

Practical Travel Guide - 602

OKAYAMA, KURASHIKI and SETO-OHASHI BRIDGE



Japan National Tourism Organization
日本政府観光局



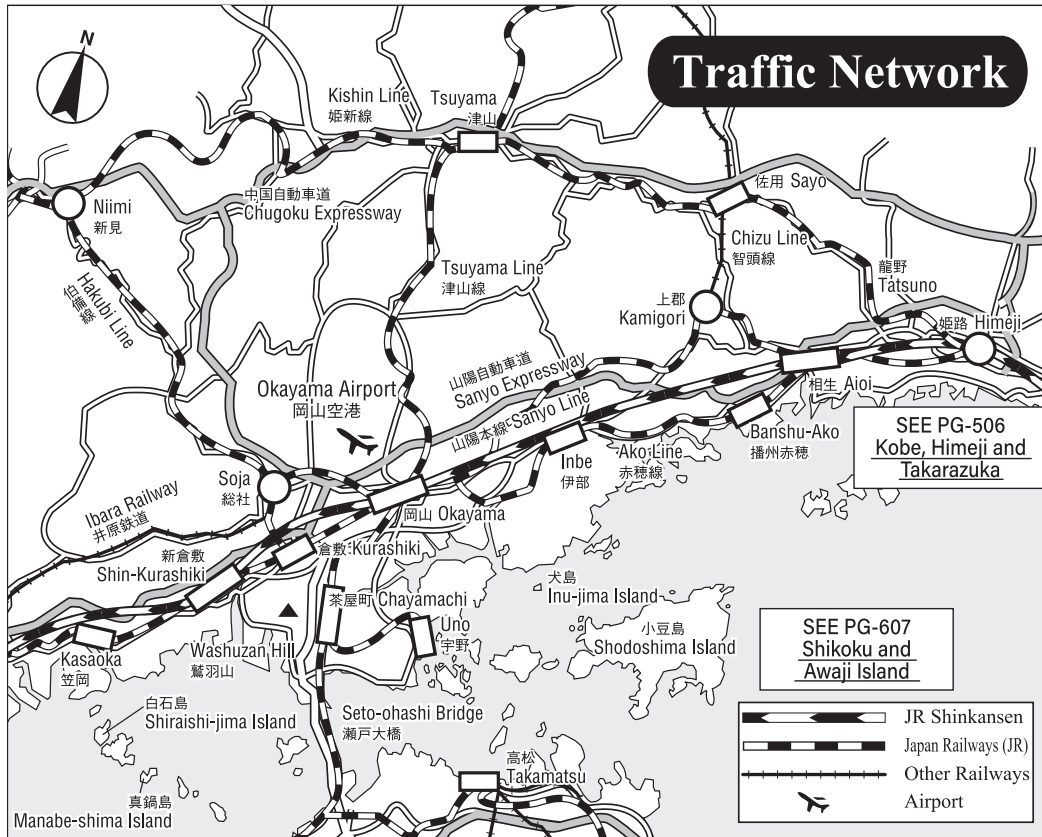
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In collaboration with
Tourist Information Centers in the area



Okayama (岡山) is one of the major commercial, industrial and cultural cities in the Chugoku District in western Japan. It is nationally known for its celebrated Korakuen Garden. It also serves as a main gateway to Inland Sea National Park and Shikoku Island.

Kurashiki (倉敷) is a historic merchants town near Okayama. In feudal days, it thrived as a port for the shipment of rice; several old rice granaries remain there. Its olden time atmosphere, designated as an Important Preservation District by the government, and a variety of museums lure many visitors to Kurashiki.



**Access:
By Air**

From	To	Operated by	Approx. Travel Time	Access Okayama airport – downtown
Haneda (Tokyo)	Okayama	JAL, ANA	1 hr. 15 min.	[To JR Okayama Sta.] - By bus 30 min. ¥780 [To JR Kurashiki Sta.] - By bus 35 min. ¥1,150

By Train (JR)

*Fare + express charge (with seat reservation, normal season).

From	To	By	Approx. Travel Time	Price
Tokyo	Okayama	Shinkansen "Nozomi"	3 hrs. 25 min.	¥17,660*
Kyoto		Shinkansen "Nozomi"	1 hr. 5 min.	¥7,990*
Himeji		Shinkansen "Hikari"	20 min.	¥3,810*
Okayama	Kurashiki	Sanyo Line (Local)	1 hr. 25 min.	¥1,520
		Sanyo Line (Local)	15 min.	¥330
	Uno	Uno-port (Uno) Line (Local)	50 min.	¥590
	Inbe	Ako Line (Local)	35 min.	¥590

Transportation from Okayama Sta. for Okayama Korakuen Garden (④):

[By Tram] 5 min. to Shiroshita stop (¥100) by tram for Higashiyama, then 10 min. walk toward the Okayama castle (⑤).

[By Bus] 10 min. (¥100) by "Okayama Korakuen Bus" / 12 min. (¥140) by bus route 18 from bus platform No. 1.

[Tram One-day Pass] ¥400. Available at Okayama Sta. Bus Terminal or from a tram driver.

*See p. 6 for admission and opening times.

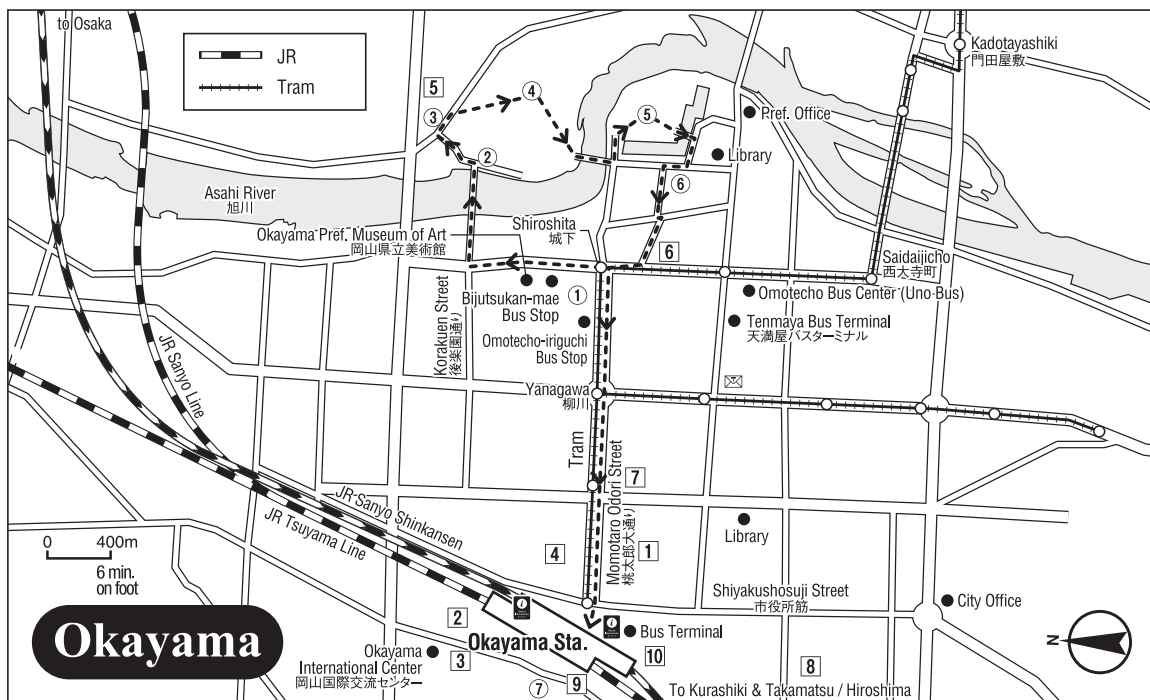
OKAYAMA

Places of Interest: (①) – (⑦) correspond to those on the map of Okayama)

- ① **Okayama Orient Museum** (岡山市立オリエント美術館), 10 min. by tram from Okayama Sta. or 5-min. walk from Bijutsukan-mae Bus Stop, specializes in Oriental arts, the first of its kind in Japan. It was modeled after the Pantheon in Greece. Exhibited are over 3,000 works of Oriental art. Open: 9:00–17:00. Closed: Mon. (or the following day after the holiday when Mon. fall on a national holiday), year-end & New Year's holiday. Admission: ¥300 (permanent exhibition).
- ② **Okayama Prefectural Museum** (岡山県立博物館), a 10-min. walk from Okayama City Orient Museum, is a historical museum, displaying ancient materials unearthed in the district; fine arts and sculpture, pottery, swords and armor, etc. Open: 9:00–18:00 (Apr.–Sep.), 9:30–17:00 (Oct.–Mar.). Closed: Mon. (or the following day after the holiday when Mon. fall on a national holiday), year-end & New Year's holiday. Admission: ¥250.
- ③ **Yumeji Art Museum** (夢二郷土美術館), a 5-min. walk from the Okayama Prefectural Museum, is dedicated to Yumeji Takehisa (1884–1934), who has become one of the most famous Japanese painters of the Taisho era (early 20th century). Yumeji is widely known as a Japanese Toulouse-Lautrec or Edvard Munch. Approximately 2,000 items of his works and materials are housed in the museum. Open: 9:00–17:00. Closed: Mon. (or the following day after the holiday when Mon. fall on a national holiday) & Dec. 28–Jan. 1. Admission: ¥800.
- ④ **Okayama Korakuen Garden** (岡山後楽園), a 11-min. walk from Yumeji Art Museum, is located on the east bank of the Asahi River. It is one of the three most celebrated gardens in Japan, the other two being Kenrokuen in Kanazawa and Kairakuen in Mito. The garden, covering about 14 ha., was completed in 1700. It contains rustic tea arbors, extensive lawns, lovely ponds, graceful groves, and peaceful hills, lanes and streams. All are tastefully arranged to harmonize with the surrounding hill and mountain. The maple trees, cherry and Japanese apricot groves offer beautiful seasonal contrasts. Open: 7:30–18:00 (Mar. 20–Sep.) (enter by 17:45), 8:00–17:00 (Oct.–Mar. 19) (enter by 16:45). Admission: ¥410.
- ⑤ **Okayama Castle** (岡山城), a 3-min. walk from the south exit of Korakuen Garden, was originally constructed in the 16th century. The six-storied donjon was rebuilt in 1966, which displays many relics of local history. It is called “Ujo” or Crow Castle since it is painted black. Open: 9:00–17:30. Closed: Dec. 29–31. Admission: ¥320.
- ⑥ **Hayashibara Museum of Art** (林原美術館), an 8-min. walk from the Okayama Castle, exhibits over 10,000 works of swords, armor, fine arts and calligraphy. Established in 1964. Open: 10:00–17:00. Closed: Mon. (or the following day after the holiday when Mon. falls on a national holiday) & Exhibition period & Year-end & New Year's holiday. Admission: ¥500 (exclude special exhibitions).
- ⑦ **Okayama City Museum**, a 3-min. walk from Okayama Sta., exhibits Okayama city's past and present such as Okayama Castle, Bizen pottery, the reclamation of Kojima Bay and so on with digital technologies. Open: 10:00–18:00. Closed: Mon. (or the following day after the holiday when Mon. fall on a national holiday), year-end & New Year's holiday. Admission: ¥310.

Okayama International Center (岡山国際交流センター)

The purpose of the Okayama International Center is to promote international exchange. This center has various features such as an international conference room equipped with simultaneous interpretation facilities for four languages, an event hall, a library and internet access services.



Numbers ① – ⑩ show the accommodations list on page 6/6

Suggested Walking Route (4 hrs.):

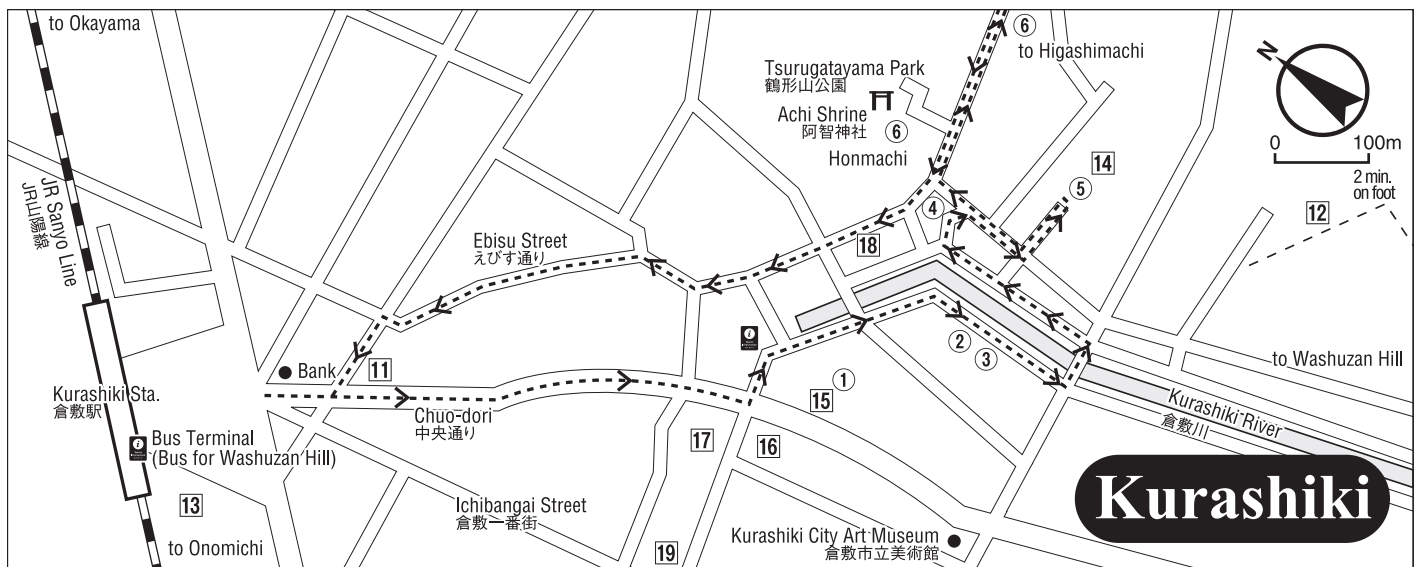
Okayama Sta.

→ ① Okayama Orient Museum → ② Okayama Prefectural Museum → ③ Yumeji Art Museum → ④ Korakuen Garden
→ ⑤ Okayama Castle → ⑥ Hayashibara Art Museum → ⑦ Okayama City Museum → Okayama Sta.

KURASHIKI

Places of Interest: (①) – (⑥) correspond to those on the map of Kurashiki)

- ① **Ohara Museum of Art** (大原美術館), a 15-min. walk from Kurashiki Sta., was built in 1930 by the late Mr. Magosaburo Ohara. It is a white, two-storied stone building modeled after the Greek Pantheon, housing his rich collection of Western art. There are precious works of El Greco, Corot, Rodin, Gauguin, Picasso, etc. A new gallery was added to the south of the main building in 1961, displaying a collection of famous modern Japanese paintings. Recently, Japanese tapestries, wood-block prints, pottery and Oriental antiques have been added to the collection. Open: 9:00-17:00. Closed: Mon. (except late July, Aug & Oct.) and year-end. Admission: ¥1,300.
- ② **Kurashiki Museum of Folkcraft** (倉敷民藝館), close to Ohara Museum of Art, consists of Three two-storied rice granaries, made into museums. The buildings have white walls and black-tiled roofs in the style of the Edo Period. Some 4,000 folkcraft objects are shown, including ceramics, rugs, fancy mats, wooden ware, bamboo ware, textiles and other products from Japan and other countries. Open: 9:00-17:00 (Mar. to Nov.), -16:15 (Dec. to Feb.) enter 15 min. before the closing times. Closed: Mon. & Dec. 29-Jan. 1. (or the following day after the holiday when Mon. fall on a national holiday). Admission: ¥700.
- ③ **Japanese Rural Toy Museum** (日本郷土玩具館), next to the Museum of Folkcraft, is the house of Mr. Masaaki Oga, now open to the public as a museum. About 5,000 folk-toys collected from many parts of the world are exhibited. [Exhibition area] Open: 9:30- (Mar.-Oct.), 10:00-17:00. Closed: Jan. 1. Admission: ¥400.
- ④ **Kurashiki Archaeological Museum** (倉敷考古館), a 2-min. walk from the Rural Toy Museum, is a white-walled storehouse. Opened in 1950, it exhibits more than 1,400 archaeological relics unearthed in this district plus several relics from South America. Open: 9:00-17:00. Closed: Mon., Tue. & Dec. 27-Jan. 2 (or the following day after the holiday when Mon. fall on a national holiday). Admission: ¥500.
- ⑤ **Kurashiki Ivy Square**, a 5-min. walk from the Archaeological Museum, is constructed in the center of the former weaving plant. This brick-paved square is embraced by a small pond and the clean river. A hotel, restaurant, coffee shop and stalls surround the square. It is very popular among young people.
- ⑥ **Honmachi-Higashimachi Street** (本町通り、東町通り), a 5-min. walk from the Ivy Square, is a quiet old street which a traditional way of life can be found among the tradesmen's houses. These houses were mainly constructed from the Edo to the Meiji era (17th to early 20th centuries), and have been transformed into shops, restaurants, museums, and inns. A walk along these streets will bring you into close contact with the people living there, and inspires an curious feeling of nostalgia for a time you never experienced.



Numbers ⑪ – ⑳ show the accommodations list on page 6/6

Suggested Walking Route (4 hrs.):

Kurashiki Sta. — ① Ohara Museum of Art — ② Kurashiki Museum of Folkcraft — ③ Japanese Rural Toy Museum — ④ Kurashiki Archaeological Museum — ⑤ Kurashiki Ivy Square — ⑥ Honmachi-Higashimachi Street — Kurashiki Sta.

*See p. 6 for admission and opening times.

VICINITY OF OKAYAMA & KURASHIKI

Kibi (吉備), Area, the site of the prosperous area of Kibi dating back to the 4th century, is rich with legends related to the mythological origin of Japan. Visitors can enjoy a hiking or cycling course in the country between Okayama and Kurashiki.

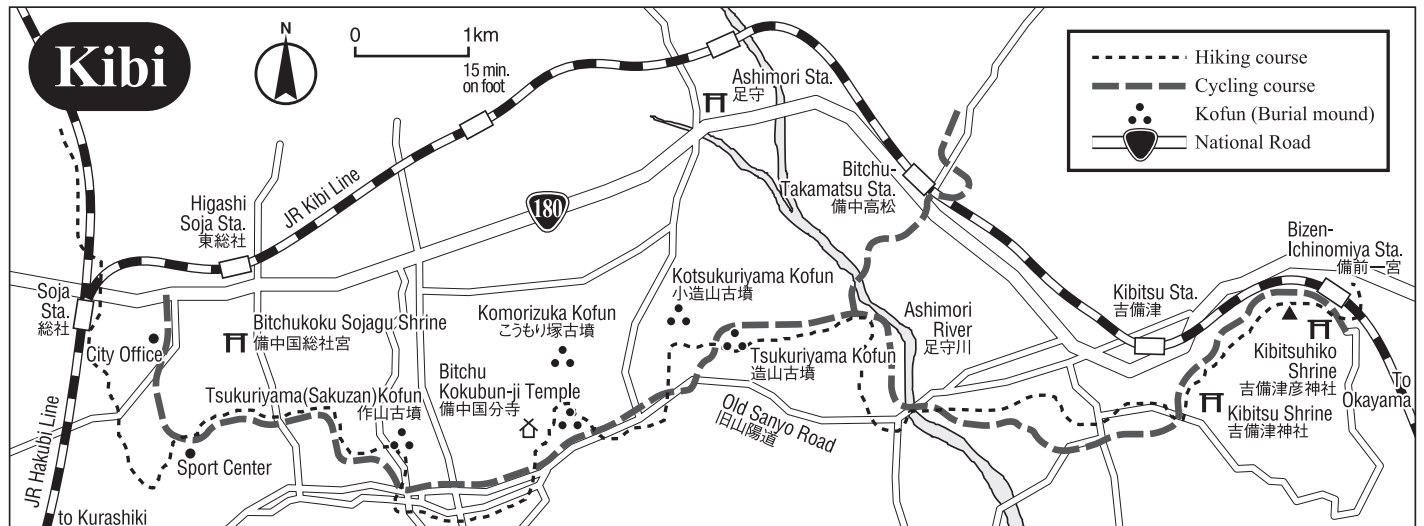
Places of Interest:

Kibitsu Shrine (吉備津神社), is dedicated to Kibitsu-hiko-no-Mikoto, ancestor of the leaders of Kibi region. The main sanctuary, in the graceful style of a double tympan and a 400 m gallery,

slightly curving, are worth visiting.

Tsukuriyama Kofun (造山古墳), a mausoleum was built in the 5th century for a lord of the district. It is 350 m long and 31 m high, and is surrounded by six burial mounds, much smaller.

Bitchu Kokubun-ji Temple (備中国分寺), was founded in the 8th century, and the present architecture dates back to the mid-Edo Period. Its five-storied pagoda is a landmark of the Kibi area.



Access:

Kibitsu Shrine	10 min.	Kibitsu Sta.	15 min.	Okayama Sta.
	walk	JR Momotaro (Kibi) Line		
Soja Sta.	15 min.	Kurashiki Sta.		
		JR Hakubi Line		

Note: Rent-a-cycle is available near Bizen-Ichinomiya Sta., Bitchu-Kokubun-ji Temple & Soja Sta.
¥500 / 2hrs. (¥200 for every additional hour) or ¥1,100 / one day (9:00–18:00).

Suggested Cycling Route (about 4 hrs.):

Bizen-Ichinomiya Sta. — 5 min. — Kibitsu-hiko Shrine — 15 min. — Kibitsu Shrine — 35 min. — Tsukuriyama Kofun — 20 min. — Bitchu Kokubun-ji Temple — 10 min. — Tsukuriyama (Sakuzan) Kofun — 20 min. — Soja Sta.

Inbe (伊部), 40 min. by JR Ako Line from Okayama to Inbe Sta. enjoys a nationwide reputation for its Bizen-yaki porcelain ware, made here for centuries. Bizen-yaki tea utensils, sake bottles, flower vases, tableware and various ornaments are popular souvenir items. Around Inbe Sta., there are workshops for the visitors to observe the process or try their hands at making their own souvenir pottery items.

Shiraishi-jima Island (白石島) and **Manabe-shima Island (真鍋島)** are two of 30 islets which constitute the Kasaoka islands. Both islets command a panoramic view of the Inland Sea National Park and offer ideal seabathing in summer.

Seto-ohashi BRIDGE

Seto-ohashi Bridge (瀬戸大橋), the double decked bridge for trains and cars, which took nearly 10 years and one trillion yen to complete, actually consists of 6 different bridges. These connecting spans link 5 islands, and join Honshu and Shikoku. These cover almost 13 km of sea and island that form the Inland Sea National Park. The construction involved a variety of new methods and technology especially designed to protect the natural beauty of the park. To see Seto-ohashi Bridge, you can take a tour bus (see previous page) or boats from Okayama or Shikoku. The bridge with the light of the setting sun reflected is especially beautiful and also at night when it's lighted up. If you cross the bridge via bus, Kojima Station and then get off the bus at Seto-ohashi Fisherman's Wharf-mae Bus Stop, and operated Kotosan Bus leaves the slopes.

Washuzan Hill (鷲羽山), 25 min. by JR rapid train "Marine Liner" from Okayama Sta. to Kojima Sta. then 20 min. bus ride, rises to 133 m. It is regarded as one of the best points to enjoy a panoramic view of the Inland Sea and the many islets near and far connected by the huge bridges. You can climb the hill in half an hour from Washuzan Bus Stop on the Shimoden Bus, enjoying ever-changing picturesque scenery on the way to the summit.

Sightseeing Bus (Guided in Japanese)

Operated by Ryobi Bus <https://www.ryobi-holdings.jp/bus/teikikanko/en/>

Name of course	Approx. Travel Time	Sights to be visited	Price
"Hayamawari"*	4 hrs. 50 min.	JR Okayama Sta.(west gate) – Okayama Castle – Korakuen – Yumeji Art Museum – Kurashiki (preservation area) – JR Kurashiki Sta. or Okayama Sta.(west gate)	¥4,100 (return to Okayama) ¥3,560 (disembark at kurashiki)
"Bizen"**	7 hrs. 5 min.	JR Okayama Sta.(west gate) – Yumeji Art Museum – Okayama Garden (lunch) – Bizen Osafune Sword Museum – Shizutani School – JR Okayama Sta.(west gate)	¥6,900 (return to Okayama)

* An afternoon tour (meals are not provided). Operation: Daily between mid Mar. and Nov.

** A mid-day tour (meals are provided). Operation: Weekends and national holidays.

Accommodations:

Name of facility	Tel.	Fax.	Room rate (¥)
Okayama			
1 Okayama Business Hotel Annex (BH)	(086)224-4111	(086)232-8626	¥
2 Toyoko Inn Okayama Sta. Nishiguchi-migi (BH)	(086)253-1045	(086)253-1046	¥
3 Toyoko Inn Okayama Sta. Nishiguchi-hiroba (BH)	(086)251-1045	(086)251-1047	¥
4 Toyoko Inn Okayama Sta. Higashiguchi (BH)	(086)224-1045	(086)224-1046	¥
5 Okayama Plaza Hotel (H)	(086)272-1201	(086)273-1557	¥¥
6 Comfort Hotel Okayama (BH)	(086)801-9411	(086)801-9495	¥¥
7 Okayama Kooraku Hotel (H)	(086)221-7111	(086)221-0007	¥¥
8 Okayama City Hotel Kuwata-cho (BH)	(086)221-0001	(086)221-7100	¥¥
9 ANA Hotel Okayama (H)	(086)898-1111	(086)898-1200	¥¥¥
10 Hotel Granvia Okayama (H)	(086)234-7000	(086)234-7099	¥¥¥
Kurashiki			
11 Kurashiki Station Hotel (BH)	(086)425-2525	(086)426-6702	¥
12 Kurashiki Youth Hostel (Y)	(086)422-7355	(086)422-7364	¥
13 Apa Hotel Kurashiki-Ekimae (H)	(086)426-1111	(086)426-9001	¥¥
14 Kurashiki Ivy Square (H)	(086)422-0011	(086)424-0515	¥¥
15 Kurashiki Kokusai Hotel (H)	(086)422-5141	(086)422-5192	¥¥
16 Court Hotel Kurashiki (H)	(086)425-5100	(086)421-0335	¥¥
17 Dormy Inn Kurashiki (BH)	(086)426-5489	(086)426-5455	¥¥
18 Ryokan Tsurugata (R)	(086)424-1635	(086)424-1650	¥¥¥
19 Kurashiki Royal Art Hotel (H)	(086)423-2400	(086)423-2401	¥¥¥
Seto-ohashi Onsen Yamako (R)	(086)462-1126	(086)463-1444	¥¥
Inbe			
Tobi Hotel (BH)	(0869)63-1355	(0869)63-3247	¥
Kasaoka			
Manabeshima Island Santora Youth Hostel (Y)	(0865)68-3515	(0865)68-3516	¥¥
Shiraishi-jima Island Nakanishiya Ryokan (R)	(0865)68-3553	(0865)68-3385	¥¥
Yoshinaga			
Hattoji Int'l Villa	(086)256-2535	(086)256-2576	¥

Remarks:

Numbers 1 – 19 correspond to those on the maps on page 2/6, 3/6

H = Hotel	Rate per person
R = Ryokan	¥¥¥ = more than 15,000 yen
BH = Business Hotel	¥¥ = 8,001 yen – 15,000 yen
Y = Youth Hostel	¥ = 8,000 yen or less
	* Standard basis rate (no meals, taxes included)

[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.

JNTO 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)
<https://www.japan.travel/en/plan/tic/>

JNTO Website: <https://www.jnto.go.jp>

All information, including transportation schedules, fares, prices and accommodation charges which is contained in this leaflet is based on data as of November 2019, and is subject to change without notice. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of all information, regrettably errors do occasionally occur. Therefore, you should check with organizations concerned for updated and accurate information on your chosen destination. JNTO shall not be liable for any loss or damage of whatever nature that may arise as a result, directly or indirectly, from the use of any of the information or material contained in this leaflet.

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TOURIST INFORMATION

in the area

Momotaro Tourist Information Center:
"Okayama Ichibangai" underground shopping mall, Ekimotomachi,
Kita-ku Okayama City, Okayama
Hours: 9:00-20:00. Tel. (086) 222-2912

Kurashiki Ekimae Tourist Information Office (near JR Kurashiki Sta.):
2F, 1-7-2 Achi, Kurashiki City, Okayama
Hours: 9:00-18:00. Closed: Dec. 29-31. Tel. (086) 424-1220

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

