



Experiencing Kamakura Through Literature  
[Kamakura city YouTube official account]



Japan Heritage Kamakura: A Historical and Cultural Mosaic  
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The Beauty of Kamakura Revealed Through Zen  
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The Samurai of Kamakura  
[Kamakura city YouTube official account]



Bonbon Festival

The Kamakura Bunshi preserved the region's scenery while also creating new culture. The achievements of the Kamakura Bunshi went beyond literature. They led efforts to protect Kamakura's historic scenery and created events like the Bonbon Festival, preserving and enhancing the region's beauty.



Under wartime conditions, the "Kamakura Bunshi" stood up to protect literature. In the Meiji to Showa eras, many literary masters lived in Kamakura and were called "Kamakura Bunshi" (Kamakura Literati). During wartime speech repression, they united behind their ideologies and aimed to revive literature through initiatives such as founding literary magazines. The Kamakura Museum of Literature is currently closed for renovations and is scheduled to reopen in 2029.



Kamakura Museum of Literature  
Map: C-3

The Beginning of Literary Revival

The first step in the revival of literature began in Kamakura, where many literary masters gathered.



Kamakurabori

As villa culture developed, "Kamakurabori" became a representative craft of the region. As many wealthy people began to visit Kamakura, Buddhist sculptors who originally created statues started making furniture and household items to meet their needs. This became known as "Kamakurabori," and today it stands as a representative craft of Kamakura.



In the Meiji era, Kamakura gained attention as a retreat, and notable figures flocked to build villas. As Kamakura's characteristics as a coastal retreat were recognized, the opening of the Yokosuka Line prompted elites of the political and financial worlds to build villas. Some of these villas remain today, creating a unique landscape in Kamakura.



Former Residence of Kaichomyia  
Map: D-3

The Beginning of the Idea of Retreat

In a place often said to be the most beautiful in Japan, the villa culture blossomed.



Jochoji Temple  
Map: C-1

The Zen tradition, originating in China, brought with it the culture of tea and fine arts and crafts. The development of Zen Buddhism influenced Japanese culture and arts. Zen monk Myouan Eisai (Yousai) introduced tea to Japan, and the Zen temples in Kamakura feature Song Dynasty-style architecture and sculptures on religious artifacts, preserving their beauty to this day.



Kenchoji Temple, Japan's first Zen dojo, was established, with over 1,000 monks training at one point. Widely practiced Zen Buddhism in Japan began in Kamakura. The teachings of attaining enlightenment through zazen (seated meditation) and kans (Zen arts through discipline, Zen Buddhism developed under the protection of the Kamakura shogunate due to this factor.



Kenchoji Temple  
Map: D-1

The Beginning of Zen

Matching the spirit of the samurai, the first Zen boom in Japan arrived in Kamakura.



Asaina Kiridoshi Pass  
Map: E-2

Utilizing the topography encircled by mountains and the sea, the Kamakura Shogunate's city planning. The basic structure of the city was established through urban development after the shogunate's founding. The main axis was Wakamiya Oji, a shrine approach linking Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine to the sea. Kiridoshi Passes cut through mountain ridges, connecting the inside and outside of the city, while large temples were built at the mountain base.



In the late 12th century, Minamoto no Yoritomo established the shogunate in Kamakura, transitioning from an aristocratic society to a samurai society. The establishment of the Kamakura Shogunate marked the birth of Japan's first full-fledged samurai government. This began an era of samurai rule that lasted for 700 years, changing people's lives and culture, and starting a new era from Kamakura.



Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine  
Map: D-2

The Beginning of the Samurai Government

A great revolution in Japanese history: The birth of the samurai-led government.

### Japan Heritage Sites as Tourist Attractions!



Jomyoji Temple  
Map: D-2

A Zen temple founded by Ashikaga Yoshikane. At the tea house "Kisen-an" within the temple grounds, you can enjoy matcha and sweets while gazing at the dry landscape garden.



Zeniarai Benzaiten Ugafukujinja Shrine  
Map: C-2

Founded by Minamoto no Yoritomo based on a revelation in a dream. It is said that washing money in the water of this shrine will double it, making it a representative power spot of Kamakura.



Zuisenji Temple  
Map: E-2

Founded by Muso Soseki, a Zen monk and garden designer. Known for its rock garden designed by Soseki, the temple grounds feature seasonal flowers like early spring plums and winter daffodils.



Jojuin Temple  
Map: C-4

Founded by Hojo Yasutoki, it is known as a temple for fulfilling good relationships. At the top of the 108 steps, you can enjoy a stunning view of Kamakura surrounded by mountains and the sea.

ここから、それから、かまくら。

# Japan Heritage KAMAKURA TOUR MAP

Journey through the "Beginning" of History and Culture



Here in Kamakura, new history, culture, and philosophy were pioneered.

Kamakura is known as an atmospheric city. The street scenery, where numerous historical buildings and the seasonal natural beauty are in harmony, exudes a unique atmosphere that is characteristic of an ancient city. However, Kamakura's appeal goes beyond its aesthetics. In fact, it has deep connections with Zen Buddhism and literature. Embark on a journey through the history, culture, and philosophy that originated from Kamakura. Along the way, you're sure to encounter the fascinating aspects and new discoveries of Kamakura that you never knew.



歴史と文化が描くモザイク画のまちへ

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Japan Heritage Official Site



Meigetsuin Temple  
Map: C-1

Hokokuji Temple  
Map: D-2

Koga Residence  
Map: C-2

Asaina Kiridoshi Pass  
Map: E-2