

YAMAGUCHI



National treasure Rurikoji Temple and Five-Storeyed Pagoda MAP 1
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 MAP 2
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."

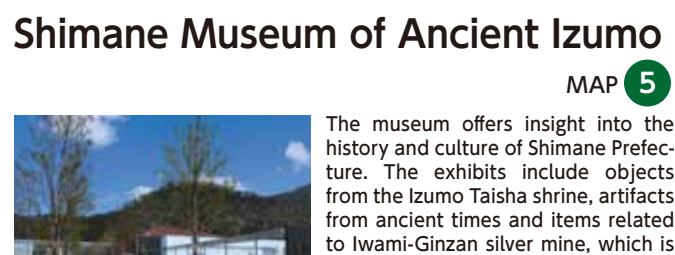


SL Yamaguchi MAP 3
Steam locomotives disappeared from the Yamaguchi Line in 1973, but one of them made a comeback as "SL Yamaguchi" in 1979. The train has operated over 30 years since then, with weekends from spring to fall. The passenger cars are slated for renewal in 2017.

SHIMANE



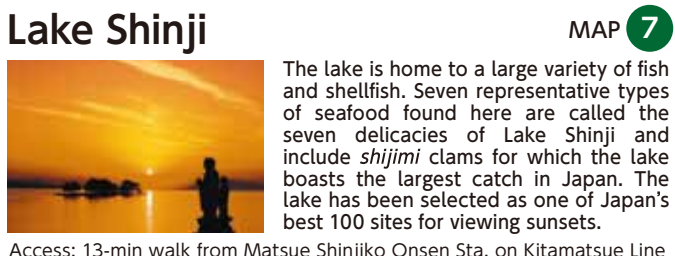
Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine MAP 4
The construction of Izumo Taisha is mentioned in Japan's oldest historical record, the Kojiki. It enshrines the god Okuninushi, who worked to build the state and villages while on earth, and is now a benevolent deity watching over us. Also called Daikoku-sama, the deity is known to bring love, luck and connections. The shrine attracts many visitors who hope for partners in love and those who will bring mutual prosperity. The photo is of the Kagura-den building for sacred Shinto music.



Shimane Museum of Ancient Izumo MAP 5
The museum offers insight into the history and culture of Shimane Prefecture. The exhibits include objects from the Izumo Taisha shrine, artifacts from ancient times and items related to Iwami-Ginzan silver mine, which is designated a World Heritage Site. Visitors can learn about the myths of the Izumo area through visual presentations.



Matsue Castle MAP 6
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. The castle's splendid profile is often compared to the spread wings of a plover or *chidori*, after which the castle is also called Chidori-jo or Plover Castle. The top floor of the castle tower offers a panoramic view of Matsue City.



Lake Shinji MAP 7
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. The lake has been selected as one of Japan's best 100 sites for viewing sunsets.

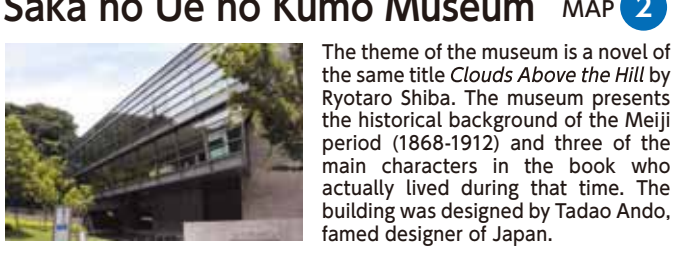


Hinomisaki Cape MAP 8
Located at the western end of the Shimane Peninsula, the Hinomisaki Lighthouse stands 43.65m tall, making it the tallest stone-built lighthouse in the East. The observation deck commands a splendid view of the Sea of Japan and Owashi-hama beach.

EHIME



Dogo Onsen MAP 1
With its 3,000-year history, this is the oldest hot spring in Japan. The water of this alkaline simple spring is believed to heal injuries and ailments such as neuralgia, arthritis, poor circulation and fatigue. The onsen has a quaint charm and complex layout where visitors can enjoy bathing as well as a tour, which includes Shiroroku drum tower on top of the main building, the three-level wooden Kaminyou bath building, and Yushinden, the only bathing facility in Japan reserved for the Imperial Family.



Saka no Ue no Kumo Museum MAP 2
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. The building was designed by Tadao Ando, famed designer of Japan.



Matsuyama Castle, ropeway and lift MAP 3
This is the largest castle in Shikoku, having required quarter of a century to complete. Located on a mountain in the plains, the *honmaru* main bailey is built on the 132m-high peak, and *ninomaru* and *sannomaru* baileys at the base. The top floor of the keep commands a panoramic view of the Matsuyama plains and Seto Inland Sea. The ropeway and lift offer a convenient ride to the *honmaru* bailey.



Botchan trains MAP 4
These are 2001 replicas of a train that once existed and was described in Soseki Natsume's novel Botchan. Even though they look like steam locomotives, they use diesel engines and the latest technology. Once they reach their destination, they switch directions in a very surprising manner.

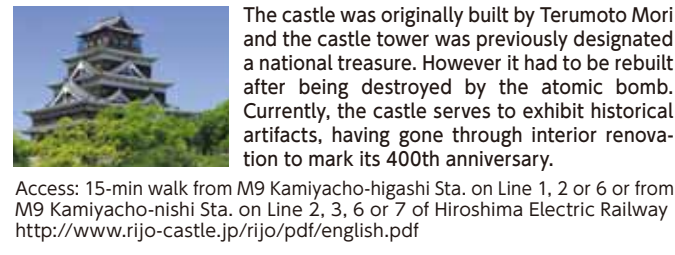
HIROSHIMA (G7 Hiroshima Foreign Ministers' Meeting)



Atomic Bomb Dome & Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park MAP 9
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. The dome is preserved as it stood that day to serve as a symbol and to appeal for the Hiroshima-nation's lasting peace. The nearby Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park is designated an important cultural property.



Miyajima & Itsukushima Shrine World Heritage MAP 11
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. High tide brings the sea close to the shrine floor while low tide reveals the still structure below.



Hiroshima Castle MAP 12
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. Currently, the castle serves to exhibit historical artifacts, having gone through interior renovation to mark its 400th anniversary.

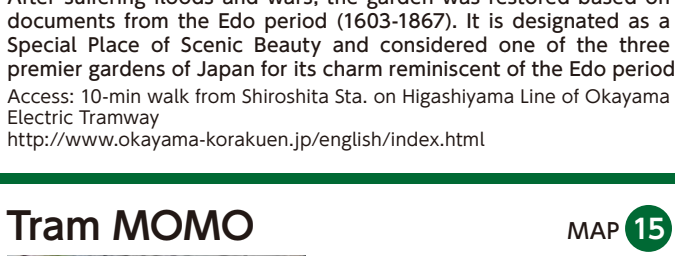


Yamato Museum MAP 13
The battleship Yamato was built in Kure, a town that housed imperial navy-run factories and a navy port during WWII. The museum illustrates Kure's history of becoming a coastal industrial city as well as the science and technology of shipbuilding and steelmaking. A 1/10-scale model of the Yamato is also on display.

OKAYAMA (G7 Kurashiki Education Ministers' Meeting in Okayama)



Okayama Castle MAP 16
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 MAP 14
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. After suffering floods and wars, the garden was restored based on documents from the Edo period (1603-1867). It is designated as a Special Place of Scenic Beauty and considered one of the three premier gardens of Japan for its charm reminiscent of the Edo period.



Tram MOMO MAP 15
The name of the tram Momo comes from the local specialty, peaches. The tram features a metallic painted exterior and interior that uses wood, and was designed by Eiji Mitooka, an industrial designer from the area.



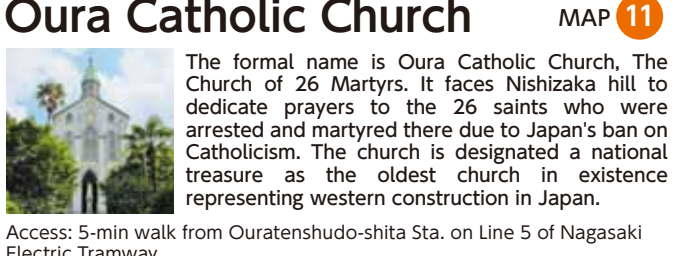
Washuzan observatory & Seto Ohashi Bridge MAP 18
Seto Ohashi Bridge refers to six bridges that together span the 9.4km of sea between the islands of Honshu and Shikoku. It is one of the longest bridges in the world and accommodates both road and railway traffic. Washuzan observatory offers a panoramic view of the bridge and many beautiful islands.



Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter MAP 19
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 MAP 20
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.



Steam locomotive at Mizushima Chuo Koen Park MAP 21
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.

KOCHI



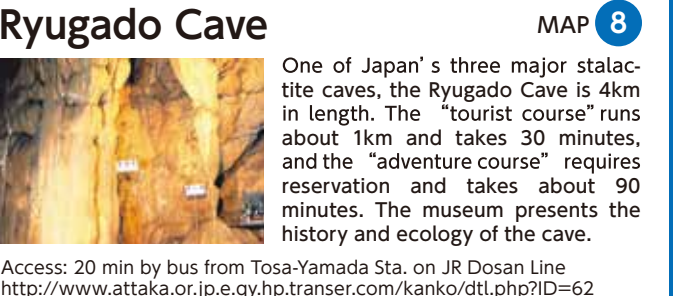
Kochi Castle MAP 5
Built in 1603 when the Edo Shogunate was established, much of the castle was lost in the great fire of 1727. The castle was restored after 25 years of rebuilding effort and 15 buildings including the tower are designated important cultural properties. Canals, stone gutters and stone walls were built to handle the large amount of rainfall, and many devices were installed to defend the castle against attack.



Harimaya Bridge MAP 7
The bridge once connected wealthy merchants Harimaya and Hitsuya over a canal during the Edo period (1603-1867). The bridge is famous for a scene from a tragic love story in which a priest Junshin from Chikurinji Temple bought hair ornament for Ouma, a tinker. The episode is sung in Kochi's folk song Yosako.



Ryugado Cave MAP 8
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. The museum presents the history and ecology of the cave.

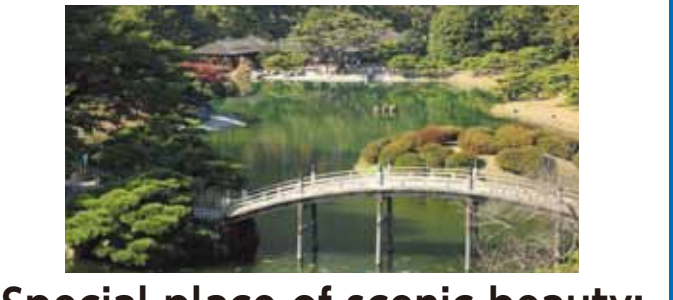


Nichiyo-ichi Sunday Market MAP 9
This outdoor market with over 300 years of history is one of the largest in Japan. More than 500 stalls stretching over 1.3km from west to east are set up, selling fresh produce and other items. The market is open from early morning to evening every Sunday.

KAGAWA (G7 ICT Ministers' Meeting)



Kotohira-gu Shrine MAP 10
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. Souvenir shops and udon noodle eateries line both sides of the front approach and venerable shrine buildings dot the large precinct.



Special place of scenic beauty: Ritsurin Garden MAP 12
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) MAP 13
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 MAP 14
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)



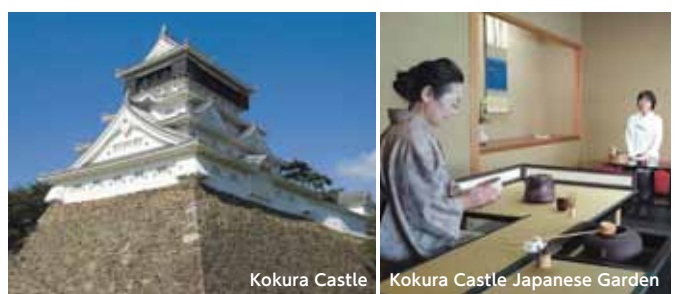
Tenjin MAP 1
Tenjin is the largest downtown area in Kyushu and welcomes shoppers from home and abroad. Nishitetsu Tenjin Highway Bus Terminal is centrally located, and access by train, bus and subway is convenient. The area is a leader in fashion thanks to long-established department stores and commercial complexes lining the streets. Recently, subculture shops specializing in fields such as manga or animation are cropping up in the area.



Yanagawa MAP 3
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. The area's specialty is "seirumushi," grilled eel steamed on a bed of rice. Over 20 restaurants offer their own versions of the dish, permeating the area with the aroma of salty-sweet sauce all year around.



Canal City Hakata MAP 4
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.



Kokura Castle & Kokura Castle Japanese Garden MAP 6
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 *karuzakuri* 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.

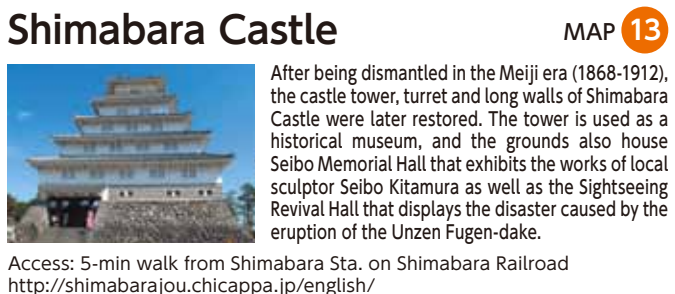


TOTO Museum MAP 7
The museum provides a fun opportunity to learn Japan's plumbing history such as that of kitchen and bathroom. The shop offers original goods and other items created in collaboration with local businesses.

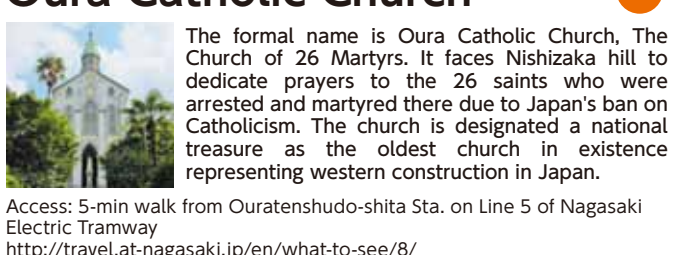
NAGASAKI



Nagasaki Peace Park & Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum MAP 9
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.



Shimabara Castle MAP 13
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.



Glover Garden World Heritage MAP 10
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.



Samurai residences & town with koi fish MAP 14
Shitanochi 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 testaments to Shimabara's abundant, clean water.

SAGA



Yoshinogari Historical Park MAP 17
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.



Yufuin Onsen MAP 21
Yufuin is the second greatest hot spring area in Japan in terms of the amount of water that flows and number of wellheads. The town also features classy shops, restaurants and galleries.

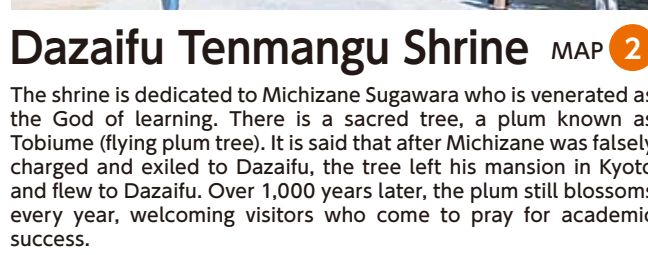
KUMAMOTO



Kumamoto Castle MAP 18
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*.



Sakurajima Island MAP 22
Sakurajima Island spewing volcanic smoke is a symbol of Kagoshima. When you are in the area, drop by the Sakurajima Visitor Center.



Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine MAP 2
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) MAP 5
With Fukuoka Tower and Seaside Momochi Beach Park, the Momochi area bustles with people enjoying stylish waterfront facilities and beach sports. Fukuoka Yahuokuil Dome in the adjacent Jyigo area holds baseball games and concerts.



Mojiko Retro MAP 8
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.



Megane-Bashi (Spectacles Bridge) MAP 12
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.



Mt. Unzen Disaster Memorial Hall MAP 16
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.



Fujisaki Hachimangu Shrine MAP 19
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.

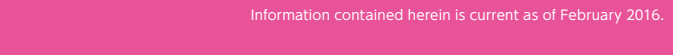


Ibusuki (sand steam baths) MAP 23
The sand steam baths of Ibusuki are quite unique internationally. Here, bathers in Japanese bathrobes lie on their backs on naturally steam-heated sand to be covered with more sand.

OKINAWA



Shurijo Castle Park World Heritage MAP 24
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.



Tatsuda Nature Park MAP 20
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.