# *KAMAKURA 鎌倉*

Once a sleepy fishing village, Kamakura became the capital of Japan in the 12th century when the Minamoto clan used it as headquarters for the Kamakura era, Japan's first military government. Until the era was fallen in 1333, Kamakura was the political center of the nation, and attracted leading religious figures and scholars as well. Today, eight centuries later, the city is still dominated by Tsurugaoka Hachiman Shrine, dedicated to the Minamoto's patron god of war, and by Wakamiya Oji, the cherry tree-lined avenue linking Hachiman Shrine to Sagami Bay. A city of 173,000, it is an attractive blend of old and new.

**How to get to Kamakura Station from Yokosuka by train:**
Turn right after going through the main gate. Stay on the right side of the road. Pass Daiei mall through pedestrian over bridge. You will walk along a seaside park and come to the city bus terminal and JR YOKOSUKA STATION (approximately a 15 minute walk). Buy a ¥210 ticket to Kamakura. It is a twenty-minute train ride from JR Yokosuka Station.
**From Ikego:**
Go to JIMMUJI Station and buy a ¥130 ticket to SHIN ZUSHI Station. Walk a few minutes to JR Zushi Station, buy a ¥ 150 ticket to Kamakura.

**For the Great Buddha in Hase from Yokosuka:**
Go to JR YOKOSUKA Station and buy a ¥400 ticket to Hase. Touch transfer ticket button. Different lines will appear on the screen. Touch ¥400 button. Insert money and take ticket. ☻ Insert ticket in wicket and don't forget to take it. Then proceed to track #3, going towards Yokohama. Get off at Kamakura, follow signs to ENOSHIMA-DENTETSU (ENODEN) Line. Insert ticket in wicket. Ticket will come back out; so don't forget to take it!! Go 3 stops to HASE on the ENODEN Line. Get off at the station, turn right and cross the track, and stay on the main street. You will come to an intersection. Keep going straight until you reach the Great Buddha (Daibutsu) on your right. This is a ten-minute walk. The admission fee is ¥200 for adults and ¥150 for children.
**From Ikego:**
Go to JIMMUJI Station and buy a ¥130 ticket to Shin-Zushi Station. Walk a few minutes to JR Zushi Station and buy a ¥340 ticket to HASE Station. Touch transfer ticket button. Different lines will appear on the screen. Touch the yellow ENODEN button. Price appears on the screen. Touch ¥340 button. Insert money and take ticket. **Continue as above ☻.**

**NOTE:** You can ask the TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE for bus information. The TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE is located on your right when you come out of the EAST EXIT of the KAMAKURA Station. English maps are available for a few hundred yen.
You need to pay an admission fee to get into most of the temples and shrines. The amount is minimal.

## MAJOR ATTRACTIONS OF KAMAKURA

**Around Kamakura Station**

•WAKAMIYA-OJI AVENUE (若宮大路). The main street of Kamakura. It starts at Tsurugaoka-hachiman-gu Shrine and ends at the beach. The street has many restaurants, souvenir shops and antique shops among others.

•DANKAZURA STREET (段葛). Starting at the large red "TORII" on Wakamiya-oji Ave., a cherry tree-lined promenade leads to the entrance of Tsurugaoka-hachiman-gu Shrine.

•KOMACHI-DORI STREET (小町通り). The main shopping street to the left of the east exit of Kamakura Station. Many traditional and modern shops exist side by side.

•TSURUGAOKA-HACHIMANGU SHRINE (鶴岡八幡宮). 10 minute walk from Kamakura Station. The most famous shrine in Kamakura founded in 1063 by the Genji family, the creators of the Kamakura Shogunate, it became the center of politics and culture at that time. Large landscaped grounds contain several vermilion colored buildings. At the entrance there is an arch bridge. Within the grounds are a lotus pond (Genpei-ike) dancing platform and the main shrine. National Treasure Museum (kokuho-kan - 国宝館) is filled with relics of old Kamakura. Also to be seen is the Prefectural Museum of Modern Art (Kanagawa-kenritsu Kindaibijutsukan) -
神奈川県立近代美術館 and nearby annex. At the Spring and Autumn Festivals, there are displays of horseback archery (middle of April and September 16).

National Treasure Museum: Open daily (except Mondays, holidays) 0900 - 1600
Prefectural Museum of Modern Art: Open daily (except Mondays, the day after holidays and New Year time) 1000 - 1700.

•MYOHO-JI TEMPLE (妙法寺) 5 minutes by bus to Nagoe-yotsukado bus stop from Kamakura Station and 7 minutes walk. Moss covered steps lead from the gate to the main hall. In May, irises adorn the grounds. Open daily 0930 - 1630

•KOMYO-JI TEMPLE (光明寺) 10 minutes by bus to Komyo-ji bus stop from Kamakura Station. Located near the beach, this large compound features a sizable main gate in front of the Buddhist Temple and a serene lotus pond. Climb up the steps at the rear of the ground for a view of the beach and Mt. Fuji.

•ZENIARAI-BENTEN SHRINE (銭洗弁天) 20 minute walk from Kamakura Station. A popular shrine in which the worshipers believe that if they wash their money in the spring water there on prescribed days, they can more than double the money eventually.

•SASUKE-INARI SHRINE (佐助稲荷) 10 minute walk from Zeniari-Benten Shrine. In a quiet cedar forest many red banners and red "tori" form a tunnel-like promenade to the shrine.

**Around the Enoden Line:**

•GREAT BUDDHA (DAIBUTSU - 大仏) 10 minute walk from Hase Station on the Enoden Line or 10 minutes by bus to Daibutsu-mae bus stop from Kamakura Station. This bronze statue of Buddha measuring 11.4 m. high is the symbol of Kamakura. It is the second largest in Japan, the largest being housed in the Todai-ji Temple in Nara. The statue is hallow and can be entered by a door in the back. The great Buddha is attractive in all seasons. Open daily 0700 - 1730 (1830 in the summer).

•HASE-DERA TEMPLE (長谷寺) 5 minute walk from Hase Station on the Enoden Line. This temple is dedicated to the eleven headed goddess Kannon. The temple bell is the third oldest in Kamakura. Many stone dolls are decorated to honor the souls of fetuses that have died. Open daily 0700 - 1740 (1640 October - February).

•GOKURAKU-JI TEMPLE (極楽寺) 3 minute walk from Gokurakuji Station on the Enoden Line. Maintaining a historic feeling with a thatched roof over the main gate, the temple is particularly scenic in cherry blossom time.

•INAMURAGASAKI-KOEN PARK (稲村ヶ崎公園) 5 minute walk from Inamuragasaki Station on the Enoden Line. A small beachside park with a good view of the sea, Enoshima Island and Mt. Fuji.

•EGARA-TENJIN SHRINE (荏柄天神) 10 minutes by bus to Tenjin-mae bus stop from Kamakura Station. Dedicated to the God of Education. Many Japanese students visit her to pray for success in their examinations. The students buy small wooden plaques (EMA) on which they write their scholastic wishes and hang them around the shrine. During February, Japanese plum blossoms (UME) can be seen.

•KAMAKURA-GU SHRINE (鎌倉宮) 10 minutes by bus to Daito-no-miya bus stop from Kamakura Station. The shrine stands in a dense grove of trees and has a Treasure House. It is particularly noted for its dramatic torchlight "Noh" plays (薪能) performed on the evenings of September 21st and 22nd. Open daily 0830 - 1700 (Tickets for the "Noh" plays are regulated by a lottery).

•ZUISEN-JI TEMPLE (瑞泉寺) 10 minutes by bus to Daito-no-miya bus stop from Kamakura Station and 15 minutes walk. It is a quiet and secluded temple, which is famous for its Zen gardens and seasonal flower gardens. Narcissuses (January), Japanese Plum Blossoms (February). Open daily 0900 - 1700.

•SUGIMOTO-DERA TEMPLE (杉本寺) 9 minutes by bus to Sugimoto-kannon bus stop from Kamakura Station. Believed to be the oldest temple in Kamakura. It has rustic charm with a thatched roof and moss covered pagodas on the grounds. Open daily 0830 - 1630.

•HOKUKU-JI TEMPLE (報国寺) 10 minutes by bus to Jomyo-ji bus stop from Kamakura Station and 5 minutes walk. Famous for its scenic bamboo forest and stone Buddhas. Under a red parasol you can enjoy drinking the Japanese green tea for ¥300. Open daily 0900 - 1600 (November - February), 0900 - 1630 (March - October).

•JOMYO-JI TEMPLE (浄妙寺) 10 minutes by bus to Jomyo-ji bus stop from Kamakura Station and 3 minutes walk. Cherry trees line the way to the main hall. Ranked fifth among the Five Great Zen Temples of Kamakura.

**Around Kita-Kamakura Station**

•ENGAKU-JI TEMPLE (円覚寺) 2 minute walk from Kita-Kamakura Station. It is a famous Zen temple with several buildings surrounded by a cedar grove. The "Shariden" (舎利殿 Hall of Holy Relics) is an ancient Chinese style structure and national treasure, which is opened to the public only on January 1 - 3. The Butsunichian Teahouse (仏日庵), originally a Shogun's villa, has a tearoom inside. Visitors are given incense to place before an image of Buddha.
Open daily: 0800 - 1700 April - September／0800 - 1630 (October)／0800 - 1600 (November - March)

□TOKE-JI TEMPLE (東慶寺) 5 minute walk from Kita-Kamakura Station. In feudal times when divorce was not permitted, this temple offered sanctuary to wives wishing to escape from a disagreeable marriage. The temple is also noted for its seasonal flowers. Open daily 0800 - 1700.

•JOCHI-JI TEMPLE (浄智寺) 8 minute walk from Kita-Kamakura Station. Surrounded by cypress trees, the temple has an unusual belfry at the main gate and moss-covered steps in the back. Open daily 0900 - 1630.

•KENCHO-JI TEMPLE (建長寺) 15-minute walk from Kita-Kamakura Station or 10-minute walk from Tsurugaoka-hachimangu Shrine. It is the oldest Zen training temple in Japan. Many buildings from the temple complex and the temple bell are national treasures. There is a quiet atmosphere here, especially in the Zen garden behind the temple (walk around the deck) Hansobo (半僧坊). From the temple, walk up the stone steps to the bluff to see the assortment of bronze gargoyles that guard the temple. Open daily 0900 - 1630.

## SEASONAL ATTRACTIONS OF KAMAKURA

•**Early January to middle of May**: PEONY TREES (BOTAN): Shin-en Botan-teien Garden in Tsurugaoka-hachimangu Shrine.

•**Middle to end of February**: JAPANESE PLUM BLOSSOMS (UME): Zuisen-ji Temple, Egara-tenjin Shrine, Tokei-ji Temple, Hokai-ji Temple, Hokoku-ji Temple, Eisho-ji Temple, Kosoku-ji Temple, Godaidomyoo-in Temple.

•**Early April**: CHERRY BLOSSOMS (SAKURA): Dankazura Street, Kamakura-gu Shrine, Chosho-ji Temple, Komyo-ji Temple, Gokuraku-ji Temple, Kemcho-ji and Hansobo.

•**Middle to end of June**: HYDRANGEA (AJISAI): Meigetsu-in Temple, Toke-ji Temple, Joju-in Temple, Gokuraku-ji Temple.

•**End of July to middle of August**: LOTUS FLOWERS (HASU): Tsurugaoka-hachimangu Shrine, Komyo-ji Temple.

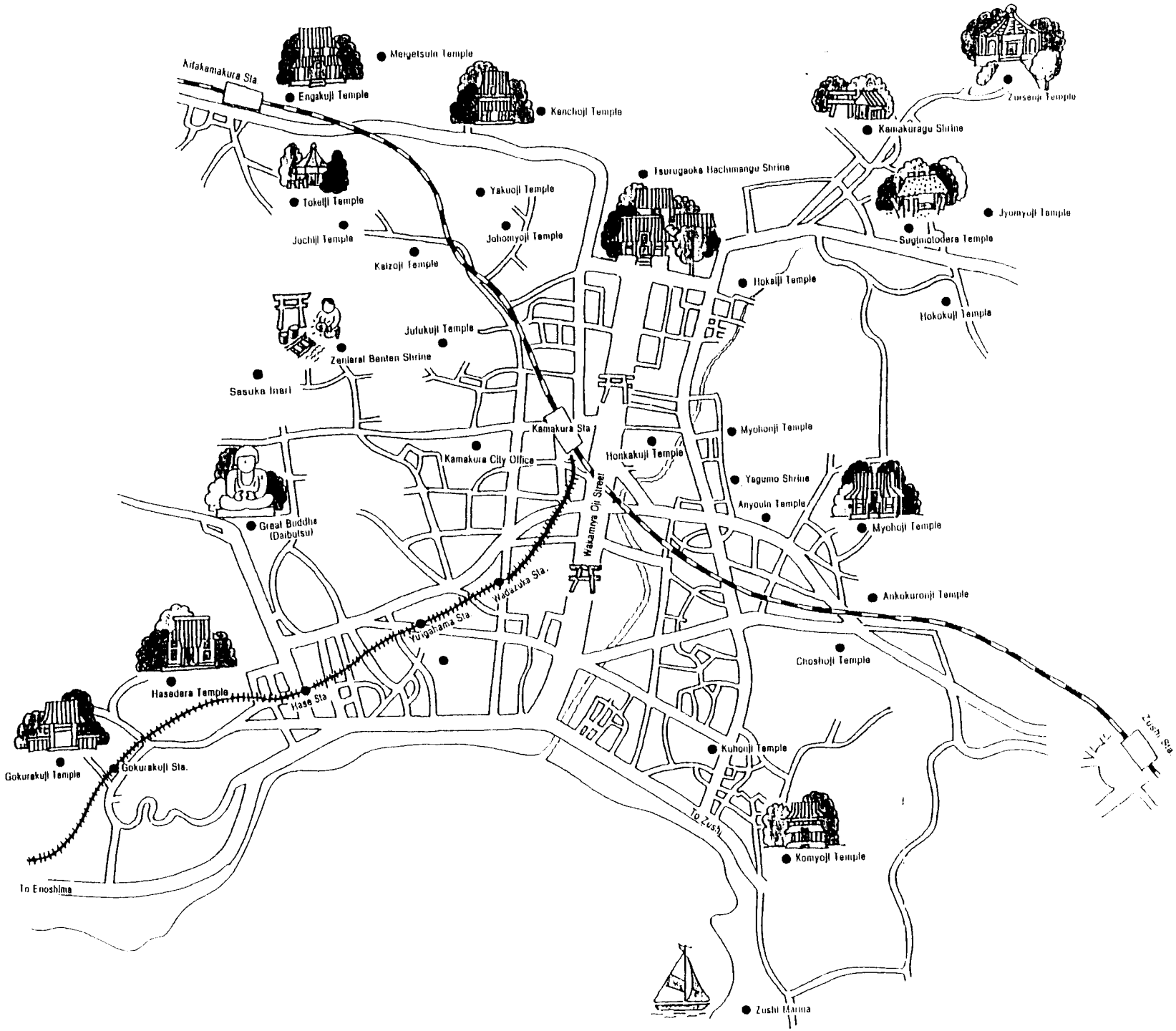
•**Middle to end of September**: BUSH CLOVERS (HAGI): Hokai-ji Temple, Jokomyo-ji Temple, Kaizo Temple.

### *KAMAKURA FOLK CRAFT*

•KAMAKURA-BORI CARVING (鎌倉彫) A 700-year-old local craft in which designs are chiseled on hardwood articles and then lacquered in a special process. Items such as trays, bowls, hand mirrors, etc., are sold in shops on and near Wakamiya-oji Ave.

### *HIKING COURSE*

•GENJI-YAMA-KOEN PARK, GREAT BUDDHA (DAIBUTSU) (源氏山公園) This course combines hiking with sightseeing. Kamakura's famous attractions such as historical temples and the Great Buddha (Daibutsu) can be visited along this route (1hr 40 min. walk).

•KITA-KAMAKURA STATION (北鎌倉駅) Walk 2 minutes to Engaku-ji Temple (円覚寺) walk 5 minutes to Tokei-ji Temple (東慶寺) walk 20 minutes to Genji-yama-koen Park (源氏山公園) walk 50 minutes to Great Buddha (Daibutsu - 大仏) walk 10 minutes to Hase-dera Temple (長谷寺) walk 5 minutes to Hase Station (長谷駅) take the Enoden Line 5 minutes to Kamakura Station.

# A Map Of Kamakura