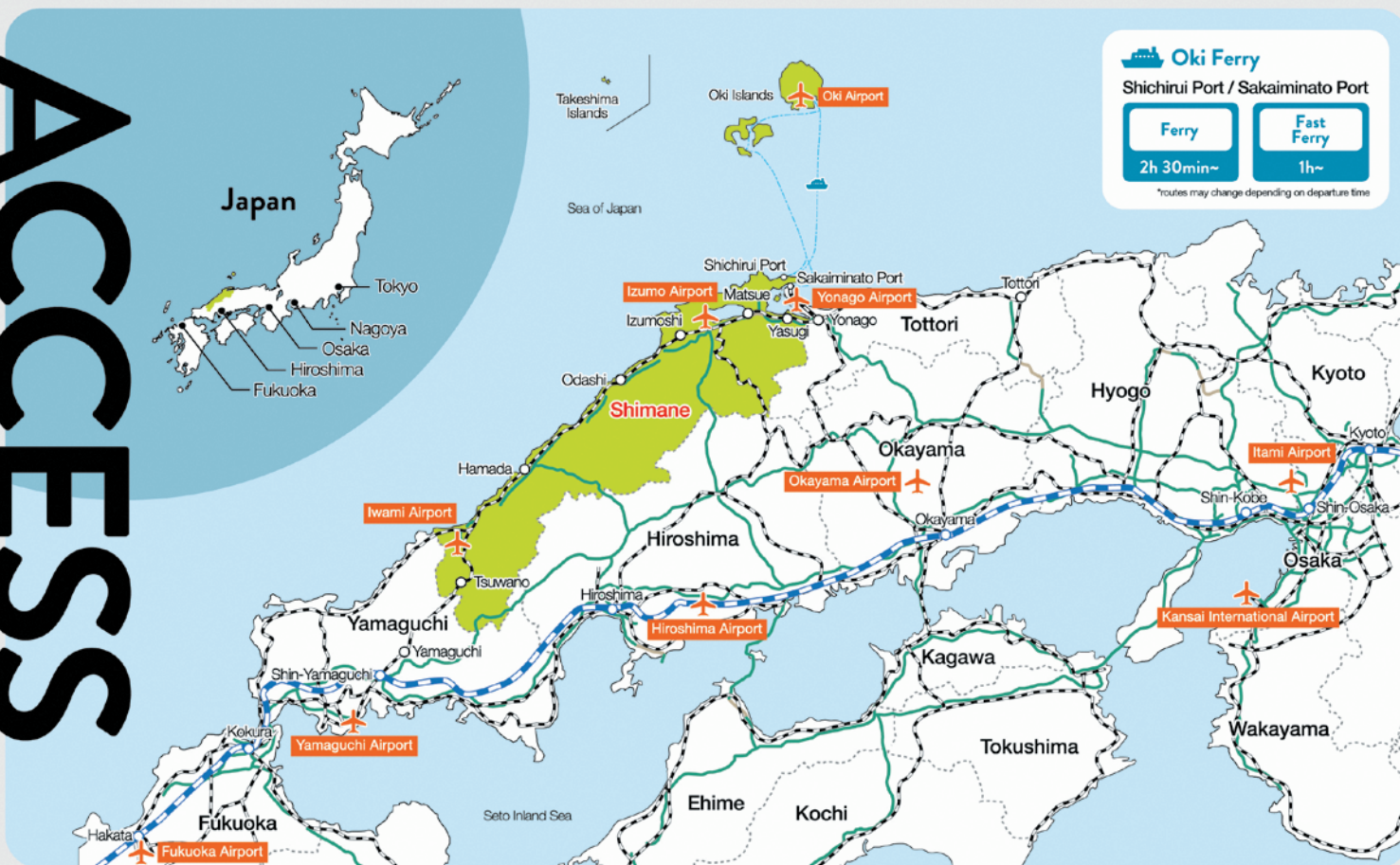


# ACCESS



## ✈️ Airplane & Shuttle Bus

Tokyo (Haneda)	1h 25min	<b>Izumo Airport</b>	35min	Matsue	10min	Matsue Shinjiko Onsen Sta.
Osaka (Itami)	55min		30min	Izumoshi Sta.		
Fukuoka	1h 5min					
Nagoya	1h		30min	Tamatsukuri Onsen		
Shizuoka	1h 20min		40min	Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine		

Tokyo (Haneda)	1h 20min	<b>Yonago Airport</b>	45min	Matsue Sta.
Seoul (Incheon)	1h 30min			

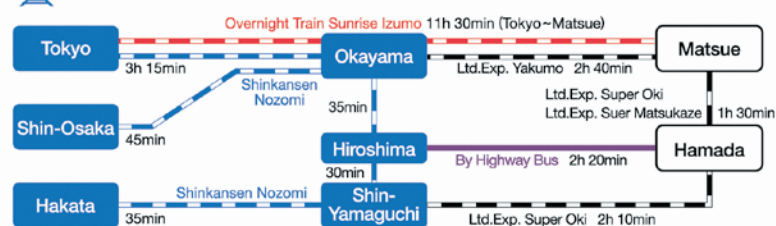
Tokyo (Haneda)	1h 30min	<b>Iwami Airport</b>	15min	Masuda Sta.
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Osaka (Itami)	50min	<b>Oki Airport</b>	15min	Saigo Port
Izumo	30min			

## 🚌 Highway Bus

Tokyo	Matsue · Tamatsukuri · Izumo	Overnight Bus
Nagoya	Matsue · Izumo	Overnight Bus
Osaka	Matsue · Tamatsukuri · Izumo	
Osaka	Matsue · Izumo	
Osaka · Kobe	Hamada · Gotsu · Masuda	Overnight Bus
Kobe	Hamada · Masuda · Tsuwano	
Kyoto	Matsue · Tamatsukuri · Izumo	
Okayama	Matsue · Tamatsukuri · Izumo	
Hiroshima	Tamatsukuri · Matsue	
Fukuoka · Kokura	Izumo	
	Oda	
	Hamada	
	Masuda	
	Tsuwano · Masuda	
	Tamatsukuri · Matsue · Izumo	Overnight Bus

## 🚆 Train



## 🚗 Car

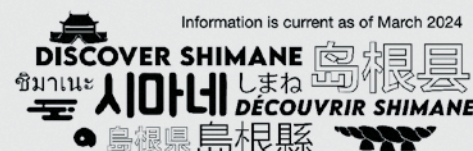
Osaka	277km / 3h 35min	<b>Matsue</b>
Hiroshima	167km / 2h 15min	
Fukuoka	416km / 5h 20min	
Osaka	387km / 5h	<b>Hamada</b>
Hiroshima	94km / 1h 15min	
Fukuoka	344km / 4h 20min	

\*Times shown above are approximate.

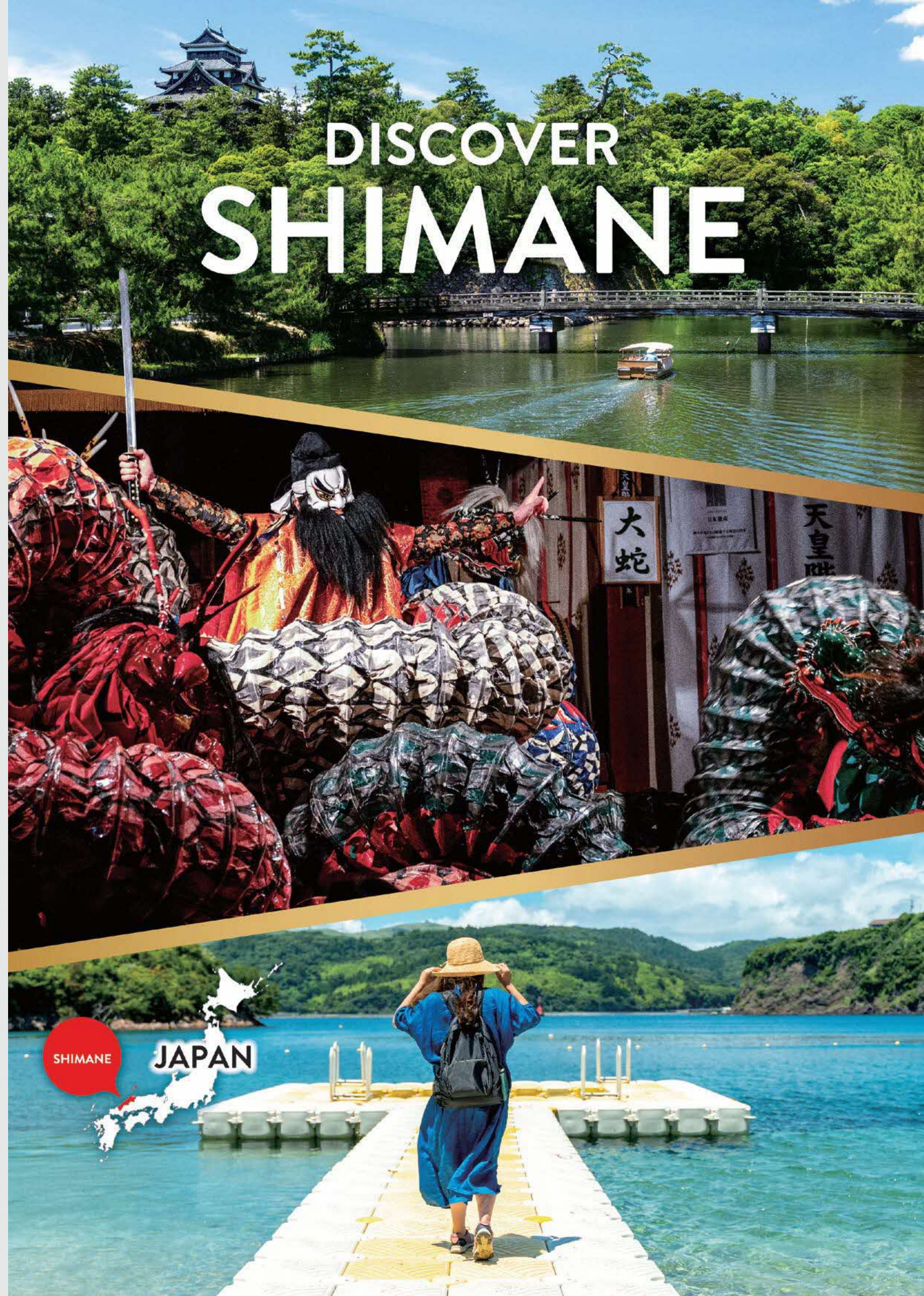
Information is current as of March 2024



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# DISCOVER SHIMANE







**S**himane Prefecture is located in the Chugoku Region, on the west side of Japan. Shimane is a place for adventure seekers, repeaters, and people looking for a new place to discover.

Shimane is known as “the land of go-en (the ties that bind us together)” and has a lot of spots related to go-en. The most famous one is **Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine**, one of Japan’s oldest shrines.

Furthermore, we have a variety of attractions such as **the Oki Islands** which have been designated a UNESCO Global Geopark, the UNESCO World Heritage Site **Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine**, the National Treasure **Matsue Castle**, **Adachi Museum of Art** which has been ranked as the No.1 Japanese garden since 2003, **Tsuwano** “the little Kyoto,” the traditional local performing art **Iwami Kagura**, and many more. Discover a new side of Japan.

# SHIMANE

## 島根県



# NATURE

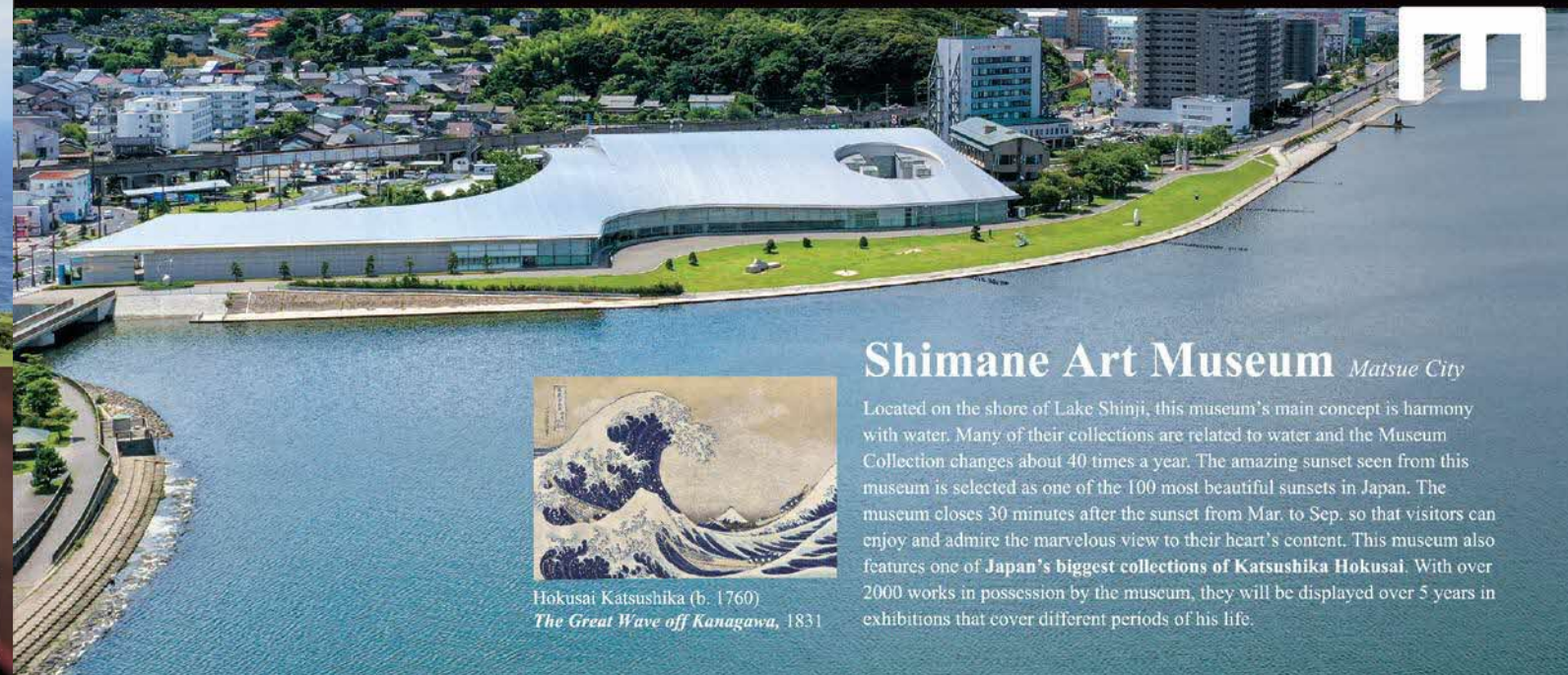
## The Oki Islands

The Oki Islands encompass approximately 180 islands, including 4 inhabited islands. The islands' abundance of natural beauty and its unique culture have led it to be designated a **UNESCO Global Geopark**. Beautiful scenery sculpted by natural erosion over the years has created several magnificent coastline views, including the Kuniga Coastline on Nishinoshima, which features a stone arch and a sheer cliff face that stands 257 meters tall. The island off the coast of Dogo Island stands in such a way that if you catch the sunset at the right angle, it looks like a lit candle.



## Adachi Museum of Art *Yasugi City*

Conveying the harmonized beauty of Japanese paintings and Japanese Gardens is the aim and wish of the Adachi Museum of Art, well known for having one of the greatest collections of modern and contemporary Japanese art. Such artworks include numerous masterpieces by the great Japanese painter Yokoyama Taikan, ceramics, and a 165,000 square-meter Japanese garden. This museum is listed as a three-star site in the Michelin Green Guide Japan while Adachi's spectacular and immaculately maintained Japanese-style gardens have been ranked as the **No.1 Japanese Garden** since 2003 by the US magazine, Journal of Japanese Gardening. Appreciate the splendid beauty of the gardens which change with the time/days/months/seasons.



## Shimane Art Museum *Matsue City*

Located on the shore of Lake Shinji, this museum's main concept is harmony with water. Many of their collections are related to water and the Museum Collection changes about 40 times a year. The amazing sunset seen from this museum is selected as one of the 100 most beautiful sunsets in Japan. The museum closes 30 minutes after the sunset from Mar. to Sep. so that visitors can enjoy and admire the marvelous view to their heart's content. This museum also features one of **Japan's biggest collections of Katsushika Hokusai**. With over 2000 works in possession by the museum, they will be displayed over 5 years in exhibitions that cover different periods of his life.



Hokusai Katsushika (b. 1760)  
*The Great Wave off Kanagawa*, 1831

# FOOD & DRINK



Located in the northern part of the Chugoku region in western Japan, Shimane is blessed with a food culture from both the land and sea. You can find freshly caught seafood and the award-winning Shimane Wagyu beef. But don't stop there, indulge in the diverse food culture with the local soba, wagashi, sake, soy sauce, and other delicacies only found here!



## Yuushien Garden

*Matsue City*

Yuushien, the "miniature garden of Izumo," featuring landscapes and mythology of the Izumo area, is a traditional Japanese-styled walk-through garden around ponds. It is located in the center of Daikonshima Island. Visitors can view the prominent peony flowers all year round and enjoy the colors of the garden change with the various seasonal flowers. Daikonshima is globally renowned as a growing area for Korean ginseng. Have a free tasting of ginseng at a ginseng office restored from the Edo period. Come and experience the long cultural history of Daikonshima.





## Iwami Kagura *Western Shimane*

Kagura is the entertainment of the gods. It is a sacred Japanese dance and music ritual dedicated to the gods of Shinto. Throughout the year, you can find regular weekend performances at local shrines in the western region of Shimane. Iwami Kagura has evolved through the years and remains a proud tradition of locals in this region. Some notable features of Iwami Kagura are its fast-paced music and dance, gorgeous costumes, and easy-to-follow stories. Within the Iwami region, there are more than 130 active kagura organizations. Iwami Kagura remains a well-established part of daily life in this area. The world of Japanese mythology will unfold before your eyes.

## Sagimai Heron Dance

*Tsuwano Town*

Performed every year on July 20th and 27th in Tsuwano town, the Sagimai Heron Dance was brought to Tsuwano from Kyoto in 1542. It preserves the ancient traditions of the Kyoto Gion Matsuri. The entourage includes two herons, one male and one female, and dozens of other performers who play flutes, and drums while singing. The two herons spread their wings while dancing around each other, resembling the mating dance of the actual birds. The herons are believed to protect the people from illness and disease, while the dancers with the red wigs and long staffs ward off evil spirits. In 2022 it was registered as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

## Matsue Samurai Warrior Parade

*Matsue City*

With the blossoming sakura at the beginning of April, Matsue has its Samurai Warrior Parade to celebrate the founder of the castle and city, Lord Horio Yoshiharu. Locals dress up as samurai, warriors, and princesses as they parade throughout Matsue, reenacting the original celebration that happened some 400 years ago upon the completion of Matsue Castle. Parade events are held throughout the day and in different locations throughout the city.

## Tenjin Summer Festival

*Matsue City*

Held every year on July 24th and 25th in Matsue city. On the night of the first day of the festival, the deity of the shrine is transferred to a *mikoshi* portable shrine and carried throughout the streets of Matsue, starting at the castle. This event is said to purify the area and bring blessings to the locals.

## Yabusame Horseback Archery Festival

*Tsuwano Town*

This festival is held at the Washibara-Hachimangu Shrine in Tsuwano on the first Sunday of April. Held once in the morning and once in the afternoon, archers dressed in hunting outfits from the Kamakura period (1185-1333) take turns hitting three 50cm (20in) square targets on the 250m (820ft) course. From the audience, you can feel the intensity and focus of the riders as they race past right before you.

## Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine *Izumo City*

One of the most important shrines in all of Japan. This shrine is famously known for *en-musubi*, a Japanese term that represents the concept of “destined connections” or “serendipitous encounters.” These connections are believed to be what bind us to everything in life. And while they might seem random, they are meaningful and with purpose. The Main Hall of this magnificent shrine stands at 24 meters in height making it the tallest shrine building in Japan. And once a year, the myriad gods of Japan are said to gather here to discuss the en of the people for the upcoming year. (above: Sacred Dance Hall, left: Main Hall)

## Matsue Castle *Matsue City*

This castle was built over five years from 1607 to 1611 by the feudal lord and founder of Matsue, Horio Yoshiharu. It is one of only 12 remaining original castles in Japan, and was designated a **National Treasure** in 2015. The top floor of the main keep offers an amazing view of Matsue City, the castle town that surrounds and defends the castle. The castle is also connected to the lake through an intricate moat system where you can take boat tours around the city. Throughout the year, the castle holds many festivals allowing visitors to experience the culture and traditions of Matsue.

## Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine

*Oda City*

During the 16th century, this was one of the largest silver mines in Japan. Almost one-third of all the silver in circulation at that time came from these mines. These mine shafts are known as “mabu” in Japanese, and there are over 700 of them in various sizes in this area. There are currently two mine shafts open for tours, Ryugenji Mabu and Okubo Mabu, with the latter only available through guided tours. In the tunnels, you can experience the conditions of the miners and see the tool marks they left on the walls inside the tunnel. In 2007 it was registered as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and was praised for its conscious efforts to lower its environmental impact during the mining expansion.