

Travel Guide

～ Kanto Region ～

The Kanto region comprises seven prefectures in the eastern part of the main island of Japan (Tokyo, Tochigi, Gunma, Ibaraki, Saitama, Chiba, Kanagawa), and is home to one-third of Japan's total population.

Tochigi prefecture: The prefecture is especially famous for the shrines and temples in the Nikko mountains, represented by Toshogu Shrine, which are registered as a World Heritage site. It is also known for Kirifuri Highland, Lake Chuzenjiko, the alpine plants and rich greenery in Oku-Nikko, and the hot spring resorts of Kinugawa, Kawaji and Okukinu. Strolls through Utsunomiya, known as a city of gyoza dumplings①, and the old town districts in Tochigi and Ashikaga cities also offer a delightful experience.

Gunma prefecture: At Kusatsu, one of the most famous hot spring resorts in Japan, the huge fountainhead called *yubatake* (literally, hot water field) is an impressive sight to see. Ikaho, Shima and Minakami are also famous hot spring resorts in the prefecture. In addition to hot springs, the mountains of Akagi, Haruna, Myogi and Tanigawadake are popular mountaineering destinations, while Oze offers a rich natural environment of wetlands and lakes.

Ibaraki prefecture: Mito city is known for the Kairakuen plum tree garden and numerous historical landmarks from the Edo Period. There are many old towns that reflect the historical culture of Japan, including Koga, a castle town where stone-paved streets can still be found; and Yuki, which is famous for its pongee, a type of fabric made of silk. The rich natural environments of Mount Tsukuba and Lake Kasumigaura are also worth a visit.

Saitama prefecture: Chichibu, in the western part of the prefecture, attracts many visitors with its annual night festival, and Nagatoro offers exciting boat tours. Soka, a city known in association with Soka Senbei rice crackers, has many historic sites related to the famous poet Matsuo Basho, while Kawagoe boasts an impressive townscape of buildings built in the Kurazukuri style (warehouse style) of architecture during the Edo Period. Saitama-Shintoshin is a city that has been newly developed to complement the administrative functions of the capital city of Tokyo.

Chiba prefecture: Urayasu, a city located along the prefecture's coast close to Tokyo, is the home of the world-renowned Tokyo Disney Resort. Minami-boso, an area facing the Pacific Ocean, blooms with beautiful flowers; and Kujukuri Beach, which stretches a distance of 66 kilometers, offers numerous swimming and surfing spots. At the tip of the Boso peninsula lies Choshi, one of the most famous fishing ports in Japan.

Kanagawa prefecture: The port city of Yokohama offers many tourist spots, such as Yokohama Minato Mirai 21 (district facing Yokohama Port), Chinatown, Motomachi, and Yamate; and the ancient city of Kamakura is home to many shrines and temples including Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine, Kenchoji Temple, and the Great Buddha of Kamakura on the grounds of Kotokuin Temple. The Shonan area is a popular spot for marine activities②, and Hakone offers numerous hot springs.

Tourist attractions in Tokyo will be introduced in the next issue of *Technical Intern Trainees' Mate*.

たび 旅のしおり

— 関東地方 —

本州東部の1都6県(東京都、栃木県、群馬県、茨城県、埼玉県、千葉県、神奈川県)で構成され、日本の総人口の3分の1が集中しています。

栃木県: 東照宮を中心とした日光山内は世界遺産に登録されています。霧降高原や中禅寺湖、奥日光では高山植物と深い緑が楽しめ、鬼怒川・川治・奥鬼怒といった温泉も有名です。また、餃子で知られる宇都宮、古い町並みが残る栃木、足利などでの街歩きもお勧めです。

群馬県: 草津は日本を代表する温泉で湯畑と呼ばれる巨大な源泉が見物です。ほかに伊香保・四万・水上などの有名な温泉が点在し、赤城・榛名・妙義といった山々や谷川岳での登山も人気があります。また、尾瀬では豊かな湿原と湖沼が楽しめます。

茨城県: 水戸には梅で有名な偕楽園のほか、江戸時代の史跡が数多く残っています。そのほか石畳が残る城下町の古河、絹織物の1つである紬で有名な結城など、歴史を感じさせる町が多く存在します。また、筑波山や霞ヶ浦など豊かな自然も魅力です。

埼玉県: 県西部の秩父は夜祭で知られ、長瀨では川下りが楽しめます。「草加せんべい」で知られる草加には有名な俳人である松尾芭蕉ゆかりの史跡があり、川越には江戸時代の建築様式である蔵造りの街並みが残っています。また、さいたま新都心は首都・東京を補完する目的で新しく開発された都市です。

千葉県: 東京寄りの湾岸地域の浦安には有名な東京ディズニーリゾートがあります。太平洋に面した南房総は花の美しい地域で、全長約66キロの九十九里浜には多くの海水浴場があります。また、房総半島の突端にある銚子は全国屈指の漁港です。

神奈川県: 港町の横浜には横浜みなとみらい21(横浜港に面した地区)や中華街、元町、山手など多くの観光スポットがあります。古都である鎌倉には鶴岡八幡宮や建長寺、鎌倉大仏などの社寺が多く存在します。また、湘南ではマリンレジャー、箱根では温泉めぐりが楽しめます。

東京都の観光スポットについては次号で紹介する予定です。



①宇都宮餃子(栃木県)



②湘南(神奈川県)

〈日本語できるかなの答え〉 ①ロンドン②アジア③アマゾン