

English

Japan

Okayama

Tourism Guide Map



<https://www.okayama-japan.jp/en/>

Tourist Information Centers with Foreign-Language Services

Okayama City: Momotaro Tourist Information Center (Guidance available in English, Chinese and Korean)
Service Hours: 9:00-20:00
1-6 Ekimoto-machi, Kita-ku, Okayama City, Okayama Pref. 700-0024 ☎086-222-2912

Okayama City: Okayama City Tourist Information Center (Okayama Sta. 2F)
Service Hours: 9:00-18:00
2F JR Okayama Sta., 1-1, Ekimoto-machi, Kita-ku, Okayama City, Okayama Pref. 700-0024

Kurashiki City: Kurashiki Ekimae Tourist Information Center (English Language Information Available)
Service Hours: 9:00-18:00
2F Kurashiki City Plaza West Bldg., 1-7-2 Achi, Kurashiki City, Okayama Pref. 710-0055 ☎086-424-1220

Kurashiki City: Kurashikan Tourist Information Center (English Language Information Available)
Service Hours: 9:00-18:00
1-4-8, Chuo, Kurashiki City, Okayama Pref. 710-0046 ☎086-422-0542

Websites with Foreign-Language Information

Okayama Prefectural Tourist Information (English Language Version)
<https://www.okayama-japan.jp/en/>

Okayama City Tourist Information (English Language Version)
<https://okayama-kanko.net/sights/en/en/>

Kurashiki City Tourist Information (English Language Version)
<https://www.kurashiki-tabijp.jp/en/>

Tsuyama City Tourist Information (English Language Version)
<https://www.tsuyamakan.jp/en/>

Okayama Korakuen Garden (English Language Version)
<https://okayama-korakuen.jp/section/english/>

Benesse Art Site Naoshima (English Language Version)
<http://www.benesse-art-site.jp/en/>

Okayama Prefectural Tourist Information (Japanese Language Version)
<https://www.okayama-kanko.jp/>

*Information current as of March 2020.

Summer



9 Okayama Korakuen Garden Okayama

Lord Tsunamasa of the Ikeda Clan of Okayama took more than ten years to complete this great garden notable for its serene beauty. It is one of Japan's three most celebrated landscaped gardens as well as a national spot of scenic beauty. You can enjoy the flowers of each season, and Okayama Castle can be seen from the garden. You can also enjoy special night-time lighting and many events that take place in the summer.



10 Hiruzen Kogen Highlands Mamiwa

This prominent resort area in Western Japan is located in rolling highland hills. It is also famous as one of the leading places for farming Jersey cows. From the popular Hiruzen Kogen cycle road you can enjoy fresh green in spring and red leaves in autumn from the saddle. In the summer, people enjoy hiking and camping, while in the winter many ski and play in the snow. Here, you can experience the best of nature in each season.



11 Ushimado Setouchi / Kuroshima Venus Road

From Kuroshima, in the sea out of Ushimado, the lowest tides reveal a bow-shaped sand path on which you can walk between the islands of Kuroshima, Nakano-kojima and Hatano-kojima. Observe sea creatures along this mysterious natural path, and search for a "heart-stone".



Fruit Picking Throughout Okayama Prefecture

Okayama is known as "the Fruit Kingdom", and here you can enjoy picking fruit available only in Okayama, such as peaches, Muscat grapes and pion grapes, particularly from summer to the end of autumn.



Okayama Momotaro Festival Okayama

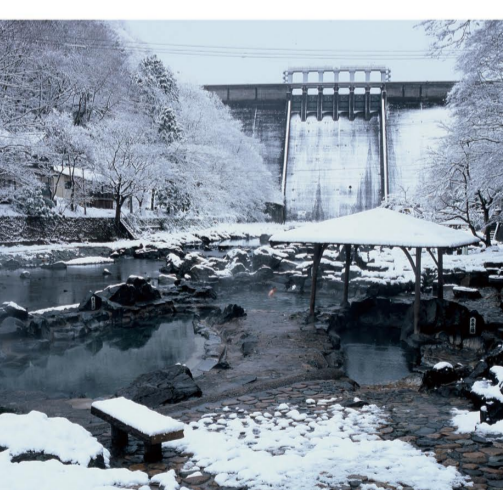
This is a summer festival hosted in Okayama, the place of origin of the legend of "Momotaro". It is held on the very first Saturday and Sunday on August every year. During the dance parade "Uraji", many people dance to a rhythmic song, and disguise oneself as a demon (referred as "Ura"), a character from the legend of "Momotaro". At the final part of the festival, spectators are asked to join the parade and dance together.



Roadside Station Kasaoka Bay Farm Kasaoka

Enjoy a wide variety of flowers throughout the seasons. In summer, the panoramic view of sunflowers is especially spectacular.

Winter



20 Yubara Onsen Hotspring Mamiwa

Yubara Onsen from the riverbed of Asahi River is now famous for being selected as the "best open-air bath in western Japan". People who use this onsen often claim that they feel at one with nature.



21 Yunogo Onsen Hotspring Mimasaka

Yunogo Onsen is also called "Saji no Yu," or egret onsen. There is a story handed down by tradition that a monk discovered this onsen by being guided by Monji Bosatsu (Bodhisattva) in the form of an egret.



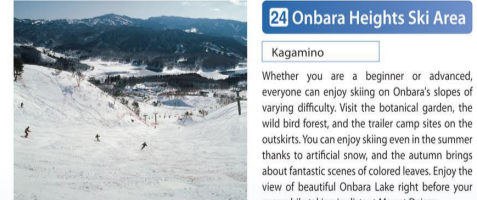
23 Saijo Inari Okayama

Saijo Inari, built more than 1200 years ago, is one of the three most famous Inari temples of Japan. Although it is a temple, it also includes architectural characteristics of a shrine, such as a grand torii gate and shrine-style buildings, demonstrating its unique feature of worshipping both Shinto gods and the Buddha. In the temple you can visit "En-no Massha", a shrine of fate which can help finding new relationships—and breaking bad ones. Go there to pray for a good encounter, and buy a heart-shaped charm as a souvenir.



22 Okutsu Onsen Hotspring Kagamino

The water from Okutsu Onsen is said to purify the skin, which is why this onsen is referred to as the "onsen of beauty". Visitors can see "Ashibumi Senzaku" (washing laundry with one's feet), a traditional dance performed by women in local costume that has been handed down through the generations.



24 Onbara Heights Ski Area Kagamino

Whether you are a beginner or advanced, everyone can enjoy skiing on Onbara's slopes of varying difficulty. Visit the botanical garden, the wild bird forest, and the trailer camp sites on the outskirts. You can enjoy skiing even in the summer thanks to artificial snow, and the autumn brings about fantastic scenes of colored leaves. Enjoy the view of beautiful Onbara Lake right before your eyes while taking in distant Mount Daisen.



25 Saidaiji Eyo Okayama / Saidaiji Temple

Every year at ten o'clock on the evening on the third Saturday of February, thousands of loincloth-clad men grapple for sacred wooden sticks tossed into the melee by priests of the Saidaiji Kannonin Temple near Okayama. Known throughout Japan as the Hadaka or "Naked" Festival, the color, drama, and excitement of this fascinating event makes it one of Japan's most unusual festivals.



26 Shurakuen Garden Tsuyama

Created by Tsuyama's second feudal lord, Nagatsugu Mori, this garden is modeled after the Sento Palace in Kyoto. Shurakuen incorporates the natural setting into its design, and the garden makes use of the surrounding landscape, the Chugoku Mountains just north of Tsuyama. Its many beautiful ponds make Shurakuen especially peaceful.



27 Kibitsujinja Shrine Okayama / Kibitsu

Kibitsujinja Shrine is dedicated to Kibitsuhiko no Mikoto, who was dispatched by the Imperial Court of Yamato to conquer Kibi Province. The magnificent inner and outer shrines, gabled in the Hyokuri-irimoaya style, are designated as National Treasures.



This shrine associated with the story of Kibitsuhiko no Mikoto, a model for the fantastical figure of Momotaro, who is said to have fought against Ura, the basis of the evil Oni, as told in the "Legend of Ura".

Spring



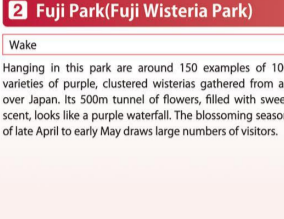
1 Tsuyama Castle (Tsuyama Cherry Blossom Festival) Tsuyama / Kakuzan Park

A spring event which takes place in Kakuzan Park, famous for its cherry blossoms. The park has over 1,000 cherry trees, and many visitors come to enjoy the blossoms. Night-time lighting with lanterns creates a truly wonderful experience.



2 Fuji Park (Fuji Wisteria Park) Wake

Hanging in this park are around 150 examples of 100 varieties of purple, clustered wisterias gathered from all over Japan. Its 500m tunnel of flowers, filled with sweet scent, looks like a purple waterfall. The blossoming season of late April to early May draws large numbers of visitors.



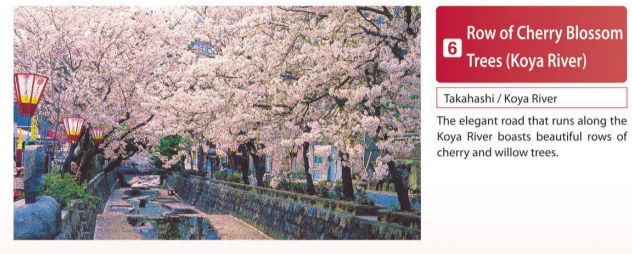
3 Asahi River Sakura Road Okayama / Along the Asahi River

This 1.3 km path of cherry blossoms stretches along the Asahi River on the east side of Okayama Korakuen. It is an amazing sight, with about 200 blooming cherry blossom trees filling the bank from late March to early April. In the evenings it is lit up, and there are many stalls selling food and drink, so it is highly recommended for spring sightseeing.



5 Seto Ohashi Bridge Kurashiki / View from Mt. Washuzan

Offering perhaps the most impressive views of the Seto Inland Sea National Park, Washuzan is a natural refuge with many facilities for visitors. Today, the world's longest two-tiered bridge spans this beautiful waterway, linking Honshu and Shikoku. The magnificent Seto Ohashi Bridge is aesthetically designed to harmonize with the natural beauty of the forested islands and surrounding sea.



6 Row of Cherry Blossom Trees (Koya River) Takahashi / Koya River

The elegant road that runs along the Koya River boasts beautiful rows of cherry and willow trees.



7 Kibiji District Soja / Bichu Kokubunji Temple Area

The Kibi area was the center of the Kibi Kingdom in ancient times. There are many ruins and burial mounds that show us how the ancient kingdom prospered. There are also many places that are linked with the legend of Kibitsuhiko no Mikoto, believed to be the story on which Momotaro (the boy born from a peach in Okayama legend) was based. The pagoda of Bichu Kokubunji Temple, commissioned by Emperor Shomu, situated in the countryside is a symbol of the Kibi Road area.



8 Fukiya Furusato Village Takahashi

These streets have prospered from the local copper mine and pigment production, as seen in the red pigment on the roofs and walls of the traditional buildings.

Autumn



12 Katsuyama Historical Preservation District Mamiwa

This town's preservation area conveys the atmosphere of the castle town days of the Miura Clan. Beautiful "merchants' houses with clean-cut lattices and white-plastered walls line the preserved streets. This area is also famous for its nori-dyed fabric curtains that hang from store fronts.



13 Bizen Osafune Sword Museum Setouchi

Witness traditional forging techniques and view the many precious swords on display.



14 Bizen Pottery / Imbe Historical Streets Bizen

These streets are lined with artisans and potters, with chimneys as far as one can see.



15 Iyama Hofukuji Temple Soja

This Zen temple has been used as a place of worship for members of the Rinzaï sect since the Kamakura Period. A complete set of seven buildings in the style of this Zen sect makes Hofukuji especially remarkable. Senzhu, a Zen priest and noted painter, trained at this temple during his childhood in the Muromachi Period.



16 Former Shizutani School Japan Heritage Bizen / Shizutani

Okayama's Edo Period ruler Lord Ikeda built this school in 1670. Shizutani School was the first institution open to all citizens, regardless of class or social rank. The school, enclosed by a superbly crafted stone wall and built with reddish-brown Bizen Ware roof tiles and stark white walls, contrasts splendidly with the natural beauty of the surrounding area.



18 Okutsukei Valley Kagamino

Okutsu valley is located 3km below the Okutsu hot spring. The scenery of the autumn foliage from early November to the middle of November is notably beautiful, and you can walk around the 800-meter promenade created along the valley. You can also see pebbles carved by time as a riverbed rolling in hundreds of thousands years caused by the flow of a river.



17 Kamba Waterfall Mamiwa / Kamba Waterfall Wildlife Park

Selected as one of the 100 best scenery spots in Japan, this 100 meter high and 20 meter wide waterfall harmonizes perfectly with the surrounding green valley. The waterfall is especially beautiful in autumn when it is surrounded by red leaves.



19 Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter Kurashiki

In feudal times, Kurashiki's affairs were administered directly by the Tokugawa Shogunate in Edo (present-day Tokyo). Today, the 17th-century granaries, their white walls and black tiles contrasting with the green of the willow-lined canal, create a scene of austere beauty. You can appreciate masterpieces such as El Greco's Annunciation and famous works by Gauguin and Monet.

Naoshima / Teshima / Inujima

28 Naoshima The island itself is an art gallery. Naoshima has gained a wide reputation overseas as a popular art venue.

The best time to visit is from late autumn to early spring. The island is dotted with unique works of art that are imbued with the freshness of modern art, and its tranquil island atmosphere makes Naoshima a popular spot where art enthusiasts from overseas can visit for art tours and enjoy a novel experience. On June 15, 2010, a new art gallery, the Lee Ufan Museum, opened and exhibits architectural designs by Tadao Ando that feature paintings and carvings from the seventies to the present day created by internationally acclaimed artist Lee Ufan. This art museum, located in a quiet mountain valley, is a great place to spend a relaxing time.

29 Teshima An island with plentiful food and art that reminds visitors of the beauty of Japan's terraced farmland.

The Teshima Art Museum is a space in which architecture, art, and nature are in harmony with one another, and opened in October 2010 to feature the work of architect Ryue Nishizawa and artist Rei Naito. Another attraction is "Les Archives du Cœur" by Christian Boltanski, which allows visitors to hear heartbeats from around the world, and to record and archive their own heartbeats.

30 Inujima The modern industrial background of our solemn heritage continues to speak to us today memories of sunsets long past.

In the Inujima "Art House Project," which is a continuation of the opening of Inujima Seirenso Art Museum in April 2008, art director Yuko Hasegawa and architect Kazuyo Sejima have created five galleries and the Nakanotani Gazebo in the middle of a village to transform and revitalize the scenery of the island.

Okayama Products

Okayama Barazushi This local favorite makes full use of the blessings of sea and mountain food in Okayama and is served at sushi restaurants throughout Okayama City or Kurashiki City.

Fruits Okayama, with its sunny climate and few days of rain, is one of the fruit baskets of Japan. White peaches, and Muscat and Pione grapes are some of the crops we are most proud of.

Jeans Kojima is said to be the "birthplace of domestic jeans", having produced the first made-in-Japan jeans in 1965.

Bizen Pottery This traditional art of ame and earth has a history stretching back a millennium. This beautiful pottery uses ancient techniques to form profound, kilned colors without use of pigment.

Masking Tape This Japanese paper-style tape was originally used in industrial settings. Today, however, the various designs of this colorful masking tape make it a popular souvenir.

31 Okayama Castle



Known as Raven Castle for its majestic black walls. (The donjon was rebuilt after the end of World War II.)

32 Ohara Art Museum



This gallery is must see, with crafts, occidental and oriental art focused on clay works, and classical occidental and oriental pieces. View famous works by western masters such as Monet and El Greco.

33 Japanese Local Toy Museum



View our collection of around 10,000 pieces of simple, traditional toys gathered from across Japan in our display room that was once a granary.

34 Kojima Jeans Street



Kojima, a port city that faces Seto Ohashi Bridge, is a flourishing textile city famous for cotton production. In 1967, it became the birthplace of Japan's domestically manufactured jeans. Visit the jeans makers that line the street and find something that matches your style.

35 Manekineko Art Museum




Displays about 700 manekineko (beckoning cat figurines) that have long been loved by the Japanese people. Paint and create your own unique manekineko.

36 Ikurado Cave



Located in the precipice of the beautiful Ikura Ravine, Ikurado is a cave that is 1.2 km long. At the cave entrance is a 50-meter tall waterfall that is full of impact. Another recommended cave is Makido, which is also in Niimi City.

37 Raikyujii Temple



This zen garden perfects use of natural scenery (established in the early 17th century) and is a nationally designated place of scenic beauty.



38 Bichu Matsuyama Castle



Tenshu (keep tower) remains as when it was built in 1683. On cold and clear mornings from late October to early December, a sea of clouds forms around the castle, giving an illusion that the tenshu is floating. It is often referred to as the "Castle in the Sky."

39 Yakage Honjin Former Ishii Residence




Yakage Honjin stands in shukubomachi, a post town that reminds of the Edo Period. Many kominka (old Japanese-style houses) have been renovated into new facilities. During an autumn festival, a group of about 800 people marches down the street to reproduce daimyo gyoretsu (feudal lord's procession).

40 Nagi Museum of Contemporary Art



This gallery combines the works into the building structure; designed by architect Arata Isozaki.

41 Ohaganishi no Tanada (Rice Terraces)




Covering an entire basin-like valley in a 400m high mountain range lies an unspoiled Japanese landscape of 850 terraced paddy fields.

42 Denchu Art Museum




This museum celebrates the achievements of Denchu Hirakushi, a renowned master of Japanese sculpture and recipient of the Order of Cultural Merit.

43 Tsuyama Railroad Educational Museum



Exhibited here are examples of 13 diesel trains, including some that run in many places around Japan, and also the unique diesel locomotive "DE50" #1, as well as a turntable.

44 Bisei Astronomical Observatory



One of the biggest open observatories in Japan, Bisei Observatory in Ibara City was selected as one of the best three sky viewing spots in the country. With the guidance of observatory staff, you can see many planets through the 101 cm telescope.

