**MATSUE AND VICINITY**

**Matsue** (松江), pop. 202,797 (as of Jan. 2019), the capital city of Shimane Prefecture, commonly known as the “City of Water,” lies at the point where Lake Nakajima connects with Lake Shijii. Matsue is an old castle town forming the heart of Izumo Province (present-day Shimane Prefecture), a veritable “treasure house” of cultural assets and historic sites closely related to the myths and legends of yesteryear Japan. The city is especially well known among foreign visitors and Japanese students studying English because of its association with Lafcadio Hearn (1850-1904), the author of many books on Japan, who assumed the Japanese name of Yakumo Koizumi after his naturalization.

**Access**

**By Air:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>Operated by</th>
<th>Approx. Travel Time</th>
<th>Access to Downtown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haneda (Tokyo)</td>
<td>Izumo</td>
<td>JAL</td>
<td>1 hr. 20 min.</td>
<td>[To JR Matsue Sta.]&lt;br&gt;- By bus 25 min. ¥1,030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haneda (Tokyo)</td>
<td>Yonago</td>
<td>ANA</td>
<td>1 hr. 15 min.</td>
<td>[To JR Matsue Sta.]&lt;br&gt;- By bus 45 min. ¥990</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**By Train(JR):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>By</th>
<th>Time required</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo</td>
<td>Matsue</td>
<td>Limited Express “Sunrise Izumo” (Sleeper)</td>
<td>12 hrs.</td>
<td>¥22,790*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyoto</td>
<td>Matsue</td>
<td>Shinkansen “Nozomi” to Okayama Limited Express “Yakumo”</td>
<td>4 hrs. 25 min.</td>
<td>¥12,320*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shin-Osaka</td>
<td>Matsue</td>
<td>Shinkansen “Nozomi” / “Mizuho” to Okayama Limited Express “Yakumo”</td>
<td>4 hrs. 20 min.</td>
<td>¥10,810*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Okayama</td>
<td>Matsue</td>
<td>Limited Express “Yakumo”</td>
<td>3 hrs. 10 min.</td>
<td>¥6,030*</td>
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*Fare + express charge (with seat reservation, normal season).

**By Bus:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>To</th>
<th>Approx. Travel Time</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Ticketing &amp; Operator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo Sta. (Yaesu-South)</td>
<td>Matsue Sta.</td>
<td>11 hrs. 20 min.</td>
<td>¥11,400</td>
<td>Ichibata Bus (0852) 20-5252 (in JP)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Izumosha Sta.</td>
<td>12 hrs. 15 min.</td>
<td>¥11,800</td>
<td>Chugoku JR Bus (0570) 666-012 (in JP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shin-Osaka Sta.</td>
<td>Matsue Sta.</td>
<td>4 hrs. 30 min.</td>
<td>¥5,000</td>
<td>Hankyu Bus (06) 6866-3147 (in JP)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Izumosha Sta.</td>
<td>5 hrs. 25 min.</td>
<td>¥5,500</td>
<td>Ichibata Bus (0852) 20-5252 (in JP)</td>
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</table>

**Major Places of Tourist Interest in Matsue**

(① – ③): Latest entry permitted is about 30 min. before closing time. Location on the City Map on page 3/5)

① **Matsue Castle** (松江城)*, 10 min. by “Lake Line” bus (see p.3) from Matsue Sta. to “Matsue Castle (Ote-mae)” bus stop, is the symbol of the city designated as a National Treasure. The castle, one of 12 remaining castles in Japan originally built by 1611, is an example of a practical fortress rather than a castle-residence. The five-storied donjon commands an extensive view of the surrounding scenic spots including Lake Shinji and Mt. Daisen. Part of the castle grounds form **Jozan Park** (松山公園). The castle is Open: 8:30–18:30 (Apr.–Sep.), 8:30–17:00 (Oct.–Mar.). Admission: ¥670.

② **Matsue History Museum** (松江歴史館)*, 1 min. walk from “Shominawate” bus stop on “Lake Line” bus route, has an exhibition room related to the Matsue Castle, a Japanese garden and a traditional tea room. There are not only an exhibition but also movies, models and Japanese Kirie (pictures made by cutting with scissors). Open: 8:30–18:30 (Apr.–Sep.); 8:30–17:00 (Oct.–Mar.). Closed: 3rd Thu. Admission: ¥510.

③ **Koizumi Yakumo (“Lafcadio Hearn”) Memorial Museum** (小泉八雲記念館)*, 1 min. walk from “Lafcadio Hearn Memorial Museum” bus stop on “Lake Line” bus route, faces the northern moat of the castle. This Museum dedicated to the celebrated interpreter of Japan. Hearn lived in the city for 15 months as an English teacher of Matsue Middle School. His impressions of the city are given in his essay “In a Japanese Garden,” included in the volume “Glimpse of Unfamiliar Japan.” The hall contains a good collection of his manuscripts and other valuable articles, all suggestive of his life in Japan. Open: 8:30–18:30 (Last Entry 18:10) (Apr.–Sep.); 8:30–17:00 (Last Entry 16:40) (Oct.–Mar.). Admission: ¥400.
④ Former House of "Lafadio Hearn" (小泉八雲旧居) is next door to the Memorial Museum, where he stayed for 5 months. This house has remained unchanged since he left Matsue. Open: 8:30–18:30 (Last Entry 18:10) (Apr.–Sep.) 8:30–17:00 (Last Entry 16:40) (Oct.–Mar.). Admission: ¥300.

⑤ Tanabe Art Museum (田辺美術館), next door to Hearn’s Former House, displays many objects relating to tea ceremony, “Rakuzan-yaki” “Fujinayaki” ware and other ceramics, calligraphy works, paintings and antiques. Woodblock prints by local artists are sometimes exhibited. Open: 9:00–17:00. Closed: Mon. and Dec. 29–Jan. 1. Admission: ¥620 (depend on the type of exhibition).

⑥ Buke-Yashiki (武家屋敷) *, or Preserved House of Samurai (Feudal Warrior), next door to the Tanabe Art Museum, displaying various articles illustrative of the daily life of a samurai family in the Edo period. Open: 8:30–18:30 (Last Entry 18:10) (Apr.–Sep.) 8:30–17:00 (Last Entry 16:40) (Oct.–Mar.). Admission: ¥300.

⑦ Meimei-an Tea House (明々庵) *, 4 min. walk from Buke-Yashiki, is a well-preserved typical tea house of the “Irinyo-zukuri” architectural style. It was originally built in 1779 by Lord Fumai Matsuda of the Matsue clan, a noted patron of the tea ceremony, in his retainer’s residential garden and moved to its present location on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the lord’s death. In the adjoining Hyakusotei Arbor (百草亭) tea is served on request. From the nearby look-out one enjoys a distant view of the castle donjon. Open: 8:30–18:30 (Last Entry 18:10) (Apr.–Sep.) 8:30–17:00 (Last Entry 16:40) (Oct.–Mar.). Admission: ¥410.

⑧ Gesshoji Temple (月照寺) *, 1 min. walk from Gesshoji Temple mae (月照寺前) bus stop, which is 21 min. by bus from Matsue Sta., is the mausoleum enshrining generations of the Matsuda family, with surrounding rows of stone lanterns and a fine specimen of mausoleum gate architecuture. The Treasure House Hall in the compound contains Lord swords and personal effects. Open: 8:30–17:30 (Apr.–Oct.), 8:30–17:00 (Nov.–Mar.). Admission: ¥500.


Useful Tips for visitors
[Getting around Matsue city center] “Lake Line” Loop Bus (¥500 for 1 day) operates from Matsue Sta. and stops at 33 different tourist spots.

[Admission Discount] The above facilities with “*” give a discount to foreign visitors. Present your passport at the entry.

[Public Transportation] “Enmusubi” Perfect Ticket (¥1,500 for 3 days) offers unlimited ride on public transportation such as Ichihaya Electric Railway, Ichihata Bus, Matsue City Bus (incl. the “Lake Line” loop). Airport bus bound for two airports, Izumo and Yonago, are also covered. Also, special deals are provided at Lake Shinji Pleasure Cruise and major shops.

[Highway Bus Promotional Fare from Hiroshima] ¥500 promotional one-way fare is now applicable to foreign visitors who take a highway bus between Hiroshima Sta. and Matsue Sta. (2-3 hrs; ¥3,900 for normal one-way fare). The ticket must be purchased in advance. Please reconfirm the detailed conditions and the latest information of this promotion before your departure.

All updates for above tips are available at the following website.
http://www.visit-matsue.com/
Accommodations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of facilities</th>
<th>Tel.</th>
<th>Room rate (¥)</th>
<th>Name of facilities</th>
<th>Tel.</th>
<th>Room rate (¥)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Ichibata (H)</td>
<td>(0852)22-0188</td>
<td>¥¥¥</td>
<td>Chorakuen (R)</td>
<td>(0852)62-0111</td>
<td>¥¥¥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naniwa Issui (R)</td>
<td>(0852)21-4132</td>
<td>¥¥¥</td>
<td>Yutei Konya (R)</td>
<td>(0852)62-0311</td>
<td>¥¥¥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minami-Kan (R)</td>
<td>(0852)21-5131</td>
<td>¥¥¥</td>
<td>Kasuien Minami (R)</td>
<td>(0852)62-0331</td>
<td>¥¥¥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suiitenkaku (R)</td>
<td>(0852)21-4910</td>
<td>¥¥¥</td>
<td>Grand Hotel Choseikaku (R)</td>
<td>(0852)62-0711</td>
<td>¥¥¥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matsuex Excel Hotel TOKYU (H)</td>
<td>(0852)27-0109</td>
<td>¥¥¥</td>
<td>Hoshino Resort Kai Izumo (R)</td>
<td>(0852)62-0211</td>
<td>¥¥¥</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matsuex Plaza Hotel (BH)</td>
<td>(0852)26-6650</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>Izumo:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Terazuya (R)</td>
<td>(0852)21-3480</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>Takashi Sanso (BH)</td>
<td>(0852)21-1111</td>
<td>¥</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toyoko Inn Matsuex Ekimae (Y)</td>
<td>(0852)60-1045</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>Inaba (M)</td>
<td>(0852)22-6178</td>
<td>¥</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Urban Hotel (BH)</td>
<td>(0852)23-0003</td>
<td>¥</td>
<td>Super Hotel Izumo Ekimae (BH)</td>
<td>(0852)21-9000</td>
<td>¥</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Remarks:

*Numbers: 1 – 9 correspond to those on the map page of this page. Rate per person.
H = Hotel
R = Ryokan
BH = Business Hotel
Y = Youth Hostel
M = Minshuku (family-run inn)
P = Pension
* Standard basis rate
(no meals, taxes included)

Matsue

- Japanese Railways (JR)
- Ichibata Electric Railway

① - ⑨ Major places of tourist interest; numbers correspond to those on p. 1 and 2.
① - ⑨ Correspond to those in the "Accommodations" list on this page.
Access to Izumo-Taisha Shrine (5 min. walk from Izumotaisha-mae Sta. to the entrance):

**From Matsue Shinhiko-Onsen Sta. (松江しんじ湖温泉駅):**
50 min. to Kawato Sta. (transfer), then 11 min. to Izumotaisha-mae Sta. by Ichibata Electric Railway (¥810).

**From JR Izumoshi Sta. (出雲市駅):**
25 min. by Ichibata Bus from JR Izumoshi Sta. bus terminal to Seimon-mae (正門前) bus stop (Fare: ¥500).
Or 10 min. to Kawato Sta. (transfer), then 11 min. to Izumotaisha-mae Sta. by Ichibata Electric Railway (¥490).

Places of Interest:
Izumo Taisha Shrine (出雲大社), is one of the oldest shrines with the longest history in Japan, and is well known for its god of marriage. It is dedicated to Okuninushi-no-Mikoto, a Shinto deity who has been traditionally credited with introduction of the art of medicine, sericulture and farming. The present shrine buildings, mostly built in 1667, lies at the foot of Yakumo hill and are approached through an avenue protected by magnificent pine trees. The precincts contain a large number of buildings, including the huge 24 m-high main shrine dating from 1744 (designated as a National Treasure), which is surrounded by a Triple fence. The shrine follows the earliest style of architecture known in Japan, and is dignified and rather imposing in appearance.

A pair of large rectangular shrine buildings standing on the east and west sides of the precincts are traditionally believed to accommodate the Shinto gods, who are supposed to meet annually at the shrine in October (lunar calendar). October is thus called “Kannazuki” (a month without gods) in all other parts of Japan and “Kamiaizuki” (a month with gods) in Izumo province.

Cape Hinomisaki (日御碕), 25 min. by bus (5 services in a day) from Izumo-Taisha bus stop, is located at the west end of Shimane peninsula. You can command unique and extraordinary landscape faced with Sea of Japan from the top of Hinomisaki Lighthouse (日御碕灯台), the tallest masonry lighthouse in Japan. [Lighthouse] Open: 9:00-16:30. Closed: Dec. 30 & 31. Admission: ¥200.
[Good to know] Admission and opening times at tourist attractions:

- Last entry to the most of attractions is 30 min. before the closing time.
- In general, if their weekly closing day (most are on Mon.) falls on a national holiday, they are open on the day and are closed on the following day after the holiday(s).
- Most are closed throughout a part of New Year holiday period (especially Dec. 29-Jan. 3).
- Please visit the official website of each place / your nearest tourist information center for the updates.

JINTO TIC (Tourist Information Center)

TIC of Japan National Tourism Organization is your helping hand while in Japan. Its main services are providing travel information and free literature on Japan such as tourist spots, transportation, and suggesting tour itineraries, etc.

1F, Shin-Tokyo Bldg., 3-3-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
100-0005
Tel. 03-3201-3331 (in Japan)
Open daily from 9:00 to 18:00 (Closed on Jan. 1)

Goodwill Guide Groups offer tourists from overseas local tours guided in English or other languages. The guides are registered with JINTO and display the badge shown. As they are volunteers, there is no charge for their service. You are only expected to pay for their transportation, admission to tourist facilities if you visit any and their meals if you eat with them.

JINTO Website
https://www.jnto.go.jp

TOURIST INFORMATION in the area

Matsumae International Tourist Information Office:
(in front of JR Matsue Sta.)
665 Asahi-machi, Matsue City, Shimane
Hours: 9:00-18:00 (-19:00 from Jun. to Oct.).
Tel. (0852) 21-4034

Izumoshi Station Tourist Information Center:
11Ekikita-machi, Izumo City, Shimane
Hours: 8:30-17:00.
Tel. (0853) 30-6015

Shinmondori Visitor Center:
780-4 Kizuki-minami, Taisha-cho, Izumo City, Shimane
Hours: 9:00-17:00.
Tel. (0853) 53-2298

To find other Tourist Information Centers, visit https://tic.jnto.go.jp/