shōgun* [Minamoto no Yoritomo](#) held *yabusame* archery contests in the area in the early [Kamakura period](#).

The first ascent by a foreigner was by Sir [Rutherford Alcock](#) in September 1860, who ascended the mountain in 8 hours and descended in 3 hours.<sup>[22]:427</sup> Alcock's brief narrative in *The Capital of the Tycoon* was the first widely disseminated description of the mountain in the West.<sup>[22]:421–27</sup> Lady Fanny Parkes, the wife of British ambassador Sir [Harry Parkes](#), was the first non-Japanese woman to ascend Mount Fuji in 1867.<sup>[23]</sup> Photographer [Felix Beato](#) climbed Mount Fuji two years later.<sup>[24]</sup>

On March 5, 1966, [BOAC Flight 911](#), a [Boeing 707](#), broke up in flight and crashed near the Mount Fuji Gotemba New fifth station, shortly after departure from [Tokyo International Airport](#). All 113 passengers and 11 crew members died in the disaster, which was attributed to the extreme [clear-air turbulence](#) caused by [lee waves](#) downwind of the mountain. There is a memorial for the crash a short distance down from the Gotemba New fifth station.<sup>[25]</sup>

Today, Mount Fuji is an international destination for tourism and [mountain climbing](#).<sup>[26][27]</sup> In the early 20th century, populist educator [Frederick Starr](#)'s [Chautauqua](#) lectures about his several ascents of Mount Fuji—1913, 1919, and 1923—were widely known in America.<sup>[28]</sup> 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.<sup>[29][30]</sup> It remains a popular symbol in Japanese culture, including making numerous movie appearances,<sup>[31]</sup> inspiring the [Infiniti](#) logo,<sup>[32]</sup> and even appearing in medicine with the [Mount Fuji sign](#).<sup>[33][34]</sup>

In September 2004, the staffed 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 m (12,402 ft), was replaced by a fully automated meteorological system.<sup>[35]</sup>

Mount Fuji was added to the [World Heritage List](#) as a Cultural Site on June 22, 2013.<sup>[7]</sup>

Mount Fuji	
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Highest point	
Prominence	3,776 <span> </span> m (12,388 <span> </span> ft) <sup>[1]</sup> <div>Ranked 35th</div>
Listing	<div>Highest peak in Japan</div> <div>Ultra-prominent peaks</div> <div>List of mountains in Japan</div> <div>100 Famous Japanese Mountains</div> <div>List of volcanoes by elevation</div>
Coordinates	<div><div><span></span></div><div><div><span><span><span><span><span>35°21′39″N</span> <span>138°43′39″E</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span><span><span>35.35999°N 138.72750°E</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>35.35999; 138.72750</span></span></span></span></span></span></span></div></div></div> <div><sup>[2]</sup></div>
Naming	
Native name	<div><div><span><span>富士山</span></span></div><div>(<span>Japanese</span>)</div></div>
Pronunciation	<div><span><span>[ɸɯ̥ˈ(d)zisan]</span></span></div>
Geography	
<div><div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div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<b>Age of rock</b>	100,000 years
<b>Mountain type</b>	Stratovolcano
<b>Last eruption</b>	1707–08
<b>Climbing</b>	
<b>First ascent</b>	663 by <a href="#">En no Odzunu</a> (役行者, <a href="#">En no gyoja</a> , <a href="#">En no Odzuno</a> )
<b>Easiest route</b>	Hiking
<b>UNESCO World Heritage Site</b>	
<b>Official name</b>	Fujisan, sacred place and source of artistic inspiration
<b>Criteria</b>	Cultural: iii, vi
<b>Reference</b>	1418
<b>Inscription</b>	2013 (37th <a href="#">Session</a> )
<b>Area</b>	20,702.1 ha
<b>Buffer zone</b>	49,627.7 ha

Mount Fuji
<div>富士山</div> <div>"Mt. Fuji" in <i>kanji</i></div>
Japanese name
<div><div><span>Kanji</span></div><div>富士山</div></div>
Transcriptions
<div><div><span>Romanization</span></div><div>Fuji-san</div></div>



*Fine Wind, Clear Morning* woodblock print by [Hokusai](#), 19th century

## Geography

Mount Fuji is a very distinctive feature of the [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



Aerial panorama of Mount Fuji from Lake Saiko, June 2023



Aerial panorama of Mount Fuji with Saiko Iyashi-no-Sato Nenba in the foreground, June 2023



of [Shizuoka](#) and [Yamanashi prefectures](#). Four small cities surround it: [Gotemba](#) to the east, [Fujiyoshida](#) to the north, [Fujinomiya](#) to the southwest, and [Fuji](#) to the south. It is surrounded by [five lakes](#): [Lake Kawaguchi](#), [Lake Yamanaka](#), [Lake Sai](#), [Lake Motosu](#) and [Lake Shōji](#).<sup>[36]</sup> They, and nearby [Lake Ashi](#), provide views of the mountain. The mountain is part of the [Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park](#). It can be seen more distantly from [Yokohama](#), [Tokyo](#), and sometimes as far as [Chiba](#), [Saitama](#), [Tochigi](#), [Ibaraki](#) and [Lake Hamana](#) when the sky is clear. It has been photographed from space during a space shuttle mission.<sup>[37]</sup>

Mount Fuji from Omiya, c. 1890

Climate

The summit of Mount Fuji has a tundra climate ([Köppen climate classification](#) *ET*). The temperature is very low at the high altitude, and the cone is covered by snow for several months of the year. The lowest recorded temperature is −38.0 °C (−36.4 °F) recorded in February 1981, and the highest temperature was 17.8 °C (64.0 °F) recorded in August 1942.

Mount Fuji as seen from the air and from the window of a bullet train, 2014



Fuji in early summer seen from the [International Space Station](#) (May 2001)

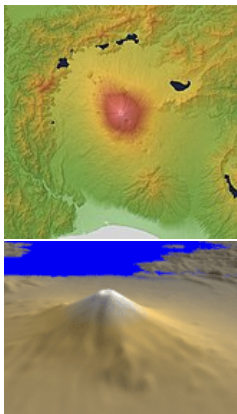
Climate data for Mt. Fuji (1991–2020 normals, extremes 1932–present)													hide
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °C (°F)	−1.7 (28.9)	0.0 (32.0)	1.0 (33.8)	4.7 (40.5)	12.2 (54.0)	12.3 (54.1)	17.4 (63.3)	17.8 (64.0)	16.3 (61.3)	14.0 (57.2)	6.9 (44.4)	3.6 (38.5)	17.8 (64.0)
Mean daily maximum °C (°F)	−15.3 (4.5)	−14.3 (6.3)	−10.9 (12.4)	−5.9 (21.4)	−0.6 (30.9)	4.0 (39.2)	8.0 (46.4)	9.5 (49.1)	6.5 (43.7)	0.7 (33.3)	−5.9 (21.4)	−12.2 (10.0)	−3.0 (26.6)
Daily mean °C (°F)	−18.2 (−0.8)	−17.4 (0.7)	−14.1 (6.6)	−8.8 (16.2)	−3.2 (26.2)	1.4 (34.5)	5.3 (41.5)	6.4 (43.5)	3.5 (38.3)	−2.0 (28.4)	−8.7 (16.3)	−15.1 (4.8)	−5.9 (21.4)
Mean daily minimum °C (°F)	−21.4 (−6.5)	−21.1 (−6.0)	−17.7 (0.1)	−12.2 (10.0)	−6.3 (20.7)	−1.4 (29.5)	2.8 (37.0)	3.8 (38.8)	0.6 (33.1)	−5.1 (22.8)	−11.8 (10.8)	−18.3 (−0.9)	−9.0 (15.8)
Record low °C (°F)	−37.3 (−35.1)	−38.0 (−36.4)	−33.9 (−29.0)	−27.8 (−18.0)	−18.9 (−2.0)	−13.1 (8.4)	−6.9 (19.6)	−4.3 (24.3)	−10.8 (12.6)	−19.5 (−3.1)	−28.1 (−18.6)	−33.0 (−27.4)	−38.0 (−36.4)
Average <a href="#">relative humidity</a> (%)	53	56	61	63	60	70	79	75	67	53	52	52	62
Source: Japan Meteorological Agency <sup>[38]</sup>													

Geology

Further information: [Historic eruptions of Mount Fuji](#), [List of volcanoes in Japan](#), and [Triple junction](#)

Mount Fuji is located at a [triple junction trench](#) where the [Amurian Plate](#), [Okhotsk Plate](#), and [Philippine Sea Plate](#) meet.<sup>[40][41]</sup> These three plates form the western part of Japan, the eastern part of Japan, and the [Izu Peninsula](#) respectively.<sup>[42]</sup> The [Pacific Plate](#) is being [subducted](#) beneath these plates, resulting in volcanic activity. Mount Fuji is also located near three [island arcs](#): the [Southwestern Japan Arc](#), the [Northeastern Japan Arc](#), and the [Izu-Bonin-Mariana Arc](#).<sup>[42]</sup> The Fuji triple junction is only 400 kilometres (250 mi) from the [Boso Triple Junction](#).

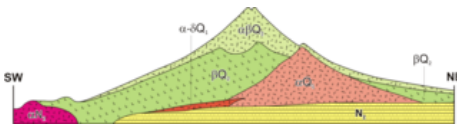
Fuji's main crater is 780 m (2,560 ft) in diameter and 240 m (790 ft) deep. The bottom of the crater is 100–130 m (330–430 ft) in diameter. Slope angles from the crater to a distance of 1.5–2 km (0.93–1.24 mi) are 31°–35°, the [angle of repose](#) for dry gravel. Beyond this distance, slope angles are about 27°, which is caused by an increase in [scoria](#). Mid-flank slope angles decrease from 23° to less than 10° in the [piedmont](#).<sup>[42]</sup>



Relief map and animation realized with [SRTM](#) data

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](#) core recently discovered deep within the mountain. *Sen-komitake* was followed by the "*Komitake Fuji*", a [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.<sup>[43]</sup>

Pre-Komitake started erupting in the [Middle Pleistocene](#) in an area seven km (4½ 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*



Geological cross-section of Fuji volcano. Key: N<sub>2</sub> = [Tertiary sedimentary rocks](#); αN<sub>2</sub> = Tertiary volcanic rocks; αQ<sub>1</sub> = [Komitake volcano](#); α-δQ<sub>1</sub> = [Ashitake volcano](#); βQ<sub>2</sub> = Older Fuji volcano; αβQ<sub>2</sub> = Younger Fuji volcano.<sup>[39]</sup>

was active from 400,000 to 100,000 years ago and is located 20 km (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](#), [lapilli](#) and [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](#), ceased in 1707. The largest cone, [Omuro-Yama](#), 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](#) and extensive lava tree molds. Two large landslides are at the head of the Yoshida-Osawa and Osawa-Kuzure valleys.<sup>[42]</sup>



Crater with the [Eight Sacred Peaks](#) (*Hasshin-po*)

As of December 2002, the volcano is classified as active with a low risk of eruption. The last recorded eruption was the [Hōei eruption](#) which started on December 16, 1707 (*Hōei 4, 23rd day of the 11th month*), and ended about January 1, 1708 (*Hōei 4, 9th day of the 12th month*).<sup>[44]</sup> The eruption formed a new [crater](#) and a second peak, named [Mount Hōei](#), halfway down its southeastern side. Fuji spewed cinders and ash which fell like rain in [Izu](#), [Kai](#), [Sagami](#), and [Musashi](#).<sup>[45]</sup> Since then, there have been no signs of an eruption. However, on the evening of March 15, 2011, there was a [magnitude 6.2](#) earthquake at shallow depth a few kilometres from Mount Fuji on its southern side.

### 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 2,500–2,800 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.<sup>[46][47]</sup>

Date(s)	Notes	Ref.
July 31, 781	The eruption was recorded in the <i>Shoku Nihongi</i> and it was noted that "ash fell", but there are no other details.	[48]
April 11 – May 15, 800 February 13, 802	The <i>Nihon Kiryaku</i> states that during the first phase, the skies were dark even during the daytime. The second phase is known from the <i>Nippon Kiseki</i> , which notes that gravel fell like hail.	[49]
June–September 864 December 865 – January 866	Both phases were recorded in the <i>Nihon Sandai Jitsuroku</i> . This eruption created three of the <a href="#">Fuji Five Lakes</a> : <a href="#">Motosu</a> , <a href="#">Shōji</a> , and <a href="#">Saiko</a> , from a single lake that became separated by lava flow.	[50]
November 937	This was recorded in the <i>Nihon Kiryaku</i> .	[51]
March 999	It is noted in the <i>Honchō Seiki</i> that news of an eruption was brought to Kyoto, but no other details are known.	[52]
January 1033	According to the <i>Nihon Kiryaku</i> , news of this eruption was brought to Kyoto two months later.	[53]
April 17, 1083	The only contemporary recording of this was written by a Buddhist monk and can be found in the <i>Fusō Ryakuki</i> . Later writings indicate that the sound of the eruption may have been heard in Kyoto.	[54]
between January 30, 1435 and January 18, 1436	A record of this appears in the <i>Ōdaiki</i> , a chronicle kept by the monks at <a href="#">Kubo Hachiman Shrine</a> in <a href="#">Yamanashi City</a> and it states that a flame was visible on Mount Fuji. As there is no mention of smoke, this appears to have been a <a href="#">Hawaiian eruption</a> (lava only).	[55]
August 1511	The <i>Katsuyamaki</i> (or <i>Myōhōjiki</i> ), written by monks at Myōhō-ji in <a href="#">Fujikawaguchiko</a> , indicates that there was a fire on Mount Fuji at this time, but as there is no vegetation at the described location, this was almost certainly a lava flow.	[56]
December 16, 1707	The <a href="#">Hōei eruption</a>	[44]

### Current eruptive danger

This section needs to be updated. *(November 2022)*

Following the [2011 Tōhoku earthquake](#), there was speculation in the media that the shock may induce volcanic unrest at Mount Fuji. In September 2012, mathematical models created by the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention (NRIESDP) suggested that the pressure in Mount Fuji's [magma chamber](#) could be 1.6 [megapascals](#) higher than it was before its last eruption in 1707. This was interpreted by some media outlets to mean that an eruption of Mount Fuji could be imminent.<sup>[57]</sup> However, since there is no known method of directly measuring the pressure of a volcano's magma chamber, indirect calculations of the type used by NRIESDP are speculative and unverifiable. Other indicators suggestive of heightened eruptive danger, such as active [fumaroles](#) and recently discovered [faults](#), are typical occurrences at this type of volcano.<sup>[58]</sup>



Eruption fears continued into the 2020s. In 2021, a new hazard map was created to help residents plan for evacuation, stoking fears because of its increased estimate of lava flow and additional vents.<sup>[59]</sup> Soon afterwards, a 4.8 magnitude earthquake hit the area, sending the phrase "Mt Fuji eruption" trending on [Twitter](#).<sup>[60]</sup> However, the Japan Meteorological Agency assured the public the earthquake did not increase the eruption risk. In 2023, a new evacuation plan was developed to account for the 2021 hazard map update.<sup>[61]</sup>

## Aokigahara forest

The forest at the northwest base of the mountain is named [Aokigahara](#). Folk tales and legends tell of ghosts, demons, [Yūrei](#) and [Yōkai](#) haunting the forest, and in the 19th century, Aokigahara was one of many places poor families abandoned the very young and elderly.<sup>[62]</sup> Approximately 30 suicides have been counted yearly, with a high of nearly 80 bodies in 2002.<sup>[63]</sup> The recent increase in suicides prompted local officials to erect signs that attempt to convince individuals experiencing suicidal intent to re-think their desperate plans, and sometimes these messages have proven effective.<sup>[64]</sup> The numbers of suicides in the past creates an allure that has persisted across the span of decades.<sup>[65][66]</sup>

Many hikers mark their routes by leaving colored plastic tape behind as they pass, raising concern among prefectural officials about the forest's ecosystem.<sup>[67]</sup>

## Adventuring

### Transportation

The closest airport with scheduled international service is [Mt. Fuji Shizuoka Airport](#). It opened in June 2009. It is about 80 km (50 mi) from Mount Fuji.<sup>[68]</sup> The major international airports serving Tokyo, [Tokyo International Airport \(Haneda Airport\)](#) in Tokyo and [Narita International Airport](#) in Chiba are approximately three hours and 15 minutes from Mount Fuji.

### Climbing routes

This section needs additional citations for verification. (July 2022)

Approximately 300,000 people climbed Mount Fuji in 2009.<sup>[69]</sup> 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.<sup>[69]</sup> Buses to the trail heads typically used by climbers start running on July 1.<sup>[70]</sup> Climbing from October to May is very strongly discouraged, after a number of high-profile deaths and severe cold weather.<sup>[71]</sup> 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".<sup>[72]</sup>

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.<sup>[73]</sup> 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.<sup>[74]</sup>

Even though it has only the second-highest fifth station, 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.<sup>[73]</sup> 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



Aokigahara forest with Mount Fuji and Mount Ashiwada



A view of Mount Fuji from the [Taisekiji](#) temple as depicted by the woodblock artist Katsushika [Hokusai](#). *The one hundred views of Mount Fuji*. From the Elizabeth Joan Tanney estate, c. 1834.



Historical illustration of the routes to Mount Fuji



Torii near the summit

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 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](#) have been sighted along the Yoshida route.

Huts at and above the fifth stations are usually staffed during the climbing season, but huts below fifth stations are not usually staffed 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](#) used to be (it was replaced by an automated system in 2004). Climbers are able to visit each of these peaks.

## Paragliding

[Paragliders](#) 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.

## Overtourism concerns

On 1 February 2024, the Yamanashi prefectural government imposed a mandatory fee of 2,000 yen (\$13) for hikers using the Yoshida trail beginning in the summer season as part of efforts to ease congestion and provide funding for safety protocols.<sup>[75]</sup> It later announced that it would impose a daily limit of 4,000 hikers on the trail and close it between 4 p.m. and 3 a.m except for guests in mountain lodges. The Shizuoka prefectural government subsequently announced that it would also close the Subashiri, Gotemba and Fujinomiya trails at the same time period with the same exceptions, citing also concerns over congestion.<sup>[76]</sup>

## In culture

### Shinto mythology

In Shinto mythology, [Kuninotokotachi](#) (国之常立神<sup>?</sup>, *Kuninotokotachi-no-Kami*, in *Kojiki*)(国常立尊<sup>?</sup>, *Kuninotokotachi-no-Mikoto*, in *Nihon Shoki*) is one of the two [gods](#) born from "something like a [reed](#) that arose from the soil" when the earth was [chaotic](#). According to the *Nihon Shoki*, [Konohanasakuya-hime](#), wife of [Ninigi](#), is the goddess of Mount Fuji, where [Fujisan Hongū Sengen Taisha](#) is dedicated for her.

In ancient times, the mountain was worshipped from afar. The [Asama shrine](#) was set up at the foothills to ward off eruptions. In the [Heian period](#) (794–1185), volcanic activity subsided and Fuji was used as a base for [Shugendō](#), a syncretic religion combining mountain worship and Buddhism. Worshippers began to climb the slopes and by the early 12th century, [Matsudai Shonin](#) had founded a temple on the summit.<sup>[77]</sup>

[Fuji-kō](#) was an [Edo period](#) cult centred around the mountain founded by an ascetic named [Hasegawa Kakugyō](#) (1541–1646).<sup>[78]</sup> 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](#) and although it persists to this day it has been subsumed into [Shintō](#) sects.<sup>[78]</sup>

## Popular culture

As a national symbol of the country, the mountain has been depicted in various art media such as paintings, [woodblock prints](#) (such as [Hokusai's Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji](#) and *100 Views of Mount Fuji* from the 1830s), poetry, music, theater,



Hikers climbing Mount Fuji



Outer shrine of [Fujisan Hongū Sengen Taisha](#)

film, [manga](#), [anime](#), [pottery](#)<sup>[79]</sup> and even [Kawaii](#) subculture.

Before [its explosive eruption in 1980](#), [Mount St. Helens](#) was once known as "The Fuji of America", for its striking resemblance to Mount Fuji. [Mount Taranaki](#) in [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.