



Editor's note

Yamanashi Prefecture is known for its astonishing nature. More than 75% of its land is covered by forests and it is home to some of Japan's greatest mountains, including the iconic Mt. Fuji. But while immersed in its rich nature and admiring picturesque sceneries, what kinds of things can we actually do?

To answer this question, the editors of *The Yamanashi Grapevine*, a publication supported by The Osano Memorial Foundation, chose "Activities" as the main theme this year. In contrast to previous editions, this year we explored destinations almost unknown to the foreign public—and sometimes even locals—in order to introduce activities that most people wouldn't connect with Yamanashi.

Paddling on the waters of Lake Motosuko, rowing under Saruhashi Bridge, practicing yoga at historical or world heritage sites, camping in a farm field, joining a trail running competition, and horseback riding in the mountains. Yamanashi has options for activities that go beyond our imagination.

We also experienced making washi in Minobu, an area famous for the production of traditional Nishijima washi; visited FujiQ Highland in winter to go ice skating and enjoy other famous attractions; and tried snowboarding for the first time in our lives in view of Mt. Yatsugatake and Mt. Fuji at Sun Meadows Kiyosato.

There are countless things to do in Yamanashi, and we hope this edition will help you choose one that will make your visit to Japan unforgettable.

Editor Profile



Liu Ye
 daisysibc



Aurora Pop
 aurora.pop.313



Igor Debossan
 igor.debossan

Justin Ehringhaus



Yuri Yuhara



Laura Ferraro



Fadly Agustimahir



The Yamanashi Grapevine

Global Tourism and Exchange Division

Yamanashi Prefectural Government 1-6-1 Marunouchi, Kofu City Yamanashi Prefecture, 400-8501 Japan

TEL: +81 055-223-1435

For any questions, comments, or suggestions, contact us at : yamanashigrapevine@gmail.com

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