

JAPANESE WINERIES TOUR

I suggest you consult google maps before you attempt this tour. Also, use your smartphone's GPS to avoid getting lost.

To start the tour, board the JR Chuo Line Limited Express train from Shinjuku and get off at JR Chuo Line Enzan Station or JR Chuo Line Yamanashi-shi Station. There will be buses from the station, but it would be much easier to get a taxi. It will help if you have a printed google map on hand just in case.

This walking tour should be good for most people as it is all downhill (the slope is gentle enough so it won't hurt your knees). The walk from the Shakado Museum of Jōmon Culture to Marufuji Winery is an easy 10 minutes. I was asked to stress the point that although it is fine to walk among the vineyards, it is not okay to touch the grapes. Just plucking one grape from a bunch can drastically impact its value at the market. Japanese consumers are very discerning customers and they will not buy fruit that doesn't look perfect.

The walk from Marufuji Winery to Lumière Winery or Ishihara Restaurant should take from 5 to 10 minutes. Although you can use the traffic signal to cross the main road, I think it is better to error on the side of caution and cross the narrow bridge.

The walk from Lumière Winery to Katsunuma Jyozo Winery should take a further 10 minutes. This portion of the walk is my favourite as you will see endless vineyards in all directions.

The final leg of the walk from Katsunuma Jyozo Winery to MGVs Winery takes about 15 minutes. You will have to pay particular attention to the map at this point as there are several turns through narrow pathways.

You should plan to stay at least an hour at each of the wineries for tours and tasting, so the entire tour, including lunch, should take at least 6 hours.

When you make a reservation, please include the following in your email:

Subject: Winery Tour, Please.

Number of People: 2

Date: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 (2018.03.06)

Time: 13:00

Phone Number: if applicable

Thank you very much...