## The Beginning of the Samurai Government

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

### Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine
Map: D-2

### 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.

- Samurai -

### Utilizing the topography encircled by mountains and the sea, the Kamakura Shogunate's city planning.



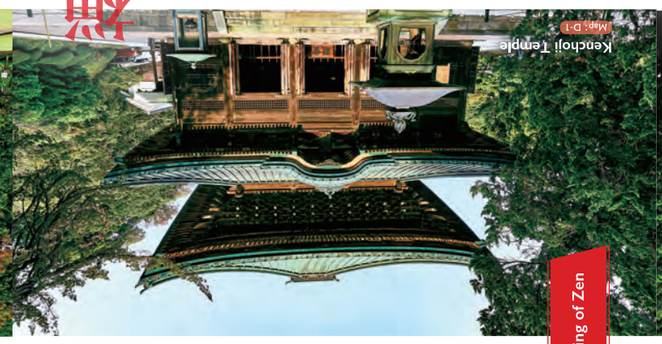
Asaina Kiridoshi Pass Map: E-2

The basic structure of the city was established through urban development after the shogunate's founding. The main axis was Wakamiya Ōji, 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.

The samurai of Kamakura
[ Kamakura city YouTube official account ]

## The Beginning of Zen

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



### Kenchoji Temple
Map: D-1

### 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 koans (Zen riddles) was deeply connected with the samurai spirit of mastering martial arts through discipline. Zen Buddhism developed under the protection of the Kamakura shogunate due to this factor.

- Zen -

### The Zen tradition, originating in China, brought with it the culture of tea and fine arts and crafts.

Jochiji Temple Map: C-1

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.

The Beauty of Kamakura Revealed Through Zen
[ Kamakura city YouTube official account ]

## The Beginning of the Idea of Retreat

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

### Former Residence of Kachonomiya
Map: D-3

### 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.

- Villa -

### As villa culture developed, "Kamakurabori" became a representative craft of the region.

Kamakurabori

As many wealthy people began to visit Kamakura, Buddhist sculptors who originally crafted 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.

Japan Heritage Kamakura: A Historical and Cultural Mosaic
[ Kamakura city YouTube official account ]

## The Beginning of Literary Revival

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

### Kamakura Museum of Literature
Map: C-3

### 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 beyond their ideologies and aimed to revive literature through initiatives such as founding literary magazines. *Kamakura Museum of Literature is closed for renovations until March 31, 2027.

- Literati -

### 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 Bonbori Festival, preserving and enhancing the region's beauty.

Bonbori Festival

Experiencing Kamakura Through Literature
[ Kamakura city YouTube official account ]

## 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.

**Zeniaraibenzaiten 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.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Japan Heritage Official Site

ここから、それから、かまくら。

日本遺産 JAPAN HERITAGE

Japan Heritage

# KAMAKURA TOUR MAP

Journey through the "Beginning" of History and Culture

鎌倉

## 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.

いざ、鎌倉
歴史と文化が描くモザイク画のまちへ

Asaina Kiridoshi Pass Map: E-2

Koga Residence Map: C-2

Meigetsuin Temple Map: C-1

Hokokuji Temple Map: D-2