

Find your Japan in the Chūgoku Region

To those visiting Japan on the occasion of the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai

Located on the western doorstep of the Kansai region, the Chūgoku Region consists of the prefectures of Hiroshima, Okayama, Yamaguchi, Shimane, and Tottori.

As well as the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Atomic Bomb Dome in Hiroshima and Miyajima on the Seto Inland Sea, and Iwami Ginzan and the castle town of Hagi on the Japan Sea Coast, the region boasts many off-the-beaten-track traditional towns and villages, impressive natural scenery, and deep culture. The Chūgoku region offers something for everyone.

This selection of curated itineraries will be both a source of inspiration and a starting point from which you can craft unforgettable journeys for customers looking to avoid the crowds and find their own Japan, in the wonderful Chūgoku Region.

Table of contents

1	Sake and Culinary Delights from		10	The Best of	
•	the G7 Hiroshima Summit	Pl	10	Chūgoku Region 6-Day Tour	P10
	Hiroshima Peace Tour		11	Islands and Highlands	
2	by Chartered Tram and			Exclusive National Park Tour	P11
	Bike Excursion	P2			
			12	Traditional Townscapes of	
3	Japanese Swords and		1~	Okayama and Tottori	P12
	the Chūgoku Region	P3			
			13	Off-the-Beaten-Track Highlights	
4	The Ultimate San'in Experience	P4	10	of Nature and History	P13
5	Cruise the Seto Inland Sea In Style	P5	14	World Heritage and	
	· ·	1 3		Myths of Japan Tour	P14
	Eat Local			III:	
6	in Okayama and Hiroshima	P6	15	Hiroshima, Castle Towns, and Scenic Townscapes by Bike	
				and Scenic Townscapes by Bike	P15
	Manufacturing and Industry			Handmade Beauty:	
7	in the Chūgoku Region;		16	Traditional Craft Works	
_	Miyajima World Heritage Site	P7	10	of Hiroshima and Okayama	P16
0	Natural Wonders and Culture			Discover the Magic of Kagura in	
8	in San'in Geopark and National Park	P8	17	the Chūgoku Region	P17
				3	
	Resilience Against			All Aboard! Local Train Lines	
9	the Power of Nature,		18	in the Chūgoku Region and	
	Past to Present	P9		Train Driving Experience	P18

1 THEMES G7 Summit, Sake, Whisky



Sake and Culinary Delights from the G7 Hiroshima Summit

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

In addition to Fushimi in Kyōto and Nada in Hyōgo, Saijō in Hiroshima is one of the three biggest sake producing areas in Japan and its sake was served to heads to state at the G7 Hiroshima Summit. Try this incredible sake for yourself, as well as sake from Yamaguchi Prefecture that has a rich, but light flavor profile differing from the sake of Saijō. From sake to local Miyoshi wines, to single malt Japanese whisky Togouchi, savor the drinks featured during the G7 Hiroshima Summit 2023 along with elegant meals that complement them.



SCHEDULE

DAY

Shin-Osaka Station CULTITAIN 1hr 25min Hiroshima Station TRAIN 40min Saijō Station » Sake breweries of Saijō, sake tasting, sake hotpot (Higashi-Hiroshima City) » Saijō Station TRAIN 40min Stay the night in Hiroshima City

DAY

DAY3

Hiroshima City TRAM 50min Sakurao Brewery and Distillery (Hatsukaichi City) TRAM 13min Miyajima-guchi TERRY 10min Miyajima: Visit Itsukushima Shrine (World Heritage Site), Miyajima Brewery, lunch at Iwasō TERRY 26min
Stay the night at the Grand Prince Hotel (Hiroshima City)

DAV

Hiroshima City CAR 1hr 10min Miyoshi Winery CAR 30min Takano Roadside Station: local delicacies, souvenirs, and more CAR 1hr 30min Hiroshima Station GULLETTRAIN 1hr 25min Shin-Osaka Station

Note: Drinking and driving is against the law. Be sure to have a designated driver.

THEMES Military history, A-bomb, World Heritage



Hiroshima Peace Tour by Chartered Tram and Bike Excursion

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

Retrace the history of Hiroshima from the catastrophic damage of the atomic bombing to its incredible recovery. The streetcars that survived the bombing and continue to run today are known as hibaku streetcars. They began running just three days after the bombing and are a symbol of Hiroshima's recovery. Take a ride in one of these historic cars and learn about the history of Hiroshima and peace from an interpreter who will guide you through the city. See what Hiroshima was like before the bombing with virtual reality tour technology in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, before taking a guided bicycle tour which highlights the city's recovery. In the evening, enjoy the guiet beauty of the city.



SCHEDULE

DAY

Shin-Osaka Station (ILLEHTALE) 1hr 25min Hiroshima Station (ITALE) 50min Yamato Museum (Kure City) »Kure Port (ILLE) 45min Hiroshima Port via SEA PASEO (ITALE) 30min Stay the night in Hiroshima City

DAY2

Hiroshima City TAN 10min Chartered Hibaku Streetcar ride » Atomic Bomb Dome: Experience Hiroshima before the bombing via VR »

TISTEL Sokoiko! Peace Cycling Tour: Take a guided cycling tour of the city that follows the story of Hiroshima from WWII to post-war recovery while vistiing the major atomic bomb-related sites in Peace Memorial Park and the downtown area (includes option to stop by Schmoe House) » Hiroshima Castle: Hiroshima Imperial Headquarters during the Sino-Japanese War » Stay the night in Hiroshima

DAY3

Hiroshima City @ULLETTRAIN 15min Shin-Iwakuni Station @US 15min Kintaikyō Bridge: one of the three most famous bridges in Japan, designated as a National Site of Scenic Beauty, visit Iwakuni Castle via ropeway TRAIN 21min Miyajima-guchi GERRY 10min Miyajima: Visit Itsukushima Shrine (World Heritage Site)

FERRY 10min Miyajima-guchi TRAIN 27min Hiroshima Station @ULLETTRAIN 1hr 25min Shin-Osaka Station



Japanese Swords and the Chūgoku Region

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

Experience the world of Japanese swords, a symbol of samurai culture. Admire the Japanese swords on display at the Bizen Osafune Sword Museum located in Setouchi City, Okayama, a city known for making Japanese swords in the Bizen osafune style. Afterwards, you'll learn how these incredible swords are made, as well as tour a tatara ironmaking facility, which produces the iron used in making swords and ironware, and even get some hands-on experience! We end the tour at Ōyamazumi Shrine on Ōmishima, home to 80% of the weapons and armor designated as National Treasures and National Important Cultural Properties, including swords from the Middle Ages, armor, and more.



SCHEDULE

DAY1

DAY

Yonago City 20min Japanese Iron Museum: The only ironmaking museum in Japan! Learn all about tatara ironmaking from the museum's curator (Yasugi City) 20min Adachi Museum of Art: Japanese art collection, including works by Taikan Yokoyama, and Japanese garden 211 1hr Oku-Izumo Tatara Ironmaking and Sword Museum 212 20min Stay the night at Kamedake Hot Springs (Oku-Izumo City)

DAY3

Kamedake Hot Springs (AR) 35min Kabeya Shuseikan/Sakurai Family Residence, Õhara Shinden Rice Terraces (AR) 2hr 10min Õyamazumi Shrine: displays 80% of the weapons and armor designated as National Treasures and National Important Cultural Properties (Õmishima, Ehime Prefecture) (AR) 1hr 20min Fukuyama Station (DULLETITAIN) 1hr Shin-Osaka Station

THEMES Nature, Outdoor Activities, Onsen



The Ultimate San'in Experience

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

Experience the extraordinary in the San'in region, home to places you won't find anywhere else, including the most hazardous National Treasure in Japan, as well as the biggest sand dunes in all of the country. Nageire-dō Hall in Sanbutsu-ji Temple on Mt. Mitoku is known as the most hazardous National Treasure in Japan due to the challenging hiking trail to get there. Perched cliffside, the hall is surrounded by natural beauty and is an architectural marvel. At the Tottori Sand Dunes, the biggest in the country, you can try your hand at beginners paragliding across the expansive dunes or zip around on a Segway.



SCHEDULE

DAY

Shin-Osaka Station TALID 3hr 25min Tottori Station CAR 20min Tottori Sand Dunes: The largest sand dunes in Japan; enjoy a variety of activities like biking on fat bikes, paragliding, and Segway riding, followed by a visit to the Sand Museum (AR 20min Stay the night in Tottori City

DAY2

Tottori City LAE Ihr Nageire-dō Hall on Mt. Mitoku: Known as the most hazardous National Treasure in Japan; for safety reasons, one guide is needed per 10-15 participants (Misasa-cho) LAE 12min Stay the night at Misasa Hot Springs: one of the most radioactive springs in the world, containing high concentrations of radon (Misasa-cho)

DAY

Misasa Hot Springs (A1) 1hr 50min Lighthouse, Miho Shrine, Ao-ishi-datami Stone Pathway (A1) 1hr 45min Dentetsu Lake Shinji Onsen Station (12A11) 3hr 10min Dentetsu Izumo Taisha-mae Station » Izumo Oyashiro Shrine: Visit this ancient shrine known for matchmaking » Izumo City Station (12A112) 45min Okayama Station (12A112) 1hr Shin-Osaka Station



Cruise the Seto Inland Sea In Style

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

Cruise the Seto Inland Sea in style aboard pleasure cruiser SEA SPICA, the same boat that world leaders boarded during the G7 Hiroshima Summit! The Seto Inland Sea is full of incomparable beauty, dotted with about 700 islands, and known for its mild climate. Colorful and unique bridges span between islands and the ever-changing contrast of islands, ocean, and sky will have you captivated. Experience the grandeur of the Seto Inland Sea and its many islands through visits to places like Shimokamagarijima Island, where boats would dock in the Edo period and diplomatic missions of old would visit, as well as the Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter, Okayama Castle, and Korakuen Garden. Each new island provides you the chance to get a glimpse of island culture and connect with locals.



SCHEDULE

DAY

Shin-Osaka Station CULETTAIN 1hr 25min Hiroshima Station TRAM 15min Peace Memorial Park TRAM 1hr 10min Miyajima-guchi TERRY 10min Miyajima: Visit World Heritage Site the Itsukushima Shrine, take the ropeway to the observation deck on Mt. Misen » Miyajima-guchi TERRY 26min Stay the night in Ujina, Hiroshima City

DAY

Ujina, Hiroshima City FERRY 4hr 40min Setouchi cruise aboard SEA SPICA » Ondo-no-Seto (view from the boat) » Aki Nada Õhashi Bridge (view from the boat) » Shimokamagarijima Island: Explore the island » Chigirishima Island, known as the Battleship Island of Setouchi (view from the boat) » Õkunoshima Island: Take a stroll around the famous Rabbit Island » Mihara Port » Mihara Station TRAIN 12min Senkō-ji Temple Park: Take in the scenic view of the Seto Inland Sea (Onomichi City) TRAIN 1hr 10min Stay the night in Kurashiki City

DAY3

Kurashiki City » Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter: Ōhara Museum of Art and stroll along the white-walled and weeping willow-lined streets TRAIN 20min Okayama Castle, Korakuen Garden, Izushi-cho: Take a step back in time in this area, home to many historic buildings TRAIN 20min Okayama Station

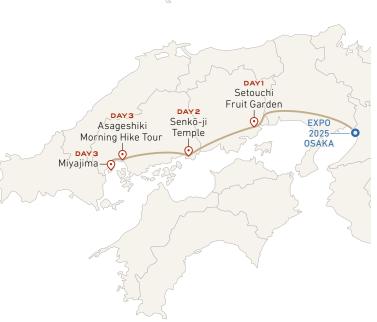
6 THEMES Local Food, Morning Hike, World Heritage



Eat Local in Okayama and Hiroshima

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

Savor the unique food cultures of Okayama and Hiroshima on this gourmet tour! Thanks to abundant sunshine and advanced technological developments, Okayama is home to many farms where you can hand-pick seasonal, premium fruit. In addition to fruit, try Okayama's famed Japanese confection, kibi dango. In Hiroshima, the gourmet tour begins with breakfast made using local ingredients and served on Mt. Futaba with a view of the whole city. For lunch, savor Hiroshima soul food Okonomiyaki. Don't forget a snack: Hiroshima- favorite momiji manjū (small, maple leaf-shaped cakes)!



SCHEDULE

DAY

Shin-Osaka Station THETTAM 45min Okayama Station A5min Hinase Oyster Okonomiyaki (Bizen City) Thr Setouchi Fruit Garden: Strawberries from Apr.-May (Setouchi City)/Tomomien Peach and Grape Orchard: Peaches from late June-Aug., Pione and muscat grapes from late Aug.-early Oct. (Akaiwa City) A1min Kōeidō: Founded in 1856. See how famed Okayama confection kibi dango is made and enjoy a tasting (limited to weekdays in July, Sept.-early Dec)(Kurashiki City) A1min Stay the night in Okayama City

DAY

Okayama City » Okayama Station TRAIII 1hr 25min Onomichi Station » Onomichi ramen lunch, walk around old temples, visit the observation deck on top of Senkō-ji Temple » Onomichi Station TRAIII 3hr (Enjoy dessert and sake aboard Etsetora, luxury JR sightseeing train) » Hiroshima Station » Stay the night in Hiroshima City

DAY3

Hiroshima City » Early morning hiking in the downtown Hiroshima area and breakfast with a view, provided by Asageshiki TRAM 10min Atomic Bomb Dome TRAM 1hr Miyajima-guchi TERRY 10min Miyajima: Visit World Heritage Site the Itsukushima Shrine, make your own momiji manjū (famed Hiroshima confection), okonomiyaki lunch TERRY 10min Miyajima-guchi TRAM 30min Hiroshima Station



Manufacturing and Industry in the Chūgoku Region; Miyajima World Heritage Site

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

Careful manufacturing that Japan is known for and cutting edge, eco-friendly manufacturing that uses the latest technology come together in the Chūgoku region. Kojima Jeans in Okayama was the first company to make domestic-made jeans. Popular overseas, jeans may have been invented in the US, but they have evolved in Japan, where each hand-sewn pair is made with care. On the manufacturing side, known for their beautiful design and beloved the world over, you'll take a tour of the Mazda car factory and of storage battery production plant Power Base, an eco-friendly, state-of-the-art facility designed by world-famous architect, Kazuyo Sejima.



SCHEDULE

DAY

Shin-Osaka Station COLLETTRAIL 45min Okayama Station TRAIL 20min Okayama Castle, Korakuen Garden CAR 50min Tour of the Okayama Kirin Beer Factory and freshly brewed beer tasting CAR 1hr 10min Tour Power X's Power Base plant (tours begin in 2025; Tamano City) CAR 1hr 15min Mizushima Industrial Complex Night Cruise (Kurashiki City) » Stay the night in Kurashiki City

DAY2

Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter: Öhara Museum of Art and stroll along the white-walled and weeping willow-lined streets 30min Kojima Jeans Street: Where domestic jean production began! This approx. 400-meter street is lined with local jean makers 1hr Okayama Station (QUILLITAIN) 40min Hiroshima Station (TRAIN) 6min Mukainada Station » Mazda Museum tour (weekdays only) » Stay the night in Hiroshima

DAY3

Hiroshima TRAM 10min Atomic Bomb Dome and Peace Memorial Park TRAM 35min Inokuchi Station » Otafuku Sauce Factory tour: watch how okonomiyaki sauce is made and bottled at the Otafuku Sauce Factory, visit the Okono-Museum, and try your hand at making okonomiyaki » Inokuchi Station TRAM 30min Miyajima-guchi TRAM 10min Miyajima: Visit World Heritage Site the Itsukushima Shrine TERRY 10min Miyajima-guchi TRAM 30min Hiroshima Station TRAM 11 TRAM



Natural Wonders and Culture of San'in Geopark and National Park

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

The geological features and landscape in San'in Geopark have remained unchanged from the time that the Japanese archipelago was a part of the Asian continent. Experience local culture and history rooted in the colorful, natural landscape of the park. Enjoy outdoor activities on the Tottori Sand Dunes and Mt. Daisen, and, on Oki-no-Shima Island, once a part of the Eurasian continent,

you'll find Matengai Cliff rising 257 meters straight up from the surface of the sea off the Kuniga Coast. Cows and horses graze atop the cliff, providing a surreal pastoral view that contrasts with the sea below. Arched stone bridge Tsūten-kyō is another highlight of the park.

SCHEDULE

DAYI

Shin-Osaka Station TRAIL 3hr 25min Tottori Station CAR 20min Tottori Sand Dunes: The largest sand dunes in Japan; enjoy a variety of activities like biking on fat bikes, paragliding, and Segway riding, followed by visit to the Sand Museum 20min Stay the night in Tottori City

DAY2

Tottori City CAR 30min San'in Coast Geopark, Uradome Coast: After learning about the landscape, geological features, and plants and animals of the San'in Coast at the Museum of the Earth and Sea, take a cruise on a sightseeing boat (Iwami-cho) CAR 1hr 20min Stroll around the Shirakabe Dozōgun storehouses (guided tour, includes Ogawa's garden Kansuien and the Kurayoshi Figure Museum; Kurayoshi City) CAR 20min Stay the night at Misasa Hot Springs

DAY3

Misasa Hot Springs All 12min Sanbutsu-ji Temple on Mt. Mitoku: Visit the most hazardous National Treasure in Japan All 1hr 20min Guided walk through the Beech Forest of Mt. Daisen All 30min Stay the night in Daisen

DAY4

Daisen All 1hr 15min Walk around on Shigeru Mizuki Road (Sakai-Minato City) All 2min Sakai Port ELLA 20min Beppu Port La 3hr 10min 0ki UNESCO Geopark, Matengai Cliff of Kuniga Coast, Tsūten-kyō, etc. (Nishi-no-Shima-cho) Stay the night on Nishi-no-Shima Island

DAY!

Beppu Port Amin Saigō Port Amin Tamawakasu-mikoto Shrine, Mizuwakasu Shrine » Kayaking, sightseeing cruise around Rōsoku-jima(Candle Island) (Oki-no-Shima-cho) Somin Stay the night on Oki-no-Shima Island

DAVE

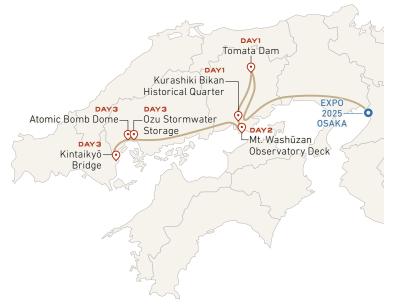
Saigō Port FERRY 3hr 10min Sakai Port All 1hr 50min Stroll around Hi-no-Misaki (Izumo City) All 25min Izumo Oyashiro Shrine: Visit this ancient shrine known for matchmaking All 3hr 10min Izumo City Station TRAIL 3hr 10min Okayama Station



Resilience Against the Power of Nature, Past to Present

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

Since ancient times, the Chūgoku region has been home to a variety of places steeped in the knowledge of disaster mitigation. On this tour, you'll visit infrastructure such as the Kintaikyō Bridge in Yamaguchi Prefecture. The bridge's highly unique five connecting arches are the result of the passion of our forebearers who wanted to build a bridge that would not be washed away. You'll also visit Tomata Dam in Okayama, built in the modern era. Able to handle flooding due to typhoons and dry years due to decreased rainfall, the dam plays an active part in managing water to control flooding and water utilization. In addition, you'll also tour storage battery production plant Power Base, an eco-friendly, state-of-the-art facility designed by world-famous architect, Kazuyo Sejima.



SCHEDULE

DAYI

Shin-Osaka Station **DULETTALIN** 45min Okayama Station **CAB** 1hr 30min Tomata Dam: This beautiful dam is equipped with Japan's first ever emergency labyrinth spillway. Tour the observation room and watch them release water from the dam (Kagamino-cho) **CAR** 1hr 50min Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter: **Öhara Museum of Art and stroll along the white-walled and weeping willow-lined streets Stay the night in Kurashiki City

DAY2

Kurashiki City CAL 50min Mt. Washūzan Observatory Deck: This scenic spot provides you with a view of the many islands that dot the Seto Inland Sea, as well as the impressive span of the Seto Ōhashi Bridge (Kurashiki City) CAR 50min Tour Power X's Power Base plant (tours begin in 2025) (Tamano City) CAR 2hr 25min Stay the night in Hiroshima

DAYS

Hiroshima 15min Özu Stormwater storage: Tour this stormwater storage facility located under Mazda Stadium to alleviate flooding in the Hiroshima Station area (100m in diameter, 5.4m in height, storage capability of 1,500m³) (Hiroshima City) 17AM 15min Atomic Bomb Dome 17AM 1hr Miyajima-guchi 17AM 15min Miyajima: Visit World Heritage Site the Itsukushima Shrine 17AM 10min Miyajima-guchi 17AM 15min Kintaikyō Bridge: one of the three most famous bridges in Japan, Kintaikyō Bridge is a wooden bridge designated as a National Site of Scenic Beauty (Iwakuni City) 17AM 11hr 15min Hiroshima Station 17AM 11hr 15min Shin-Osaka Station

10 THEMES Nature, Onsen, Sake



ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

This tour is perfect for first-time visitors to the Chūgoku region, those who want to experience historic Japan, and those who want to do more than just to visit famous sightseeing destinations. Join us for 6 days of the very best sightseeing spots, breathtaking scenic views, and mouth watering cuisine! Experience the Sanyō region that faces the Seto Inland Sea known

for its calm waters and abundance of beautiful islands, and the San'in region facing the Sea of Japan and full of extraordinary natural beauty. In addition, you'll also visit World Heritage sites on this all-star tour full of nature, culture, history, food, and more!

SCHEDULE

DAY1

AY2

Yuda Hot Springs (AR) 40min Akiyoshi-dai: The largest karst plain in Japan (Mine City) (AR) 1hr 10min Tsunoshima Öhashi Bridge: This bridge spans the cobalt blue waters of the sea for a spectacular view (Shimonoseki City) (AR) 40min Motonosumi Shrine: This incredibly scenic shrine features vermillion torii gates surrounded by greenery (Nagato City) (AR) 30min Kaisen Mura Kita-Nagato: Savor a fresh kaisen-don (rice bowl topped with sashimi and more) for lunch (AR) 25min Hagi Castle Town (Hagi City) (AR) 5min Stay the night at Hagi Hot Springs (Hagi City)

DAY3

Hagi Hot Springs (LAL) 2hr 20min Iwami Tatami-ga-Ura (Hamada City)

(LAL) 55min Iwami Silver Mine: Approx. 45-minute walk (each way) to World Heritage Site Ryūgenji Mabu Mine Shaft (Öda City)

(LAL) 1hr 20min Stay the night at Matsu-no-Yu, Tamatsukuri Hot Springs (Matsue City)

DAY4

Tamatsukuri Hot Springs LAR 1hr Izumo Oyashiro Shrine: Visit this ancient shrine known for matchmaking, savor Izumo soba for lunch LAR 50min Matsue Castle: Visit the castle tower, a National Treasure (guided tours require reservations) LAR 40min Adachi Museum of Art: Japanese art collection, including works by Taikan Yokoyama, and Japanese garden (Yasugi City) LAR 25min Stay the night in Yonago City

DAY5

Yonago City CAR 35min Daisen-ji Temple: Overlooks a magnificent view of the Sea of Japan CAR 1hr 50min Tottori Sand Dunes: Visit to the largest sand dunes in Japan and the Sand Museum CAR 50min Nageire-dō Hall on Mt. Mitoku: Known as the most hazardous National Treasure in Japan (Misasa-cho) CAR 20min Stay the night at Misasa Hot Springs: one of the most radioactive springs in the world, containing high concentrations of radon (Misasa-cho)

DAY6

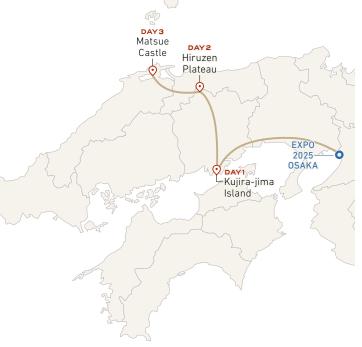
Misasa Hot Springs (2AR) 2hrs Kibitsu Shrine(Okayama City) (2AR) 40min Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter: Öhara Museum of Art and stroll along the white-walled and weeping willow-lined streets (2AR) 45min Okayama Station (2ULETITAM) 45min Shin-Osaka Station



Islands and Highlands
Exclusive
National Park Tour

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

Join us on a tour of the mountains, ocean, and national parks of the Chūgoku region. At the Seto Inland Sea National Park, the first national park in Japan, enjoy glamping on a private deserted island while a private chef whips up culinary delights against a breathtaking backdrop of islands big and small. At the Daisen Oki National Park, take part in activities built around the characteristic gentle sloping mountains and savor local delicacies while taking in the majestic landscape around you.



SCHEDULE

DAY1

Shin-Osaka Station WILETTRAIN 45min Okayama Station TRAIN 55min Uno Port FERRY 15min Kujira-jima Island, private deserted island in the Seto Inland Sea*: Stay the night in Seto Inland Sea National Park (Kurashiki City)
*Dinner will be prepared by a private chef. Other activities available upon request. The premium glamping plan can accommodate up to 10 people.

DAY

Kujira-jima Island FERRY 15min Uno Port TRAIN 50min Okayama Station

All 1hr 30min Hiruzen Plateau: GREENable HIRUZEN, ice cream-making experience in Joyful Park, Hiruzen Plateau Center, Hiruzen Winery (Maniwa City)

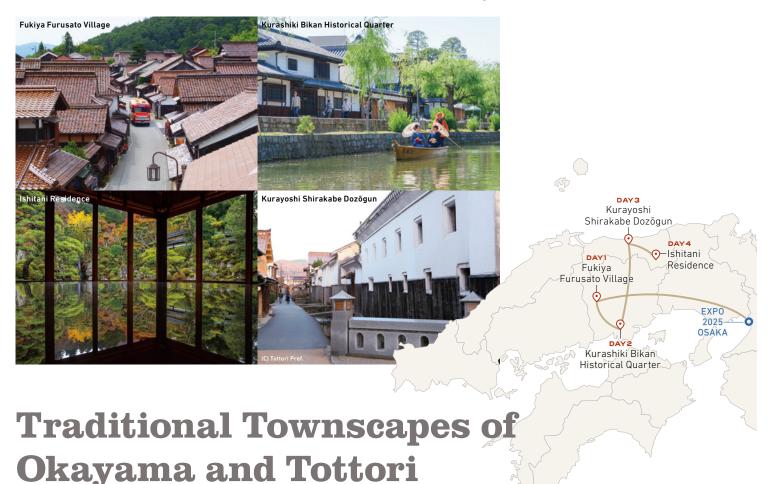
The 5min Matsue Lake Shinji Hot Springs » Stay the night in Matsue City

DAY3

Matsue City GAE 5min Matsue Castle and Castle Moat: Visit the castle tower, a National Treasure (guided tours require reservations) » Kaka-no-Kukedo Marine Cave GAE 10min Matsue Station TRAIN 2hr 35min Okayama Station QULLETIZAIN 45min Shin-Osaka Station



12 THEMES Samurai Culture, Traditional Townscapes, Gardens



ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

The Chūgoku region has long been a hub for trade and manufacturing, and each community within the region has a one-of-a-kind townscape that reflects their individual history. The Shirakabe Dozōgun storehouses of Kurayoshi are modeled off castle towns in the Muromachi period. In the Edo period, commerce and industry flourished and you can still see traces of that in the

town today. The Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter once prospered as a hub for trade via ships. The traditional and cohesive townscape is balanced by the beautiful weeping willow-lined streets. Takahashi City, famed for its production of red ocher and copper, is the birthplace of the color known as Japan Red, and its distinctive red townscape continues to welcome visitors today.

SCHEDULE

DAY1

Shin-Osaka Station CLLETITALII 45min Okayama Station CAR 10min Korakuen Garden CAR 1hr 30min Fukiya Furusato Village: This red townscape is a rarity in Japan; enjoy a stroll down the retro streets (Takahashi City) CAR 1hr Bisei Astronomical Observatory: Stargazing through a 101-cm telescope (Bisei-cho) CAR 1hr Stay the night in Kurashiki

DAY2

Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter: Öhara Museum of Art and stroll along the white-walled and weeping willow-lined streets CAE 2hr 40min Matsue Castle: Visit the castle tower, a National Treasure (guided tours require reservations)

The Visit to Daisen-ji Temple CAE 10min Stay the night in Daisen-cho (At night, join a professional photographer on a tour of the starry night sky; check schedule in advance)

DAY3

DAY4

Tottori City (AL) 35min Ishitani Residence in Chizu: Designated as an Important Cultural Property, visit the residence and its exquisite Japanese garden (Chizu-cho) (AL) 20min Mori-no-Oto, Nishi-Awakura: Tour a musical instrument and toy workshop that makes products out of local cypress (Nishi-Awakura Village)

(AL) 1hr 50min Okayama Station (ULLETTRAIL) 45min Shin-Osaka Station

13 THEMES Nature, Onsen, Historical Buildings



Off-the-beaten-track Highlights of Nature and History

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

The Chūgoku region is home to Japan's largest limestone cave, Akiyoshidō Cave, as well as Makidō Cave, a limestone cave illuminated by colorful LEDs. On this tour, you'll also discover Nageire-dō Hall, known as the most hazardous National Treasure in Japan. Considered sacred, it is used as the final destination for Shugendō training in the tradition of Japanese

mountain asceticism that worships the gods of the mountain and whose monks train in rugged mountain areas. The region is full of castles that use the natural environment around them to their advantage, as well as the castle towns that thrived around them. Come and experience the natural beauty of the region, as well as the cities, towns, and livelihoods born from it.

SCHEDULE

DAYI

Shin-Osaka Station OULLETTANIII 1hr 52min Shin-Yamaguchi Station CAR 30min Akiyoshi-dai and Akiyoshidō Cave (Mine City) CAR 1hr Motonosumi Shrine: This incredibly scenic shrine features vermillion torii gates surrounded by greenery (Nagato City) CAR 55min Hagi Castle Town CAR 5min Stay the night at Hagi Hot Springs (Hagi City)

DAY2

Hagi Hot Springs (All 3hr 40min Stroll around Hi-no-Misaki (Izumo City)

20min Izumo Oyashiro Shrine: Visit this ancient shrine known for matchmaking (All 5min Inasa-no-Hama Beach: Known for its stunning sunset views

20min Stay the night in Izumo City

DAY3

Dentetsu-Izumoshi Station in Izumo City TRAIL 1hr Matsue Shinjiko-Onsen Station TAR 6min Matsue Castle: Visit the castle tower, a National Treasure (guided tours require reservations) TAR 45min Gassantoda
Castle (Yasugi City) TAR 30min Remnants of Yonago Castle (Yonago City)
TAR 17min Kotobuki Castle: A dessert museum inside a replica of Yonago Castle
(Matsue City) TAR 1hr 6min Stay the night at Misasa Hot Springs: one of
the most radioactive springs in the world, containing high concentrations of radon
(Misasa-cho)

DAV

Misasa Hot Springs (III) 15min Nageire-dō Hall on Mt. Mitoku: Known as the most hazardous National Treasure in Japan; for safety reasons, one guide is needed per 10-15 participants (Misasa-cho) (III) 2hr 30min Stay the night at Taishakukyō Gorge (Shōbara City)

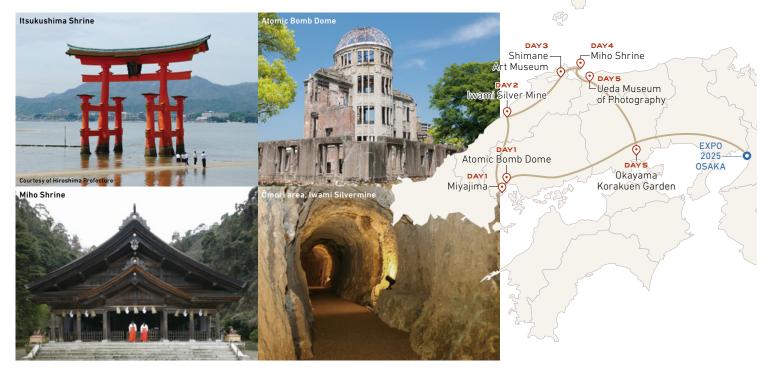
DAY5

Taishakukyō Gorge (A.D. 1hr 10min Explore Makidō Cave (Nīmi City) (A.D. 45min Bitchu Matsuyama Castle (Takahashi City) (A.D. 55min Kino Castle (A.D. 40min Stay the night in Okayama City

AY6

Okayama City TRAM 20min Okayama Castle and Korakuen Garden
TRAM 20min Okayama Station (BULLETTRAIL) 45min Shin-Osaka Station

14 THEMES
World Heritage, Myths & Legend, Art



World Heritage and Myths of Japan Tour

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

Visit three different world heritage sites in the Chūgoku region from three eras: the Itsukushima Shrine, Iwami Silver Mine, and the Atomic Bomb Dome. The floating vermillion torii gate of the Itsukushima Shrine on Miyajima is a sight that symbolizes Japan. In its heyday, Japanese silver comprised one-third of the world's silver, and of that Japanese silver, most of it came from the Iwami Silver Mine. The mine was profitable enough to cover the expenses of sengu (building a new home for a deity) for the

Itsukushima Shrine when the main hall was rebuilt. The Atomic Bomb Dome continues to convey to the world the horrors of the atomic bombing and appeal for lasting world peace. Learn the history and historical context of these three sights, as well as the reason why they continue to be preserved for the next generation.

SCHEDULE

DAYI

Shin-Osaka Station (BULLETTRAIN) 1hr 25min Hiroshima Station (TRAM) 15min Atomic Bomb Dome (TRAM) 1hr Miyajima-guchi (FERRY) 10min Miyajima: Take ropeway to Mt. Misen, watch the sunset at Itsukushima Shrine » Stay the night on Miyajima

DAY2

Miyajima » Visit the Itsukushima Shrine (World Heritage Site) TERAY 10min Miyajima-guchi TRAIN 30min Hiroshima Station TAR 2hr 30min Iwami Silver Mine: World Heritage Center, explore the mine shaft, take a stroll around the Ōmori area (Ōda City) TAR 35mins Stay the night on Mt. Sanbe (Weekends: watch an Iwami Kagura performance; Ōda City)

DAY3

Mt. Sanbe (A1) 20min Sanbe-Azukihara Buried Forest Park (A1) 45min Yunotsu: Walk around the port town that shipped silver from World Heritage Site the Iwami Silver Mines (A1) 1hr 25min Matsue Castle: Visit the castle tower, a National Treasure (guided tours require reservations) (A1) 7min Shimane Art Museum: Home to one of the world's largest collections of Hokusai (Matsue City) (A1) 30min Pleasure cruise to Kaka-no-Kukedo Marine Cave (A1) 30min Stay the night in Matsue City

DAY4

Matsue City » Early morning visit to Miho Shrine LAD 10min Miho-no-Seki Lighthouse LAD 35min Yūshien Japanese Garden LAD 35min Adachi Museum of Art: Japanese art collection, including works by Taikan Yokoyama, and Japanese garden (Yasugi City) LAD 45min Daisen-ji Temple (Daisen-cho) LAD 1min Stay the night in Daisen-cho

DAY5

Daisen-cho CAL 15min Shōji Ueda Museum of Photography: View the upside-down mountain reflected on the surface of a reflecting pool (Hōki-cho) CAL 2hr Okayama Castle and Korakuen Garden CAR 8min Okayama Station CAL 15min Shin-Osaka Station

15 THEMES Hiroshima, Traditional Townscapes, Cycle Tours



Hiroshima, Castle Towns, and Scenic Townscapes

by Bike

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

This tour is made for bicycle enthusiasts! Experience the natural beauty, history, and local community of Hiroshima, Hagi, and Tsuwano. Cycling around castle towns Hagi and Tsuwano, you'll feel like you've been transported back into the Edo period. In Hiroshima, which achieved a remarkable recovery after the atomic bombing, take your time and relish the sights. New discoveries await at every turn on this e-bike tour that's also perfect for beginners and those returning to bike riding.



SCHEDULE

DAY1

Shin-Osaka Station **DILETTRAIN** 1hr 25min Hiroshima Station **TRAK** 15min Atomic Bomb Dome ** Sokoiko! Peace Cycling Tour: Take a guided cycling tour of the city that follows the story of Hiroshima from WWII to post-war recovery while visiting the major atomic bomb-related sites in Peace Memorial Park and the downtown area ** Atomic Bomb Dome **TRAK** 15min Hiroshima Station **DULLETTRAIN** 30min Shin-Yamaguchi Station; stay the night in Yamaguchi

DAY2

Shin-Yamaguchi Station CAR Ihr 15min Keep the Time Cycling Tour by Yu-na: An approx. 3-hour tour featuring the history, culture, and lush natural environment of Tsuwano (Tsuwano-cho) CAR 2hr Motonosumi Shrine: This incredibly scenic shrine features vermillion torii gates surrounded by greenery (Nagato City) CAR 50min Stay the night in Hagi City

DAY:

E-Bike Cycling Tour by Furusato (Castle Town Course): Take in the refined and traditional cityscape full of stone roads and historic buildings while heading to the summit of a mountain for a view of the entire townscape (max of 8 participants per tour; Hagi City) » Tour of Hagi-yaki pottery workshop and visit to the Hagi Pottery Museum CAR 40min Akiyoshi-dai and Akiyoshidō Cave (Mine City) CAR 30min Shin-Yamaguchi Station (MULLETTERIN) 1hr 52min Shin-Osaka Station

16 THEMES Traditional Crafts, World Heritage, Traditional Architecture



Handmade Beauty:

Traditional Craft Works of

Hiroshima and Okayama

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

Traditional craft works evolved in each community of the Chūgoku region. On this tour, experience the wonder of artisan culture while learning the history and context of each craft, as well as the techniques to make them. On Miyajima, try your hand at Miyajima-bori wood carving which is rooted in techniques used by shrine carpenters that worked on the reconstruction of the Itsukushima Shrine. In Kurashiki, visit the Kurashiki Museum of Folkcraft and discover their timeless beauty. Then, in Bizen City, admire Bizen-yaki pottery, an extremely simple form of pottery that makes use of the natural colors of the clay and doesn't rely on decorations. Be sure to purchase your favorite piece as a souvenir from your trip!



SCHEDULE

DAY

DAY

Hiroshima City Ale 2hr 10min Kojima Jeans Street: Where domestic jean production began! This approx. 400-meter street is lined with local jean makers (Kurashiki City) 35min Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter: Öhara Museum of Art, Kurashiki Museum of Folkcraft 22 10min Mitsui Outlet Park Shopping Mall Kurashiki or the biggest dagashi snack shop in Japan (Setouchi City) 24 10min Stay the night in Okayama City or Setouchi City

DAY:

Okayama City or Setouchi City GAB 50min Bizen Osafune Sword Museum: View Japanese swords, learn how swords are made GAB 15min Bizen-no-Sato: Visit a bizen-yaki pottery workshop, Bizen Pottery Kiln Ruins (Bizen City) GAB 45min Okayama Castle and Korakuen Garden GAB 20min Okayama Station GULLETICAL 55min Shin-Osaka Station



Folk Performances, Myths & Legends, Traditional Townscapes

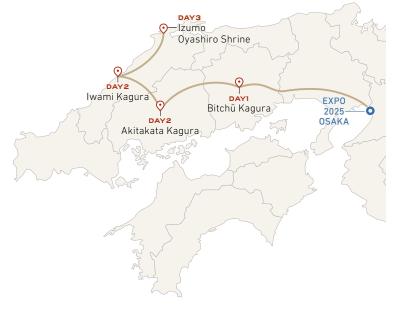




Discover the Magic of Kagura in the Chūgoku Region

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

The Chūgoku region is home to one of the most active kagura communities in Japan. Kagura began as an ancient ritual to pray for a bountiful harvest and plentiful catch of fish, as well as to ward off illness, and it has been performed across Japan since days of old. The dynamic movements, extravagant costumes, pounding taiko drums, and lilting kagura flute differ in each community. This tour will introduce you to three styles of kagura that continue to be passed down in their respective communities today: Bitchu Kagura emphasizes the entertainment elements, whereas Akitakata Kagura focuses more on the dramatic elements and has a wide appeal. Iwami Kagura features clear-cut stories that are easy for beginners to follow.



SCHEDULE

DAY

DAY2

Takahashi City (LAL) 35min Yakage Honjin and Waki Honjin: History tour of the former Sanyō Road with a tour guide (Yakage-cho) (LAL) 2hr Watch a performance of Akitakata Kagura in the Kagura Dome or Kamukura-za Theater (Akitakata City) (LAL) 1hr 5min Weekend evening performance of Iwami Kagura, stay the night in Hamada City (Hamada City)

DAY:

Katsurō Kakita Mask Workshop: watch how kagura masks are made and try your hand at it CAR 15min Ueda Snake Costume Workshop CAR 1hr 50min Izumo Oyashiro Shrine: Visit this ancient shrine known for matchmaking CAR 55min Shimane Art Museum: Home to one of the world's largest collections of Hokusai (Matsue City) CAR 7min Matsue Station TRAIN 1hr 45min Okayama Station CHULETITAIN 45min Shin-Osaka Station



All Aboard! Local Train Lines in the Chūgoku Region and Train Driving Experience

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

The Chūgoku region stands out in Japan as a region home to many different kinds of trains. By riding, watching, and experiencing trains old and new, you'll learn their history and why they appeal to so many. Join us aboard the shinkansen, limited express trains (Yakumo), and local trains as we travel to places like the Tsuyama Railroad Educational Museum, where the historic Tsuyama Fan-Shaped Locomotive Depot is preserved. You can also try driving the oldest class of train in Japan and so much more on this unique tour.



SCHEDULE

DAY

Shin-Osaka Station CULETTRAIN 45min Okayama Station TRAIN 22min Okaden Museum (Okayama City) TRAIN 22min Okayama Station: Sakubi Sakura Sightseeing Train TRAIN 1hr 35min Tsuyama Station » Visit the Tsuyama Railroad Educational Museum (former Tsuyama Fan-Shaped Locomotive Depot; Tsuyama City) CAR 40min Stay the night at Yubara Hot Springs

DAY

Yubara Hot Springs All 1hr 5min Ikura-dō Cave: The second biggest limestone cave in western Japan after Akiyoshidō Cave (Nīmi City) All 1hr 10min Bingo-Ochiai Station (Kisuki Line; includes a switchback along the way) All 2hr 52min Shinji Station (San'in Line) All 15min (Change trains) Izumo City Station; stay the night in Izumo City

DAY3

Dentetsu-Izumoshi Station TRAIII 22min Unshū Hirata Station (try driving a DeHaNi 50 series train after taking a training session! Afterwards, travel to Izumo Oyashiro Shrine on the Ichibata Electric Railway) TRAIII 25min Izumo Taisha-mae Station >> Izumo Oyashiro Shrine: Visit this ancient shrine known for matchmaking, savor Izumo soba for lunch >> Izumo Taisha-mae Station TRAIII 25min Dentetsu-Izumoshi Station >> Izumo City Station TRAIII 3hr 15min Okayama Station (IVIIII) 45min Shin-Osaka Station

LEARN MORE

About The Chūgoku Region



Tottori Sand Dunes

CHŪGOKU REGION TOURISM GUIDE

Multi-lahguage guide to the whole of the Chūgoku Region.



SETOUCHI REFLECTION TRIP

The seven prefectures that surround Japan's Seto Inland Sea are a treaure trove of art, culture, and history.



SAN'IN TOTTORI AND SHIMANE

Discover the hidden charms of Shimane and Tottori prefectures on the Japan Sea side of the Chūgoku Region.

> Fukuoka Airport



