



BEAUTIFUL JAPAN

CHUGOKU
REGION

Worth Traveling for



Beautiful Japanese landscapes to enhance your photos and move your heart

The Chugoku region's natural beauty, crafted through countless ages, is a historical heritage that links the past with the present. These original Japanese landscapes harmonize with the lives of the people who live in the area. We hope that you will discover these hidden landscape gems in Japan's western Chugoku area.

We invite you to take scenic photos and create unforgettable memories of Japan. Our hope is that through this booklet you will get a taste for the charms of the lesser known Chugoku region.



<https://www.into-you.jp/en/>

The Chugoku Region Tourism Guide website introduces gourmet food, exciting experiences, seasonal events, etc., in Tottori, Shimane, Okayama, Hiroshima, and Yamaguchi Prefectures.

Don't forget
our social media hashtag
#beautifulchugokuJapan



Tottori P. 4-7

- Approx. 1 hr 15 min from Tokyo by airplane
- Approx. 5 hrs from Tokyo by bullet train and express train
- Approx. 2.5 hrs from Osaka by express train
- Approx. 4 hrs from Fukuoka by bullet train and express train



Shimane P. 8-11

- Approx. 1.5 hrs from Tokyo by airplane
- Approx. 6 hrs from Tokyo by bullet train and express train
- Approx. 3.5 hrs from Osaka by bullet train and express train
- Approx. 4.5 hrs from Fukuoka by bullet train and express train



Okayama P. 12-15

- Approx. 1 hr 15 min from Tokyo by airplane
- Approx. 3 hrs 15 min from Tokyo by bullet train
- Approx. 45 min from Osaka by bullet train
- Approx. 1 hr 45 min from Fukuoka by bullet train



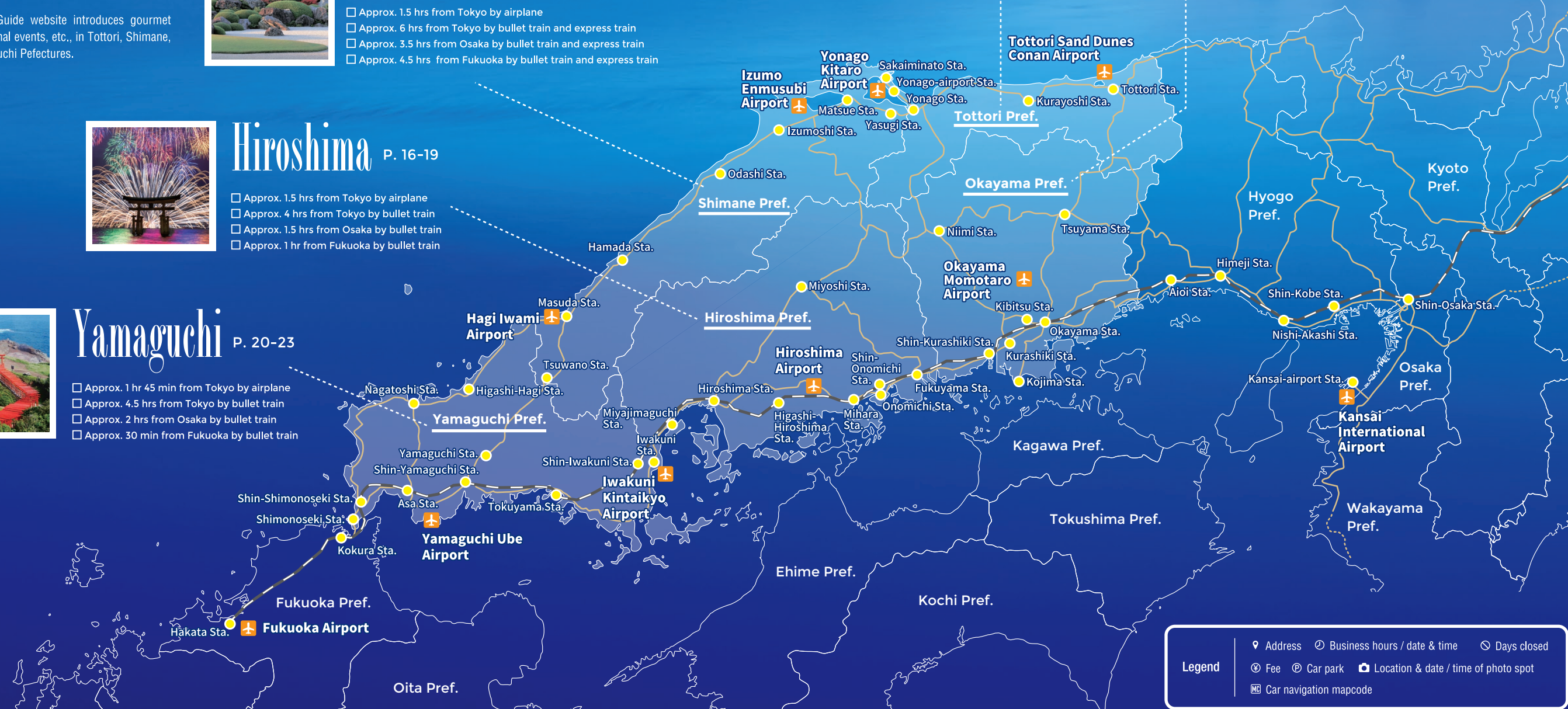
Hiroshima P. 16-19

- Approx. 1.5 hrs from Tokyo by airplane
- Approx. 4 hrs from Tokyo by bullet train
- Approx. 1.5 hrs from Osaka by bullet train
- Approx. 1 hr from Fukuoka by bullet train



Yamaguchi P. 20-23

- Approx. 1 hr 45 min from Tokyo by airplane
- Approx. 4.5 hrs from Tokyo by bullet train
- Approx. 2 hrs from Osaka by bullet train
- Approx. 30 min from Fukuoka by bullet train



Legend

📍 Address

🕒 Business hours / date & time

🚫 Days closed

💰 Fee

🅑 Car park

📷 Location & date / time of photo spot

🗺️ Car navigation mapcode

*The information in this pamphlet is current as of April 2019 but may be subject to change.

Tottori

PHOTOGENIC CHUGOKU REGION

The incomparable scenery, woven from the magnificent nature of sand dunes, starry skies, and more is sure to fascinate, and is a dream for photographers.

Tottori, along with Shimane, forms the San'in area facing the Sea of Japan. After attracting attention recently from photographers for its beautiful night skies, it is now often called "Star-tori." The Tottori sand dunes are Japan's largest dunes, and the ripple patterns on the dunes, along with the sunset, are a popular sight. Additionally, there are many historic buildings and festivals preserved to the present day, so you can enjoy them and their historical background.



02 Tulip Field in Hiezu Village

In the middle of April, Hiezu Village, famous for producing tulips, is in full bloom, with red, yellow, and pink tulips as well as other colors. On a clear day, you can see Mt. Daisen, the Chugoku region's most beautiful mountain, snow-capped in the distance. The contrast with the bright tulips creates stunning postcard-like photography spots. ♥Tomiyoshi, Hiezu Village, Saihaku County, Tottori ☞Near Kaiehashi Bridge, mid-April ☎109 419 385*58 (Kaiehashi Bridge) <http://furusato.sanin.jp/p/english/>



01 Tottori Sand Dunes

Japan's largest sand dunes boast an area of 2.4 kilometers north-south and 16 kilometers east-west. The dunes' scenery changes every moment depending on the season and time. There are always surprises and inspiration. Of particular note, and sure to cleanse your spirit, are the beauty of the ripple patterns in the sand appearing whenever the wind blows at 5 meters per second or more, and sunsets seen from the sand dune that resembles a horse's back, which is upwards of 40 meters high. ♥Yuyama, Fukube-cho, Tottori City, Tottori ☞Yes ☞Photograph from the "Horse back" Tottori Sand Dunes, evening ☎125 732 474*63 <http://www.torican.jp/english/>

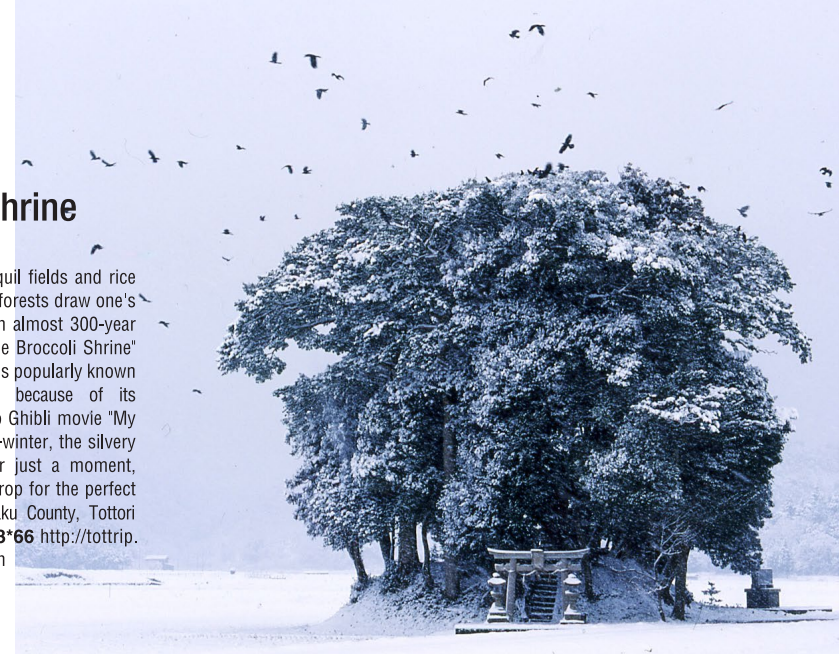


03 Daisen

Look up from any town or city in Tottori and you can see the Milky Way. The sky is so full of stars that it appears like you can take them in your hand. As such, Tottori is promoting activities under the nickname of Hoshitori Prefecture (the star-catching prefecture). Among the many viewing spots is the sacred mountain, Mt. Daisen, together with the Milky Way's impressive, sparkling beauty. See this mysterious world of tranquility for yourself. ♥Daisen Town, Saihaku County, Tottori ☞Yes ☞Daisen Makiba Milk no Sato, night ☎252 436 886*28 (Daisen Makiba Milk no Sato) <https://www.hoshitori.com/>

03 Kyaku Shrine

At the center of the tranquil fields and rice paddies, the small round forests draw one's eyes. This shrine, with an almost 300-year history, is nicknamed "The Broccoli Shrine" for its lush greenery, and is popularly known as "The Totoro Forest" because of its resemblance to the Studio Ghibli movie "My Neighbor Totoro." In mid-winter, the silvery white world, stopped for just a moment, creates the perfect backdrop for the perfect shot. ♥Nanbu Town, Saihaku County, Tottori ☞Winter ☎109 053 293*66 <http://tottrip.jp/zekkei/15.html?lang=en>



04 Nageiredo, Mitokusan Sanbutsuji Temple

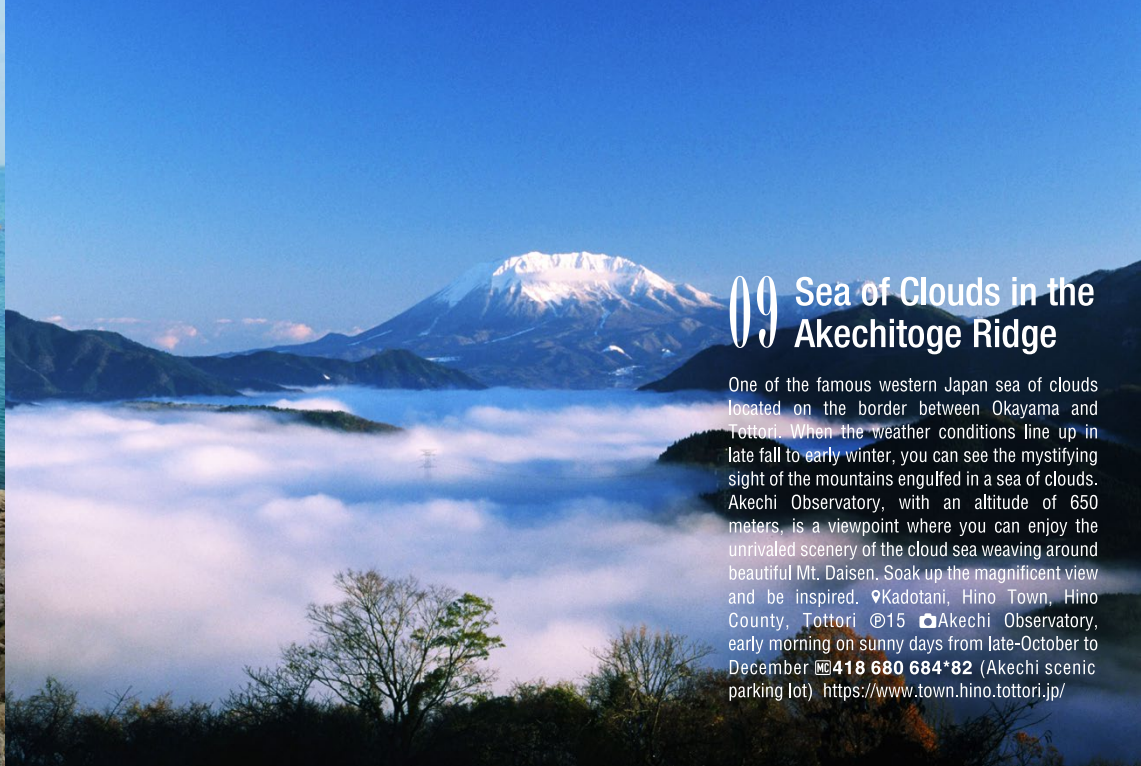
Sanbutsuji Temple is located on the 900-meter-high holy mountain of Mt. Mitoku. Called "Japan's most dangerous national treasure," Okuin (inner sanctuary) Nageiredo Temple is located in a sheer vertical cliff. You will be moved as you climb the steep mountain path and its magnificent form appears before you. Non-slip shoes or Japanese straw sandals (available for a fee) are a must for climbing the mountain. The location is also recognized as a Japanese heritage site. ♥1010 Mitoku, Misasa Town, Tohaku County, Tottori ☞Reception: 8:00 to 15:00 (Hondo as a main hall is until 17:00) *Entrance to the mountain is prohibited during storms or heavy snowfall (December to early-April). Groups of two or more may enter the mountain. ☞800 yen for high school students and older, 400 yen for elementary and junior high school students ☞60 ☎345 220 193*77 <http://www.mitokusan.jp/>





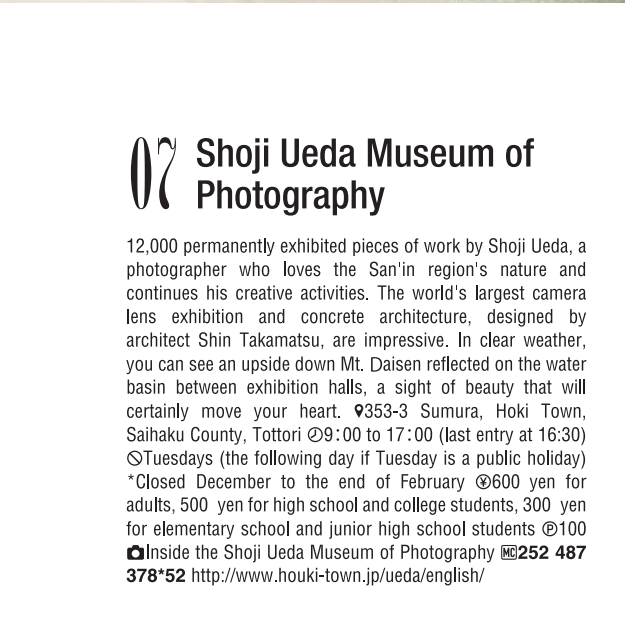
06 Nishiwaki Coast

Nishiwaki Coast is famous for its emerald green water, white granite and sandy beaches, and the beautiful coast's contrast between islets and green pines. The sea is crystal clear down to a depth of almost 25 meters. To enjoy the view, you can go down to the beach in just a 5-minute's walk from the parking lot with a panoramic view. The area is also a popular snorkeling spot. ♡Kugami, Iwami Town, Iwami County, Tottori ♡Yes 📷View points along the coast ☎960 042 684*82 <http://www.iwamikanke.org/language.html>



09 Sea of Clouds in the Akechitoge Ridge

One of the famous western Japan sea of clouds located on the border between Okayama and Tottori. When the weather conditions line up in late fall to early winter, you can see the mystifying sight of the mountains engulfed in a sea of clouds. Akechi Observatory, with an altitude of 650 meters, is a viewpoint where you can enjoy the unrivaled scenery of the cloud sea weaving around beautiful Mt. Daisen. Soak up the magnificent view and be inspired. ♡Kadotani, Hino Town, Hino County, Tottori ♡15 📷Akechi Observatory, early morning on sunny days from late-October to December ☎418 680 684*82 (Akechi scenic parking lot) <https://www.town.hino.tottori.jp/>



07 Shoji Ueda Museum of Photography

12,000 permanently exhibited pieces of work by Shoji Ueda, a photographer who loves the San'in region's nature and continues his creative activities. The world's largest camera lens exhibition and concrete architecture, designed by architect Shin Takamatsu, are impressive. In clear weather, you can see an upside down Mt. Daisen reflected on the water basin between exhibition halls, a sight of beauty that will certainly move your heart. ♡353-3 Sumura, Hoki Town, Saihaku County, Tottori ♡9:00 to 17:00 (last entry at 16:30) ♡Tuesdays (the following day if Tuesday is a public holiday) *Closed December to the end of February ♡600 yen for adults, 500 yen for high school and college students, 300 yen for elementary school and junior high school students ♡100 📷Inside the Shoji Ueda Museum of Photography ☎252 487 378*52 <http://www.houki-town.jp/ueda/english/>



08 Tottori Shan-Shan Festival

The Issei Kasa Odori Umbrella Dance is the main event of Tottori City's largest summer festival. About 4,000 dancers, holding colorful Japanese umbrellas, gracefully move to the "shan-shan" ring of bells, creating a masterpiece of dance in the world. It was recognized in 2014 by the Guinness Book of World Records as the "Largest Umbrella Dance." On the final day, fireworks beautifully paint the night sky with colors as the grand finale. ♡Wakasa Kaido Avenue, Chizu Kaido Avenue, etc. (Tottori City, Tottori) ♡Every year, August 13 to 15, evening to around 21:00 *The Issei Kasa Odori Umbrella Dance is from 16:00 to 21:00 on August 14 📷August 14, 16:00 to 21:00 ☎125 582 141*74 (Wakasa Kaido Avenue) <http://tottori-shanshan.jp/>

Special Local Produce

Matsuba crabs, Nijisseiki pears

Tottori's Nijisseiki pears, highly popular among pear varieties, have a refreshing taste, well balanced acidity and sweetness, and are juicy and crispy. In addition, Tottori faces the Sea of Japan and produces the largest volume of crabs in Japan. Matsuba crabs caught from November to March are a prized ingredient with a delightful umami taste and a full body.

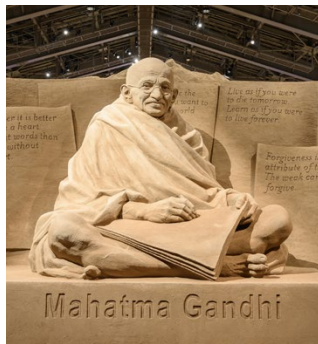


10 Mizuki Shigeru Road

Sakaiminato is the hometown of author Shigeru Mizuki, who created the nationally known manga "Ge Ge no Kitaro." 177 eclectic and lovely bronze yokai spirit statues line approximately 800 meters of street, making it a popular photography spot. Enjoy fun and lighthearted yokai souvenirs and food while strolling around. The combination of yokai shadow projections and illumination after dark create an original and unique world. ♡Taishomachi, Sakaiminato City, Tottori ♡Business hours vary. Illumination until 22:00 ♡Free *The Mizuki Shigeru Museum is 700 yen for adults, 500 yen for junior and high school students, and 300 yen for elementary school students ♡Nearby paid parking ☎109 762 005*22 <http://www.sakaiminato.net/foreign/en/>



©Mizuki Productions



more photogenic spots Tottori

11 The Sand Museum

The one and only art museum displaying sand statues using sand from the Tottori Sand Dunes. With themes that change every year, sand sculptors are invited from around the world to create masterpieces. These elaborate and powerful pieces of work create a magnificent view of the world. After sunset, you can enjoy the illuminated statues which are truly a spectacle. We hope you thoroughly enjoy these fleeting but beautiful works of art. ♡2083-17 Yuyama, Fukube-cho, Tottori City, Tottori ♡Approximately April 13 to approximately January 5, 9:00 to 18:00 (last entry at 17:30) *Until 20:00 on Saturdays (last entry at 19:30) *The opening period is different every year, so please confirm in advance ♡600 yen for adults, 500 yen for elementary/junior high/high school students ♡Yes ☎125 733 357*17 <http://www.sand-museum.jp/en/>



12 Yonago Castle Ruins Light Up Project

Once boasting a four-story, five-tier castle tower, Yonago Castle Ruins are the best in the San'in region. Designated as a national historic site, the stone walls are lit up every year in summer and autumn, giving an impression of the castle in its heyday. The stone wall at night, which appears golden under the lights and floating in the darkness, is mysterious and completely different from its daytime aesthetic. Come, admire the ruins, and take in the scenic night view of the town. ♡Kume-cho, Yonago City, Tottori ♡Summer team: Sunset to 22:00 from late-July to mid-August, Autumn team: Sunset to 22:00 from early to mid-November ♡Yonago Castle Tower Ruin, sunset to 22:00 ☎109 324 547*28 <https://www.city.yonago.lg.jp/17789.htm>



13 Koi-Yamagata Station on the Chizu Express line

The station emanates love with the pink benches and trashcans, and even has the word "koi" (love) in its name. To add to that, the station signs and platform information displays are shaped like hearts. Platform 1 has a famous heart monument on which you can hang Japanese votive tablets called "ema." It also has a bell that rings when love strikes. Don't miss Koi Road in front of the station and the vending machines where you can buy original souvenirs. ♡Ochi, Chizu Town, Yazu County, Tottori ♡24 hours *The station is unmanned, so take care when trains pass ♡A fare ticket is required when using the train ☎390 618 296*88 <http://www.chizukyu.co.jp/language/en/>



14 Fudoin Iwayado Temple

A Shugendo mountain ascetic temple built to be covered by natural rock caves, the temple is about 7 meters wide, 13 meters high, and 10 meters deep. The temple's hall, designated as one of Japan's important cultural properties, has a must-see gake-zukuri construction that sticks out from the cave. The massive, imposing rock surface is overwhelming. This site acquired one star in the Michelin Green Guide's web rankings of the San'in region. ♡Iwayado, Wakasa Town, Yazu County, Tottori ♡10 ☎709 156 599*22 <http://kanko.town.wakasa.tottori.jp/search/watch/culture/iwayado/>



15 Kote-e in Mitsu

Artists create bas-reliefs with animals and plants on plastered walls through the process known as kote-e. 24 of the 48 homes in Mitsu are decorated with kote-e. It is rare to have such a high number of kote-e in one area. The master craftsmanship, handed down from the Edo period, is apparent in each and every one of these fine works of art.*Permit required to enter private residences ♡Mitsu, Kotoura Town, Touhaku County, Tottori ♡Yes (uses Kote-e no Sato Mitsu parking lot, driving in the village is not permitted) ☎578 014 199*44 (parking lot) http://www.kotoura-kankou.com/kankou-category/history_culture/mitsuno/kotee/

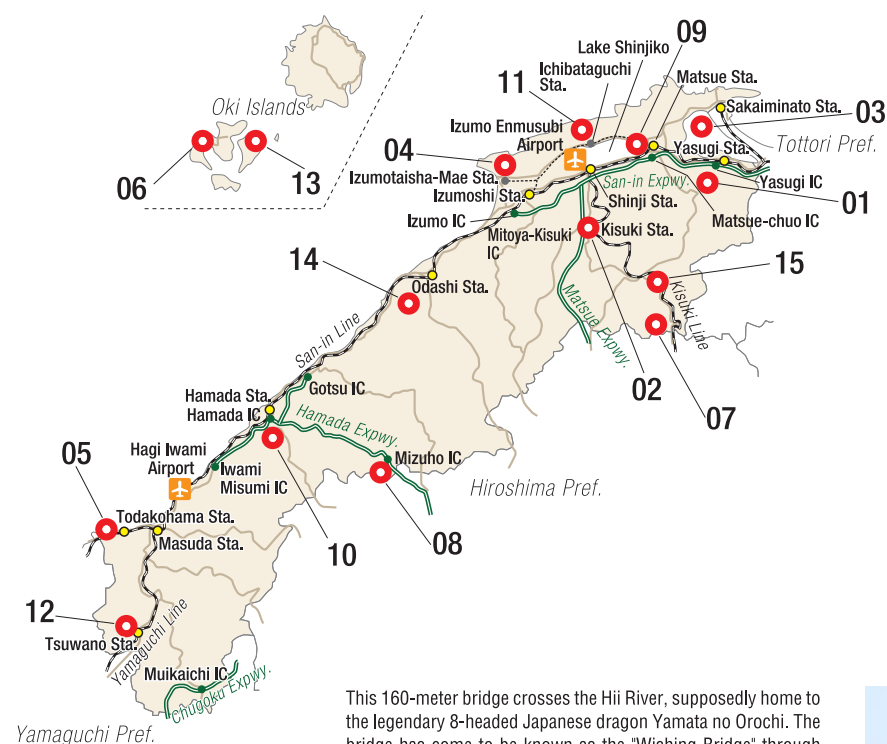


Shimane

PHOTOGENIC CHUGOKU REGION

A trip to encounter the beauty of traditional Japanese buildings and numerous cultural landscapes only in Shimane.

Located near the Sea of Japan in the Chugoku region, Shimane, along with Tottori, is called San'in. With a plethora of historical and storied temples and shrines, the top being Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine, many photography fans come seeking architectural beauty only seen here. In addition, there are many spots to enjoy cultural landscapes, such as the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine World Heritage Site and Adachi Museum of Art, known for its Japanese gardens. The magnificent views of snow in winter are also recommended.



02 Wish Bridge (submersible bridge)

This 160-meter bridge crosses the Hii River, supposedly home to the legendary 8-headed Japanese dragon Yamata no Orochi. The bridge has come to be known as the 'Wishing Bridge' through Unnan City's appearance in movies; close your eyes, cross the bridge, and your wish will come true. Locally, it is also called a submersible bridge because it sinks when the water level rises. For pictures, we recommend visiting during cherry blossom season. ♣Kisuki, Kisuki-cho, Unnan City, Shimane ◎Riverside Parking Area 1: 200 vehicles *Closed on days with fireworks displays. Riverside Parking Area 2: 100 vehicles. Riverside Parking Area 3: 380 vehicles 📍Late-March to early-April ☎134 138 690*33 <https://www.unnan-kankou.jp/contents/spot/692/>

01 Adachi Museum of Art

Adachi Museum of Art features a beautiful garden that looks like it is straight out of a painting, and boasts a world class and broad collection of Yokoyama Taikan's art. The collection contains approximately 1,500 pieces of work from modern Japanese paintings, pottery, and children's drawings. About 20 pieces from Yokoyama Taikan are on permanent display. The 165,000-square-meter garden has been selected by a U.S. magazine on Japanese gardens as Japan's best garden and has earned three stars in France's "Michelin Green Guide Japan." ♣320 Furukawa-cho, Yasugi City, Shimane ◎9:00 to 17:30 (until 17:00 from October to March) *Entrance to the annex (via passageway between the main museum and the annex) is until 15 minutes before closing. ☉No holidays *For the annex only, closed on July 10, October 10-11, November 4-5 in 2019, and January 22 in 2020 due to changing of the exhibitions ♡2,300 yen for adults, 1,800 yen for college students, 1,000 yen for high school students; and 500 yen for elementary school and junior high school students *There is a discount for foreign visitors who show their passports ♡400 ☎109 158 198*36 <https://www.adachi-museum.or.jp/en/>



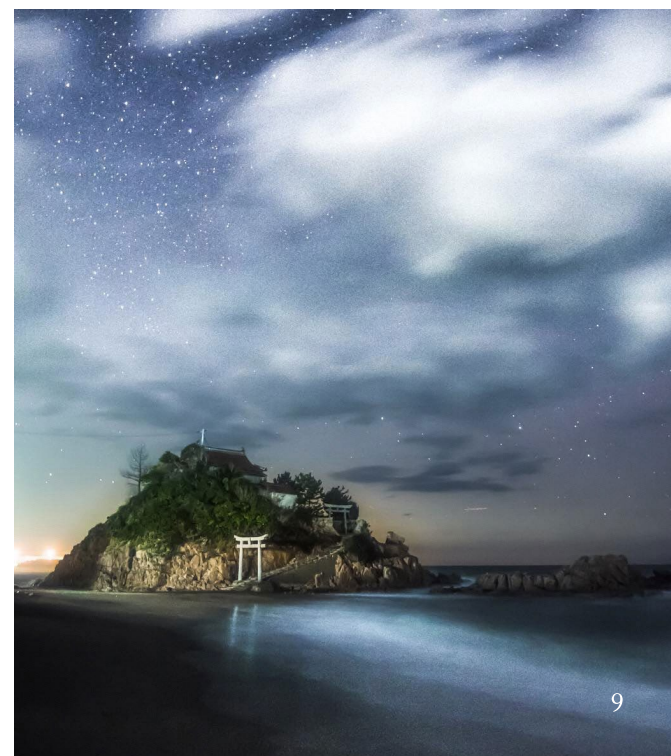
04 Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine

Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine worships Okuninushi, known as the god of marriage. Its ancient history goes back to the time of gods. Within the spacious main grounds, the main hall, worship hall, kagura hall, sessha and massha auxiliary shrines, archives, and treasure hall are arranged. In particular, the kagura hall features the largest shimenawa in Japan, whose striking scale stretches across the entrance with a length of 13.5 meters, a thickness of 8 meters, and a weight of 4.5 tons. ♣195 Kizukihigashi, Taisha-cho, Izumo City, Shimane ◎6:00 to 20:00 *Treasure hall and Shokokan from 8:30 to 16:30 (admission until 16:00) ◎Treasure hall entrance fee is 300 yen, Shokokan is 200 yen ◎765 📍Kagura hall ☎258 832 796*77 <http://www.izumooyashiro.or.jp/>



03 Ebisu Shrine, Miyagashima Island

Kaie Higashiyama, one of the most popular Japanese painters, used this area as a model for his "Dawn Tide" mural on a wall of the Imperial Palace. The white sand path creates a passage to Miyagashima Island and Ebisu Shrine. The path changes from moment to moment with the movement of the tide, and at full tide the path disappears, and you cannot cross over to the island. As such, it is called the "Mont Saint-Michel of San'in." ♣Kohama-cho, Masuda City, Shimane 📍Night ☎1022 012 531*55 <https://masudashi.com/kankouspot/kankouspot-729/>



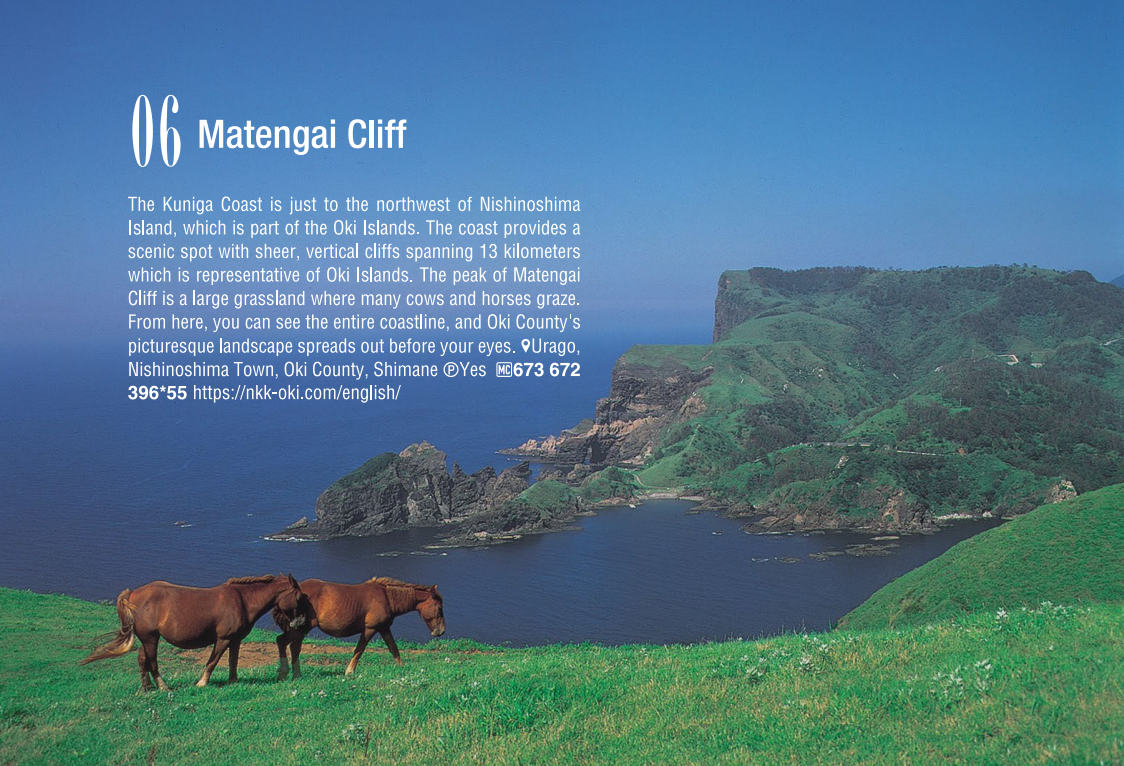
03 Yuushien Garden

With peonies, Japanese irises, autumn leaves, and so on, the circular paths in this Japanese garden are colored differently each season by the flowers and trees. In spring, the '30,000 Peony Pond' is filled with peonies, as seen in the photo. In addition, there is also the Japanese Peony House with blooming peonies year round, a dining area where you can taste the local cuisine, and a cafe area where you can relax while looking at the garden. ♣1260-2 Hanyu, Yatsuka-cho, Matsue City, Shimane ◎9:00 to 17:00 *Last entry is 16:30 *18:00 during the Golden Week period, and opening hours are extended during the evening lighting period (August, November, December, January) ◎Regular season admission: 800 yen for general visitors, 400 yen for elementary, junior high school, and high school students. Best season admission: 1,000 yen for general visitors, 500 yen for elementary, junior high school, and high school students. Evening lighting admission: 900 yen for general visitors, 450 yen for elementary, junior high school, and high school students *There is a discount for foreign visitors who show their passports ◎300 📍Late-April to early-May (Golden Week period) ☎109 546 460*36 <http://www.yuushien.com/language/en.html>



06 Matengai Cliff

The Kuniga Coast is just to the northwest of Nishinoshima Island, which is part of the Oki Islands. The coast provides a scenic spot with sheer, vertical cliffs spanning 13 kilometers which is representative of Oki Islands. The peak of Matengai Cliff is a large grassland where many cows and horses graze. From here, you can see the entire coastline, and Oki County's picturesque landscape spreads out before your eyes. ♪Urigo, Nishinoshima Town, Oki County, Shimane ☎**673 672 396*55** <https://nkk-okl.com/english/>



09 Lake Shinji (Sodeshi Jizo statues)

The beautiful sunsets, changing their expression in various ways over time, are a symbol of Matsue, the "City of Water." The beautiful view of the sunset in Matsue was selected as one of Japan's 100 Best Sunsets. The Lake Shinji sunset spot has a superb view where you can see Lake Shinji's sunset together with Yomegashima Island and Sodeshi Jizo statues. The promenade along the lake has a terrace and boardwalk where you can take a walk or sit back, relax, and enjoy the sunset. ♪Sodeshi-cho, Matsue City, Shimane ☎Near the Sodeshi Jizo statues, evenings ☎**163 441 459*60** (the Sodeshi Jizo statues) https://www.visit-matsue.com/discover/city_centre/lake-shinji/



07 Kingenji Temple

This gigantic ginkgo tree is about 400 years old, 33 meters tall, has a circumference of 6 meters, and has an overwhelming presence. When the leaves turn yellow, the tree is illuminated and shimmers a golden light. In addition, the upside down ginkgo tree reflected on the water of flooded rice paddies is alluring. We also recommend taking pictures of it in the soft, gentle light of early morning, just when the sun is starting to rise. ♪1060 Omaki, Okuizumo Town, Nita County, Shimane ☎Until the sun goes down ☎**388 352 467*52** <https://okuizumo.org/jp/guide/detail/1006/>



08 Mizuho Highland

The contrast between the deep green, the white snow, and the blue sky is marvelous. From the peak, you can feel the openness of the Sea of Japan and the winter landscape of snow covered trees, and experience and feeling of oneness; an extraordinary experience. There is a gentle beginner's course, a long course with an elevation of 721 meters and a length of 2.6 kilometers, as well as a course where you can ride powder snow. ♪6242-19 Ichigi, Onan Town, Ochi County, Shimane ☎8:00 to 17:00 (night skiing is available 17:30 to 22:00 every Saturday in January and February) ☎Early-April to early-December ☎One-day ticket is 4,800 yen for adults, 3,500 yen for those over 50, 2,400 yen for students, 1,000 yen for elementary and junior high school students, and preschoolers are free (the above prices are for regular operating periods) ☎Yes ☎Winter ☎**322 813 431*85** <https://www.mizuhohighland.com/>

Special products of Shimane

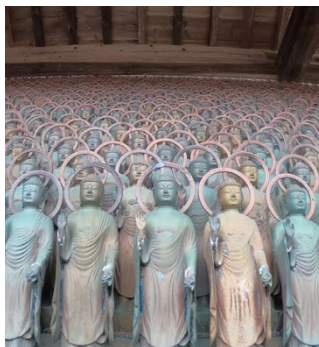
Izumo soba, Sweets

Izumo soba is one of Japan's three major kinds of soba noodles. It is characterized by a deep color and rich aroma, a product of milling the soba with its skin. The Japanese style of noodle eating is to energetically make loud slurping noises, so don't be shy! In addition, Shimane is also known as a location for Japanese confectionery, just like Kyoto and Kanazawa. This culture of tea and sweets started in the Edo period and is still a part of people's lives.



10 Iwami Kagura-Weekend Kagura Performances at Night

Accompanied by light and rhythmic musicians, Iwami Kagura is a traditional performing art that has long been in the Iwami region of western Shimane, and features dances with gorgeous costumes and expressive masks. There are regular performances in the shrine's hall, allowing you to easily enjoy Iwami Kagura in a short period of time while still preserving kagura's original atmosphere of thanking the gods for the year to have bountiful harvests and catches. ♪Sanku Shrine (1571 Aioi-cho, Hamada City, Shimane) ☎Every Saturday from April to March the following year *Closed on some performance dates / regular shows are from 20:00 to 21:00, special shows are from 20:00 to 23:30 ☎Regular shows are 700 yen, special shows are 1,000 yen *Junior high school students and under are free ☎40 ☎**241 192 833*60** (Sanku Shrine) <http://iwamikagura.jp.e.aew.hp.transer.com/>



more photogenic spots Shimane

11 Ichibata Yakushi Temple

The temple is believed by residents nationwide to heal eye ailments since long ago. The approximately 1,300 stone steps on the approaching path are also famous. Within the temple grounds is the temple housing the principal image of Yakushi Rurikonyorai Buddha, many other Buddhas who are worshipped in the Hall of 84,000 Buddhas, and 108 lanterns line the path to the temple. In addition, the view from the top of 200-meter high Mt. Ichibata is marvelous. ♪803 Kozakai-cho, Izumo City, Shimane ☎8:30 to 17:00 ☎200 ☎**134 885 185*17** <http://ichibata.jp/>

12 Taikodani Inari Shrine

One of Japan's five great inari shrines, Taikodani Inari Shrine is the second most visited shrine in Shimane, following after Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine. If you look from Tsuwano Town, in the direction of the mountain that used to have a castle, then you will see that the path to the temple and the vermilion torii gates are closely aligned. About 1,000 torii gates have been built from donations and form a tunnel; it is spectacular to climb the 263 stone steps through them. ♪409 Ushiroda, Tsuwano Town, Kanoashi County, Shimane ☎100 ☎**513 152 407*88** <http://taikodani.jp/>

13 Akiya Coast

The contrast between Akiya's red cliffs and blue ocean is breathtaking. The towering Byobu Rock, sometimes called the "heart rock" because of the heart-shaped hollow area through its center, is popular as a power spot for good luck or marriage. There is also a legend that a goddess gave birth there. In summer, the area is crowded with campers. ♪Toyoda, Ama Town, Oki County, Shimane ☎486 060 827*82

14 Iwami Ginzan

The remains of the mine were registered as a World Heritage Site in 2007. It is divided into the Omori district, with historical buildings and cultural properties, and the Ginzan district, with the remains of a large-scale mine. Some old sights that cannot be missed are the Ryugenji Silver Mine which are the only mine pit remains always open to the public, and the old town which feels like jumping back in time to the Edo period, situated between deep green mountains. ♪Omori-cho, Oda City, Shimane ☎Ryugenji Silver Mine is 410 yen for adults, 200 yen for children ☎599 082 238*60 <https://ginzan.city.ohda.lg.jp/1750.html>

15 Izumo Yokota Station

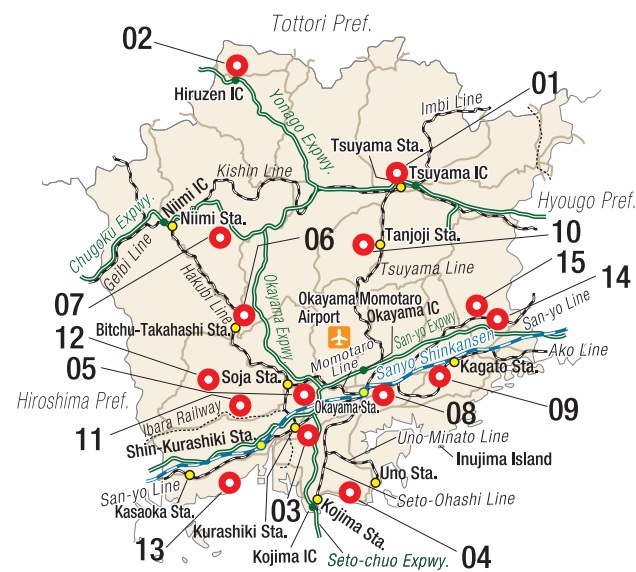
The JR Kisuki Line, which only runs in Okuizumo Town, has unique stations along the tracks. The picture shows Izumo Yokota Station, a rare shrine-like station featuring a thick Izumo Taisha-style shimenawa rope across the entrance. Other than that, the wooden Yakawa Station, built before WWII, evokes a nostalgic feeling. The station master serves soba noodles from his office-turned-restaurant at Kamedake Station. ♪1020 Yokota, Okuizumo Town, Nita County, Shimane ☎388 626 823*55

Okayama

PHOTOGENIC CHUGOKU REGION

A journey to Okayama, the Land of Sunshine, will refresh and renew your heart with its blue skies and the tranquil Seto Inland Sea.

As the gateway to the islands that hold the Setouchi Triennale art festival, Okayama sees many tourists. Known as the prefecture in Japan with the most sunny days, the combination of its refreshing blue skies and the tranquil beauty of the Seto Inland Sea will take your breath away and provide ample photo opportunities. In addition, popular photo spots include the famous Tsuyama Castle cherry blossoms and their stunning scenery, the famous Japanese gardens of Okayama Korakuen Garden and Okayama Castle, and the traditional architectural beauty of Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter, many of which are also lit up at night.



01 Tsuyama Castle (Kakuzan Park)

Tsuyama Castle, the symbol of Tsuyama City, was selected as one of Japan's 100 Best Castles. Bicchū Yagura was restored in 2005 in commemoration of the castle's 400th anniversary, and it has become a popular attraction with its impressive 45-meter-high stone wall. It is also known as one of the famous cherry blossom sites in western Japan. In spring, about 1,000 cherry blossom trees are in full bloom. The view from the stone wall of the illuminated cherry blossoms is spectacular. ♫135 Sange, Tsuyama City, Okayama ☎8:40 to 19:00 (April to September), 8:40 to 17:00 (October to March) *7:30 to 22:00 during the Cherry Blossom Festival from the end of March to the middle of April ☎300 yen for adults, and free for junior high school students and younger ☎30 (Tsuyama Information Center) 📍End of March to mid-April ☎153 495 837*00 (Tsuyama Information Center) <http://www.tsuyamakan.jp/en/>



04 belk

An ocean view cafe located near the summit of Mt. Ojigatake, overlooking the Seto Inland Sea. The interior of the store has a large window wall, providing amazing views from anywhere inside. You can relax with bread, sweets, or a carefully hand-dripped cup of coffee. ♫Mt. Ojigatake Park Center, 7 Kojimakarakoto-cho, Kurashiki City, Okayama ☎10:00 to 18:00 (last order at 17:30) ☎200 shared spaces ☎19 136 813*88

02 Hiruzen Yuki Koi Festival

A winter event in snowy Hiruzen. Kamakura snow huts, large ones made by sculptors and small ones made by visitors, line the grounds. At night, candles are lit in 1,000 small Kamakura snow huts, creating a fantastical landscape. You can also enjoy various snow activities such as sledding and snow shoe walking. There are also live concerts and delicious local cuisine. ♫Shirakaba no Oka Restaurant in Hiruzen Kogen (Hiruzenkamifukuda, Maniwa City, Okayama) ☎First Saturday and Sunday in February every year ☎Hiruzen Kogen Center, former Hiruzen Heights (there is a bus to the venue) 📍18:30 to 19:00 ☎189 121 496*22 (Hiruzen Kogen Center) <http://www.hiruzen.info/yukikoi/>

03 Bicchu Kokubunji Temple (Kibiji)

One of the Kokubunji Temples erected throughout the country during the Nara period at the request of Emperor Shomu. The five-story pagoda rises to a height of 34 meters, making it a symbol of Kibiji. In the countryside behind the five-story pagoda, you can enjoy photographing seasonal flowers such as rape blossoms, lotus flowers and sunflowers, as well as cycling. ♫1046 Kanbayashi, Soja City, Okayama ☎200 📍Sunflowers are from early to mid-July ☎19 874 515*06 http://www.city-soja.okayama.jp/kanko_project/kanko/kannkou_bunnka/kankouti/kokubunji.html

03 Kurashiki Spring Evening Illumination

The Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter is one of Okayama's most famous tourist attractions. A lighting event announces the arrival of spring in the white-walled town, full of history and wonder. Japanese umbrellas and glass figures are used throughout the Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter in the evening together with candles and other lights, creating a fantastic atmosphere. Enjoy a slow, spring stroll through Kurashiki. ♫Throughout Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter (Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter, Kurashiki City, Okayama) ☎March *Dates change every year *Still held in light rain ☎Nearby paid parking available 📍mid-March 18:00 to 21:00 ☎19 632 117*77 <https://www.kurashiki-tabi.jp/event/2136/>





06 Bicchu Matsuyama Castle

The highest existing castle in Japan, Bicchu Matsuyama Castle is called the "Castle in the Sky." The castle seems to float, beautifully and dreamlike, amidst a sea of clouds. This extraordinary scene is visible in the early morning from fall to winter when the sea of clouds often forms. ♡1 Uchisange, Takahashi City, Okayama (Bicchu Matsuyama Castle) ☎9:00 to 17:30 *Until 16:30, October to March ☎December 29 to January 3 ☎300 yen for adults, and 150 yen for elementary and junior high school students ☎124 📍Bicchu Matsuyama Castle Observatory, Early mornings, late October to early December ☎770 211 218*63 (Bicchu Matsuyama Castle Observatory) http://takahasikanko.or.jp/modules/spot/?content_id=1/



09 Bizen Osafune Japanese Sword Museum

Rare even in Japan, this museum in Osafune, which prospered in the Kamakura period due to its Japanese katana production, specializes in Japanese katanas. In the museum's katana workshop and katana forge, you can experience how craftsmen actually made Japanese katanas. Traditional annealing in which the raw steel is repeatedly folded after being heated to 1,200 degrees is opened to the public once a month. You can see how katanas are made and watch the shower of sparks. ♡966 Osafune, Osafune-cho, Setouchi City, Okayama ☎9:00 to 17:00 *Museum entrance is until 16:30 ☎Mondays (the following day if Monday is a national holiday), after national holidays, December 28 to January 4 *Temporary closure when changing exhibits ☎500 yen for adults, 300 yen for high school students, and free for junior high school students and younger *Price may vary depending on exhibitions 📍Katana forge at the Bizen Osafune Japanese Sword Museum, the second Sunday of every month, 11:00 to 12:00 and 14:00 to 15:00 ☎151 493 185*63 <http://www.city.setouchi.lg.jp/token/>

07 Makido Cave

This limestone cave, with a total length of approximately 450 meters, is designated as one of the prefecture's natural monuments. Of particular note is the Ryugubashi (Undersea Palace Bridge) which crosses a subterranean lake in the innermost cavern. Also, there are rimstones within the cave which resemble rice terraces. The cave, engulfed in silence and stillness, is lit up with colorful LED lights, giving a mysterious atmosphere. ♡2276-2 Toyonagaakouma, Niimi City, Okayama ☎8:30 to 17:00 (cave entrance until 16:30) ☎1,000 yen for adults and high school students, 800 yen for junior high school students, 500 yen for elementary school students, and free for pre-school age children ☎150 ☎236 805 221*88 http://niimi.gr.jp/en/spot/spot_detail/index/92.html



08 Castle Illumination / Garden Illumination

A lighting event for Okayama Korakuen Garden, one of Japan's three famous gardens, and Okayama Castle. The expansive garden and castle create a fantastic scene when lit up at night. You can wear a yukata robe while walking in the garden, feeling the wind blowing through Asahi River, and in summer you can sit on the grass with a cold drink in hand while enjoying stage events. ♡Okayama Castle (2-3-1 Marunouchi, Kita-ku, Okayama City, Okayama) / Okayama Korakuen Garden (1-5 Korakuen, Kita-ku, Okayama City, Okayama) ☎Late-April to early-May, August, mid to late-November *Time varies *Illumination will still be held in the rain, but some stage events may be canceled ☎Castle Illumination: 300 yen for adults, 120 yen for elementary and junior high school students, and free admission for preschoolers *Free access to areas other than the castle. Garden Illumination: 400 yen for adults, and free for high school students and younger *Adults can buy a joint ticket good for Okayama Castle and Okayama Korakuen Garden for 560 yen 📍Okayama Castle, Evenings when Castle Illumination is being held ☎19 892 409*66 (Okayama Castle) / 19 892 619*47 (Okayama Korakuen Garden) <http://www.okayama-kanko.net/ujo/tougenkyo/> <http://genso-teien.okayama.jp/>

Special Local Produce

Hakuto white peaches and grapes

Okayama has long periods of sunshine and many clear days, resulting in thriving fruit production. Hakuto white peaches from July to August are especially delicious with their juiciness and melt-in-your-mouth texture. Okayama's grapes are also quite popular with a plethora of varieties, such as muscat and pione, which are widely harvested from July to October.



10 Terraced rice fields

Dotted with beautiful terraced rice fields, Kumenan Town was selected for Japan's 100 Terraced Rice Fields. Kitasho boasts the largest area of terraced rice fields in Japan with 2,700 rice fields, and Kamimomi's 1,000 rice fields blend in beautifully and harmoniously with the surrounding scenery of the countryside. Guesthouses run by farmers, where you can experience Japanese agriculture, are also recommended. ♡Kitasho/Kamimomi, Kumenan Town, Kume County, Okayama 📍Kitasho terraced rice fields, early morning ☎153 127 587*28 (Kitasho terraced rice fields) http://www.town.kumenan.okayama.jp/sightseeing_event/sightseeing/tnadana.html



more photogenic spots Okayama

11 Camellia at Kokushoji Temple

The camellia tree is said to be more than 350 years old, and its double-petaled flowers bloom from early to mid-April. After falling from the tree, the camellia form a beautiful crimson carpet at the tree's base. The "Tsubaki Camellia Festival" is held every year around the second Sunday of April, and the temple grounds are open to the public. ♡1344 Higashiminari, Yakage Town, Oda County, Okayama ☎9:00 to 16:00 ☎10 📍During the day ☎111 434 076*55 <https://www.yakage-kanko.net/event/28/>



12 Bisei Astronomical Observatory

This public observatory was built in the hills of Bisei Town, famous for stargazing. With its 360-degree panoramic view, this 101-centimeter telescope is one of the largest in Japan. Even beginner astronomers can casually spot specific stars at this observatory. ♡1723-70 Okura, Bisei-cho, Ibara City, Okayama ☎13:45 to 16:00, 18:00 to 22:00 (night-time only, Friday to Monday) ☎Thursday, the day after public holidays, December 29 to January 3 ☎300 yen for those older than elementary school age 📍20:00 to dawn ☎111 605 232*14 <http://www.bao.city.ibara.okayama.jp/>



13 "Keiba Shinji Horse Race" during the Autumn Festival at Oura Shrine

Oura Shrine, which provides protection over Yorishima, hosts the Keiba Shinji Horse Race during the Autumn Festival. The winning horse is decided through 12 circuits within the shrine's grounds. The event began when Michitada Hosokawa, a governmental official of the Ashikaga Shogunate's clan, had 40 sacred horses take part in a procession moving the shrine to its Oura location. Currently, two sacred horses are chosen via the Keiba Joushiki Race on September first to race in the Keiba Shinji Horse Race. ♡7756 Yorishima-cho, Asakuchi City, Okayama ☎First Saturday and Sunday of October every year *Held rain or shine ☎465 835 361*41 <http://www.kcv.ne.jp/~ooura-j/>



14 Former Shizutani School

Shizutani School was established in 1670 by Ikeda Mitsumasa, the lord of Okayama, and is the oldest public school in the world. The lecture hall is designated as a national treasure. Located in a tranquil mountain area, you can enjoy the deep greens and changing autumnal leaves. In particular, visitors are delighted by the two large Chinese pistache trees that turn red and yellow in the fall. The best time to see them is during the week that they are lit up. ♡784 Shizutani, Bizen City, Okayama ☎9:00 to 17:00 *Open until 20:00 during the light-up period ☎December 29 to 31 ☎400 yen for adults, 100 yen for elementary and junior high school students, and 200 yen for seniors over 65 ☎500 📍Autumn leaves at night ☎151 776 169*17 <http://shizutani.jp/english/>



15 Fuji Park (Fuji Wisteria Park)

About 100 types of wisteria flowers from all over Japan are collected here, with the multitude of varieties making this a top-class collection in Japan. In particular, a wisteria trellis with a length of more than 500 meters is thrilling with its beautifully overlapping blooms of purple, pink, and white. The Fuji Wisteria Festival is held from the end of April to the beginning of May. ♡1893 Fujino, Wake Town, Wake County, Okayama ☎Free admission except during Fuji Wisteria Festival (300 yen for adults, and 150 yen for elementary and junior high school students) ☎643 📍Late-April to early-May ☎151 861 097*44 <https://www.town.wake.lg.jp/kanko/fujiMatsuri/>



Hiroshima

PHOTOGENIC CHUGOKU REGION

Attracting people not just with two World Heritage Sites, but with never-ending natural beauty such as the stunning archipelago.

With two World Heritage Sites, Itsukushima Shrine and the Atomic Bomb Dome, Hiroshima is an international city of peace and an excellent setting for literary works. Many visitors come to see the prefecture's charms, such as the numerous small and beautiful archipelago islands of the tranquil Seto Inland Sea as well as the many famous flower spots in the north of the prefecture. Not to mention, it is also a hotspot area for gastronomic tourists seeking local foods such as okonomiyaki and oysters, which can be thoroughly enjoyed here.



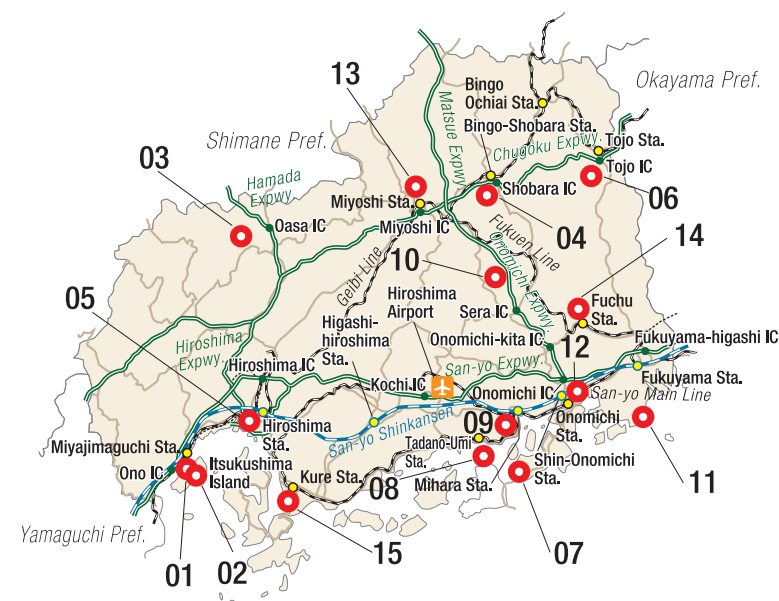
02 Mt. Misen, Miyajima

Miyajima's highest peak, 535 meters above sea level, and registered as a World Heritage Site. It is revered as a sacred mountain and dotted with sacred sights such as unspoiled primitive forests, temples, and giant rock formations. The views are also renowned, and from the summit observation area, you can enjoy a large panorama of the giant rock formations and the Seto Inland Sea. Take the ropeway to the middle of the mountain, and then hike the mountain trail to the summit. 📍Miyajima-cho, Hatsukaichi City, Hiroshima 🕒Ropeway is 1,000 yen one way 📶Shishiwa 📶103 413 140*88 <http://visit-miyajima-japan.com/en/>



01 Itsukushima Shrine's Otorii arch

Itsukushima Shrine is registered as a World Heritage Site. Its symbol, the large Otorii arch, is a rare torii arch standing in the sea, and is one of the largest wooden arches in Japan. Mysterious figures can be seen floating in the sea at high tide, and at low tide you can see this powerful torii arch up close. The Miyajima Water Fireworks Festival is held in August every year, coloring the torii arch with the light of approximately 5,000 fireworks. 📍1-1 Miyajima-cho, Hatsukaichi City, Hiroshima 📶Itsukushima Shrine, night 📶103 473 110*30 <http://www.en.itsukushimajinja.jp/>

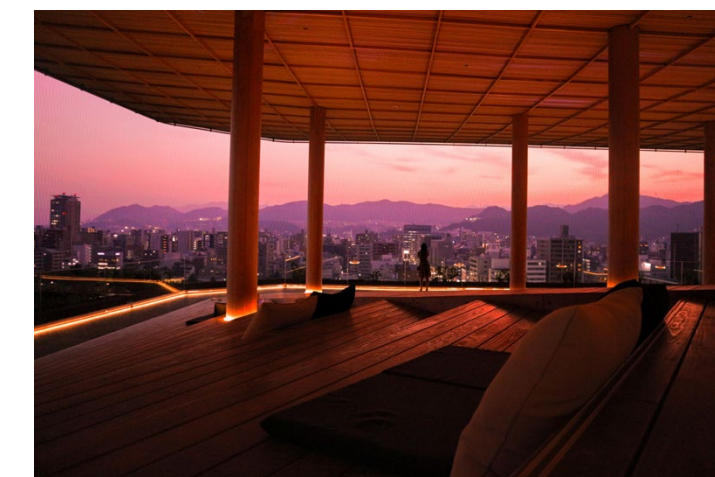


03 Tengushide Gunraku

Their winding trunks and branches give more than 100 large and small trees in this grove unusual, dailiesque shapes. Said to be a variant of the Inushide trees, these trees are called "Tengushide," because of the area's legends and traditions of Japanese Tengu monsters and spirits. Unique to the world, the area has been designated as a National Natural Monument. The vibrant greenery is particularly beautiful in the beginning of May. 📍Tawara Haidani, Kitahiroshima Town, Yamagata County, Hiroshima 📶Early-May 📶322 485 485*74 http://kitahiro.jp/wp-content/themes/kitahiro-okanko/images/kitahiro_english.pdf

04 Bihoku Hillside Park

With campsites, large playgrounds, and hands-on activities, the park has a variety of features to enjoy. The flower fields are particularly popular, with 1.5 million flowers of 700 varieties, such as daffodils, baby blue eyes, and cosmos flowers, covering large areas from spring to fall. There is an observatory in the flower field, and the colorful world that spreads before your eyes is truly a masterpiece. 📍9-10 Mikkaichi-cho, Shobara City, Hiroshima 🕒9:30 to 16:30 (varies depending on the season) 🕒Mondays, Year end/New Year Holidays 🕒450 yen 🕒2,460 📶Bihoku Hillside Park's Hana no Hiroba 📶267 614 387*74 <http://www.bihoku-park.jp/introduce/english-guide-map/>



05 Orizuru Tower

Located just east of the Atomic Bomb Dome, this multi-use facility contains a digital experience space and hand-selected souvenir shop. The terraced, wooden observation deck offers scenic views. You can see the Atomic Bomb Dome and the restored city scape from 50 meters in the air, and it is especially breathtaking at dusk. Re-entry is permitted, so feel free to come at different times during the day. 📍1-2-1 Otemachi, Naka-ku, Hiroshima City, Hiroshima 🕒10:00 to 19:00 (observation deck until 18:00)*July to September is 10:00 to 20:00 (observation deck until 19:00) 🕒December 31, the second Tuesday and Wednesday of January 🕒1,700 yen 🕒Nearby paid parking available 📶Rooftop, evening 📶22 219 085*47 <http://www.orizurutower.jp/en/>



09 Sea of fog

The sea of fog is a natural phenomenon that can be seen in the early morning of cold and sunny days from late-autumn to winter. The fog is generated on the surface of the Seto Inland Sea, and its ever-evolving shape as it moves amongst the islands is like living art. The best photo spot is the summit of Mt. Fudekage, overlooking the Seto Inland Sea, with the fog bathed in the dawn's golden light. ♡Sunami-cho/ Okiura-cho, Mihara City, Hiroshima 📍Mt. Fudekage, very cold early mornings from early-November to early-January ☎154 745 661*71 (Mt. Fudekage Observation Area) https://www.city.mihara.hiroshima.jp/sos_hiki/25fudekage.html

06 Taishakukyo Gorge Pleasure Boats

A 40-minute cruise over Shinryu Lake, which offers colorful foliage in autumn and vibrant greenery in summer. The contrast of the blue lake, green mountains, and crimson bridge are eye-catching, and you can enjoy a natural beauty different from that on land. The sheer cliffs and rock formations that rise on both sides are one of the highlights. Enjoy this water excursion on tatami-covered boats! ♡5034-7 Nagano, Jinsekikogen Town, Hiroshima ☎Mid-March to early-December, 9:00 to 16:30 ☎Open all season long ☎1,200 yen 📍Boardwalk near the Kyukamura Hotel Taishakukyo, late-October to early-November ☎326 343 105*28 (Kyukamura Hotel Taishakukyo) <https://taisakukyou.com/>

07 Setouchi Shimanami Kaido Expressway

The Setouchi Shimanami Kaido Expressway links six islands in the Seto Inland Sea, one of the world's most famous inland seas, via bridge. A 70-kilometer-long cycling road makes it a heaven for cyclists. It is exhilarating to cross the bridge by bicycle. From the observation deck, you can enjoy exquisite views of the islands and bridges woven together. ♡Onomichi City, Hiroshima to Imabari City, Ehime 📍Photograph the Tata Bridge from Ikuchi-jima Island ☎154 323 690*33 (Tatara Bridge) <http://www.go-shimanami.jp/global/english/>



08 Ohkunoshima Island

A small island in the Seto Inland Sea with a 4.3-kilometer circumference. Unique to the world, this island is inhabited by approximately 700 wild rabbits and is popularly known as "Rabbit Island." In addition to friendly encounters with rabbits, there is also an observation deck overlooking the Seto Inland Sea and a restaurant with a menu featuring rabbit motifs. ♡Tadanoumi-cho, Takehara City, Hiroshima ☎Driving on the island is prohibited ☎154 614 076*30 (Tadanoumi Port) <https://www.qkamura.or.jp/en/ohkuno/>

Special Local Produce

Oysters, Okonomiyaki

Facing the Seto Inland Sea, the Hiroshima area is a large producer of oysters. A deep and rich flavor is their allure, and their season is January and February. Okonomiyaki is also popular as a representative of local Hiroshima gourmet food. Quickly spread the dough, made of wheat flour, into a circle on the hot steel griddle, and then layer many ingredients such as cabbage, bean sprouts, and pork, focusing on the perfect form and quickly baking them in succession.



10 Sera Kogen Farm

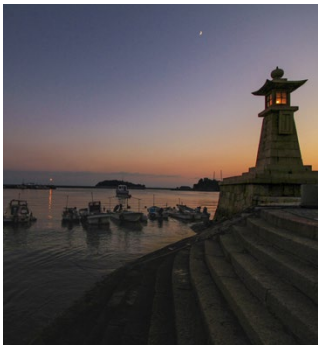
This farm open to tourists spreads across a plateau more than 400 meters above sea level. In spring, there are 750,000 colorful tulips of 300 varieties. Each field is planted with different varieties, providing the perfect background for a photo no matter where you look. Throughout the farm, flowers bloom as the seasons change; sunflowers in summer and dahlias in fall. People are also attracted to hands-on events at the farm restaurant and harvest festival. ♡1124-11 Bessako, Sera Town, Sera County, Hiroshima ☎9:00 to 17:00 ☎Open every day while in season ☎800-1,000 yen ☎1,000 📍Mid-April to mid-May ☎257 860 253*36 <https://sera.ne.jp/en/>



more photogenic spots **Hiroshima**

11 Joyato Lighthouse

The port city of Tomonoura is said to have been the setting of Studio Ghibli's movie Ponyo. The Joyato stone lighthouse is a symbol of the town and was built approximately 160 years ago. Boasting a more than 10-meter height, including the base in the water, it is the tallest lighthouse in Japan. After the sun goes down, its light is bright and beautiful. Nearby temples and cafes are perfect for a relaxing stroll or comforting coffee. ♡843-1 Tomo, Tomo-cho, Fukuyama City, Hiroshima 📍Nearby paid parking 📍Near the lighthouse, around 17:30 (sunset time) ☎465 451 450*55 <http://www.fukuyama-kanko.com/travel/tourist/detail.php?id=21>



12 Senkoji Park

A park that extends from the middle to the summit of Mt. Senkoji to the north side of JR Onomichi Station. You can get to the summit via ropeway, and the observation deck overlooks the Seto Inland Sea and Onomichi town. A narrow, sloping path meanders like a maze around the park and is popular to stroll. Other attractions include calming temples, cafes with breathtaking views, and encounters with friendly neighborhood cats. ♡19-1 Nishitsuchido-cho, Onomichi City, Hiroshima ☎Shops are from 8:30 to 17:30 ☎Ropeway is 320 yen one way ☎70 ☎48 248 891*66 (Senkoji Park parking lot) <http://www.ononavi.com/>



13 Miyoshi Ukai Cormorant Fishing

Ukai cormorant fishing is a natural fishing method for catching ayu sweetfish by using the innate characteristics of cormorants, which dive to catch fish. The show is currently held on summer evenings. The cormorant fishermen, dressed in traditional clothing, gracefully and skillfully handle the 6.75-meter reins, the longest in Japan. You can admire the quiet beauty of the illuminated cormorants while floating nearby in a boat. ♡Ukai Josenba Landing, Tokaichi Shinsui Park, Miyoshi City (Basengawa River, Tokaichi, Miyoshi City, Hiroshima) ☎June 1 to September 10, from 19:30 ☎Canceled during stormy weather ☎3,000 yen ☎500 ☎244 507 712*63 <https://miyoshi-kankou.jp/en/>



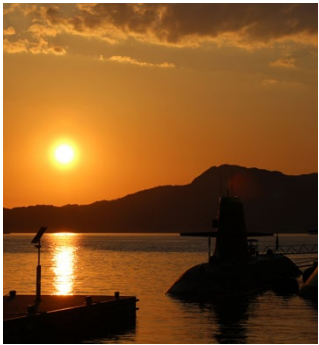
14 Bingokokufu Festival

The highlight of the festival is traditional tezutsu hanabi fireworks, hand-held bamboo tubes filled with gunpowder that erupt in a mesmerizing shower of sparks. Each pillar of fire reaches a height of about 10 meters, and watching the sparks fall like rain is breathtaking. In addition, elaborate events, such as a parade with impressive dancers and a flea market, are held over two days. ♡City Center in Fuchu City (194-1 Fuchu-cho, Fuchu City, Hiroshima) ☎The end of July every year *Postponed in the event of rain ☎Participation fee for some events ☎48 853 762*58 (North End of Fuchu Omatsuri-dori Street) <https://bingokokufu.com/>



15 Alley Karasukojima

The only park in Japan where you can see active submarines up close. It is particularly beautiful at dusk, when the sea and sky are both dyed red. Natural and man-made beauty are interspersed for a unique experience. The park is located in an area where the navy used to be, and you can enjoy walking by brick buildings, torpedo cranes, and other remains of the old navy. ♡6 Showa-cho, Kure City, Hiroshima ☎41 📍Evening ☎102 186 637*03 <http://www.city.kure.lg.jp/>





Yamaguchi

PHOTOGENIC CHUGOKU REGION

01 Kintaikyo Bridge

Built with traditional construction methods, this beautiful wooden bridge has five connected arches. The bridge was built in 1673, is 193.3 meters long, 5 meters wide, and designated as a national place of scenic beauty. Its night-time illumination with cherry blossoms and autumn leaves is particularly charming. From June to September, with Kintaikyo Bridge in the background, popular pleasure boats let you watch the ukai method of fishing, where cormorant birds catch sweetfish for handlers. ❶ Iwakuni, Iwakuni City, Yamaguchi ㊟24-hour entry is possible ㊟300 yen for junior high school students and older, 150 yen for elementary school students (round trip) ㊟Nights in late-March to early-April ㊟115 891 651*82 <http://kintaikyo.iwakuni-city.net/en/>

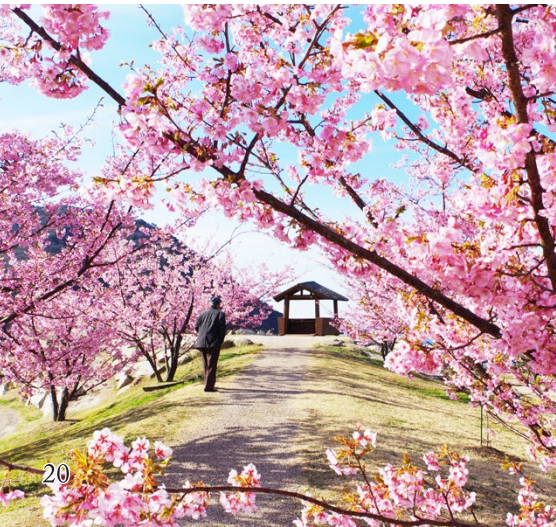


03 Nijigahama Coast

The approximate 2.4-kilometer coastline features a white sand beach and vibrant green pinetrees. This coastline offers one of the best beaches in West Japan. From late-April to early-May, the Rainbow Koinobori (carp streamer) Project is hosted for the recovery and memory of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. The colorful carp streamers, swimming in the ocean breeze, is a striking site. The coast is also particularly beautiful from July to August, when it is lit up with rainbow lights. ❷ Nijigahama, Hikari City, Yamaguchi ㊟280 ㊟Nijigahama Coast Infant Pool Area, late-April to early-May (during the Rainbow Koinobori Project) ㊟107 170 787*17

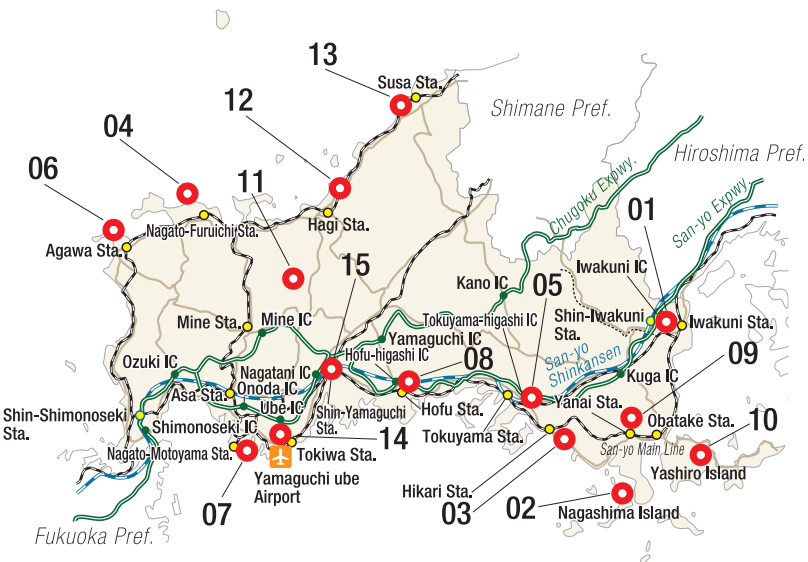
02 Joyama Historical Park

Kawazu sakura cherry blossoms, with their deep pink color and large petals, are fast-flowering cherry trees that bloom from late-February to mid-March. Joyama Historical Park, located on a small hill, is known as a famous spot for kawazu sakura, and when they are in season you can photograph approximately 180 trees in full bloom and early blooming daffodils, all with an ocean background. There are also many bright flowers to easily view up close. ❶10044-1 Nagashima, Kaminoseki Town, Kumage County, Yamaguchi ㊟10 ㊟Late-February to mid-March ㊟749 598 760*33 <http://www.kaminoseki-kanko.jp/>



Yamaguchi's emerald green seas produce countless stunning locales, with many increasingly popular photographic spots.

Yamaguchi is located at the westernmost end of Japan's main island of Honshu. The prefecture is open to the sea on three sides, the Sea of Japan, the Seto Inland Sea, and the Hibiki-nada Sea, which gives a long, beautiful coastline of approximately 1,500 kilometers that has a different character and feel depending on the area. Seascape photographers are particularly drawn to Motonosumi Shrine and the Tsunoshima Bridge. In addition to the sea, Kintaikyo Bridge, one of Japan's three famous bridges composed of five connected wooden arches, is a masterpiece of beautiful scenery when combined with spring cherry blossoms or ukai cormorant fishing in the summer.



04 Motonosumi Shrine

Motonosumi Shrine suddenly became famous after being introduced overseas as one of "The 31 Most Beautiful Places in Japan." The scenery, with the sea of Japan in the background and 123 torii gates lined up along 100 meters, is a masterpiece. There is an offering box located on top of the shrine's 6-meter tall large torii gate, and on social media it has become known as "the most difficult offering box in Japan." ❹498 Yuyatsuo, Nagato City, Yamaguchi ㊟From sunrise to sunset (entrance/photography at night is prohibited) ㊟116(paid parking) ㊟Daytime ㊟327 877 893*77 <https://visit-nagato.com/en/>

05 Inaho Festival (Fox's Wedding)

A festival wishing for a good harvest of five crops, the Inaho Festival is an unusual, traditional festival with a fox's wedding. Starting with the white fox bride and groom, the bride's assistant and children, along with many other relatives, walk through the old town of Hanaoka. After the climax of the wedding ceremony, mochi rice cakes are thrown to the onlookers. ❶Around Hanaoka Fukutoku Inari Shrine (1224 Suetakekami, Kudamatsu City, Yamaguchi) ㊟Every year November 3 *held even in light rain ㊟Temporary parking lot at Shunan Memorial Hospital ㊟Near Hosho Temple, around 15:30 ㊟107 405 464*47 (Shunan Memorial Hospital) <http://www.city.kudamatsu.lg.jp/kankou/matsuri.html>





06 Tsunoshima Ohashi Bridge

Tsunoshima Ohashi Bridge connects Yamaguchi's Shimonoseki City and Tsunoshima Island. With a length of 1,780 meters, it is one of the longest non-toll bridges in Japan. The scenery of the cobalt blue sea and the magnificent bridge is spectacular. Many people call it "Japan's most beautiful bridge." For a panoramic photo, you should visit the nearby Amagase Park. ♪Kanda, Hohoku-cho, Shimonoseki City, Yamaguchi ☎Yes (50 cars: Amagase Park) 📍Near Amagase Park, daytime (sunny days) ☎851 347 322*06 (Amagase Park) <http://www.visit-jy.com/en/spots/11030>



09 Yanai Goldfish Lantern Festival

A large summer event with the theme of Yanai City's traditional folk art goldfish lanterns. Approximately 2,500 of the 4,000 goldfish lanterns are illuminated, and the whole city is bathed in soft, comforting light. The excitement reaches its peak during the Goldfish Lantern Dance and when walking through the lively Goldfish Nebuta Festival. ♪From JR Yanai Station through the entire white-walled storehouse district (Yanai City's Chuo District to Yanaitsu District) ☎Every year August 13, 16:30 to 21:00 *Some cancellations in the event of rain 📍From JR Yanai Station to the entire white-walled storehouse district ☎115 163 451*74 (JR Yanai Station) <http://www.cityyanai.jp/site/kanko/kingyomatsuri.html>

07 Kuguri Rock in Motoyama Misaki Park

The unique Kuguri Rock is located on the coast of Motoyama Misaki Park and can only be approached during low tide. It is said that these layers of rocks were exposed about 250 to 300 million years ago and then formed through repeated erosion and weathering. It really gives you a sense of the dynamic earth engraved over countless eons. The sunset, as seen from among these unique rocks, is particularly mystical. ♪2-1 Akasaki, Onoda, Sanyoonoda City, Yamaguchi ☎About 2 hours before and after low tide ☎Yes 📍Beach at Motoyama Misaki Park at low tide during the day ☎95 036 299*55 <https://www.data.jma.go.jp/kaiyou/db/tide/suisan/suisan.php?stn=WH> (tide table)



08 Hofu Tenmangu Shrine Tanabata Festival

Hofu Tenmangu is one of the three greatest shrine's of the diety of education Sugawara no Michizane. This shrine also holds the Tanabata Festival every year. The corridor features 1,000 milk carton lantern arranged in the form of the Milky Way. Each lantern represents a wish from a visitor. There is also the very popular Hikari No Yuniwa, wherein the Shrine's grounds are dreamily illuminated with Kasadama umbrella art, vinyl umbrellas that are connected and illuminated, scattering light over the tower gate. ♪14-1 Matsuzaki-cho, Hofu City, Yamaguchi ☎July 1 to 7, 18:00 to 21:00 *Rain or shine ☎1000 📍Hofu Tenmangu Shrine grounds, 18:00 to 21:00 ☎93 234 155*36 <http://www.hofutenmangu.or.jp/>

Special Local Produce

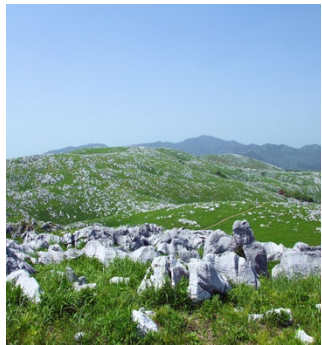
Fugu pufferfish, Kawara soba

Yamaguchi is famous for being the king of winter fugu pufferfish, which require special preparation. Besides sashimi, dishes such as karaage fried pufferfish and nabe hotpot can also be eaten. Kawara soba noodles originated in Yamaguchi as a local dish in which tea-infused soba noodles are placed on a hot kawara stone roofing shingle, topped with delicate silken scrambled eggs and beef, etc., then eaten with a warm soup. A popular local gourmet food that also is visually attractive.



10 Mt. Dake (observation deck)

Mt. Dake, with an elevation of 619 meters, is on Suo-Oshima Island and can be reached by car from the mainland. The observation deck, just down from the mountain's peak, is a scenic spot where you can see the island village and the beautiful islands of the Seto Inland Sea. The exhilarating panoramic view and clean air will refresh both your mind and body. A road to the summit is maintained for smooth and easy access. ♪Higashiagenosho, Suo-Oshima Town, Oshima County, Yamaguchi ☎Yes ☎503 587 027*47 <http://www.oidemase.or.jp/tourism-information/spots/13345>



more photogenic spots Yamaguchi

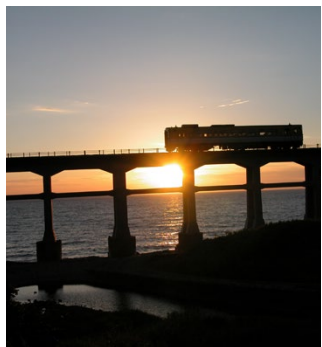
11 Akiyoshidai Quasi-National Park

A quasi-national park with Akiyoshidai, one of Japan's largest karst plateaus, and Akiyoshido Cave, a limestone cave designated as one of Japan's special natural monuments. With countless limestone columns and sinkholes, you can enjoy a 360° panorama woven from the natural beauty. Spring is a bright and vivid green, autumn is marked by the spread of changing leaves and silvergrass, and the sunset is always beautiful, no matter the season. ♪Mt. Akiyoshidai, Shuho-cho, Mine City, Yamaguchi ☎Yes ☎243 306 084*22 <https://en.karusuto.com/>



12 Koshigahama Miko Dance

The Koshigahama miko dance features groups of four miko maidens, dressed in lustrous costumes, dancing with bells and fans. At the Kangen Festival, held at Itsukushima Shrine situated near Koshigahama's Myojin Pond, there is a performance of miko maidens dancing on a boat at sea. You can also see the miko dance at the Hagi Camellia Festival, which is held when approximately 25,000 camellia flowers are in full bloom. ♪Chinto, Hagi City, Yamaguchi ☎Koshigahama Itsukushima Shrine Kangen Festival (June 17 on the Chinese calendar), Hagi Camellia Festival (around the middle of February) 📍Within the Hagi Camellia Festival's Kasayama Camellia Gregarious Forest, around noon ☎243 892 691*52 (Chinto, Hagi City)



13 JR Sogogawa River Bridge

A popular photography spot among photo lovers and railway fans. The train runs through dramatic, breathtaking scenery along a bridge, with a background of the sea and colorful sunset skies with an expression that changes moment by moment. These precious moments, full of nostalgia, should be preserved in a photo. There are few trains, so be sure to check the schedule in advance and then give it a shot. The surrounding roads are narrow, so be careful when photographing. ♪Abu Town, Abu County, Yamaguchi (between Susa Station on the JR San'in Main Line and Utago Station) 📍Near JR Sogogawa River Bridge, evening ☎410 607 120*63 <http://www.town.abu.lg.jp/sightseeing/sougou tekkyou/>



14 Tokiwa Park

This integrated park extends around Tokiwa Lake, which was registered as a World Heritage Irrigation Structure in 2016. The park's 189 hectares (467 acres) are beautifully colored by seasonal flowers such as 3,500 cherry blossoms and 80,000 irises. It is also famous for the open-air UBE Biennial International Sculpture Contest, and you can freely enjoy past pieces of work. ♪3-4-1 Norisada, Ube City, Yamaguchi ☎24-hour admission possible *However, some facilities have operating hours ☎No holidays *However, garden facilities are closed every Tuesday (the following day if a holiday) ☎Free *Some paid facilities ☎Approximately 1,500 cars 📍Sweet flag garden within the park, daytime from late-May to late-June ☎95 109 067*33 <http://www.tokiwa-park.jp/>



15 SL Yamaguchi

The Steam Locomotive (SL) Yamaguchi takes about two hours to go from JR Shin-Yamaguchi Station to JR Tsuwano Station. The sight of the retro SL running through the valley at the foot of the mountains, with smoke puffing away, transports you to Japan's good old days. The nostalgic atmosphere in the train cars recreates the era of passenger travel during the heyday of SLs, promising a special and romantic railroad journey. ♪From JR Shin-Yamaguchi Station to JR Tsuwano Station ☎Operates mainly on Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays. Service dates are posted on the homepage. ☎Passenger fare and reserved seat fare are required *Fees vary depending on travel area 📍From JR Shin-Yamaguchi Station to JR Tsuwano Station (JR Shin-Yamaguchi Station) ☎93 302 775*77 <http://c571.jp/index.html>

Chugoku Region

Tourist Pass / Discount Pass



San'in-Setouchi-Shikoku Drive & Visit

You can use this pass for expressways in 3 regions, San'in, Setouchi and Shikoku! The plans starting from three consecutive days to ten days to suit various travel needs.

*This pass is not valid for some expressways such as the Hiroshima Expressway, Seto Ohashi Bridge, Shimanami Expressway and others.



<https://global.w-nexco.co.jp/en/sep/>



Visit San'in Tourist Pass

The tourist pass for you to explore Tottori Prefecture and Shimane Prefecture for free admission, discounts, and other benefits.

Fare 1-day pass, 2,000 yen adult, 1,000 yen 6-11 years old

3-days pass, 4,000 yen adult, 2,000 yen 6-11 years old

Purchase by presenting passport(s) at designated ticket counter.

Download the app on the Mac App Store or on Google Play.



<https://visit-touristpass.jp/sanin/top/index/lang/en>



【 Tottori 】 Tottori City Tourist Taxi 2,000 yen

For foreign tourist for 3 hours

Fare 2,000 yen per person

Reserve at International Tourist Support Center Tottori City near JR Tottori Station.



【 Hiroshima・Matsue 】 Highway Bus "Hiroshima/Matsue" Discount Campaign

Discount on highway bus Hiroshima / Matsue Line (Hiroshima / Matsue, Hiroshima Bus Center, Hiroshima Station~Matsue Station / Matsue Shinjiko Onsen)

Fare 500 yen (one way), 1,000 yen (return trip)

Purchase by presenting passport at highway bus ticket counter (not valid for Japanese people); available for a limited time



【 Okayama 】 Kibi no Kuni Tourist Pass

1-day pass on JR Okayama / Fukuyama area, Ibara Railway, Okayama Electric Tramway, and Mizushima Rinkai Railway
Coupon discount benefits at Aeon Mall Okayama and Kurashiki Outlet Park

Fare : 1,980 yen (adult), 520 yen (child); purchase at designated station ticket counter (Midori no Madoguchi)



【 Hiroshima 】 Visit Hiroshima Tourist Pass (Bus)

There are five types of passes including a guide book featuring discount coupons for restaurants and discounts for entrance fees to parks, museums, and more

Fare 2-day small area pass, 1,500 yen

3-day middle area pass, 2,500 yen; wide area pass 3,500 yen

4-day small area pass with Airport Limousine Bus, 4,500 yen; wide area pass with Airport Limousine Bus, 6,500 yen

Purchase at Hiroshima Airport, JR Hiroshima Station Transportation Information Office, Hiroshima Bus Center, etc.



【 Yamaguchi 】 Yamaguchi Bus Pass (Bus)

Fare 1 day 2,000 yen, 2 days 4,000 yen, 3 days 5,000 yen

Purchase at Shin-Yamaguchi Station, Shimonoseki Station, Tokuyama Station bus ticket office, etc.