



Odawara Guide

Discover the History, Culture, and Tradition



Local News and Events

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Have a Question?

To make your visit simpler and let you enjoy more please feel free to contact us through our chat on Facebook or the Odawara Guide website for recommendations and info during your stay.

Odawara Eats

Odawara is a great and compact town to see and eat lots of different food. Try local specialties and famous Japanese food in the area. Join a guided exploration or visit our website to explore yourself

Samurai Gallery

On the grounds of Odawara Castle is the Samurai Gallery featuring samurai swords, armor, and a projection mapping display that will give you insight and context to the world of the samurai.

Local Foods to Enjoy

With a combination of history, culture, and geography, Odawara has some wonderful local and traditional foods to try.



Odawara Castle



Odawara is a great day trip from Hakone

Odawara Castle was once the seat of power for the Hojo Clan, who ruled the Kanto area. The walls and defense were famed for their ability to repel attacks and sieges.

The castle fell in 1690 to Toyotomi Hideyoshi during his quest to unite Japan under

one rule. The castle was passed to different Daimyo, damaged in the Great Kanto earthquake in 1921, and ruined by bombing in WWII. Great effort has been put into returning this treasure to its original grandeur.

The expansive grounds

are beautiful and reconstruction of key castle buildings give visitors a sense and appreciation for an interesting time in Japanese history. Inside the main keep is a newly renovated museum showing off samurai swords and detailing the history of the Warring States period.

The Castle is a short 10 min. walk from Odawara Station (JR/Odakyu/Shinkansen). There is much to explore in and around the castle. Group and private tours are available for those looking for in depth experience.

Enjoy lunch in the area or a green tea or coffee at the adjacent Ninomiya Shrine's Cafe. There are wonderful places around the castle ground to explore and enrich your visit to the area.

Odawara's Chochin Paper Lanterns

Odawara



The Tokaido Road runs between Tokyo and Kyoto. It was once the most travelled and well known roads in Japan. Many shops in Odawara catered to these travellers; kamaboko, chochin, and more. The chochin lanterns are still made in the area and on 7/29-30 is the colorful Odawara Chochin Festival at the castle grounds.

Home of the Fuma Ninja

Odawara



The ninja really existed. Although a bit different than our modern understanding of who and what they did. Odawara was home to the famed Fuma Ninja Clan and you can learn more about their roles, tools, and history at the NINJA Museum. This has many activities for kids and displays for adults.

The Old Tokaido Road

Tokyo to Kyoto



Odawara lies at the geographic and historical crossroads of Japanese history. The Tokaido Road was the busiest and most important road of its time. Connecting the cultural and imperial capitol of Kyoto with the political capitol of Edo, Tokyo. Discover the shops and traditions that have continued for centuries.

KAMABOKO

Kamaboko is fish surimi paste that can be steamed, grilled, poached, baked, and used in many different ways. Kamaboko is a traditional food famous in the area. Walk around Kamaboko Road or visit the Kamaboko Village to learn and taste more.

UIRO

Uiro is a popular traditional Japanese sweet with a long history and historic ties to the castle. The base for this sweet is rice flour and sugar and is available in many flavors.

FISH

Located right of the Pacific, Odawara has delicious and eclectic fresh fish to enjoy in one of the many restaurants or on a visit to the fishing port area.

FRUIT

The sunshine and sea breezes are an ideal place to grow and enjoy local fruit such as kiwi, mikan, lemon, and the special Shonan Gold citrus fruit.

NOODLES

Any trip to Japan should include some noodles. You can try udon, soba, and even local Odawara ramen at one of the many establishments in the area.

Upcoming Local Experiences and Tours

Green Tea Farm Visit

This is the season to pick fresh tea leaves to make matcha! Walk, pick, and learn about the local brand of Ashigara green tea.

Tour of the Castle

Join a guided English tour of the ninja, samurai, and battles of Odawara Castle as we explore and learn about the history and people of the Sengoku period.

Kimono Walk

Great for friends or couples. Pick your kimono and be dressed by professionals, have your hair set and explore the town in traditional Japanese clothing.

Make Kamabokoi

Make your own traditional Japanese food at the Kamaboko Village. Learn traditional techniques and all about this local speciality



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