

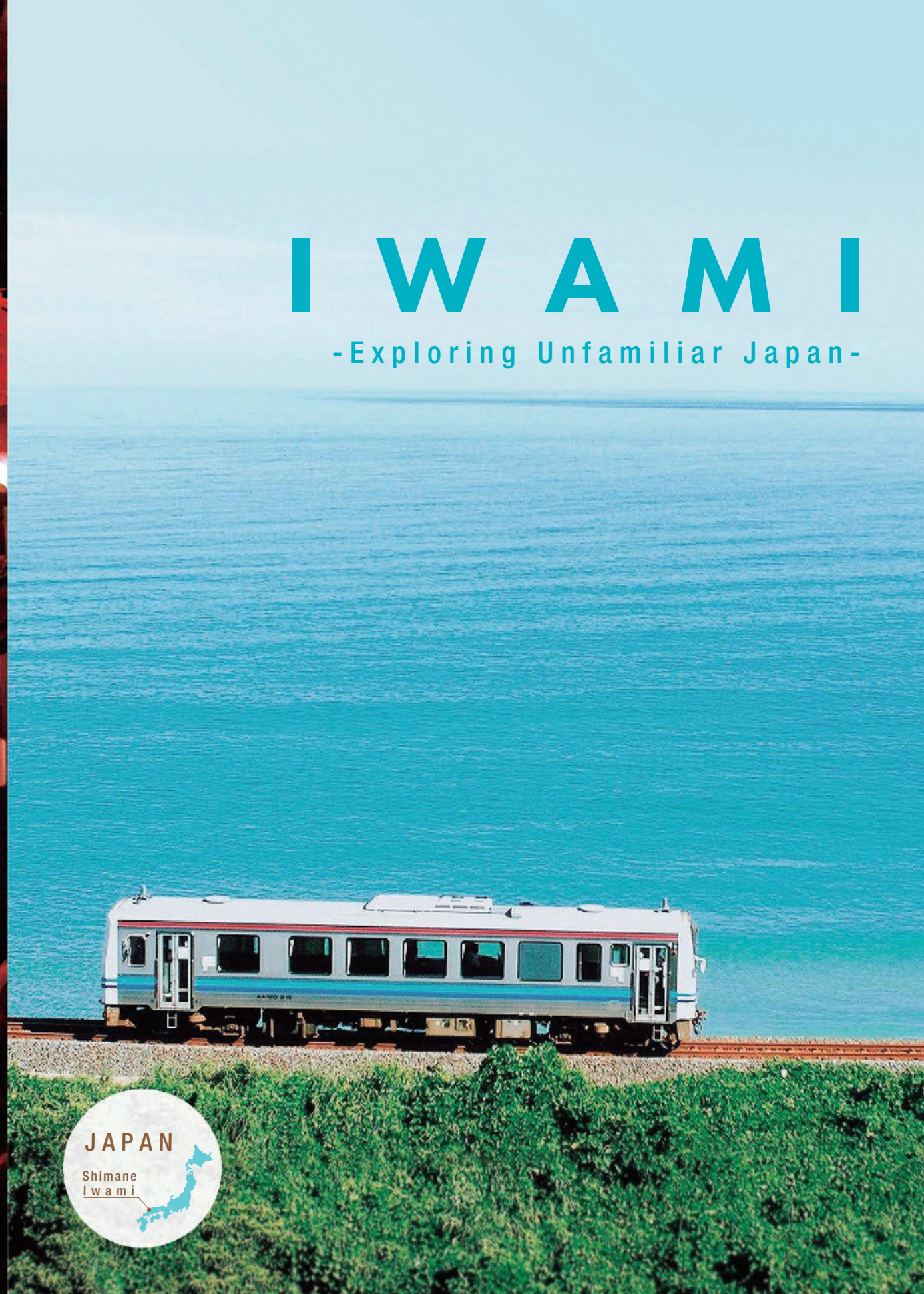
IWAMI KAGURA

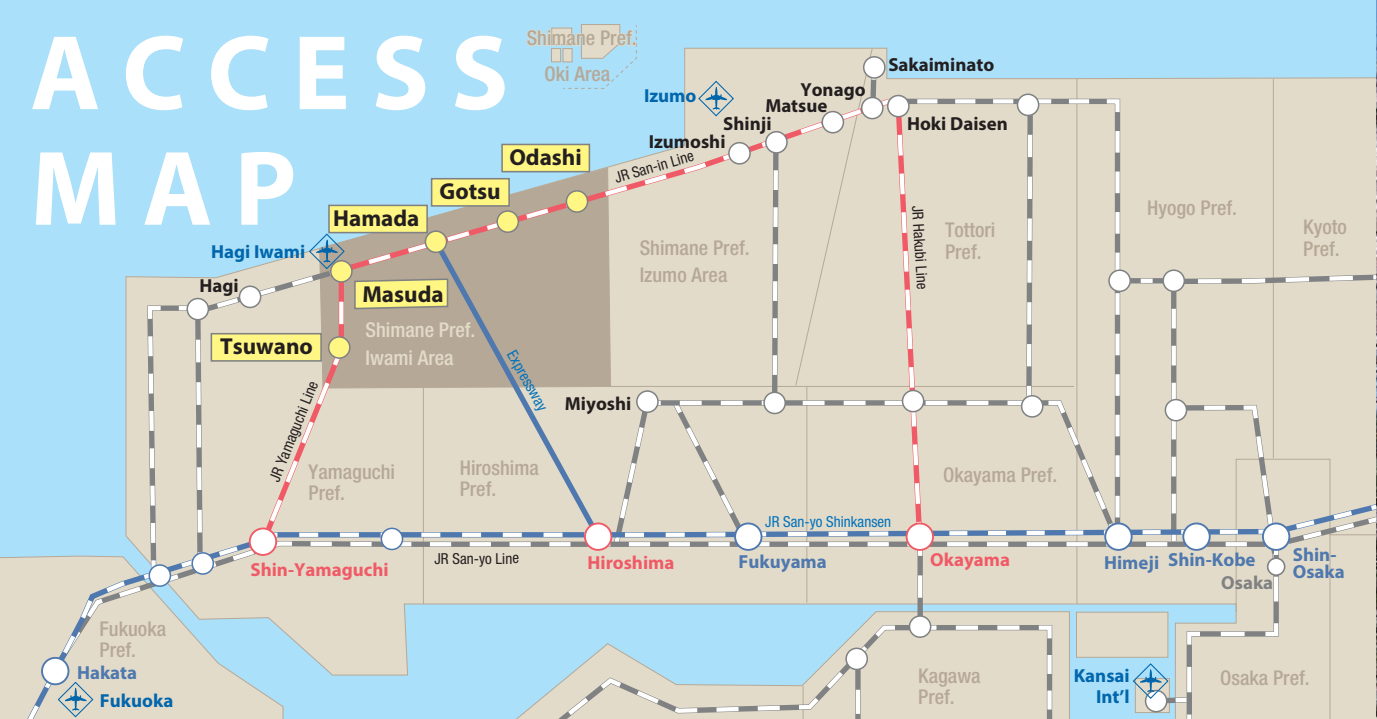
石見神楽



I W A M I

- Exploring Unfamiliar Japan -





A convenient loop trip through the Iwami region starts by taking a train from Shin-Yamaguchi to Tsuwano (see page 30). Travel up the San-in coast at your leisure and cross over the Chugoku mountain range back to Okayama. From here, you can board the Shinkansen back to any major city. This loop can be done in the reverse order as well. You can also take an expressway bus from Hiroshima to Hamada (see page 31).

How to Use This Pamphlet



Kokumin Shukusha Senjoe
国民宿舎千鳥 (Senjoe)
This simply appointed hotel offers a choice of Western or Japanese rooms. In addition to beautiful meals of fresh seafood, you can enjoy sweeping views of the beach and ocean from the natural hot spring bath on the top floor.



- Name**
- Japanese name**
- Japanese pronunciation**
- Symbols**
- Description**
- Accommodation price code**
- Information**

Accommodation price codes

Under ¥7,000 — ¥
¥7,000-¥15,000 — ¥ ¥
over ¥15,000 — ¥ ¥ ¥

Eating	Shopping	Address
Hot Springs	Sightseeing spot	Price
English spoken	English available	Phone number
Korean spoken	Wi-Fi access	Opening hours
Internet access	Credit cards accepted	Experience
Event	e-mail	

- Prices listed do not include tax.
- The admission prices listed in this pamphlet are for adults. Please inquire about the child's price at each venue.
- Information in this pamphlet is subject to change.
- Pricing is current as of July 2018.
- More detailed information is listed on www.all-iwami.com. Please use the QR code on each city's page to link to maps, addresses, etc.
- Inquiries made to the email addresses listed in this pamphlet may not receive an immediate reply. Thank you in advance for your patience.



Iwami Trains

- All trains in this pamphlet are JR San-in Line unless indicated.
- Trains on JR San-in Line run about once an hour in each direction.
- As you enjoy the slower pace of life in Iwami, Iwami Trains please be aware that public transport may not be that frequent and plan accordingly.

Inquiries

Iwami Tourism Promotion Committee

TEL.0855-29-5647 www.all-iwami.com seibu-kankou@pref.shimane.lg.jp

Shimane Prefectural Government, International Tourism Group

TEL.0852-22-5579 www.kankou-shimane.com/en/ kanko-inbound@pref.shimane.lg.jp

Translation: Katy Manning
Production & Design: AIKIKAKU
No.3 2018.8



Tsuwano 津和野

Known as the "Little Kyoto of the San-in Region", Tsuwano is located on the western edge of Shimane. The peaceful castle town, at the base of Mt. Aono, welcomes you with its koi-filled canals, white plaster buildings and quaint streets.



▲ Map here

Tonomachi Street

殿町通り [Tonomachidori] 🗺️

Tonomachidori is the main street in Tsuwano. Traditional samurai residences and storehouses watch over the waterways filled with brightly colored koi, the symbol of the town.

ACCESS to TSUWANO



Train

JR Shin-Yamaguchi → JR Tsuwano
(1hr JR Yamaguchi Line/ Ltd. Express)
JR Matsue → JR Tsuwano (3hr Ltd. Express)



Taxi

Hagi Iwami Airport → Tsuwano (40min)

Experience a Japan unchanged from olden times



Heron Dance

鷺舞 [Sagimai] 🗺️

Originating in Kyoto, Tsuwano is the only location in Japan where the Heron Dance (a nationally designated intangible cultural asset) has been continuously held for over 400 years.

🕒 July 20, July 27



Horseback Archery

流鏑馬 [Yabusame] 🗺️

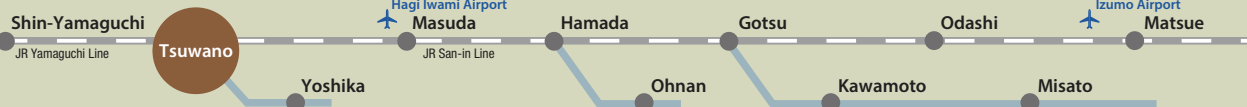
Performed only once a year, this is a unique, traditional ceremony conducted on the grounds of a shrine. The 270-meter course, constructed in the 16th century, is the only original horseback archery course still in use today.

🕒 2nd Sun. of April

1 Taikodani Inari Shrine

太鼓谷稲成神社 [Taikodani Inari Jinja] 🗺️

One of the most important Inari (god of harvest) shrines in Japan. The uphill approach to the shrine is lined with almost one thousand torii gates, which create a spectacular red tunnel up the mountain. Praying here is said to make your wish come true.



Tsuwano Map



Taikodani Inari Shrine



2 Tsuwano Castle Ruins Tourist Chair Lift 津和野観光リフト

¥450 round trip
9am-4:30pm
Mar.1- Nov.30: Everyday
Dec.1- Feb.29: Sat., Sun., national holidays.
Closed occasionally

Bike Rental Bikes レンタサイクル [Renta Saikuru]

Bicycles can be a useful way to get around town. They can be rented from various locations (see map). Please make sure to return all rentals by closing time.

¥500 (2hr) ※100 yen ea addl hr. ¥800 (1day)



Kamai Shoten 釜井商店

8am-7pm

Oto Saikuru Oba オートサイクル大庭

8am-6pm

Tachibana Saikuru タチバナサイクル

8am-5pm

3 Tsuwano Castle Ruins

津和野城跡 [Tsuwano Jo Ato]

A tourist lift carries you up to the castle ruins, where you can enjoy views of Tsuwano's red-tile roofed buildings. The castle was struck by lightning in 1686 and destroyed by the subsequent fire but the plunging views from the 200-meter castle remnants are an impressive sight. Starting in September, the natural phenomenon of morning fog can be seen when conditions are right.



There are currently three sake breweries in Tsuwano, all of which were founded in the 1700s. In winter, you can observe the brewing process.

Furuhashi Shuzo: 8:30am-5pm, *Reservations required
Kasen Shuzo: 8am-7pm, Zaima Sakaba: 9am-4pm

4 Exploring Sake Breweries

酒蔵めぐり [Sakagurameguri]

Kasen Shuzo 華泉酒造
Furuhashi Shuzo 古橋酒造
Zaima Sakaba 財間酒場



5 Yomeiji Temple 永明寺 [Yomeiji]

This temple dates back to the 15th century and was passed down through generations of Tsuwano feudal lords. The surviving thatched roof is rare for a temple. It is especially beautiful in autumn.

¥300 8:30am-3pm, Closed occasionally
Zen Meditation Session:
The 8th of every month, 5am Free
One hour of Zen meditation followed by tea and a Buddhist sermon (in Japanese)
*Please confirm the dates.
Inquireis: Tourism Association of Tsuwano



8 Tsuwano Japan Heritage Center

津和野町日本遺産センター [Tsuwano Cho Nihon Isan Senta]

This center exhibits a rotating display of the "Tsuwano Hyakkeizu", drawings and panels by the artist, Kurimoto Kakusai. They depict the seasons, scenic spots and foods of Tsuwano as the artist saw them over 150 years ago and demonstrate how little the town has changed over the years.

FREE 9am-5pm
Closed Mon. (or Tues. if Mon. is a holiday)



6 Chapel of Saint Maria

マリア聖堂 [Maria Seido]

The Chapel of Saint Maria was constructed in 1948 as a memorial for Christians who were martyred in the late 19th century when Christianity was still forbidden in Japan. On May 3rd, a solemn outdoor procession and mass is performed for the Otome Toge Festival, which draws Catholics from all over Japan.



7 Tsuwano Catholic Church

津和野カトリック教会 [Tsuwano Katorikku Kyokai]

The Tsuwano Catholic Church was founded by a Christian missionary in 1892 and rebuilt after a fire in 1931. Sunlight pouring through the stained glass and reflecting onto tatami prayer mats make this chapel unique.

FREE 8am-5:30pm

9 Tsuwano Hot Spring Nagomi no Sato

道の駅 津和野温泉なごみの里 [Michi no Eki Tsuwano Onsen Nagomi no Sato]
DAY TRIP BATHING

A natural radon hot spring with various baths to enjoy. It also has a restaurant that uses local ingredients and a shop offering local handicrafts, vegetables, etc.

Hot Spring: 10am-9pm (Last entry 8:30pm),
Closed Thursday
Shop: 9am-9pm
Restaurant: 11am-9pm (Last order 8:30pm)

10 Minoya みのや

This restaurant was constructed to resemble an Edo period teahouse. The *kushi dango* (sweet dumplings on a stick) and *shikotama udon* (noodles with assorted toppings) are popular menu items.

9:30am-5:30pm, Closed Wed., Thurs.

13 Fundoya 分銅屋

Established approximately 300 years ago, this shop functioned as a supplier for the Tsuwano feudal domain. It sells an assortment of small Japanese objects such as incense.

8:30am-5:30pm, Closed occasionally

14 Pino Rosso ピノロッソ

This authentic Italian restaurant uses a variety of fresh, locally grown ingredients.

11:30am-9pm, Closed Thursday

Genjimaki (Japanese confection)

Tsuwano is famous for the Japanese traditional confection, *genjimaki*, red bean paste wrapped in a layer of cake.

12 Chikufuken (Making genjimaki) 竹風軒 (源氏巻作り体験)

This confectionary shop was founded in 1885. You can try making your own genjimaki.

¥500 (Includes 1 genjimaki souvenir)
12pm-3pm; First come, first serve;
Open on weekends and national holidays when the SL steam train is running (end of Mar. to beginning of Nov.).
*Reservations can also be made one week in advance for dates and times not listed above (9am-3:30pm).

11 Sanshodo 三松堂

This shop's genjimaki is stamped with a smile, making it a great souvenir (good for one week after purchase).

Sanshodo: 8am-6pm
Kashin-an: 9:30am-5:30pm

Accommodation



15 Yoshinoya 津和野のお宿 よしのや



A long-standing, all tatami mat ryokan that has recently undergone renovation. It even has a café corner for relaxing. It is conveniently located for sightseeing. Wi-Fi access is only available in the lobby.

RYOKAN ¥¥

185-3 Ushiroda, Tsuwano-cho ☎0856-72-4039

16 Noren Yado Meigetsu のれん宿 明月



Constructed over 100 years ago, this is a genuine Japanese ryokan. Gardens and rooms showcase Japan's aesthetic sense while the regional cuisine displays local ingredients.

RYOKAN ¥¥

665 Ushiroda, Tsuwano-cho ☎0856-72-0685



17 Wataya 津和野温泉宿 わた屋



The only ryokan in Tsuwano with a natural hot spring. Enjoy views from the elegant outdoor bath of the sparkling night sky, the town wrapped in the morning mist and its natural surroundings. Wi-Fi access is only available on the 1st floor.

RYOKAN ¥¥

82-3 Ushiroda, Tsuwano-cho ☎0856-72-0333

18 Tsuwano Hotel 津和野ホテル



This Western-style hotel sits on a hill overlooking Tsuwano (about a 15-minute walk from the station). It offers comfortable beds and a communal bath for a reasonable rate.

HOTEL ¥

845-1 Terada, Tsuwano-cho ☎0856-72-3232



19 Hoshi Ryokan 民宿 星旅館



Come stretch out your legs and relax as you enjoy the flavors of the four seasons. Enjoy lovingly prepared food and warm service. A nice place to unwind from the hectic pace of traveling.

MINSHUKU ¥

53-6 Ushiroda, Tsuwano-cho ☎0856-72-0136

Inquiries

Tourism Association of Tsuwano

www.tsuwano-kanko.net ✉tsuwanok@tsuwano.net



Tsuwano Tourist Information Office

(next to JR Tsuwano Sta.) 9am-5pm

Uzume meshi, a famous local dish



Uzume meshi ¥1,300

Thought to have originated in the Edo Period, this dish consists of a variety of stewed vegetables, meats and fish underneath white rice topped with broth, seaweed and wasabi. The ingredients included vary by the village it is prepared in. One theory about how the dish came to be speculates that government officials wanted a way to disguise their wealth (by hiding bounty under plain rice) or that people wanted to conceal their consumption of meat and fish during an era when this habit was not generally accepted.

Enjoying uzume meshi

20 Sara no Ki Shointei

沙羅の木 松韻亭



There is a café space that can be enjoyed all day. Additional menu options are available.

☎9am-5pm

Lunch: 11am-3pm (Last order 2pm)
Credit cards accepted (only for charges of 5,000 yen or more)

Other restaurants in the area also serve uzume meshi. Please contact the local Tourist Information office for more details.

Yoshika

吉賀

A delightful village in the mountains near Tsuwano, Yoshika offers a variety of beautiful natural spots and hot springs.



▲ Map here



Headwaters Festival 水源祭り [Suigen Matsuri]

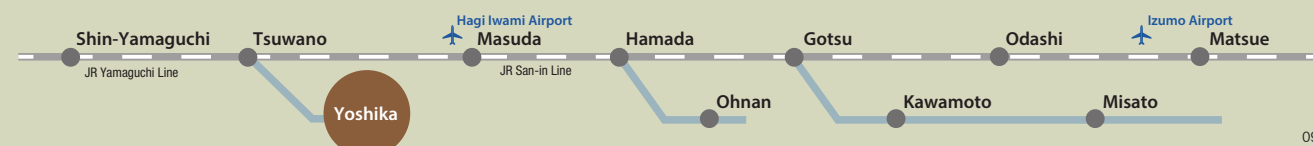
This traditional festival, held in a lush green park, formed around a Shinto ritual to pray for rain in years of drought. The highlight is a giant dragon woven from dried rice stalks. It is carried around and then plunged into a pool that is the source of the Takatsu River. Dragon and lion objects are often paraded at festivals around Japan. Receiving a bite from one is thought to be a wish for good health, particularly for children. Don't miss the chance to see this exciting ancient ritual and mingle with local citizens.

🕒 3rd Sunday of June

Inquiries

Yoshika Town Planning Division

www.yoshika-kankou.jp ✉kikaku@town.yoshika.lg.jp



Oidani Rice Fields 大井谷の棚田

[Oidani no Tanada]

Located in the westernmost corner of Shimane Prefecture, these terraced rice fields have been cultivated for over 600 years. The lovely stonework of the regularly spaced terracing flows out in front of you while the private residences melt into the landscape creating a breathtaking scene.

ACCESS to YOSHIKA



Bus
Hiroshima → Muikaichi, Yoshika (1hr 50min)



Car
Tsuwano → Oidani Rice Fields (30min)
Tsuwano → Yoshika
(50min via Rte 9 and Rte 187)

Masuda 益田

A city with a long history dating back to the Stone Age, Masuda is a nice stop during your travels along the rugged San-in coast. Enjoy Iwami Kagura performances and fresh seafood.



▲ Map here

Ebisu Shrine

衣毘須神社 [Ebisu jinja] 眼

Ebisu Shrine is in the west of Masuda city, in the walking distance from JR Todakohama Station. Usually, the shrine is connected with the beach, but when the sea gets rough, it becomes an island which refuses visitors by raging waves.

ACCESS to Ebisu Shrine

JR Masuda → JR Todakohama (12min Local)
JR Todakohama → Ebisu Shrine (12min Walk)

ACCESS to MASUDA

Airplane
Haneda/Tokyo → Hagi Iwami Airport (1hr 30min)

Train
JR Tsuwano → JR Masuda (40min Local, 30min Ltd. Express)
JR Higashi Hagi → JR Masuda (1 hr 10 min Local)
JR Matsue → JR Masuda (2hr 20 min Ltd. Express)

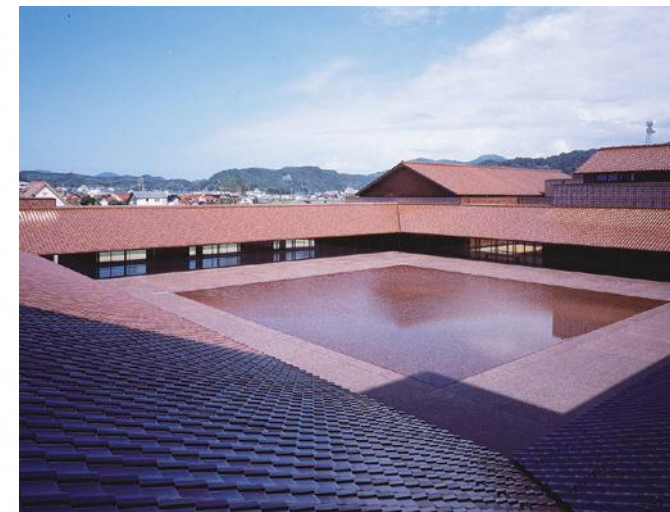
Bus
Hiroshima → Masuda (3hr 30 min)
Hagi Iwami Airport → JR Masuda (15 min)

Masuda EAGA Building 益田駅前ビルEAGA 眼

Adjacent to Masuda Station, the EAGA building offers a variety of convenient services for travelers (restaurants, drug store, business hotel, etc.). On Saturday evenings, Iwami Kagura is performed in the large hall on the 3rd floor.

¥500 7:30pm-9pm, Every Saturday (Except Sep. to Dec.)
3F 17-1 Ekimae-cho, Masuda-shi

Check the schedule▼



Shimane Arts Center Grand Toit 島根県芸術文化センター「グラントワ」 [Gurantowa]

This is a unique building that combines an art museum and theatre. Various exhibitions and performances are held throughout the year. Grand Toit means "large roof" in French and locally made Sekishu roof tiles spread out across the roof and walls of this grand building. It gives off different impressions depending on the time of day and the angle of the light, making it a work of art in its own right.

¥ Museum: from ¥1,000
🕒 Center: 9am-10pm,
Closed 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month
(Wed. if Tues. is a holiday), New Year Holidays
Museum: 10am-6:30pm (Last Entry 6pm),
Closed Tues. (Wed. if Tues. is a holiday),
New Year Holidays
Restaurant: 11am-10pm,
Closed 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month,
New Year Holidays*Reservation required for dinner
Shop: 10am-6:30pm, Closed Tuesday



Manpuku Temple

萬福寺 眼
[Manpukuji]

A tranquil zen garden is located at the back of Manpukuji Temple. The garden was designed by Sesshu Toyo, the most prominent about 600 years ago. Japanese master of ink painting, about 600 years ago. Maccha(powdered green tea) can be served as your request for 400 yen/person. Reservation is required at least seven days in advance to info2@masudashi.com (Masuda-city Tourist Association)

¥¥500, maccha ¥400 🕒 8:30am-5pm



Kaisendon ¥1,650 (tax included)

Tagosaku 田吾作 眼

A short distance from Masuda Station, this restaurant offers set meals full of extremely fresh seafood and traditional dishes.

🕒 12pm-12am (Last order 11pm)
Closed occasionally

Accommodation



Araisokan 荒磯館

This ryokan is located on the shores of the Sea of Japan. The guest rooms, as well as the large hot spring bath, all have gorgeous sunset views. You can also indulge in a room with its own private outdoor bath.

📍 1019-1 Nishihirabara-cho, Masuda-shi ☎ 0856-27-0811
DAY TRIP BATHING ¥¥600 (varies with season) 🕒 11am-2pm



Masuda Green Hotel Morris

益田グリーンホテルモーリス 眼
Conveniently located adjacent to Masuda Station (inside Masuda EAGA Bldg.), this 141-room business hotel offers barrier-free rooms, a large, fully equipped public bath and Internet service.

📍 17-2 Ekimae-cho, Masuda-shi ☎ 0856-31-8111

Inquiries

Masuda-city Tourist Association
<http://visit-masuda.main.jp> ✉ info2@masudashi.com



Masuda Tourist Information Office (next to JR Masuda Sta.)
9am-5:30pm, Closed New Year Holidays

Hamada 浜田

Hamada is Shimane's third largest city. Its active port ensures an abundant supply of delicious fish. In addition to long stretches of white-sand beaches, the contrast between the green mountains and blue sea is striking.



▲ Map here

You might even find some heart-shaped fossils!



ACCESS to HAMADA



Train

JR Masuda → JR Hamada (50min Local, 30min Ltd. Express)

JR Matsue → JR Hamada (1hr 30min Ltd. Express)



Bus

JR Hiroshima → JR Hamada (2hr)



Car

JR Masuda → JR Hamada (50min)

JR Matsue → JR Hamada (2hr 45min (reg. road), 2hr 45min (expressway))

JR Hiroshima → JR Hamada (1hr 30min)



Iwami Seaside Park 石見海浜公園 [Iwami Kaihin Koen]

This prefectural park offers a 5.5-kilometer stretch of white sand beach and other walking trails. In summer, you can enjoy a variety of water sports including jet skiing, snorkeling, banana boat, stand up paddle boarding, etc. (separate fees apply). Don't miss the gorgeous sunsets!

☑ Self-catering Cabins: ¥3,280; Constructed Tent Sites: ¥6,440;
Free Tent Sites (first come, first served; bring your own gear).
☎ 8:30am-5:30pm, Closed Dec.28 to Jan.3

Tatamigaura Seaside 畳ヶ浦 ㏄

This area is a nationally designated natural monument. After passing through a chilly, and supposedly haunted, cave, you exit onto a picturesque stretch of beach where you can explore mysterious rock and shell fossil formations created by wave erosion over 16 million years ago.



Shimane Aquarium AQUAS ㏄ ㏄ ㏄ ㏄

しまね海洋館アクアス [Shimane Kaiyokan Akuasu]

AQUAS is an aquarium that houses 400 species with over 10,000 marine creatures. The aquarium is famous for its cute beluga whales. They give a charming performance of "bubble rings", which are made when the belugas exhale from their mouths. In winter, you can watch king penguins taking a walk around the aquarium. There is also a large park and a play area behind the building and occasional Iwami Kagura performances on weekends. It is a 10-min. walk from JR Hashi Station.

☑ ¥1,540 ☎ Sep. 1 - Jul. 19: 9am-5pm
Jul. 20 - Aug. 31: 9am-6pm, Closed Tues. (or Wed. if Tues. is a holiday)
*Open on Tuesdays during the following dates: Apr. 29 - May 5, Jul. 20 - Aug. 31.



Sekishu Washi Center ㏄ ㏄ ㏄

石州和紙会館 [Sekishu Washi Kaikan]

Sekishu washi has a long history in the region and Sekishu banshi, a type of Sekishu washi, was recently designated a UNESCO intangible cultural heritage item. This center was created to train future generations of craftsmen and showcase the traditional skills involved in making washi paper. You can try making your own washi paper, enjoy art exhibits and purchase souvenirs. Sekishu washi is also used to create the body of the giant serpent that appears in a traditional local performance, "Iwami Kagura".

FREE
☎ 9am-5pm, Closed Monday (or Tues. if Mon. is a holiday), Dec. 28 - Jan. 4
☑ Washi paper making from ¥500



Asahi Hot Spring 旭温泉 [Asahi Onsen]

The gentle, smooth waters of this spring will make your skin beautiful. Enjoy the changing views of the four seasons: cherry blossoms in spring, fireflies in early summer, changing leaf colors in autumn and snow in winter. Some guest rooms have private outdoor baths and women can borrow yukata (cotton kimonos) for use during their stay.

☎ 10:30am-8pm (Last entry) closed occasionally
DAY TRIP BATHING ☑ ¥700

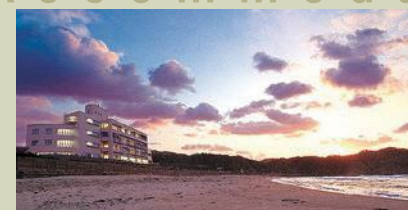
Kinta Berryne Farm ㏄ ㏄

きんた農園ベリーネ [Kinta Noen Berine]

A unique farm of greenhouses where you can sample multiple varieties of delicious strawberries and grapes. Come sample some of the perfect, sweet fruit Japan is famous for! There is also a cute café where you can enjoy light meals and drinks.

Fruit picking ☎ 10am-4pm
Strawberries: ☎ Jan.-May, Closed Tuesday
☑ Weekdays (except Wed.) ¥1,700/person
Weekends, Holidays ¥1,900/person, 50min., all-you-can-eat
*Reservations required
Grapes: ☎ Late Aug.-early Oct.
☑ ¥1,600/kg
Café: 11am-4pm, Closed Monday, Tuesday

Accommodation



Senjoen 国民宿舎 千景苑 ㏄ ㏄ ㏄ ㏄

This simply appointed hotel offers a choice of Western or Japanese style rooms. In addition to beautiful meals of freshly caught seafood, you can enjoy sweeping views of the beach and ocean from the large bath on the top floor.

☎ 2164 Shimoko-cho, Hamada-shi ☎ 0855-28-1255
Restaurant ☎ Lunch: 11am-3pm (Last order 2:45pm)
Cafe: 3pm-5pm
Dinner: 6pm-8pm (Last order 7:45pm)
DAY TRIP BATHING ☑ ¥360
☎ 10am-8pm, Summer: 5pm-8pm



Hotel Matsuo ホテル松尾 ㏄ ㏄ ㏄ ㏄

At this hotel, you can enjoy authentic Japanese cuisine that showcases the fresh abundance of the nearby Sea of Japan. The restaurant is also open for lunch.

☎ 4185 Kurokawa-cho, Hamada-shi
☎ 0855-22-2520
Restaurant ☎ Lunch: 11am-2pm
Dinner: 5pm-9pm (Last order 8:30pm)



Shimane Hamada Washington Hotel Plaza ㏄ ㏄ ㏄ ㏄

島根浜田ワシントンホテルプラザ
Just a 3-minute walk from Hamada Station, this functional hotel is great for travel or business and is often used by foreign professionals traveling in the area.

☎ 4177 Kurokawa-cho, Hamada-shi
☎ 0855-23-6111

Inquiries

Hamada City Dept. of Tourism

www.kankou-hamada.org ☎ kankou@city.hamada.lg.jp



Hamada Tourist Information Office

(next to JR Hamada Sta.) 9am-5:45pm http://kankou-hamada.org/ (Japanese only)
☎ info@kankou-hamada.org (English available)

Gotsu 江津

Gotsu sits at the mouth of the Gonokawa River. Nature's beauty abounds in this idyllic countryside town where traditional handicrafts and agriculture are still the center of life.



▲ Map here

Shimada Kiln 嶋田窯 [Shimada Gama]

For almost one hundred years, this family of artisans has used the traditional technique, *shinotsukuri*, to shape Iwami Pottery. It is fired in their ascending hillside kiln. Each piece exhibits a unique color gradation from the heat distribution inside the kiln. You can try making your own pottery and have it shipped to your home. It is a 20-min. walk from JR Asari Station, up the road from "Kaze no Engawa".

🕒 9am-5pm, Shop: Closed occasionally
Pottery studio: Closed weekends, national holidays
(Inquire for prices of pottery making experiences and shipping)



Kaze no Engawa

風のえんがわ

A stone path through bright greenery leads you to a red-tile roofed home with a wide veranda. Restored into a pleasant café, you will not quickly forget the vividly colored vegetables (grown next door), fresh meats and fish and handmade breads served here. Meals are presented on pottery made at the nearby Shimada kiln. There is also a nice variety of organic teas and homemade desserts to help you relax away the afternoon. It is a 15-min. walk from JR Asari Station.

🕒 10:30am-5pm, Closed Monday *Inquire about Sunday and New Year Holidays
☎ 0855-57-0522



Shimane Sekiou Industrial Promotion Center

地場産業振興センター [Jibasan Senta]

Specialty products from the Iwami region are displayed on the first floor. Please come and see the traditional cultural items representative of this region. Products are available for purchase so you can take home your very own souvenir from Shimane!

🕒 9am-5pm (Open Sundays, Holidays until 6pm)
Closed Dec. 29 - Jan. 3



Iwami Bakushu 石見麦酒

Recently opened in Gotsu, this craft brewery fully utilizes local agricultural products such as barley, nurtured by water from the Gonokawa River, and yuzu citrus, sustained by the salty air from the Sea of Japan.



VOGA WatchMuseum & Café

🕒 10am-6pm

Museum displays over 500 valuable watches from around the world. Enjoy lunch or an original coffee at the café.

🕒 Museum: Entrance fee: ¥600
🕒 Closed every Tues. (Open every day from the Friday before Marine Day through August 15)
Museum: 10am-5pm, Café: 10am-6pm

Arifuku Hot Spring 有福温泉

[Arifuku Onsen]

Arifuku Hot Spring, the place where happiness dwells, has been well-known for over 1,350 years. It overflows with the charm of the early 1900s. The hot spring waters are abundant and clear and are thought to make your skin beautiful.

DAY TRIP BATHING

Gozen Yu 御前湯 Yayoi Yu やよい湯 Satsuki Yu さつき湯

🕒 ¥400 🕒 7am-9:30pm



Yu no Machi Kagura Venue

湯の町神楽殿 [Yu no Machi Kagura Den]

Enjoy nighttime Iwami Kagura performances in Arifuku Hot Spring. Watching kagura in this intimate setting allows the viewer a moving, unique experience.

🕒 ¥500 🕒 8:30pm- 9:30pm

Check the schedule ▼



Accommodation



Nushiya Ryokan 旅館ぬしや

This 9-room, hot spring ryokan on a 9,900 sq. meter site has a 250-year history. Enjoy a high-quality hot spring and traditional Japanese kaiseki cuisine while surrounded by nature. Kaiseki meal includes carefully selected fresh seafood and locally grown, organic vegetables. In addition to the large communal indoor and outdoor baths, there are two private baths that can be reserved free of charge. Vegetarian or religious dietary requests cannot be accommodated. Japanese only.



RYOKAN ★★★
📍 955, Arifuku Onsen-cho Gotsu-shi
☎ 0855-56-2121



Super Hotel Gotsu-Ekimae

スーパーホテル江津駅前

Conveniently located a 2-minute walk from JR Gotsu station. Rejuvenate your body in the natural hot spring bath. A nutritious breakfast, containing specially selected ingredients, is included.

HOTEL ★★
📍 1215 Gotsu-cho, Gotsu-shi
☎ 0855-60-9000

ACCESS to GOTSU, ARIFUKU HOT SPRING

Train
JR Hamada → JR Gotsu (30min Local, 15min Ltd. Express)
JR Matsue → JR Gotsu (1hr 30min Ltd. Express)

Bus JR Hiroshima → JR Hamada (2hr)
JR Hamada → Arifuku Hot Spring (30min)
Car JR Hamada → JR Gotsu (40min(reg. road), 30 min(expressway))

Inquiries Gotsu City Div. of Commerce, Industry, and Tourism
www.gotsu-kanko.jp ☎ shokokanko@city.gotsu.lg.jp

Gotsu Tourist Information Office
(across from JR Gotsu Sta.) 9am-5pm, Closed Tuesday and New Year Holidays

Yunotsu(Oda)

温泉津(大田)

A bustling silver trade port in the 16th century, Yunotsu is famed for its healing hot springs. Enjoy strolling in the tranquil streets to experience the town's long history and living arts.



▲Map here

Enchanting history. Healing warmth.
Enthralling performances.
Experience harmony in a World Heritage town.

Yunotsu Hot Spring

温泉津温泉 [Yunotsu Onsen] ♨

Yakushi Yu 薬師湯

Enjoy pure, rich and healing waters and the unique, colorful rooftop view of Yunotsu. Lunch and drinks are available at Café Kuranojo, in the adjoining Western-style wooden building, a former bath house built in 1919.

DAY TRIP BATHING ¥ ¥350

🕒 Weekdays: 8am-9pm Weekends: 6am-9pm,
(Last Order 8:30pm)*Holiday hours on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1
Café 🕒 11am-5pm (Last order 4:30pm), Closed Thurs.

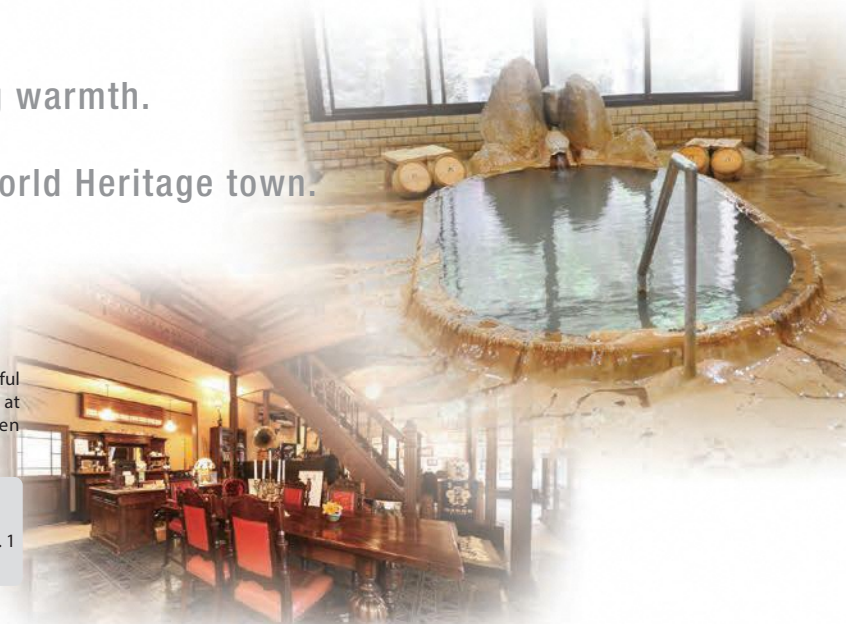


Tatsu no Gozen Shrine

龍御前神社 [Tatsu no Gozen Jinja] 👁

The large rock formation behind the shrine resembles a dragon opening its mouth wide, watching over Yunotsu Town. Iwami Kagura performances take place every Saturday night.

¥ from ¥1,000 🕒 8pm-9pm, Every Saturday



Yunotsu Pottery Village

温泉津やきものの里

[Yunotsu Yakimono no Sato]



Home of one of the longest ascending hillside kilns in Japan, there are three pottery workshops within walking distance of each other. A pottery festival is held twice a year, in spring and autumn, when the ascending kiln is fired. Please enjoy the workshops.

FREE ¥ Ceramic Painting Experience: ¥800 Hand-molded Pottery Experience: ¥2,000
🕒 9am-5pm, Closed Wednesday, New Year Holidays

Accommodation



Kiunso 輝雲荘 K ♨ Wi-Fi 🌐 📺

This charming ryokan offers a variety of tatami mat rooms. Your stay includes the use of the only outdoor hot spring bath in Yunotsu.

RYOKAN ★★

📍 202-1 Yunotsu, Yunotsu-cho, Oda-shi
☎ 0855-65-2008

Hosen Nagaya

古民家 法泉長屋

An annex of the ryokan, Kiunso, rooms in this old home are simple, clean and affordable. Some include a kitchen and shower. You may use the onsen facilities at Kiunso during certain hours.

GUEST HOUSE ★

📍 202-1 Yunotsu, Yunotsu-cho, Oda-shi
☎ 0855-65-2008 No meals provided

Nogawayaya のがわや旅館

E ♨ Wi-Fi 🌐 📺

Since the early 1900s, Nogawayaya Ryokan has provided a place to breathe a sigh of relief and relax while receiving thorough hospitality. Creative cuisine boasts fresh local fish and seasonal ingredients. The three free-flowing natural hot spring baths will cure your travel fatigue.

RYOKAN ★★

📍 30 Yunotsu, Yunotsu-cho, Oda-shi
☎ 0855-65-2811

Masuya 旅館ますや

E ♨ Wi-Fi 🌐 📺

Masuya Ryokan began operations in 1910 as a cargo vessel wholesaler. Now the ryokan offers completely handmade kaiseki cuisine showcasing the flavors of natural ingredients from the mountains and sea. Enjoy the natural hot spring and delicious meals.

RYOKAN ★★

📍 32 Yunotsu, Yunotsu-cho, Oda-shi
☎ 0855-65-2515

ACCESS to YUNOTSU



Train

JR Gotsu → JR Yunotsu (20min Local)
JR Matsue → JR Yunotsu
(1hr 10min Ltd.Express)



Car

JR Gotsu → JR Yunotsu (30min)
JR Matsue → JR Yunotsu (1hr 40min)



Inquiries Oda City Tourism Promotion Division
www.ginzan-wm.jp ☎ o-kankou@city.ohda.lg.jp

Yunotsu Tourist Information Office (a 10 min. walk from JR Yunotsu Sta.)
Apr.1-Nov.30: 9:15am-5:30pm, Dec.1-Mar.31: 12:30pm-4:30pm, Closed New Year Holidays

Iwami Ginzan (Oda)

石見銀山(大田)

Registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2007, Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine is an idyllic place that offers a glimpse back in time to when the town was a thriving silver mine.



▲ Map here

Omori Street 大森の町並み

Residents still live on and care for the main street of Iwami Ginzan. Unused traditional residences have been converted into cafés and shops. A stroll along this peaceful street allows you to soak up the history and culture of the area.

ACCESS to IWAMI GINZAN



Train

JR Yunotsu → JR Nima or JR Odashi (15min or 20min)
JR Matsue → JR Nima or JR Odashi (1hr 30min or 1hr 25min)



Bus

JR Odashi (Omori, Oe Route) → Omori Bus Stop (30min)
JR Nima (Nima Route) → Omori Bus Stop (20min)
JR Hiroshima → Iwami Ginzan (2hr 40min)
JR Matsue → Iwami Ginzan Koen (2hr 30min)



Car

JR Yunotsu Onsen → Omori Iwami Ginzan (30min)
JR Matue → Omori Iwami Ginzan (1hr 40min)

Travel back in time as you stroll through a UNESCO World Heritage site

1 Ryugenji Mine Shaft 龍源寺間歩

[Ryugenji Mabu]

For a small entrance fee, you can walk through one of the shafts, which has been widened for modern visitors. Peer into branch tunnels and the picture scroll at the end of the tunnel to see what miners experienced.

If you have time, walk along the wooded path on the left side of the stream up to the mine (2.3 km). Explore humble ruins, rest by clear waters and experience a sense of peace and timelessness.

¥410 (Foreign guests ¥200, passport or residence card required)

Mar.1- Nov. 30: 9am-5pm, Dec.1- Feb. 29: 9am-4pm,
Closed Jan. 1



Okubo Mine Shaft 大久保間歩

[Okubo Mabu]

Tour the inside of the Okubo Mine Shaft, the largest of the over 900 tunnels in Iwami Ginzan. Stroll through the shaft as you listen to your guide's explanation of its history and construction. An essential location for observing the true form of Iwami Ginzan.

Fee: Adults ¥4,000 Elementary, Junior High school students ¥3,000
Tours held Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays in Mar. - Nov.

*Reservations required *Children younger than 6 may not participate.
Times: 9:30am, 10:30am, 12:15pm, 1:15pm
(Allow 2 hours 30 minutes for tour.)

Reservations: Oda City Chamber of Commerce
www.ginzan-wm.jp ☐o-kankou@city.ohda.lg.jp

2 Kigami Shrine 城上神社

[Kigami Jinja]

Home to the god who protects Omori Town and Iwami Ginzan, the ceiling of the main building is painted with a dragon, who will "roar" if you sit below him and clap.



Accommodation



3 Takyo Abeke 他郷阿部家

This 227-year-old restored building used to be the home of an Iwami Ginzan bureaucrat and is now a guesthouse for a limited number of guests each night. Meals incorporate freshly harvested local ingredients and rice is cooked on a wood-fired range. Bath and toilet facilities are separate from guest rooms. Meals are eaten with the staff and other guests, which will give you a chance to interact with various people. Staying here for a night will immerse you in Iwami Ginzan's history while allowing you to enjoy a luxurious wabisabi experience.

159-1 Omori-cho, Oda-shi ☎0854-89-0022



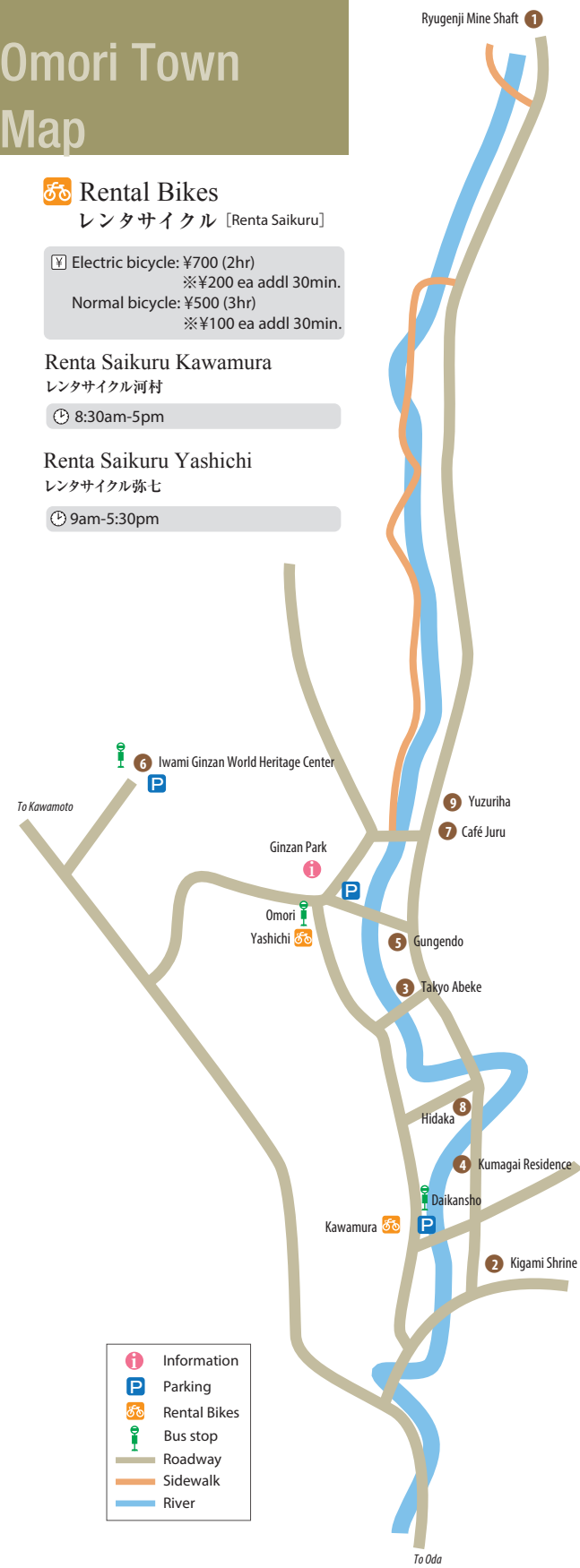
Omori Town Map

Rental Bikes レンタサイクル [Renta Saikuru]

Electric bicycle: ¥700 (2hr)
※¥200 ea addl 30min.
Normal bicycle: ¥500 (3hr)
※¥100 ea addl 30min.

Renta Saikuru Kawamura
レンタサイクル河村
8:30am-5pm

Renta Saikuru Yashichi
レンタサイクル弥七
9am-5:30pm



4 Kumagai Residence

重要文化財熊谷家住宅 [Kumagaie Jutaku]

This restored building was once the wealthiest merchant house in the town. It was involved in the management of the silver mine in the 17th century. Later, it served as a guesthouse for merchants and visiting officials. There are rotating displays of a variety of historical objects, which offer an interesting look at daily life in a merchant house. On the 2nd Sunday of each month, you can sample traditional, seasonal Japanese snacks, which are cooked on the wood-fired range.

¥ ¥500 (Foreign guests ¥300, passport or residence card required)
9:30am-5pm (Last entry 4:30pm)
Closed last Tues. of the month, New Year Holidays

HELPFUL INFORMATION



Iwami Ginzan Volunteer Tour Guides

石見銀山英語ボランティアガイドの会

Iwami Ginzan English-speaking tour guides can be reserved free of charge. These guides will offer helpful insight into the universal value of Iwami Ginzan and why it is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

FREE Reserve at least 14 days in advance via email, iwamiginzan.eg@gmail.com

Iwami Ginzan Audio Guide

石見銀山オーディオガイド

Oda Tourist Association offers an audio guidance library with 55 titles. Enjoy lively stories and interesting historical details at your own pace.

¥ ¥500 + ¥1,000 for deposit 8:30am-4:30pm, Closed Jan.1
Languages: Japanese, English, Korean, Mandarin



5 Gungendo 群言堂

This lifestyle design shop seeks to highlight the simplicity and beauty of traditional craftsmanship. Housed in a restored building, its displays and inner gardens change with the seasons, making it an interesting place to wander. You can enjoy a slow cup of coffee, sweets or a light lunch at the inviting café.

Shop: 10am-6pm, Cafe: 11am-6pm (Last order 5pm)
Lunch: 11am-3pm, Drink&Sweets: 11am-5pm
Closed Wed., New Year Holidays



6 Iwami Ginzan World Heritage Center

石見銀山世界遺産センター [Iwami Ginzan Sekai Isan Senta]

This center displays historical details, excavated items, replicas and video footage about Omori when it was an active silver mine. From the 16th century to the 20th century, Iwami Ginzan produced a significant portion of the world's silver. Please visit this center first to learn about the silver mine before taking the shuttle bus to explore Omori Town (¥200-¥240).

¥ ¥300 (Foreign guests ¥200, passport or residence card required)
8:30am-5:30pm, Closed last Tues. of the month, New Year Holidays



7 Café Juru カフェ住留

Housed in a restored home, this café offers simple lunches with rich, homemade sauces.

10am-sunset, closed occasionally
Inquire about Mondays, New Year Holidays



8 Bäckerei Konditorei Hidaka

ベッカライ・コンディトライ・ヒダカ

This bakery offers German-style breads and pastries. Enjoy your purchases in the intimate seating area.

10am-5pm,
Closed Wednesday, Thursday

Accommodation



9 Yuzuriha ゆずりは

Another lodging option in town, this hotel is a newly built structure that showcases the beauty of traditional Japanese carpentry. The building was constructed to universal design standards.

3-1 Omori-cho, Oda-shi 0854-89-0430
Meals available upon request

Inquiries Oda City Tourist Promotion Division
www.ginzan-wm.jp o-kankou@city.ohda.lg.jp

Omori Tourist Information Center (located in Ginzan Park)
8:30am-5:15pm, Closed New Year Holidays

Mt. Sanbe National Park (Oda)

国立公園 三瓶山 (大田)

The Mount Sanbe area is composed of scattered quaint villages, forests, and gorgeous green hills. A car is the best way to explore the rambling area but it is also accessible by bus.



▲ Map here



Sanbe Tourist Chair Lift
三瓶観光リフト
¥ ¥670 round trip
8:30am-4:30pm,
Operates
Apr. 1- last Sunday
of Nov.,
Closed Tuesday

Climbing Mt. Sanbe 三瓶登山 [Sanbe Tozan] 🚶

This mountain is a gently sloping, inactive volcano reaching 1,126 meters. It makes a pleasant day's hike with a variety of routes to the summit. You can also walk around the rim of the caldera. Bento and day trip supplies can be purchased at Nishi no Hara Rest House (west side of the mountain). There is also a chairlift to the top on the east side of the mountain.



Mt. Sanbe Kita no Hara Campground 🏕

三瓶山北の原キャンプ場 [Sanbesan Kita no Hara Kyanpujo]

A large, wooded area offering a variety of lodging options including self-catering cabins, campsites, tent and bedding rentals. There is recreational equipment available for rent, a dog park and climbing structures for children. In winter, you can try cross-country skiing or snowshoeing.

🕒 Apr.1- Nov.30: 9am-5pm
Dec.1 - Mar.31: 9:30am-5pm, Closed Tuesday
☎ 0854-86-0152



Sanbe Azukihara 🌳 Buried Forest Park

三瓶小豆原埋没林公園
[Sanbe Azukihara Maibotsurin Koen]

The Buried Forest Park is a mysterious forest with magnificent trees entombed in the earth. It is the result of a volcanic eruption thousands of years ago. In the exhibition area, you can closely observe how some of the trees remain standing while others have been pushed down and lay beneath the roots. Come see a time capsule from 4,000 years ago.

¥ ¥300 (Foreign guests ¥ 240, passport or residence card required)
🕒 9am-5pm (Last Entry 4:30pm),
Closed 1st Monday to Friday of December, New Year Holidays



Sanbe Burger 🍔

三瓶バーガー [Sanbe Ba-ga-]

A popular hamburger shop next to Kita no Hara Campground that only uses locally sourced ingredients.

🕒 10am-5pm, Closed Tuesday

ACCESS to Mt.SANBE



Train

JR Yunotsu → JR Odashi (35min Local)
JR Matsue → JR Odashi (70min Local, 50min Ltd. Express)



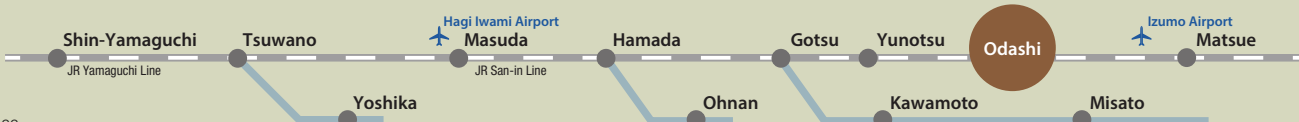
Bus

JR Odashi → Sanbe Hot Spring
(40min Local)



Car

JR Odashi → Sanbe Hot Spring
(30min)



Sanbe Hot Spring

三瓶温泉 [Sanbe Onsen] 🌿

Sanbe Hot Spring is a high-quality hot spring at the foot of Mt. Sanbe. The water is known as an effective treatment for rheumatism, neuralgia, skin conditions, etc.



Sanbeso

国民宿舎 さんべ荘 🌿 Wi-Fi 📶

This hot spring offers a variety of attractive outdoor baths making it a great place to soak after hiking Mount Sanbe. Lodging options are also available.

ACCOMM. HOTEL 🌿
📍 2072-1 Shigaku, Sanbe-cho, Oda-shi
☎ 0854-83-2011
DAY TRIP BATHING
¥ ¥500
🕒 10:30am-10pm, Closed occasionally

Sahimeno

四季の宿 さひめ野 🌿 Wi-Fi 📶

Enjoy the four seasons of Sanbe at this inn. Enjoy changing, seasonal views of nature from your room as well as a sea of clouds above the trees. Taste fresh ingredients from the San-In region. The outdoor bath is surrounded by trees and you can sense the negative air ions from nature.

ACCOMM. HOTEL 🌿
📍 2078-2 Shigaku, Sanbe-cho, Oda-shi
☎ 0854-83-3001
DAY TRIP BATHING
¥ ¥500
🕒 Weekdays: 12pm-8:30pm,
Weekends: 12pm-4pm Closed occasionally



Oda City Tourist Promotion Division

www.ginzan-wm.jp ✉ o-kankou@city.ohda.lg.jp

Ochi 邑智郡

This wide area encompasses Kawamoto, Misato and Onan towns. The steep, green mountains, hot springs and delicious local cuisine will leave a lasting impression.



▲ Map here

Kawamoto 川本

Yudani Hot Spring

湯谷温泉 [Yudani Onsen] ♨

This natural carbonate hot spring, rare for Japan, leaves your body feeling warm for a long time after you get out of the bath. Located right at the spring's source, the saline water is effective for treating nerve and joint pain as well as skin disorders such as eczema.

DAY TRIP BATHING ♪ ¥510
⌚ 10am-8pm, Closed Monday
(or Tues. if Mon. is a holiday), Dec.31

Accommodation



Kawamoto Otogikan Wi-Fi ♪
かわもとおとぎ館

There are many ways to enjoy this building, including a restaurant, hotel, indoor swimming pool, karaoke, etc. It is built in a scenic location in the center of town. The hotel has reasonably priced lodging for motorcyclists.

HOTEL ♪

📍 332-13 Kawamoto, Kawamoto-cho ☎ 0855-72-3080

ACCESS to KAWAMOTO



Bus

JR Hiroshima → Iwami Kawamoto (2hr 10min)
JR Odashi → Iwami Kawamoto (55min)
JR Gotsu → Iwami Kawamoto (1hr 10min)



Car

JR Hiroshima → Iwami Kawamoto (1hr 30min)
JR Gotsu → Iwami Kawamoto (45min)
JR Odashi → Iwami Kawamoto (45min)



Choko Temple

長江寺 [Chokoji] ♪

This temple makes offerings to the "Tapir's Head Pillow Jewel", an heirloom the shogun presented to the Ogasawara family, who ruled over Kawamoto for many generations. It is located next to Yudani Hot Spring.

The leaves, seeds and oil of the perilla plant are all edible. The oil contains large amounts of α-linolenic acid, an essential fatty acid, which is thought to offer a variety of health benefits, including helping with weight loss. The perilla products carefully produced by the farmers of Kawamoto do not contain pesticides or chemical fertilizers, thereby offering the consumer peace of mind.

Perilla えごま [Egoma]



Kawamoto Town Commerce, Industry, and Tourism Division
Inquiries www.plus-max.com ✉ sangyou@town.shimane-kawamoto.lg.jp

Ochi 邑智郡



▲ Map here

Misato 美郷

Ochi Canoe Village カヌーの里おち [Kanu no Sato Ochi] ♪

Experience canoeing or kayaking on the Gonokawa River! The center can provide instruction for first-timers and children. The half-day float trip down the Gonokawa River is a popular option, allowing the visitor a chance to fully enjoy the canoeing experience. Mobile home, tepee (November-March), tent and other gear rentals are available to help you have a relaxing stay.

¥ Entrance fee: ¥200 Kayak Experience ¥3,000 ,
Half-day canoe trips from ¥7,200
⌚ 9am-4pm, Closed Tuesday except during Golden Week
(end of April to early May) and Obon (mid-August) holidays

Yugakai Hot Spring

湯抱温泉 [Yugakai Onsen] ♨

This charming hot spring is surrounded by nature. The bath is tiny and highly calcified, offering a truly Japanese bathing experience.

Accommodation

Nakamura Ryokan 中村旅館 ♪

Built in 1916, this ryokan houses Yugakai Hot Spring, a cool water spring that is heated with firewood. The bath will thoroughly warm your body, making it a popular place with families and guests seeking hot spring cures.

ACCOMMODATION RYOKAN ♪

📍 315-3 Yugakai, Misato-cho ☎ 0855-75-1250

DAY TRIP BATHING ♪ Available for 2 or more guests; ¥2,000 per person with one meal;
Advance reservations required. ⌚ Please call for availability.

ACCESS to MISATO



Bus

JR Odashi → Kasubuchi (40min)
JR Gotsu → Kasubuchi (1hr 35min)



Car

JR Hiroshima → Misato-cho (2hr)

Misato Tourism Association
Inquiries www.misato-kankou.com
✉ info@misato-kankou.com

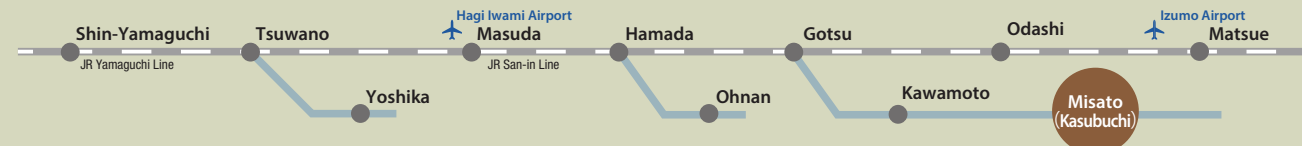
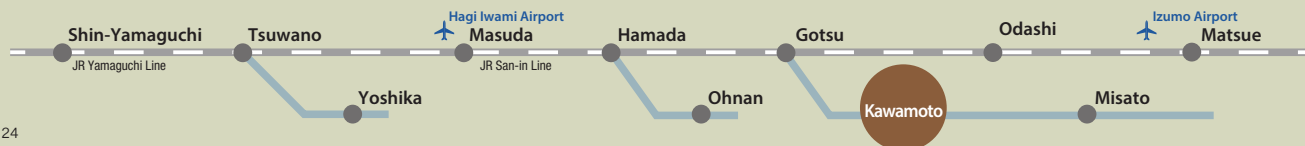


Chihara Hot Spring

千原温泉 [Chihara Onsen] ♨

This secluded hot spring is tucked away down a windy mountain road and is one of Misato's well-kept secrets. After changing your clothes, you descend a wooden staircase to find the bubbling pool of murky water. The lukewarm water of this authentic health spring should be used for treating ailments such as skin disorders.

DAY TRIP BATHING ♪
¥ ¥500 ⌚ 8am-6pm, Closed Thursday



Ochi 邑智郡 Ohnan 邑南



▲ Map here

Koboku no Mori 香木の森

Over 240 herbs decorate the seasons at Koboku no Mori's English-style herb garden. Craft-kan offers a variety of gifts that incorporate the herbs grown on site (aromatherapy oils, etc.). Craft classes are given on a regular basis, but it is best to check the schedule before arriving.

FREE 10am-4pm, Closed New Year Holidays, Tues. except on national holidays, and during Obon (mid-August) holidays.

A-Class Gourmet Town

In addition to the care, time and effort farmers put into carefully raising produce, local chefs determinedly pour love into their preparations and dishes in order to excite each customer. Striving to express this passion, local residents are devoted to sustaining the area's traditional farming methods and cuisine. This is why Ohnan is known as an "A-Class Gourmet" town.



Jomonmura 縄文村

Enjoy locally grown, organic vegetables as you take in the sweeping views of Ohnan Town. This buffet-style restaurant, located in a traditional Japanese home, lets you to take a step back in time as you fill your tray with a variety of seasonal dishes.

¥1,500 (All-you-can-eat) 11am- (first come, first serve), Closed Mondays, Tuesdays (or the following day if either Mon. or Tues. is a national holiday)



Satoyama Italian AJIKURA 里山イタリアンAJIKURA

This Italian restaurant, housed in a restored sake brewery, offers a chance to sample carefully selected ingredients grown in the "A-Class Gourmet" town. Dishes are prepared in a way that showcases the natural deliciousness each element possesses.

Lunch: 11am- (Last order 2pm)
Dinner: 6pm- (Last order 8pm)
*Dinner reservations must be made at least one day in advance.
Closed Wednesdays
(Days subject to change)

10 min. by car from Koboku no Mori



Komejirushi こめじるし

This quaint café is located along a scenic stretch of river. Enjoy a slow cup of carefully chosen organic coffee, handmade vegan sweets and seasonal drinks. There is also a lovely selection of local goods for sale. You can even enjoy your drink by the river. 10 minutes by car from Koboku no Mori.

10am-6pm, Closed occasionally. Please confirm in advance.



Minpaku

Enjoy life in the countryside of Japan by staying with a local family. This style of lodging offers chances to directly interact with residents while experiencing rural hospitality.

What is Minpaku?

A common type of lodging option in villages, minpaku allows travelers to stay in a person's home for a reasonable fee. It enables you to interact with local residents and you can often participate in farming, cooking and other experiences (separate fees may apply). Meals can be arranged according to your needs.



Moody Keiji's Soba Shop 気まぐれけーじのそば屋 [Kimagure Ke-ji no Sobaya]



This minpaku is also a *soba* (buckwheat) noodle restaurant (open on weekends from March to December). Run by a middle-aged couple, they grow and process their own buckwheat as well as rice and vegetables. You can try making noodles too! Mountains and rice fields surround the home making it possible relax in the beauty of Iwami's countryside.

Pension Ma-bou ペンション MA-BOU



This pension is conveniently located directly opposite the Mizuho Interchange of the Hamada Expressway. It is also an *okonomiyaki* restaurant (a savory, pancake-like dish). You can rent a themed room in the main house (shared toilet/bath) or cozy cabins (kitchenette, private toilet/shower). Enjoy conversing with locals and skiing/snowboarding at the nearby Mizuho Highland resort in winter.

ACCESS to OHNAN

Bus
JR Hamada → Mizuho (40min)
JR Hiroshima → Mizuho (1hr 45min)
Mizuho IC → Iwami Onsen-guchi (13min)



Ohnan Town Tourism Association
www.ohnan-kanko.com ✉ inbound@ohnan.onmicrosoft.com
*Please contact the Ohnan Town Tourism Association to make a minpaku reservation.

Ohnan Tourist Information Office
(Located in Koboku no Mori Craft-kan) 10am-4pm Closed New Year Holidays, Tues. except on national holidays, and during Obon (mid-August) holidays.

Eastern Shimane and Beyond...



Izumo 出雲

One of the most famous Shinto shrines in Japan is Izumo Taisha. It is believed that once a year the gods gather here to make matches for people. This match-making is not limited to relationships between men and women but also refers to the gods' role in making auspicious connections between people. The street in front of Izumo Taisha is lined with cute souvenir shops where you can buy *magatama*, curved-shaped stones whose shape dates back to the Jomon era (1000 BC). You can also sample Izumo's famous soba noodles.



Matsue 松江

Matsue Castle, a national treasure, is included on the nation's top 100 sites to view cherry blossoms. On Saturdays and Sundays, you may even meet a samurai! After touring samurai homes and enjoying a scenic boat ride around the castle moat, enjoy a relaxing stay at a hot spring hotel along the banks of Lake Shinji.

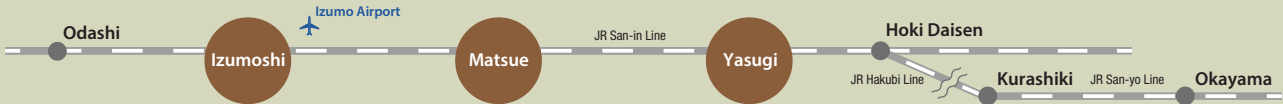


Okayama 岡山

Board the Limited Express Yakumo (JR Hakubi Line) bound for Okayama, where you can transfer to east and westbound Shinkansens.

Yasugi 安来

For 13 years in a row, the American Journal of Japanese Gardening has ranked Adachi Museum of Art as the "most beautiful garden in Japan". You can also enjoy tea ceremony. A shuttle bus departs from Yasugi Station for the gardens once an hour.



Bathing in a Hot Spring

- 1 Undress in the changing room.**
Fold and place your clothes in the basket or locker provided.
- 2 Enter the bathing area.**
Find an open washing area. Sit on the stool and use your hand towel to wash your body thoroughly.
- 3 Rinse the soap off well.**
Please be sure to rinse your bucket, stool and the surrounding area.
- 4 Enjoy a relaxing soak in the hot water.**
Do not put your personal washing towel into the bath. Place it on the side of the bath or on top of your head instead. Remember not to splash about and keep your voice down since other people are also relaxing.

Bathing in the Countryside

When you visit smaller hot springs or bathhouses, such as those in Yunotsu, you may notice piles of belongings such as buckets, shampoo bottles, soap bars, etc. These belong to locals who still come to bathe nightly. Please enjoy the authentic local bathhouse experience but do not disturb or borrow others' belongings.

Hot Springs Abound in Iwami

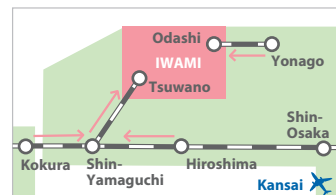


Access



Train

Route



Access from Kyushu and Hiroshima



*Limited Express trains depart three times a day from Shin-Yamaguchi bound for Tsuwano Station.

Access from Yonago (Tottori Prefecture)



Route Guidance



Purchase a Shinkansen and Yamaguchi line ticket together at Hiroshima or Fukuoka Station. (If you have a Japan Rail Pass, no additional purchase is required.) Also, available from English-language vending machines.



1 Descend from the Shinkansen platform to the ticket gate. Pass through the JR Line Transfer gate (see photo) and go straight. If you have extra time between your transfer, you can go through the regular ticket gate instead and purchase uirou (a famous Yamaguchi confection) at the shop in front of the waiting room.



2 Limited Express and SL Yamaguchi trains bound for Tsuwano Station depart from Track 1. You can descend to Track 1 at the end of the hallway (see photo).



3 The nonreserved seat car of the Limited Express Super Oki train can be boarded on the left while the reserved seat car boards on the right (when facing the track). No food or drink is sold on the train so please make any necessary purchases before boarding.

Japan Rail Pass

Iwami Area Transportation Services Available to Japan Rail Pass Holders
JR San-in Line
Reserved seats on Ltd. Express trains, Unreserved seats on Rapid and Local trains
Yonago, Matsue Stations (JR San-in Line): Odashi to Tsuwano
Shin-Yamaguchi Station (JR Yamaguchi Line): Tsuwano to Odashi
Chugoku JR Bus: Hiroshima to Hamada

*Iwami Kotsu and Hiroden operate buses along the same route. These companies do not accept the Japan Rail Pass. Please check the schedule and be careful to board the correct bus.
Shimane Prefectural Office Japan Rail Pass URL:
<http://www.kankou-shimane.com/en/?p=6557>



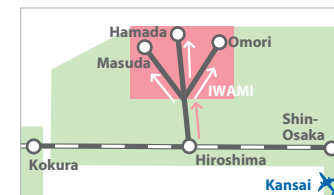
SL Yamaguchi

This beautiful, black iron, C571 steam locomotive, nicknamed "The Lady", runs through unspoiled countryside between JR Shin-Yamaguchi and Tsuwano Stations. It operates from March to early November and during the New Year holidays.

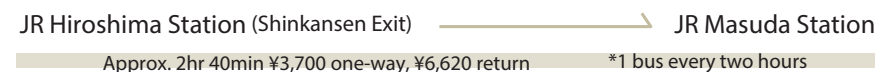
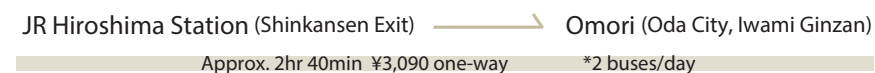


Bus

Route



*An expressway bus departs every hour from Hiroshima Station bound for Hamada.



Route Guidance



1 From the Shinkansen platform, descend and exit the main ticket gate (one location). Take the elevator directly in front of you or turn right and descend to the first floor using the escalator.



2 Exit the elevator, proceed straight and the purchase a bus ticket bound for Hamada at the Bus Ticket Counter on your right. (3,030 yen one-way)
*Available to Japan Rail Pass holders



3 Board the bus bound for Hamada from Position 3, diagonally across from the Bus Ticket Counter building. Hand your bus ticket to the driver when you get off. (Current as of July 2018)



Japan Rail Pass holders may also ride any bus between Hiroshima and Hamada operated by Chugoku JR.

*Buses operated by Iwami Kotsu and Hiroden also run between Hiroshima and Hamada so please check the schedule and be careful to board the correct bus.

The luggage hold of the bus will not be opened at each stop en route to Hamada. If you place your baggage in the luggage hold and are planning to get off at a stop before Hamada, please ask the driver to open the luggage hold at your stop.

Access from Tokyo

Airplane

Hagi Iwami Airport (IWJ)

萩・石見空港 [Hagi Iwami Kukou] Wi-Fi

Conveniently located in Masuda City. ANA offers twice-daily flights to Haneda, Tokyo.

Route

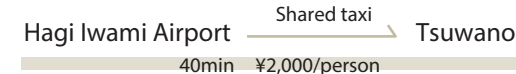


⌚ Airport: 9am-6:40pm Shop: 11am-5:30pm
Restaurant: 11am-2pm (Last order 1:30pm),
3pm-5:30pm (Last order 5pm)

*Hours are subject to change according to the current flight schedule.



To Tsuwano Town



「KoiKoi taxi」

The shared taxi driver waits near the exit of the arrival terminal.

*Please make a reservation for the shared taxi by 9pm the day before your arrival. If you have not made a reservation, seats in the taxi may still be available when you arrive. Please ask the driver about availability.

✉ Tsuwano.@daiichi-taxi.com ☎ 0856-72-3700

To JR Masuda Station



Local buses stop outside the arrival terminal and will take you to Masuda Station. Buses run based on the flight schedule.

Iwami Kagura



Voices from the Audience

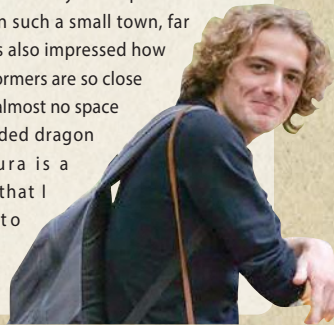
"Seeing Iwami Kagura is such a unique experience. The intricate and expressive masks, the commanding voices of the gods, and the thunderous booming of the taiko combine into an experience that spirits you away to the land of myth. The detailed costumes are surprisingly heavy, so dancing while wearing them must take quite a lot of physical strength. Pictures and videos don't do it justice. If you visit Shimane, you have to experience Iwami Kagura for yourself."

Sondey Olaseun (U.S.A)



"I had the chance to see Iwami Kagura twice in a small shrine in Yunotsu Onsen district. I was first surprised to find a show of such quality, with very skilled performers and amazing costumes, in such a small town, far away from big cities. I was also impressed how small the shrine was: performers are so close to the public that there is almost no space at all between the 8 headed dragon and you! Iwami Kagura is a wonderful experience that I would recommend to anybody visiting Shimane."

Kretz Fabien (France)



"It is a miracle the silent rural region Iwami has such a passionate traditional performance. The scenes are so dramatic that customers feel as if they are participating. You will be surprised of the weight of costumes if trying on, so we can imagine how skilled the performers of the 8 headed dragon are and how hard to perform in a blazing hot summer. Many performers start practicing as a child, not for livelihood, just out of the love of traditional culture, which deeply moved me."

Yu Qing (China)



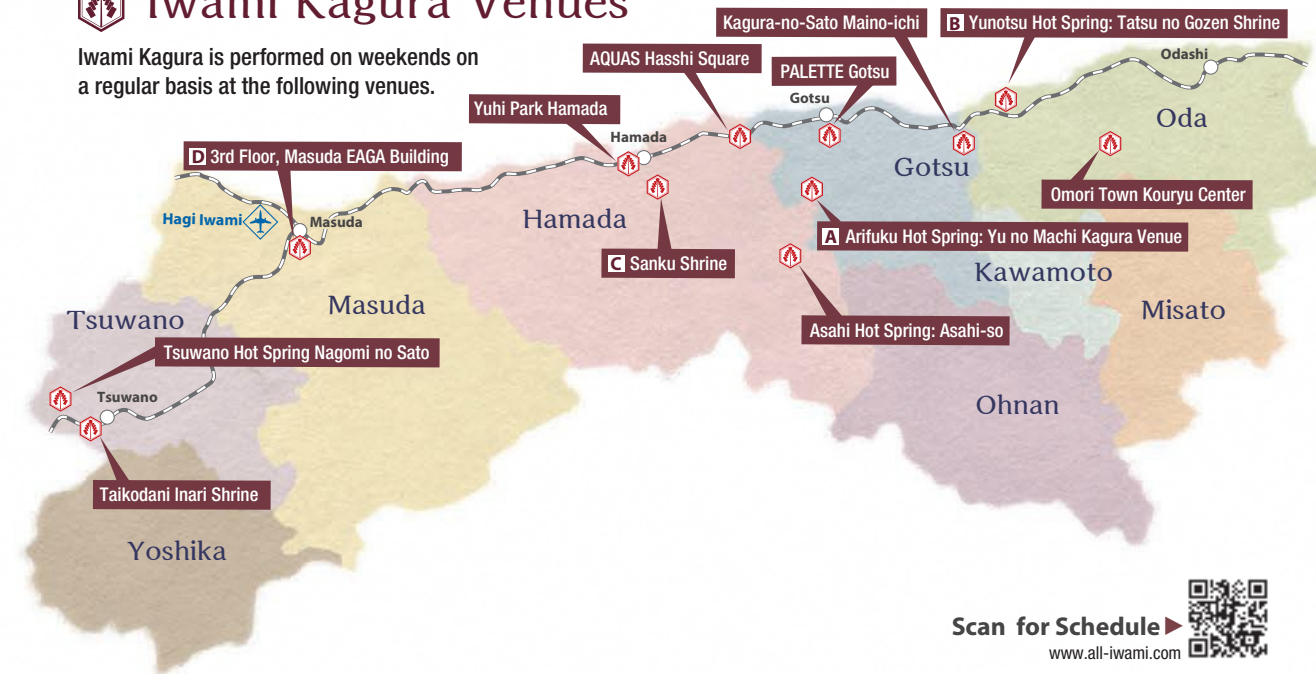
"I was amazed by the colorful costumes and energetic movements of the performers, as well as the spiritual music. This traditional entertainment will certainly please the Shinto gods and the people who go to watch the Kagura show. This area of Japan is very passionate about Kagura - little children love to watch and perform "Donchichi" (children's word for Iwami Kagura). If you have the chance, try and watch night Kagura at a shrine near your accommodation."

Nicola Jones (New Zealand)



Iwami Kagura Venues

Iwami Kagura is performed on weekends on a regular basis at the following venues.



Scan for Schedule

www.all-iwami.com



A Yu no Machi Kagura Venue 湯の町神楽殿

Enjoy nighttime Iwami Kagura performances in Arifuku Hot Spring. Watching kagura in this intimate setting allows the viewer a moving, unique experience.



B Tatsu no Gozen Shrine 龍御前神社

The large rock formation behind the shrine resembles a dragon opening its mouth wide, watching over Yunotsu Town. Iwami Kagura performances take place every Saturday night.



C Sanku Shrine 三宮神社

A short taxi ride from Hamada Station, this shrine offers Iwami Kagura performances in a traditional atmosphere on Saturday nights from May to February.



D 3rd Floor, Masuda EAGA Building 益田駅前ビルEAGA

Adjacent to Masuda Station, the EAGA building offers a variety of convenient services for travelers (restaurants, drug store, business hotel, etc.). On Saturday evenings, Iwami Kagura is performed in the large hall on the 3rd floor.



Stage 舞台



Canopy 天蓋

A square-shaped bamboo frame with *shide* (zig-zag paper streamers) and *sakaki* (evergreen tree sacred to Shinto) branches to represent the sacred Shinto area. Kagura is performed within this area, with each of the four corners representing a different direction (north, south, east and west).



Yagura やぐら

A special stage built for the day's performance. Spectators sit surrounding the stage. Special coatings are applied to the floor of the stage to help stop performers from slipping.

*Often a small sign on the side of the stage or curtain shows the name of the current story. You can compare it with the Japanese titles listed in this pamphlet to identify what story is being performed.



Performers 舞う人



God 神

The hero of Iwami Kagura and the target of children's aspirations; usually carries a *hei* (Shinto staff with paper streamers), sword or bow and arrows.



Demon 鬼

Despite being a demon, this character's showy movements and behavior make him just as popular as the gods; usually has an *onibo* (demon stick).

Musical Accompaniment お囃子



Flute 笛

The six-hole flute leads the overall musical performance by playing the melody.



Cymbals 手拍子

Palm-sized metal cymbals are rubbed back and forth to keep the rhythm.



Small Drum 小太鼓

Leads the rhythm and is played with a wrist-snapping motion; the most technical part of the ensemble.



Large Drum 大太鼓

The most important instrument for leading the stage performers; played by a skilled member of the kagura group, this person also sings the accompaniment.



About Iwami Kagura Costumes 衣裳

- Four people spend one month creating a single costume.
- Real silver and gold thread is used for embroidering.
- Every piece of each costume is handmade. A single costume can weigh up to 20 kilograms.
- Performers must move vigorously on a small stage despite tight, heavy costumes. Therefore, they must be highly skilled and have considerable endurance.
- Costumes are designed so they can be altered as a performance proceeds. Watch for how the costume changes in a flash as the performer spins.



About Iwami Kagura Masks 石見神楽面

- Each kagura organization makes its own original masks. They are made by gluing together overlapping layers of Sekishu washi paper.
- One mask takes one month to create.
- Traditionally, masks were made from wood. Today, they are created from paper, which makes them lighter and easier for the performers to breathe. Visibility is still severely limited.

God masks have closed mouths.
Demon masks have gaping mouths.



God mask Demon mask



About the Serpent Costume 蛇胴

- A serpent body is created from Sekishu washi paper and bamboo that was dried for a year.
- When fully stretched out, the body reaches a length of 17 meters and weighs 12 kilograms.
- A serpent body is constructed in a method similar to a mask by gluing together overlapping sheets of washi paper, which makes it strong but lightweight.

Kagura Etiquette

There is no set dress code so please feel free to come in comfortable clothing. Winter nights can be cold so dress warmly.

When kagura is performed at a shrine, you should bow and remove your shoes before stepping up into the shrine.

You may sit anywhere it is easy to see while taking other spectators into consideration (moving over as others arrive, etc.).

You will not be able to eat or drink at some venues. Do not hesitate to ask a nearby staff member if you have questions.

Deepen Your Understanding of Iwami Kagura

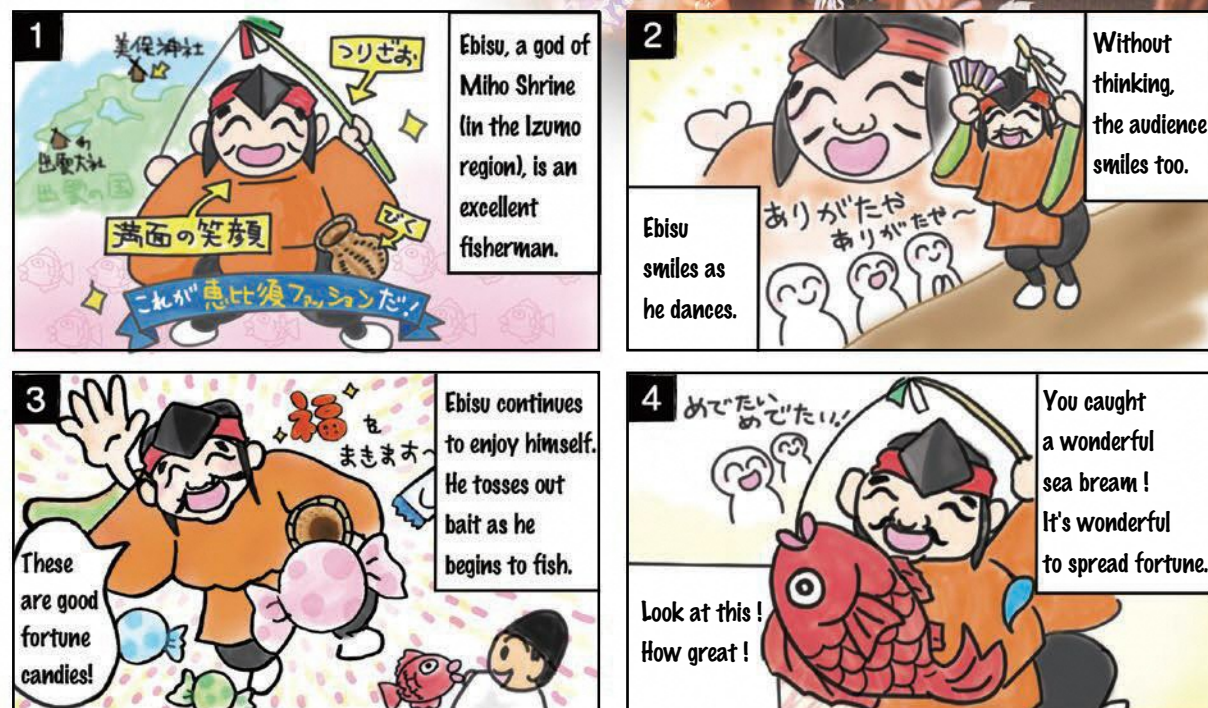
The highest form of compliment for a performer after a vigorous dance is to clap, shout and whistle. It is also acceptable to cheer during a performance!

Onhana, flower money, is an offering and expression of gratitude given to a local kagura organization. Some Japanese people give ¥3,000 to ¥5,000 when attending ceremonial kagura at their local shrine. If you happen to attend ceremonial kagura and feel the performance was outstanding, a donation would be welcomed. However, you do not need to give onhana if you are attending one of the kagura performances listed on Iwami Kagura page 8.



Ebisu 恵比須

Most Japanese people are familiar with the lucky god of merchants, Ebisu. This story depicts Ebisu fishing along the seashore. The story of the smiling Ebisu fishing for sea bream is interesting, amusing and calms the heart. The comical movements of Ebisu as he moves around the stage are incredibly popular with children. While choosing fishing bait, Ebisu scatters candies for audience members to enjoy. You can eat them right away or take them home as a memento.



Jinrin 塵 輪

This story, representative of Iwami Kagura, depicts the confrontation between two gods and two demons. The 14th Emperor Chuai (192-200 AD), accompanied by his retainer, defends Japan from a winged demon (Jinrin) using a bow and arrow. Of note are the nimble, quick movements of the white and red demons as well as the rigorous battle between the demons and gods. Please watch for the small wings sometimes found on the back of Jinrin's beautiful costume, as seen in the photo on Iwami Kagura page 2.



Orochi 大 蛇

One of the most well known myths in Japan is the story of Susano no Mikoto and his defeat of the eight-headed giant serpent. Susano asks an elderly couple why they are grieving. Each year the giant serpent has eaten one of their seven daughters. This year, it is coming for their last daughter.

After hearing this, Susano gives the serpent poisonous alcohol. Once it is drunk, he defeats it. Susano is then united with the maiden he saved. The sword that emerged from the serpent's tail once it was dead became one of the Three Sacred Treasures and is preserved in Atsuta Shrine (Aichi Prefecture).

Highlights include the impressive serpent dance and the battle with Susano. The Yamata no Orochi was said to have had eight heads and tails. Its eyes were bright red. Its back had pine and oak trees growing from it and eight mountains and valleys spread out across it. In today's performances, a separate person plays each part of the body. Due to space restrictions in kagura venues, usually only two to four serpents perform.



Tenjin 天 神

This story depicts the life of the famous Sugawara no Michizane (845 – 903 AD), who became known as Tenjin, the God of Scholarship. This man held extremely high social position until he was betrayed and demoted by his rival, Fujiwara no Tokihira. The two rivals engage in a violent battle and, in the end, Tokihira is defeated. (In reality, Michizane struggled after being exiled before meeting his early death at the age of thirty-nine.)

This dance is full of interesting points such as the impressive crouching and rising with the sword and the quick costume changes during the battle.





What makes Iwami Kagura unique?

Kagura, which began as a religious ritual, has also been a popular form of entertainment for centuries. But, with the spread of urbanization and regional changes, kagura rituals have not been passed down to successive generations and it is rarely seen in urban areas. The image of kagura has changed and many people have come to see it simply as a difficult-to-understand ritual.

However, Iwami Kagura has continued to evolve and

remains very popular in this region. Some notable features of Iwami Kagura are fast-paced music and dance, gorgeous costumes and simple stories. In Iwami, there are more than 130 active kagura organizations, known locally as *shachu*. Iwami Kagura remains a well-established part of daily life in this area. We hope you will find it exciting and fun!

Overall Plot Summary

Kagura is a majestic dance ceremony that relates a story. Performances usually consist of a simple theme, gods eliminating demons. These simple stories of gods defeating demons are based on myths from *Kojiki* and other early historical documents. These myths are believed to originate from the religious belief that demons caused

droughts and flooding and that, through prayer, the gods could defeat these demons.

The meanings of the phrases repeated throughout each play are difficult to understand. However, the most important thing is to enjoy the overall flow of the performance.

Who performs kagura?

Usually, kagura is performed by local citizens who practice in the evenings and on weekends. These volunteer groups are invited to perform at local festivals and gatherings.

Men traditionally performed Shinto rituals so most kagura performers are male. However, it is becoming more common to see women performing as well.

Children also love kagura. There are children's kagura groups and some schools include kagura as part of their curriculum. Some people fall in love with kagura as children and continue to be involved with it as adults.



What is Kagura? Why are they dancing?

Kagura literally means entertaining the gods. It is a sacred Japanese dance and music ritual dedicated to the gods of Shinto. Since ancient times, it has been performed at regional festivals as a ceremony to pray for a good harvest and to ward off natural disasters.

The origin of kagura is not accurately known but it is believed to originate in the Amano-Iwato story, which is one of the myths described in Japan's oldest historical

record, *Kojiki* (written approximately 1,300 years ago). In this story, Amaterasu Omikami (God of the Sun) hides behind a rock. Many gods dance and play music hoping to coax her out to shine light on the world again.

Kagura spread throughout the country in various ways, giving birth to many forms of performance. Each region has enjoyed its own form of kagura for many generations.

Iwami Kagura

