

YAMAGUCHI



National treasure Rurikoji Temple and Five-Storeyed Pagoda

31.2m tall at its tip, the pagoda was completed in 1442 mainly in a uniquely Japanese style, and is characterized by a less decorative, clean construction. It is known as one of the finest structures from the mid-Muromachi period (14th to 16th century) and one of the three most prominent pagodas in Japan.



Yamaguchi Xavier Memorial Church

This Catholic church was built to commemorate the 400th anniversary of missionary Francis Xavier's visit to Yamaguchi. After having been destroyed in a fire in 1991, the church was rebuilt in 1998 with a novel design under the themes of "water," "light" and "tent."



SL Yamaguchi

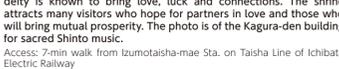
Steam locomotives disappeared from the Yamaguchi Line in 1973, but one of them made a comeback as "SL Yamaguchi" in 1979. The train has operated over 30 years since then, with weekends from spring to fall. The passenger cars are slated for renewal in 2017.

SHIMANE



Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine

The construction of Izumo Taisha is mentioned in Japan's oldest historical record, the Kojiki. It enshrines the god Okuninushi, who worked to build the state and villages while on earth, and is now a benevolent deity watching over us.



Shimane Museum of Ancient Izumo

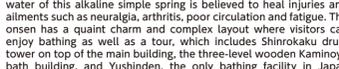
The museum offers insight into the history and culture of Shimane Prefecture. The exhibits include objects from ancient times and items related to Iwami-Ginzan silver mine, which is designated a World Heritage Site.

EHIME



Matsue Castle

This is the only castle tower in existence in the San'in region and was designated a national treasure in 2015. It features beautiful black castle walls, and roof adornments made of copper-laminated wood, which are the largest of their kind in existence in Japan.



Lake Shinji

The lake is home to a large variety of fish and shellfish. Seven representative types of seafood found here are called the seven delicacies of Lake Shinji and include shijimi clams for which the lake boasts the largest catch in Japan.



Saka no Ue no Kumo Museum

The theme of the museum is a novel of the same title *Clouds Above the Hill* by Ryotaro Shiba. The museum presents the historical background of the Meiji period (1868-1912) and three of the main characters in the book who actually lived during that time.

KOCHI



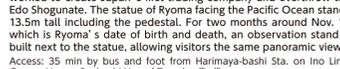
Kochi Castle

Built in 1603 when the Edo Shogunate was established, much of the castle was lost in the great fire of 1727. The castle was restored after 25 years of rebuilding effort and 15 buildings including the tower are designated important cultural properties.



Ryugado Cave

One of Japan's three major stalactite caves, the Ryugado Cave is 4km in length. The "tourist course" runs about 1km and takes 30 minutes, and the "adventure course" requires reservation and takes about 90 minutes.



Katsurahama (statue of Ryoma Sakamoto)

Ryoma Sakamoto left the Tosa domain (present day Kochi Pref.) and worked to create Japan's first trading company and overthrow the Edo Shogunate. The statue of Ryoma facing the Pacific Ocean stands 13.5m tall including the pedestal.

HIROSHIMA (G7 Hiroshima Foreign Ministers' Meeting)



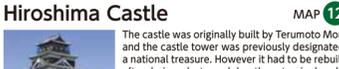
Atomic Bomb Dome & Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park

The Atomic Bomb Dome is a World Heritage site that shows the scar of the atomic weapon dropped on Hiroshima. Before the bombing, it was a facility to showcase local and other products. It suffered major damage on Aug. 6, 1945 since it stood only 166m away to the northwest from the hypocenter.



Miyajima & Itsukushima Shrine

Miyajima Island is one of the three most scenic spots of Japan and Itsukushima Shrine is a World Cultural Heritage Site. The shrine boasts architectural novelty by incorporating the sea in its precinct, and the structural beauty of the style used in a Heian period (late 8th to late 12th century) noble's residence.



Hiroshima Castle

The castle was originally built by Terumoto Mori and the castle tower was previously designated a national treasure. However, it had to be rebuilt after being destroyed by the atomic bomb.



Okonomimura & Okonomi Kyowakoku Hiroshima-mura

Hiroshima-style okonomiyaki is flour paste cooked on a hot plate with the addition of vegetables, meats and noodles. Okonomimura and Okonomi Kyowakoku Hiroshima-mura, where popular okonomiyaki restaurants can be found, are highly recommended for foodies.



Yamato Museum

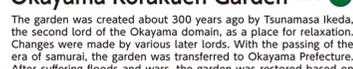
The battleship Yamato was built in Kure, a town that housed imperial navy-run factories and a navy port during WWII. The museum illustrates Kure's history of becoming a coastal industrial city as well as the science and technology of shipbuilding and steelmaking.

OKAYAMA (G7 Kurashiki Education Ministers' Meeting in Okayama)



Okayama Castle

Completed in 1597, the castle was also called Crow Castle (Ujo) due to the black lacquer applied to the siding on the castle walls. The builder, Hideie Ukita, took care not only to fortify the castle as a military facility, but also to attract merchants and craftsmen when developing the castle town.



Okayama Korakuen Garden

The garden was created about 300 years ago by Tsunamasa Ikeda, the second lord of the Okayama domain, as a place for relaxation. Changes were made by various later lords. With the passing of the era of samurai, the garden was transferred to Okayama Prefecture.



Tram MOMO

The name of the tram Momo comes from the local specialty, peaches. The train features a metallic painted exterior and interior that uses wood, and was designed by Eiji Mitooka, an industrial designer from the area.



Washuzan observatory & Seto Ohashi Bridge

Seto Ohashi Bridge refers to six bridges that together span the 9.4km of sea between the islands of Honshu and Shikoku. It is one of the longest bridges in the world and accommodates both road and railway traffic.



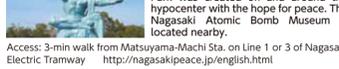
Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter

The Bikan Quarter retains the feel of the Edo period (1603-1868) when the area flourished as a trade hub. The quaint townscape along the river includes buildings with partial plaster walls and buildings with thick white plaster walls.



Freight & passenger railway

The Mizushima Rinkai Railway serves an industrial area by operating freight trains that transport industrial products, and passenger trains that serve commuters. Both types of trains draw the attention of railway fans.



Yumeji Art Museum

Yumeji Takeda was an Okayama-born artist who represented Taisho anticimism in the early 1900s and created many unique paintings of beautiful women. The museum was opened to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the artist's birth and houses about 3,000 paintings and related items.



Steam locomotive at Mizushima Chuo Koen Park

DS1 is a type of steam locomotive manufactured over 70 years ago. This fine example has been preserved since its retirement in 1975 and still delights visitors.

KAGAWA (G7 ICT Ministers' Meeting)



Kotohira-gu Shrine

Affectionately known as Konpira-san, the shrine is known as a deity of the sea and famous for the 1,368 stone steps in the approach to the inner shrine. During the Edo period (1603-1867) when commoners were not allowed to travel freely, the pilgrimage to Konpira-san is said to have been akin to a special trip.



Special place of scenic beauty: Ritsurin Garden

Ritsurin Garden is the largest of the gardens designated special places of scenic beauty of Japan, and offers a lovely landscape said to change with every step you take. The South Garden retains the feel of the garden of a feudal lord from over 300 years ago and the North Garden was renovated as a modern garden in the Meiji and Taisho periods (mid-19th century to early 20th century), offering 6 ponds and 13 hills.



Setonaikai National Park (Yashima)

This, the first national park in Japan, is also the largest when the sea portion is included. There are about 1,000 islands of various sizes that dot the Seto Inland Sea. The view from the observatory in Yashima is truly magnificent.



Marugame Castle

The castle with a 400-year history stands high as the symbol of Marugame. The distinct curve of the inner walls to the keep is often compared to that of a folding fan and called "ougi no koba." The castle has been selected one of the 100 most prominent castles of Japan.

FUKUOKA (G7 Kitakyushu Energy Ministerial Meeting)



Tenjin

Tenjin is the largest downtown area in Kyushu and welcomes shoppers from home and abroad. Nishitetsu Tenjin Highway Bus Terminal is centrally located, and access by train, bus and subway is convenient. The area is a leader in fashion thanks to long-established department stores and commercial complexes lining the streets.



Yanagawa

Yanagawa is known for the canals that were created for water control and supply at the time of the construction of Yanagawa Castle over 400 years ago. The boat ride on the canals is popular among visitors thanks to the quaint townscape and seasonal beauty of the landscape.



Canal City Hakata

This exciting commercial complex houses shopping malls, movie theaters, hotels and amusement facility as well as offices. With fountains and seasonal decorations, Canal City offers multi-faceted delights to visitors.



Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine

The shrine is dedicated to Michizane Sugawara who is venerated as the God of Learning. There is a sacred tree, a plum known as Tobiume (flying plum tree). It is said that after Michizane was falsely charged and exiled to Dazaifu, the tree left his mansion in Kyoto and flew to Dazaifu. Over 1,000 years later, the plum still blossoms every year, welcoming visitors who come to pray for academic success.



Momochi (Seaside Momochi)

With Fukuoka Tower and Seaside Momochi Beach Park, the Momochi area bustles with people enjoying stylish waterfront facilities and beach sports.



Kokura Castle & Kokura Castle Japanese Garden

Kokura Castle, one of the most renowned castles in Japan, was originally built in 1602. Its prominent tower was built in a unique style called *Karakuzuki* and the splendid stonewall was created without the use of cut stones. The castle was rebuilt in 1959 to the current state. The Kokura Castle's Japanese Garden lies east of the castle, recreating the lord's villa that was used to receive guests and the garden. The villa boasts the typical *shoin* style and houses a tearoom with chairs where visitors can experience the art of tea ceremony.



TOTO Museum

The museum provides a fun opportunity to learn Japan's plumbing history such as that of kitchen and bathroom. The shop offers original goods and other items created in collaboration with local businesses.



Mojiko Retro

The Port of Moji or Mojiko prospered for over 120 years as one of the major international ports of Japan. Currently, it is a popular tourist area where visitors can experience the feel of the era when foreign vessels frequented the port.

NAGASAKI



Nagasaki Peace Park & Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum

An atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945. The Peace Park was created on and around the hypocenter with the hope for peace. The Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum is located nearby.



Glover Garden

Glover was an active trader at the end of Edo period (1603-1867). The Glover Garden is a tourist spot that was created by moving western buildings from the Meiji period (1868-1912) to the area where the Glover residence, an important cultural property of Japan, and the residences of wealthy merchants Ringer and Alt were located.



Megane-Bashi (Spectacles Bridge)

Japan's first stone-built, double-arched bridge is called the Spectacles Bridge due to its resemblance to a pair of spectacles when seen with the reflection of the arches of the bridge in the river. This bridge is designated an important cultural property of Japan.



Shimabara Castle

After being dismantled in the Meiji era (1868-1912), the castle tower, turret and long walls of Shimabara Castle were later restored. The tower is used as a historical museum, and the grounds also house Seibo Memorial Hall that exhibits the works of local sculptor Seibo Kitamura as well as the Sightseeing Revival Hall that displays the disaster caused by the eruption of the Unzen Fugen-dake.



Samurai residences & town with koi fish

Shitancho district features samurai residences from over 400 years ago and a canal. In Shimamachi, 1,500 koi fish swim in the canal that runs beside private homes. These attractions are tested on Shimabara's abundant, clean water.



Unzen Jigoku

Unzen Jigoku is characterized by hot springs and gases spurting out from the ground, with steam and the smell of sulfur permeating the air. Here, visitors can see 30 or so geothermal spots that contributed to the area acquiring the name Jigoku or hell.



Mt. Unzen Disaster Memorial Hall

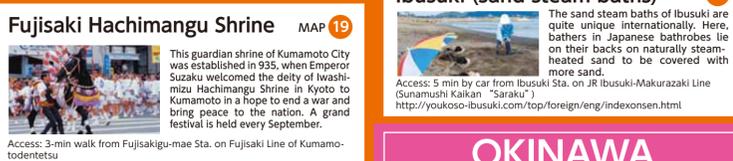
The volcanic eruption of Mt. Unzen Fugen-dake peak started in 1990 and lasted 6 years. The memorial hall was created to pass down lessons learned from the natural threats and disaster to future generations, and offers visitors a simulated experience of volcanic activity.

SAGA



Yoshinogari Historical Park

Yoshinogari Ruins was built 2400 years ago, and it has been Japan's biggest high academic rating ruin for about 700 years. Yoshinogari historical park has restored buildings, fences, it reproduces third century AD.



Kumamoto Castle

Kumamoto Castle was completed in 1607 by Commander Kiyomasa Kato and is considered one of the three premier castles in Japan. Its main characteristic is the increasing steepness of the stone walls to repel attack, called *musha-gashi*.



Fujisaki Hachimangu Shrine

This guardian shrine of Kumamoto City was established in 935, when Emperor Suzaku welcomed the deity of Iwashimizu Hachimangu Shrine in Kyoto to Kumamoto in a hope to end a war and bring peace to the nation. A grand festival is held every September.



Tatsuda Nature Park

The park stands on the ruins of Taijohji Temple which was the family temple of the Hosokawa clan, the ruling clan of Kumamoto. The park houses the graves of the first lord Fujitaka and his wife, and second lord Tadaoki and his wife, as well as a tea house that was restored based on an original drawing by Tadaoki, who was a master of tea ceremony. The park is a government-designated historical park.

OITA



Yufuin Onsen

Yufuin is the second greatest hot spring area in Japan in terms of the amount of water that flows and number of wellsheads. The town also features classy shops, restaurants and galleries.



Sakurajima Island

Sakurajima Island spewing volcanic smoke is a symbol of Kagoshima. When you are in the area, drop by the Sakurajima Visitor Center.



Ibusuki (sand steam baths)

The sand steam baths of Ibusuki are quite unique internationally. Here, bathers in Japanese bathrobes lie on their backs on naturally steam-heated sand to be covered with more sand.



Shurijo Castle Park

The Ryukyu Kingdom thrived for about 450 years on islands in the southwestern part of Japan. The Shurijo Castle features an architectural style that fuses Chinese and Japanese cultures. The Shurijo Castle ruins were registered as a World Heritage Site in 2000.