

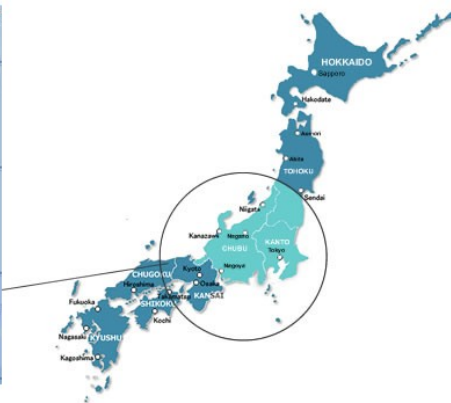


Central Japan Alps Tour 2010

"JAPAN - The Ride of a Lifetime!"

Tour Outline

Join Japan Bike Rentals for a journey rich in cultural and scenic beauty that brings us to several UNESCO World Heritage sites as well as some outstanding villages and beautiful locations high in the Japan Alps. This 7-night / 8 day adventure first takes us north to explore the ancient shrines and temples of the World Heritage listed religious center of Nikko. We'll spend an evening in one of Japan's most famous Onsen (hot spring) villages bathing in a multitude of mineral-rich hot springs. We'll be staying a night in a Buddhist temple located in the historical town of Takayama and under a thatched-roof of an historic Inn in the UNESCO-listed Shirakawago. Matsumoto castle is on our to do list and the peaks and valleys of Nagano will be within our reach as we ride through this area famous for the 1998 Winter Olympics. And speaking of peaks, how does a night at the foot of the stunning Mt. Fuji sound? Once a land closed to the outside world, is now very much open to be explored, and the best way to do it is on two wheels. So come join us for an unforgettable tour. We're waiting to hear from you.



Daily Itinerary



Day 1 (July 15) JBR to Nikko (190km)
 Today we'll be riding north along the Tohoku Expressway. Once we leave the highway, we'll make our way through the mountains, enjoying the first twists and turns of the tour. Our destination for today is Nikko, one of Japan's most holy religious centers and a UNESCO World Heritage site. We'll spend the afternoon exploring some of the numerous ancient shrines and temples; imagining what life looked like to the ruling shoguns of centuries past. After exploring as much as we can, we will return to our traditional ryokan for our first evening feast.

Day 2 (July 16) Nikko to Kusatsu (174km)

Today we will be heading west past Lake Chizuenji. Watch out for snow monkeys on this leg of the ride, and keep moving or you'll be bullied out of your snacks! We'll enjoy a scenic ride stopping in at Fukiware and Ryuzu Falls, before continuing on to the historic hot spring town of Kusatsu, where we'll be staying the night. Japan has more hot springs than any other country and Kusatsu is one of the most popular among local Japanese. The smell of sulfur in the air adds to the atmosphere, as does the sound of 'Geta' (Japanese sandals), as people make their way from one hot spring to the next, dressed in Yukata (similar to Kimono). We'll be donning the same attire and joining the local folk as we try out a variety of the best onsen in town. Thoroughly soaked and relaxed to the core, we will retire to our ryokan for another great meal and discussion about the next leg of the tour.



Tour Dates

July 15- 22 (7 nights)

Tour Highlights

- 1998 Winter Olympics region of Nagano
- Nikko UNESCO World Heritage (STAY)
- Ancient Shrines and Temples
- Hakone Skyline Drive
- Mt. Fuji
- Kawaguchiko (Lake Kawaguchi) (STAY)
- Kamikochi (Chubusangaku National Park) (STAY)
- Jigokudani snow monkeys
- Shirakawago UNESCO World Heritage (STAY)
- Hot Spring village of Kusatsu (STAY)
- Historical town Takayama (STAY)
- Overnight stay in Buddhist Temple
- Castle town of Matsumoto (STAY)
- Naraijuku Edo era postal village
- Chizuenjiko(Lake Chizuenji)
- Historic Hida-Furukawa town
- Fukiware Falls and Ryuzu Falls
- Yugama Crater Lake and Mt. Shirane
- Thatched-roof village of Nenba
- And much MUCH more...

- ✓ Soothing baths/hot springs
- ✓ Exceptional riding EVERYWHERE!
- ✓ Outstanding meals EVERYDAY!



Daily Itinerary

Day 3 (July 17) Kusatsu to Matsumoto (139km)

We'll start the day off right with a winding ride up to Mt. Shirane, some 2000m above sea level. At the top, we'll have a look at Yugama crater lake, a lunar-like basin with an astounding blue lake formed in the center; and weather permitting, we may even catch a glimpse of the Sea of Japan. From here we'll hit some great twisties on our way down the mountain through shigakogen, where we'll stop in at Jigokudani snow monkey park to view hundreds of these indigenous Japanese monkeys. Our final stop for today is the magnificent castle town of Matsumoto. There is a lot to see and do here, so we will spend the afternoon exploring on foot. Our hotel is located within crawling distance of Matsumoto Castle and tonight we'll be dining out.



Day 4 (July 18) Matsumoto to Shirakawago (146km)

Today we'll be passing through the Kamikochi district in the morning (where we will be staying later in the tour). From here it's on to our lunchtime stop; an old town preserved as it used to be hundreds of years ago. We'll spend some time walking around, lapping up the atmosphere and getting a sense of how life must have been centuries past. After lunch, we will continue our trip to the exquisite UNESCO listed village of Shirakawago. This is a wonderfully preserved mountain village, famous for its wooden mountain structures with their tall thatched roofs, known as (gassho-zukuri). We'll take a walking tour of the village in the afternoon, before retiring to our thatched-roof ryokan for another outstanding meal that only the rural villages of Nagano can provide.

Day 5 (July 19) Shirakawago to Takayama (140km)

For you early birds there will be an optional early morning ride to another exquisite UNESCO registered village not far from Shirakawago. Today we'll be enjoying some great mountain roads, and quaint towns before our final destination - the wonderful Edo era town of Takayama - a place rich in history and chock full of beautiful centuries-old temples and shrines. We will be having dinner at a traditional Japanese style Izakaya in the historic part of Takayama town and we'll be staying the night at an old Buddhist temple.

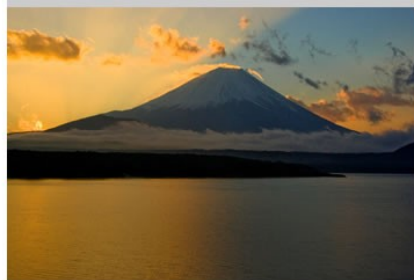


Day 6 (July 20) Takayama to Kamikochi (181km)

A night's stay at a Buddhist temple wouldn't be complete without sitting in on the morning prayer session. If you choose, get up early and start the day observing the hypnotizing chants of a Buddhist priest. We'll spend a little time this morning looking around town, so feel free to do some souvenir shopping and snap a last minute photo or two. After exploring all the history Takayama has to offer, we will get back on the bikes and head out for gorgeous Kamikochi. This will be a day of nature and lovely riding. We'll be riding some lovely mountain roads today, stopping for lunch at Naraijuku Edo era postal village. From here, it's on through the Kiso district and then further up towards the beautiful area of Kamikochi, one of Japan's most beautiful regions. The Chubusangaku National Park is a restricted area, so no private vehicles are allowed into the park. We'll park our bikes outside and take a taxi in. We'll be spending the night here, which means we will have plenty of time to explore the area and take in a number of beautiful hikes through this incredible area.

Day 7 (July 21) Kamikochi to Kawaguchiko (181km)

Today's ride will take us to the 'Fuji 5' lakes and Mt. Fuji. As we approach our destination, Fuji-san will appear around turns and over mountain tops, so keep your eyes open. When we come out of the mountains and down to the shores of the first of the 5 Fuji lakes, we will stop in at the quaint old village of Nemba. Our final destination for today will be a lovely ryokan on Lake Kawaguchiko which offers great Fuji views.



Day 8 (July 22) Kawaguchiko to JBR (201km)

Our last day will take us up close to Mt. Fuji, as we ride along her eastern side. Gradually we will leave Fuji behind and make our way up to the highlands of Hakone, where we will take in some great final views of Fuji from the Hakone Skyline. From here it's down the other side of Hakone, enjoying some magnificent ocean views on the way and then we will hit the highway and head back to Tokyo. We'll be pulling in around 4pm.

For inquiries, bookings and more information on this exciting Japan Central Alps Tour please contact Japan Bike Rentals at info@japanbikerentals.com or give us a call at +81-3-3584-5185. We hope you'll join us for an unforgettable motorcycle touring experience.

What's Included

- ✓ **Motorcycle Rental Fees + Full Comprehensive Insurance**
- ✓ **Bike Luggage** (All bikes include Top Case, Side Cases and Tank Bag)
- ✓ **Protective riding gear** (including gloves, helmet, jacket and rain gear)
- ✓ **Hotel Fees** (we'll be staying at some great hotels and Japanese inns in the area)
- ✓ **All Meals** (except daily lunches)
- ✓ **Expressway Tolls**
- ✓ **Onsen (hotspring) Fees**
- ✓ **Park and Museum Entrance Fees**
- ✓ **Support Vehicle** * please note: for groups of less than 4 tour participants no support vehicle will be provided.



NOT Included

- ⊗ Gasoline fees
- ⊗ Fees for any traffic violations
- ⊗ Daily lunches
- ⊗ Alcohol
- ⊗ Airfare to and from Japan
- ⊗ Riding Boots
- ⊗ Riding Pants

Prices

Departure: 7/15/10 - 7/22/10

Trip Length: 7 nights - 8 days

Price per rider: from 479,000 - 529,000 yen.
(add passenger + 369,000 yen)

479,000 yen price based on economy-class bike (Yamaha XT250) and shared accommodations.

499,000 yen price based on mid-class bike (BMW F650GS/ Honda CB750 Four) and shared accommodations.

529,000 yen price based on large-class bike (BMW K1200GT, BMW R1200RT, BMW R1150GS) and shared accommodations.

*For single room supplement please add +42,000 yen per person.

There are a limited number of openings on this popular tour so please **BOOK NOW!**



www.japanbikerentals.com