

# FUJIMI PANORAMA MTB & SNOW RESORT DRIVING DIRECTIONS

by MICAH STIEGLER - マイカステイグラー

(From Yokosuka-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan)

(Pg. #'s refer to Japanese GIGA MAPPLE - GIGAマップル - Driving Direction Book, 1/5 Scale, 2004 Ed.)

## ROUTE USING HODOGAYA BYPASS & GOTEMBA BYPASS - ABOUT 250 KMS. / 4~5 HRS. / ¥7,000円 ONE WAY - ACCESS TO MT. FUJI AREA, GOTEMBA PREMIUM OUTLET MALL, FUJIKYU HIGHLAND AMUSEMENT PARK, etc, etc.

1. From Yokosuka, get on the HONCHO-YAMANAKA TOLL ROAD 本町山中道路. (Pay Fixed Toll of ¥200円 / 1 Ticket) (Pg. 15)
2. Go through the TSUKAYAMA TUNNEL and go LEFT onto the YOKOHAMA-YOKOSUKA EXPRESSWAY 横浜横須賀道路 at #7 - YOKOSUKA IC 横須賀IC. (Get Toll Ticket) Go toward Yokohama. (Pg. 15)
3. Stay on the YOKO-YOKO (Pay Toll of ¥900円 / 1 Ticket at the MUTSORIYA TOLL GATE) and merge onto the HODOGAYA BYPASS 保土ヶ谷バイパス (Pg. 17)
4. Stay on the HODOGAYA until you can get on the TOMEI EXPRESSWAY 東名高速道路 at #4 - YOKOHAMA-MACHIDA IC 横浜町田IC. (Get Toll Ticket) Go toward Nagoya and Nagano. (Pg. 23) (about 35 kms. from Yokosuka)
5. Stay on the TOMEI until you're able to take #7 - GOTEMBA 御殿場. (Pay Toll of ¥1,900円 / 1 Ticket) (Pg. 64) (64 kms. from Yokohama-Machida) (You'll also see Gotemba Premium Outlet Mall プレミアム アウトレット on your left.)
6. Turn LEFT on to ROUTE 138 toward Fuji Yoshida 富士吉田市 and Yamanakako 山中湖. (Pg. 64) You now have two options...
  1. Option 6-A - PAY TOLL. Get onto the HIGASHIFUJI-GOKO TOLL ROAD 東富士五道路 at Subashiri (#5). **I suggest you take this route, because yes, Option 6-B pays no tolls, but it takes considerably longer and is a little more complicated.**
    1. This is an Automated Toll Booth and does not have an attendant present. You have to **Pay the Fixed Toll of ¥1040円** by following the labelled instructions of #1, #2, #3 on the toll machine. If you are US Military/Government and are using authorized Toll Tickets; you need to **put the toll tickets** into Box #3 on the toll machine. After you do this, a Japanese attendant will try talking to you through the machine. You need to tell the attendant, "Amerika no Churyugun." ("American Military.") and the toll gate should open. After you pay the toll, continue on the HIGASHIFUJI-GOKO TOLL ROAD which goes through the KAGOSAKA TUNNEL 籠坂トンネル. (Pg. 64)
    2. Option 6-B - PAY NO TOLLS. Keep going for about 10 kms. on RT. 138/ FUJI PANORAMARAIN 富士パノラマライン. In front of Yamanakako Lake, take a LEFT at the 'T' intersection (there's also a Lawsons Store.) Continue on RT. 138. (Pg. 64)
  7. Both Option A and B above will lead you to the KAWAGUCHIKO 河口湖 (#2) Entrance/Route of the CHUO EXPRESSWAY 中央自動車道. Note A: Option 6-A automatically merges into the Kawaguchiko Route of the CHUO. (Pg. 66) Note B: Option 6-B (RT. 138) automatically changes into RT. 139 and you have to enter onto the Kawaguchiko Route of the CHUO from RT. 139. (Get Toll Ticket) (Pg. 66) (about 30 kms. from Gotemba)
    1. Option 7-A - ENTER THE KAWAGUCHIKO 河口湖 Entrance/Route (#2) of the CHUO EXPRESSWAY 中央自動車道. (Get Toll Ticket) (Pg. 66) **I suggest you take this route, because, yes, Option 7-B pays no tolls, but it is MUCH, MUCH longer, especially with traffic, and is a little more complicated.**
      1. Continue on the Kawaguchiko Route of the CHUO EXPRESSWAY 中央自動車道 until you can merge onto the Main Route of the CHUO EXPRESSWAY 中央自動車道 at #11 -

OTSUKI JCT. 大月Jct. (Don't get confused by the highway pull-off that is before the on-ramp; it just merges back onto the highway immediately before the on-ramp that you need to take.) Get on the Main Route of the CHUO EXPRESSWAY 中央自動車道 and continue toward Nagoya 名古屋市 & Nagano 長野市 in the left lane. (Pg. 66)

2. Option 7-B - DO NOT ENTER THE KAWAGUCHIKO 河口湖 Entrance/Route of the CHUO EXPRESSWAY 中央自動車道. (Pg. 65)
  1. Take a RIGHT onto ROUTE 139 (there's also a Lawsons Store) and within 1 km. take a LEFT at the intersection onto ROUTE 137 (there's also an Eneos Gas Station) toward FUJI-YOSHIDA 富士吉田市 and FUJI-KAWAGUCHIKO 富士河口湖町. Look for signs for FUJIKYU HIGHLAND (Amusement Park) 富士急ハイランド as well as KAWAGUCHIKO LAKE 河口湖.
  2. Stay on RT. 137 around Kawaguchiko Lake (on your left), go through a TUNNEL, and continue on RT. 137 until you're able to enter the CHUO EXPRESSWAY 中央自動車道 at #13 - ICHINOMIYA-MISAKA 一宮御坂. Go toward Nagoya. (Get Toll Ticket) (Pg. 65)
8. Stay on the CHUO until you're able to get off at #19 - SUWA-MINAMI 諏訪南. (Pay Toll of ¥2,950円 / 1 Ticket) (Pg. 72) (112 kms. from Kawaguchiko) (If you went with the other options, you'll obviously pay less, but it will take considerably longer.)
9. Take a RIGHT onto ROUTE 90. (Pg. 72)
10. Stay on RT. 90 until a 'T' intersection (there's also a Lawsons Store on the LEFT). This is ROUTE 20. (Pg. 72)
11. Take a LEFT onto ROUTE 20. (Pg. 72)
12. Stay on Rt. 20 and go past TWO LIGHTS and then take a RIGHT onto a (bigger) mountain road. (You went too far if you come to a 3rd light and/or to Fujimi Town.) (Pg. 72 or 67)
13. Drive until you can take another RIGHT onto a (bigger) mountain road where you should see a sign with an → arrow that reads PANORAMA SKI RESORT パノラマ スキ リゾート. (Pg. 72 or 67) **It's pretty self-explanatory at this point, but just in case...**
14. You know you went the correct way if you encounter a sharp right-hand corner about 500 meters up this road. Just keep going on this road.
15. You'll have to make another RIGHT that leads into the Resort parking lot(s). I suggest you keep going up the hill until you see the lift ticket/restaurant building on your left, and then continue going up the hill to your left and find parking up there, if you can. I say this, because the gondola is that way, so you might as well get as close as you can, right?

HAPPY BIKING!! HAPPY SNOWBOARDING!! HAPPY SKIING!!

DIRECTIONS BACK: Well, just reverse the above... :) To avoid some confusion, NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

1. From the CHUO, you'll see signs for OTSUKI as both #11 AND #10. The reason for this is because OTSUKI IC is #10 and OTSUKI JCT. is #11. They are basically the same thing, but the actual IC (#10) will completely exit the CHUO to the far left and you'll see a toll booth; you don't want that. For clarity, follow the OTSUKI JCT. (#11) that merges into the KAWAGUCHIKO Route. You know you're correct if you "exit" left, but on the ramp you go straight/merge right and it swings you over the CHUO going toward your right onto the KAWAGUCHIKO Route. Keep going and in about 15~20 kms. you'll see FUJIKYU HIGHLAND Amusement Park 富士急ハイランド on your left hand side.
2. From the KAWAGUCHIKO Route of the CHUO, the HIGASHIFUJI-GOKO TOLL ROAD might confuse you with the Automated Toll Booth. The machine and/or the attendant might ask you to drop two (2) toll tickets instead of just one. Same with paying the tolls, it/they might ask for you to **pay a toll of ¥3,470円 / 1 Ticket... and then another toll of ¥520円 / 1 Ticket.** The reason behind this is because the HIGASHIFUJI-GOKO TOLL ROAD can be entered halfway through at Yamanakako (#4) and then the toll would only be ¥520円 for those people. You've already gone the "full way" of the CHUO (¥2,950円) and have already gone past FUJI-YOSHIDA (#3) and "half-way" down the HIGASHIFUJI-GOKO (¥520円), and there's a toll gate there (¥2,950円 + ¥520円 = ¥3470円) that you have to pass through to the other half (¥520円). This might also clarify why you might be thinking you're "going to pay" at Subashiri (#5) (like on the way up), but instead you're having to pay at Yamanakako (#4). Also, when you get to Subashiri (#5) you just keep going straight.
3. From RT. 138, getting onto the TOMEI at #7, there's two on-ramp "Gates" that you can choose. You want "GATE No. 2" toward Tokyo. This is easiest done by just staying in the LEFT hand lane on RT. 138 and turning when you get the chance and not getting in the right hand lane at all.

4. From the HODOGAYA BYPASS, getting onto the YOKO-YOKO, follow the signs toward YOKOSUKA. This is easiest done by just staying in the RIGHT hand lane the entire time.

**SUGGESTED ROUTE ROUND TRIP IS: ABOUT 500 KMS. / 8~10 HRS. DRIVING TIME / ¥14,000円 IN TOLLS / 10~12 TOLL TICKETS.**

USEFUL FUJIMI PANORAMA RESORT INFO:

- One-day gondola lift tickets cost ¥4,800円. There are other "length" tickets as well if you want the gondola for more than one-day. The gondola ride takes about 10 min. to the top.
- If you're MTBing, you're required to fill out a AIU insurance form and pay an additional ¥300円. English forms are provided.
- Gondola lift tickets are NOT adhesive backed, so they should be securely carried OR securely taped and/or zip-tied to the right-side of your bike. Free replacements are NOT provided if they are lost or stolen.
- Rental equipment is available at various costs: actually quite good MTB's, snowboards, skis, and body protection, including helmets. Whole "Kit", including lift & lunch tickets, costs about ¥15,000円.
- If you're MTBing, there's multiple courses you can take from the top: NORBA / JCF Course A is right in front as you come out of the gondola and is right next to the chair lift; Course B and C are to the left as you come out of the gondola; There is a Course D as well, but it's only at the bottom over by Course A; There is also a Mountain Cross 4X Course at the bottom, to the right of Course A.
  - Course A is NORBA and JCF rated, so that should tell you that it's the "hardest" Downhill. Course A is 4.2 kms. long and you have a split course option toward the bottom. If it's rainy, Course A can be wet toward the very bottom, but nothing too bad.
  - Course B is more "technical" Downhill. Course B is 4.8 kms. long. Course B likes to stay wet. If it's rainy, I would advise against Course B.
  - Course C is the "easiest" and more "cruisy" Downhill. Course C is 6.8 kms. long. Course C can be wet toward the bottom, but nothing too bad unless it's rainy.
  - Course D is only 170 meters long and is a speciality "Big Air" Jump Course.
  - MTB 4X Course is obviously wide enough for 4 racers at an event, but usually individuals go one-at-a-time on most days.
  - There's also some 10 and 20 kms. long Nature Hike Courses, which explains the senior citizens in the morning as well as the flower pictures. :)

Useful websites:

FUJIMI PANORAMA WEBSITE: <http://www.fujimipanorama.com/>

PANORAMA RENTALS, RIDING SCHOOL, 4X, & MAINT. SHOP BACKYARD GARAGE HOUSE WEBSITE:

<http://www.backyardgaragehouse.com/>

MOUNTAIN BIKE BILL WEBSITE: <http://www.mtbbill.com>

**FUJIMI PANORAMA COURSE MAP**

