


Practical Travel Guide - 604


# SETO INLAND SEA and SHIMANAMI SEA ROUTE

JNTO

Japan National  
Tourism Organization  
日本政府観光局



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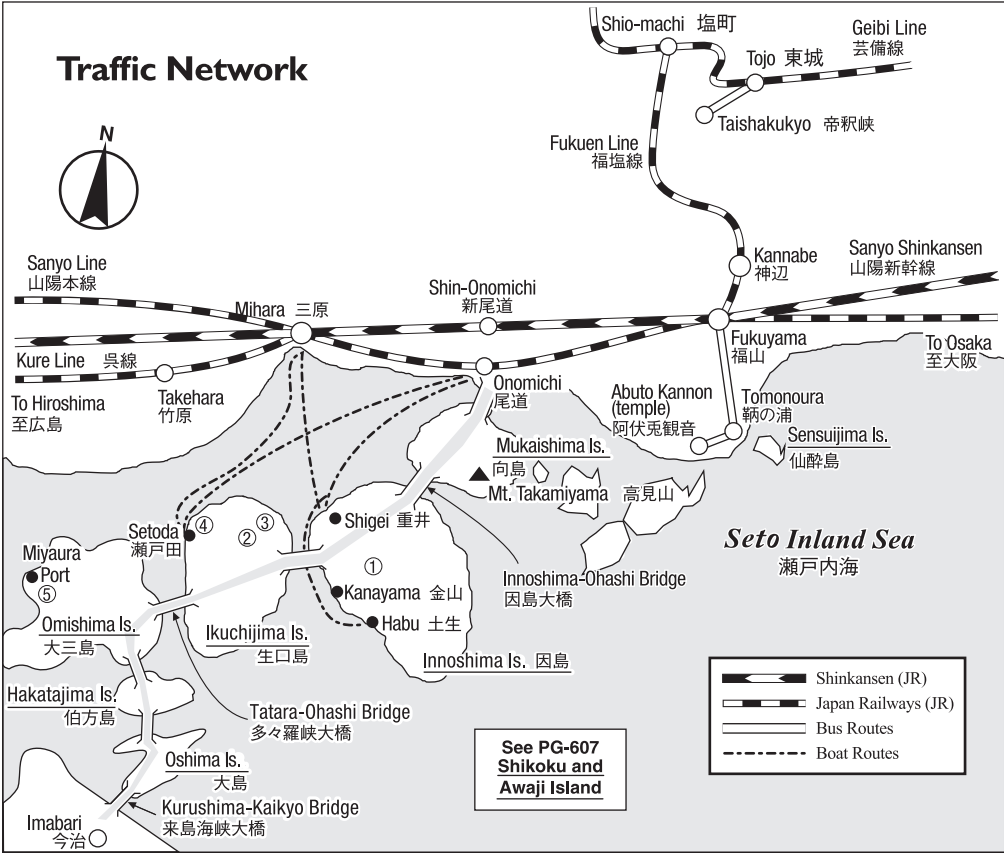
In collaboration with  
Tourist Information Centers in the area

**Fukuyama** (福山), pop. 469,164 (Oct. 2019), is the largest city in the eastern part of Hiroshima Prefecture. Many scenic sites are in the city because Fukuyama has flourished as a temple town of the Myo-o-in temple in the 17th century and as a castletown in the Edo Period. A historic town of Tomonoura and Sensuijima island, forming part of the Setonaikai (the Seto inland sea) national park, are noted for its natural beauty and townscape.

**Onomichi** (尾道), pop. 136,265 (Oct. 2019), facing the Onomichi Channel, is famous for a number of temples including the Senkoji Temple and for great literary figures who have stayed there. With its narrow roads, lined with old houses and old temples, it's an ideal city for strolling.

**Mihara** (三原), pop. 93,205(Oct. 2019), is now an industrial center. The city was developed as a castle-town whose history remains in the ruins of the castle moat and stone walls. JR Mihara Sta. is the junction for the Sanyo Shinkansen, Sanyo Line and Kure Line.

**Shimanami Sea Route** (Shimanami Kaido しまなみ海道) is a nickname for a road route between Onomichi and Imabari which spans the Inland Sea with 10 large and small bridges stepping



over 7 islands. The whole 60-km-route was finally completed in 1999. Each bridge has a sidewalk for cyclists and pedestrians, so now it is possible to travel between the mainland Japan and Shikoku on foot. Rental bicycles are available in each island.  
<http://www.go-shimanami.jp/global/english/>

Access:  
By train (JR)

From	To	By	Approx. Travel Time	Price*
Tokyo	Fukuyama	Tokaido & Sanyo Shinkansen "Nozomi"	3 hrs. 45 min.	¥17,990
		Tokaido & Sanyo Shinkansen "Hikari" and Sanyo Shinkansen "Sakura" via Shin-Kobe	4 hrs. 10 min.	¥17,140
Shin-Osaka		Sanyo Shinkansen "Nozomi" or "Sakura"	1 hr. 10 min. (Nozomi) 1 hr. 20 min. (Sakura)	¥8,210 (Nozomi) ¥8,000 (Sakura)
Shin-Osaka	Shin-Onomichi	Sanyo Shinkansen "Kodama"	1 hr. 40 min.	¥8,440
Shin-Osaka	Mihara	Sanyo Shinkansen "Kodama"	1 hr. 45 min.	¥8,770

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

\*See p. 5 for admission and opening times.

### Transportation in the area:

From	To	By	Approx. Travel Time	Price
Fukuyama	Onomichi	JR Sanyo Line (Local)	20 min.	¥420
Onomichi	Mihara	JR Sanyo Line (Local)	15 min.	¥240
Mihara	Takehara	JR Kure Line (Local)	30 min.	¥510
Tojo Sta.*	Taishaku*	Bihoku Bus	25 min.	¥300
Fukuyama	Innoshima (Habu Port)	Chugoku Bus	1 hr. 5 min.	¥1,400
Mihara Port**	Innoshima (Habu Port via Shigei Port)	High speed boat (Habu Shosen)	45 min.	¥1,280
Fukuyama	Imabari (via Setoda)	Chugoku Bus	1 hr. 30 min.	¥2,600
Mihara Port**	Ikuchijima (Setoda Port)	High speed boat (Maruto Kisen)	30 min.	¥840
Onomichi Port***		High speed boat (Setouchi Cruising)	40 min.	¥1,300

\* 4 runs a day (weekday only)

\*\* Mihara Port: 5 min. walk from Mihara Sta.

\*\*\* Onomichi Port: 5 min. walk from Onomichi Sta.

### Fukuyama and Vicinity

**Fukuyama Castle Museum** (福山城博物館), 5 min. walk from Fukuyama Sta. A five-storied donjon which was originally built in 1619 and rebuilt after World War II, is now open to the public as a museum of historical materials. Open: 9:00–17:00 (Sep. 1–Mar. 31), 9:00–18:30 (Apr. 1–Aug. 31). Closed: Mon. (or the following day after the holiday when Mon. falls on a national holiday). Admission: ¥200. Fushimi Turret and Sujigane Gate in the castle park are designated as an Important Cultural Property.

**Rose Park** (ばら公園), 20 min. walk from Fukuyama Sta. The spacious park which is famous for 5,500 rose bushes of various species is especially beautiful in May and in Oct. when the roses are in bloom.

**Kannabe Honjin** (神辺本陣), 10 min. walk from Kannabe Sta. on JR Fukuen Line, is an officially appointed inn for feudal lords in the Edo Period, still remains. Open: 10:00–16:00 on Sat., Sun. and Hol. Closed: Mid Aug. and New Year holiday. Admission: Free. \*Reservation basis with admission fee on weekdays.

**Myo-o-in Temple** (明王院), 10 min. by Tomotetsu Bus (for Tomo-ko) from Fukuyama Sta. to Myoodai iriguchi Bus Stop, then 10-min. walk. This Shingon-sect temple was built by Kobo Daishi in 807. The five-storied pagoda and the main temple hall are preserved as National Treasures.

**Matsunaga Footwear Museum** (福山市松永はぎもの資料館), 5 min. walk from JR Matsunaga Sta., which is 10 min. by JR Sanyo Line from JR Fukuyama Sta. As the production of Geta (traditional wooden clogs) and Igusa (rush for Tatami mat) were main industries in the area, various kinds of footwear and handmade folk toys from all over Japan are displayed. Open: 10:00–16:00 on Fri., Sat., Sun. and national holidays. Closed: From Mon. to Thu. and New Year holiday. Admission: ¥300.

### Tomonoura

The town of **Tomonoura** (鞆の浦), 30 min. by Tomotetsu bus (for Tomo-ko or Tomo port) from Fukuyama Sta., is an old port town where sailboats waited for good winds in old days. As the town is faced with the quiet Inland sea with the scenic view of islands, the atmosphere is loved by many visitors.

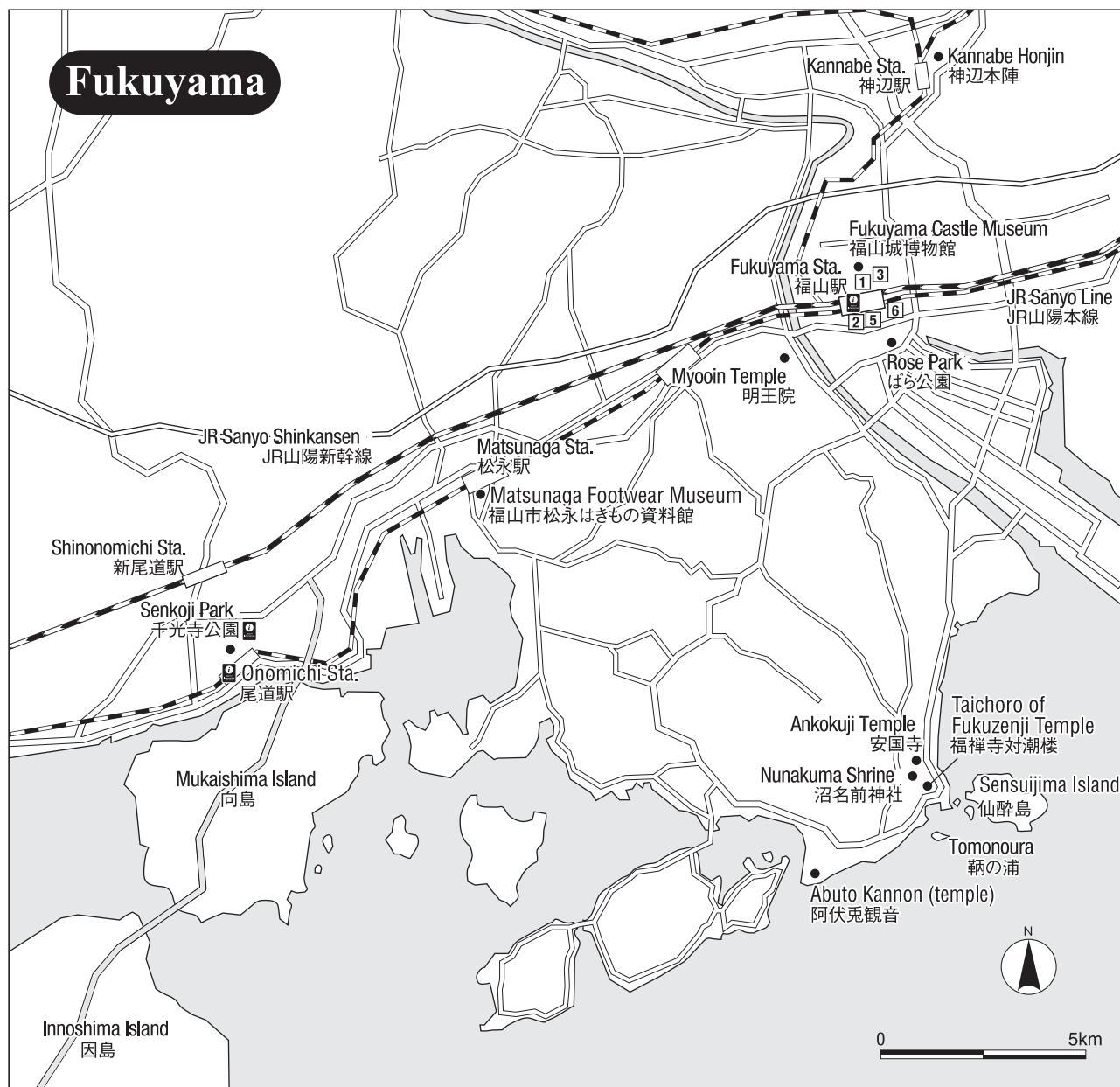
Multilingual audio guides, good for strolling in the town, are available at the Tomonoura tourist information center (¥500, additional ¥1,000 for deposit) near the bus stop. Rental bicycles are also available at the parking office beside the municipal boat pier (¥500). In addition, taking a sightseeing ship (by Setouchi cruising (0848) 36-6113), connecting Tomonoura and JR Onomichi Sta. (¥2,500 one-way), is a good option to enjoy the magnificent view of the inland sea on the ship. 2 services are available on weekends and holidays from early Mar. to mid Nov.

**Fukuzenji Temple** (福禅寺), about 10 min. walk from the information center, is said to be established in the middle of the 10th century, and is designated as a National Historic Site. Since the temple is located on a hill, you can see the picturesque view of Sensuijima Island from **Taichoro** (対潮楼) reception hall. Open: 8:00–17:00. Admission: ¥200.

**Sensuijima Island** (仙酔島), 5 min. by the municipal boat (¥240 for round trip) from Tomonoura, is an island 6 km in diameter in the heart of the Inland Sea National Park. As the island was made by volcanic activities in geological age, a five-colored rock (black, red, blue, yellow and white) can be found only here in Japan. You can enjoy a breathtaking sunset view from Senningaoka observation hill.

**Abuto Kannon** (阿伏兎観音), 15 min. by Tomotetsu bus (for Matsunaga Sta.) or 5 min. by taxi from Tomonoura, then about 20 min. walk, is a temple dedicated to Kannon or Goddess of Mercy standing on a cliff where one can enjoy the magnificent view of the Inland sea. Open: 8:00–17:00. Admission: ¥100.

\*See p. 5 for admission and opening times.

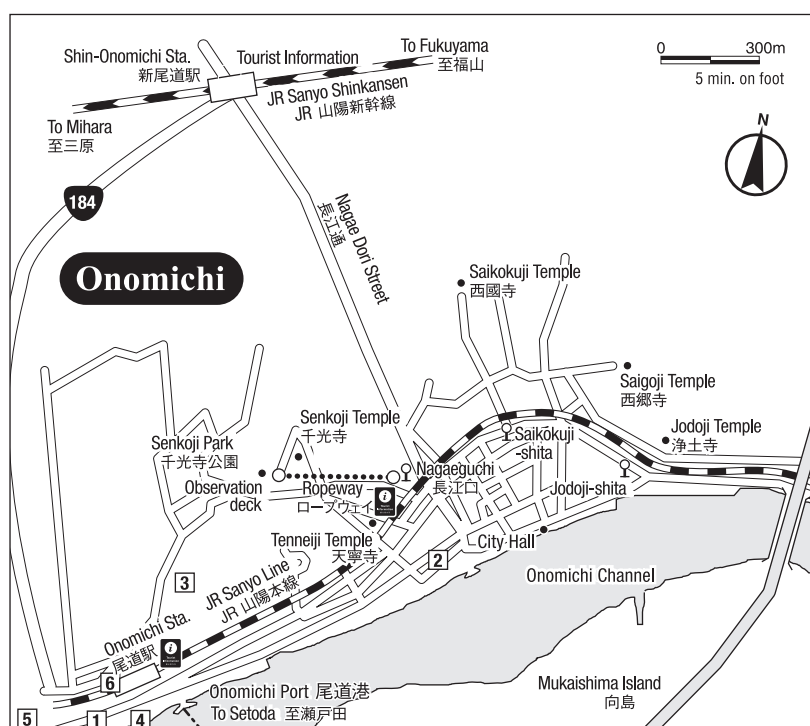


## Onomichi

**Senkoji Temple** (千光寺) in **Senkoji Park** (千光寺公園), 5 min. by bus from Onomichi Sta. to Nagaeguchi Bus Stop, then 3 min. by ropeway to an observatory platform where one can enjoy the view of the Inland Sea. From there, the narrow path called "Path of Literature" with all the stone monuments carved poems on, leads one to the Senkoji Temple founded in 806. It takes about 20 min. to the main road passing through old houses and temples.

**Saikokuji Temple** (西國寺), 5 min. by bus (for Higashi-Onomichi, Otabashi or Shako) from Onomichi Sta. to Saikokuji-shita, then a 5-min. walk. Giant straw sandals which are over two meters long are hung at Niomon Gate. Kondo Hall and the three-storied pagoda are Important Cultural Properties.

**Jodoji Temple** (浄土寺), 5 min. by bus (for Higashi-Onomichi, Otabashi or Shako) from Onomichi Sta. to Jodoji-shita Bus Stop. The main hall and the pagoda with carvings are designated as National Treasures.



Numbers 1-6 correspond to those on the list Accommodations on page 5/5.

\*See p. 5 for admission and opening times.

### Innoshima Island

① **Suiganjo Castle** (水軍城), 20 min. by bus from Habu Port to Suiganjo-iriguchi, is the reproduction of the only one castle of the Murakami Pirates who were active from the 14th to 16th century in the Inland Sea. In this castle-shaped museum, the relics are exhibited. Open: 9:30–17:00. Admission: ¥330.

### Ikuchijima Island

② **Kosanji Temple · Kosanji Temple Museum** (耕三寺・耕三寺博物館), 25 min. by high speed boat from Mihara Port to Setoda Port, then 10-min. walk from Setoda Port, is the temple complex built in 1936 by a businessman from this island in dedication to the memory of his mother. About 20 various structures in the compound are modeled after the famous edifices of each era, including Horyuji Temple's Dream Hall in Nara and Byodoin Temple's Phoenix Hall in Kyoto. The temple is called Nikko of the West, because of the elaborate Koyomon Gate which looks like the Yomeimon Gate in Nikko. Open: 9:00–17:00. Admission: ¥1,400.

③ **Hirayama Ikuo Museum of Art** (平山郁夫美術館) 10 min. walk from Setoda Port, exhibits the Japanese-style paintings of Ikuo Hirayama, noted master artist from Setoda Town. His Buddhism-related paintings are world famous. Visitors will find out the origin of his art through the picture diaries of his primary school days and the sketches of his art school days. Collection of his drawings and sketches will make you understand the process of his production. Open: 9:00–17:00. Admission: ¥920.

④ **Kojoji Temple** (向上寺), 10 min. walk from Setoda Port. is the temple built on a hill in 1403 has a three-storied pagoda which is designated as a National Treasure. Ikuo Hirayama often played here in childhood.

### Omishima Island

**Omishima Island** (大三島) is the fourth largest island in the Inland Sea where sea bathers congregate in the summer. Autumn is a harvest time of delicious mandarin oranges for both islanders and visitors.

⑤ **Oyamazumi Shrine** (大山祇神社), 1km east of Miyaura Port, was first established in 719 and rebuilt in 1427. The shrine houses huge collection of suits of armor, helmets and other samurai arms accessories that makes this shrine famous nationwide. These properties had been dedicated to the shrine by victorious samurai warriors and generals from ancient times to the end of the feudal period. The treasure house contains almost 80 percent of the nation's National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties in the category of samurai arms. Open: 8:30–17:00. Admission: ¥1,000.

### Mihara

**Mt. Hitsuei** (筆影山), 20 min. by taxi from Mihara Sta. From the top, one can enjoy a grand view of the Seto Inland Sea and Shikoku.

**Buttsuji Temple** (佛通寺), 40 min. by Mihara city bus for Buttsuji from Mihara Sta. (3 runs a day), the old Zen temple built in 1397 is surrounded by thick wooded cedar trees where statues of disciples of Buddha are also placed.

### Takehara

**Takehara** (竹原), 50 min. by JR Kure Line from Mihara Sta. is the city called "Little Kyoto" as the streets still have the old merchants' houses of the Edo Period including the **Old Residence of Koresuga Rai** (頼惟清旧宅) and **Matsuzaka's Residence** (松坂邸) as well as **Shorenji Temple** (照蓮寺) and **Fumeikaku in Saihoji Temple** (西方寺普明閣).





# Accommodations:

Name of facilities	Tel.	Room rate (¥)	Name of facilities	Tel.	Room rate (¥)
<b>Fukuyama:</b>			<b>Mihara:</b>		
1 Vessel Inn Fukuyamaeki Kitaguchi (H)	(084) 991-1000	¥	Mihara Kokusai Hotel (H)	(0848) 63-2111	¥¥
2 Fukuyama New Castle Hotel (H)	(084) 922-2121	¥	Mihara Station Hotel (BH)	(0848) 63-8181	¥
3 Fukuyama Oriental Hotel (BH)	(084) 927-0888	¥	Hotel Todai (BH)	(0848) 63-1015	¥
4 Fukuyama Terminal Hotel (BH)	(084) 932-3311	¥			
5 Sun Hotel Fukuyama (BH)	(084) 925-8111	¥	<b>Ikuchijima:</b>		
			Ryokan Tsutsui (R)	(0845) 27-2221	¥¥
<b>Taishakukyo:</b>			<b>Innoshima:</b>		
Kyukamura Taishakukyo (V)	(08477) 2-3110	¥¥	Hotel Innoshima (H)	(0845) 22-4661	¥
			Nautique Shiroyama (H)	(0845) 26-0046	¥¥¥
<b>Onomichi:</b>			<b>Omishima Island:</b>		
1 Onomichi Daiichi Hotel (BH)	(0848) 23-4567	¥	Chaume Ryokan (R)	(0897) 82-0008	¥¥
2 Onomichi Royal Hotel (BH)	(0848) 23-2111	¥	Kohan (M)	(0897) 82-0871	¥
3 View Hotel Seizan (BH)	(0848) 23-3313	¥			
4 Green Hill Hotel Onomichi (H)	(0848) 24-0100	¥¥			
5 Onomichi Kokusai Hotel (H)	(0848) 25-5931	¥			
6 Alfa One Onomichi (BH)	(0848) 25-5600	¥			

## Remarks:

1 – 6 Numbers correspond to those on the map for Onomichi on Page 3/5.

H = Hotel

BH = Business Hotel

V = Vacation Village

M = Minshuku (family-run inn)

R = Ryokan

Rate per person.

¥¥¥ = more than 15,000 yen

¥¥ = 8,001 yen – 15,000 yen

¥ = 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.



Japan Official Travel App



## 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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JNTO Website

<https://www.japan.travel/en/plan/list-of-volunteer-guides/>



## TOURIST INFORMATION in the area

### Sightseeing Tourist Station Fukuyama (JR Fukuyama Sta.):

30-1 Sannomaru-cho, Fukuyama City, Hiroshima

Hours: 9:00–18:00.

Tel.: (084)922-2869

### Onomichi Tourist Information (JR Onomichi Sta.):

1-1 Higashigosho-cho, Onomichi City, Hiroshima

Hours: 9:00–18:00. Closed: Dec. 29–31.

Tel.: (0848)20-0005

To find

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

