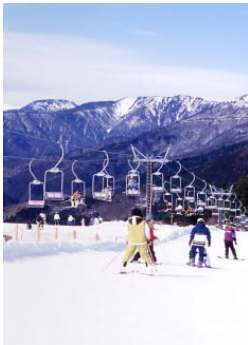


1 An Introduction to Shizuoka City

Welcome to Shizuoka City.



Riverwell Ikawa Ski Resort



Shimizu Port Festival
(Minato Kappore Dance)



Shizuoka Street Performers' World Cup



Shizuoka Oden

Shizuoka City is located in the central part of Japan. It is the seat of the prefectural government and a center of prefectural administration, economy, culture, and education. In 2005 the city was officially designated one of several large metropolises in Japan by government ordinance. Shizuoka City consists of three wards, Aoi Ward, Suruga Ward, and Shimizu Ward. The city has abundant natural beauty. The 3,000 meter-high Japan Alps stretch out to the north of the city, while Suruga Bay and the Pacific Ocean spread out to the south.

The Abe and Okitsu Rivers provide the city with clean delicious drinking water. Winters in Shizuoka are warm with hardly any snowfall, making the climate suitable for cultivating strawberries, flowers, and vegetables. Because of the mild climate and abundant nature, the food here is delicious.

Shizuoka *oden* and many other well-known products and delicacies use vegetables and fish produced here (the most famous are cherry shrimp from Suruga Bay and *shirasu* or fish roe). The area also boasts top class production of green tea, satsuma oranges, Japanese horseradish (wasabi), and strawberries, among others. Shizuoka City has beautiful view of Mount Fuji, which attracts many tourists to Miho Beach and the Nihondaira Plateau.

Shizuoka Green Tea



Cherry Shrimp



Major Events and Festivals in Shizuoka City
 April: Shizuoka Matsuri
 July: Shimizu Tanabata Festival
 Abekawa Fireworks Show
 Shimizu Port Festival
 November: Shizuoka Street Performers' World Cup

Shizuoka City Access
 JR Shinkansen (from Shizuoka Station)
 : about 1 hour to Tokyo or Nagoya.
 Tomei Expressway (from Shizuoka Interchange):
 about 3 hours to Tokyo or Nagoya.
 Mount Fuji Shizuoka Airport (from Shizuoka
 Station): about 40 minutes by car.



Mt. Fuji as seen from Miho



