

NEWS LETTER

April 28, 2025
Odakyu Hakone Co., Ltd.

Hakone Gets an Exciting Observation Area and a Gorgeous Ship Cabin!
Owakudani Earth Valley observation area launched April 25
Hakone Pirate Ship *Victory* special cabin renovation completed April 26

Odakyu Hakone Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Odawara City, Kanagawa Prefecture; President: Hidehiro Mizukami) launched a new observation area, Earth Valley (Chikyu no Tani), on Friday, April 25, 2025 at Hakone Ropeway's Owakudani Station (first floor and station plaza). The theme of the area is "Black, Geo, and Wind." And on Saturday, April 26, the company completed its renovation of Hakone Pirate Ship *Victory*'s special cabin with the design concept "A luxurious cruise experience inspired by British tradition and culture."

Earth Valley is a new attraction whose name reflects the dramatic landscape of Owakudani, where barren terrain, rising steam, and the drifting scent of sulfur evoke a living Earth. The area features Kaze no Wa Terrace, where visitors can feel the wind blowing through the valley; Ibuki no Deck, a thrilling overlook jutting above the valley with views of steaming fumaroles; Ozora no Hotori, whose panoramic views give visitors a feeling of liberation; Iwa no Su Benches, designed to blend into the area's powerful natural surroundings; and Valley Marché, where visitors can enjoy light refreshments and shop for gifts. Earth Valley is a stage for unparalleled beauty, and visitors to each of its zones can experience the magnificence of the living Earth, with its interplay of dynamic terrain and winds, and encounter the grandeur of nature.

Hakone Pirate Ship *Victory*, built in 2007, is modeled on the British warship *Victory*, which was active in the 18th century. The renovated special cabin features new seat types to provide passengers with a comfortable and enjoyable voyage. In addition, the onboard café has been transformed into a chic, cozy space with a counter bar feel, and the exclusive deck for special cabin passengers has been enhanced to afford sweeping views of Lake Ashi.

Owakudani and Lake Ashi are popular destinations for Hakone visitors. We hope you will enjoy a walk in the sky on the Hakone Ropeway, a new geo-experience at Earth Valley, and an extraordinary Lake Ashi cruise aboard a Hakone Pirate Ship. Here is more information about Hakone Ropeway's Earth Valley and Hakone Pirate Ship *Victory*.



Earth Valley



Hakone Pirate Ship *Victory*

Earth Valley: Profile

◆Kaze no Wa Terrace



The wind caresses visitors to this circular-path terrace with a diameter of roughly 18 meters. Feel the wind beneath your feet through openings in the metal floor. You will experience your connection to the Earth and nature as winds engulf you with pressure and powerful sound. The terrace can also be enjoyed by small children and visitors in wheelchairs.

◆Ibuki no Deck



This eight-meter-high deck extends 11 meters over the valley and is floored with glass for exciting views. The sight of steam rising from Owakudani spread out beneath your feet is unequalled—you will literally feel the Earth breathing. Encounter the many faces of Owakudani, the smell of volcanic steam, the changing visibility, and the mystical, majestic scenery. You will also see the ropeway passing directly over the valley's steaming fumaroles.

◆Ozora no Hotori



Standup counters around the wind turbine and volcano camera let visitors enjoy views of Owakudani complimented by refreshments purchased at Tani no Marché. This is the ideal spot for photos close to the ropeway. On fine days, revel in a sense of freedom as you take in broad mountain vistas and Sagami Bay as well as central Tokyo high-rises.

◆Iwa no Su Bench



These “soft rock” benches offer relaxation and a place to enjoy refreshments amid natural vastness. Their design harmonizes with the rugged Owakudani rock terrain that spreads before you just outside the station. Here visitors can experience oneness with nature and unwind while gazing at unforgettable scenery.

◆Tani no Marché Valley Marche



With design that perfectly suits the scenery of Owakudani, Valley Marche offers shoppers gifts that convey the feel of Hakone and its home prefecture of Kanagawa. Choose the shop's counter seating to enjoy original sweets and beverages inspired by the environment of Owakudani, or partake of refreshments in the outdoor zone of your choice while you admire the impressive views.

Menu selection (from right); Tanimaru Soft-Serve Ice Cream (Vanilla, Hakone Foothills Black Tea, Mix); Valley Soda; Geo-nade

Hakone Pirate Ship *Victory* Special Cabin: Profile

◆Special Cabin



Classic checkered floor tiles and Chesterfield-style sofas invite passengers to immerse themselves in British tradition and culture as they cruise Lake Ashi. The renovated cabin replaces the earlier emphasis on sofa-style seating with individual counter seats, as well as with box seats that are perfect for groups and families, creating a space comfortable for everyone.

◆Ship's Café



This is a cozy café featuring a chic gold-and-blue color scheme and a design that evokes a counter bar.

Just like *Queen Ashinoko*, the counter-mounted beer server lets you enjoy an elegant glass of draft as you take in the lakeshore scenery.

Along with the renovation of the Hakone Pirate Ship *Victory*'s special cabin, we wanted visitors to Motohakone-ko, a mainstay tourist facility just opposite the first torii gate of Hakone-jinja Shrine, to have an exciting experience even before they begin their cruise. To this end, we opened Pirate's Galley, a standup café, at the Motohakone-ko. The café is lavishly decorated with pirate motifs. Additional functional upgrades to ensure a comfortable trip include renovated restrooms and a new baby lounge.

◆Pirate's Galley



This antiqued wood and brick interior illuminated by filament lamps is worthy of the name Pirate's Galley. You'll feel like you've arrived at a harbor where pirates gather. Sweets with the excitement of opening a treasure chest, magnificent hot dogs, and many other pirate-themed menu items await.

Relax, dine, and enjoy your view from the counter looking out on beautiful Lake Ashi. Takeout available, of course.



Selected menu items:

- Treasure Chest Pie Creampuff
- Pirate's Dog
- Jewel Jure Soda
- Selection of coffee

Hours: 10:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (closed Thursday)

Earth Valley

1. Location
Hakone Ropeway Owakudani Station 1F, station plaza
1251 Sengokuhara, Hakone-machi, Ashigarashimo-gun, Kanagawa Prefecture
2. Hours
Owakudani Station 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. (December to January, 9:00 a.m.–4:15 p.m.)
Tani no Marché 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (open year-round, times subject to seasonal change)
* Food and drink service until 4:00 p.m.

Hakone Ropeway

Hakone Ropeway connects Sounzan and Togendai over a distance of around four kilometers. Between Sounzan and Owakudani, passengers enjoy breathtaking views of the valley floor. Continuing on toward Togendai reveals stunning vistas of Mount Fuji and Lake Ashi. In 2025, Hakone Ropeway celebrates its 65th anniversary of full-line operation. Numerous special events will be held to commemorate this milestone, including the Earth Valley grand opening.



Hakone Pirate Ship Victory

1. Route
Togendai-ko to Hakonemachi-ko and Motohakone-ko
2. Passengers
534* (including 91 in special cabin)
* Increased by 34 from the previous 500 passengers
3. Fare example
Standard cabin, one way: 1,200 yen
Special cabin, one way (added charge): 800 yen
4. Other
Barrier free (one elevator, one multipurpose toilet)

Hakone Sightseeing Cruise (Pirate Ships)


Hakone Pirate Ships run from Togendai-ko to Hakonemachi-ko and Motohakone-ko. The trip takes around 25 to 40 minutes. There are three ships: *Victory*, *Royale II*, and *Queen Ashinoko*. Passengers enjoy magnificent lake views, and ship interiors feature 3D art, pirate-themed objects, and more, for a unique experience that everyone from children to adults can enjoy.



Official Website

Your Guide to All Things Hakone <https://www.hakonenavi.jp/international/en/>

Hakone Area Map



Use the convenient, economical
Hakone Freepass to explore Hakone

Discounted R/T fare on the Odakyu Line
+
Unlimited use of 8 Hakone-area transportation modes
Approx. 70 attractions with entrance & other discounts

Fare example: Valid 2 days

Departure	Adults	Children
Shinjuku	6,100 yen	1,000 yen
Machida	5,820 yen	
Odawara/Hakone-Yumoto	5,000 yen	1,000 yen