Hagi (萩) is an old good castle town in Yamaguchi Pref. along the Japan Sea. The town cradled many important figures of the Meiji restoration in the middle of the 19th century, and a number of relics associated with them remain. Many people say the whole town looks like a history museum. Hagi is also famous for the cultivation of “Natsumikan” oranges and a 400-year-old traditional Hagi-yaki pottery.

Tsuwano (津和野) is a little smaller old castle town, often called “Little Kyoto.” The Tsuwano river runs through the town, where many multi-colored carp are hatched to the delight of visitors.

Akiyoshi-do Cave (秋芳洞) is one of the largest stalactite caves of its kind in the Orient, developed underground the Akiyoshi-dai Plateau (秋吉台), the largest limestone plateau in Japan known for its karst topography. JR Shin-Yamaguchi Sta. on JR Sanyo Shinkansen is a gateway station in this area. We recommend you to check train/bus connections before your departure to make your trip comfortable.

Traffic Network

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>Yamaguchi-Ube</td>
<td>JAL, ANA, SF</td>
<td>1 hr. 40 min.</td>
<td>[To Kusae Sta.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- By walk 10 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>[To Shin-Yamaguchi Sta.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- By Airport Bus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>50 min. ¥910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Iwami</td>
<td>ANA</td>
<td>1 hr. 35 min.</td>
<td>[To Masuda Sta.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- By Bus 15min. ¥340</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By Train (JR):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>By</th>
<th>Approx. Travel Time</th>
<th>Price*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo</td>
<td>Shin-Yamaguchi</td>
<td>Tokaido &amp; Sanyo Shinkansen “Nozomi”</td>
<td>4 hrs. 40 min.</td>
<td>¥21,640*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyoto</td>
<td>Shin-Yamaguchi</td>
<td>Tokaido &amp; Sanyo Shinkansen “Nozomi”</td>
<td>2 hrs. 10 min.</td>
<td>¥14,280*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shin-Yamaguchi</td>
<td>Yamaguchi</td>
<td>Yamaguchi Line Ltd. Exp. “Super Oki”</td>
<td>12 min.</td>
<td>¥1,330*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shin-Yamaguchi</td>
<td>Tsuwano</td>
<td>Yamaguchi Line (Local)</td>
<td>21 min.</td>
<td>¥240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shin-Yamaguchi</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yamaguchi Line Ltd. Exp. “Super Oki”</td>
<td>1 hr.</td>
<td>¥2,900*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shin-Yamaguchi</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yamaguchi Line (Local)</td>
<td>1 hr. 45 min.</td>
<td>¥1,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matsue</td>
<td></td>
<td>San &amp; Yamaguchi Line Ltd. Exp. “Super Oki”</td>
<td>2 hrs. 45 min.</td>
<td>¥6,140*</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*Fare + express charge (with seat reservation, normal season)
**By Bus:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>Approx. Travel Time</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Ticketing &amp; Operator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Tokyo Sta.         | Hagi Bus Center     | 14 hrs. 35 min.     | ¥12,000-16,500 | "Hagi Express" by Bocho Bus J
|                    |                     |                     |           | Japan Bus Online              |
| Umeda (Osaka)      |                     | 11 hrs. 55 min.     | ¥9,900    | "Karst" by Bocho Bus          |
| Shin-Yamaguchi Sta.| Higashi-Hagi Sta.   | 1 hr. 10 min.       | ¥1,550*   | "Super Hagi" by Bocho Bus J   |
| Tsuwano Sta.       |                     | 1 hr. 40 min.       | ¥2,220    | Chugoku JR Bus                |
| Shin-Yamaguchi Sta.| Akiyoshi-do         | 40 min.             | ¥1,170    | Bocho Bus                     |
| Higashi-Hagi Sta.  |                     | 1 hr. 5 min.        | ¥1,850    |                               |
| Yamaguchi Sta.     | Higashi-Hagi Sta.   | 1 hr. 10 min.       | ¥1,230**  |                               |
|                    |                     | 1 hr. 30 min.       | ¥1,800**  |                               |

*Promotion fare until the end of Mar. 2020 (normal fare: ¥2,060).

**Nationwide Japan Rail Pass and regional JR West Passes are accepted.

Steam Locomotive Train "Yamaguchi-go"

2 steam locomotives, the class CS7 and the class DS1, are in operation, and pull newly reproduced nostalgic passenger carriages along scenic JR Yamaguchi Line between Shin-Yamaguchi and Tsuwano on generally Sat., Sun. and holidays from late Mar. through Nov.

Since all seats are reserved, reservations should be made in advance at major JR ticket offices or at major travel agencies.


*Nationwide Japan Rail Pass and regional JR West passes can be used if you have the seat reservation ticket as above.

**HAGI**

**How to get around:**

Higashi-Hagi Sta. on the Sanin line is the main entrance to the town. Most of buses bound for the station stop at Hagi bus center in the heart of the town.

Hagi is a pleasant town to be explored on foot or by bicycle. Two circular Hop-on bus routes for visitors, called "Ma-ru Bus" (まーるバス), are operated every 30 min. in the city center (¥100 per ride, ¥500 for one-day pass). And some rental cycle shops are available in the town (from ¥200 per hour, from ¥1,000 per day).

**Major Places of Interest:**

**Hagi Uragami Museum** (山口県立萩美術館 - 浦上記念館) is a 15-min. walk from Hagi bus center and holds an excellent collection of Ukiyo-works and ethnic ceramic ware. The building was designed by Kenzo Tange. Hours: 9:00 - 17:00 Closed: Mon. (or the following day after the holiday when Mon. falls on a national holiday). Admission: ¥300 (exclude special exhibitions).

**Kumaya Art Museum** (熊谷美術館), a 20-min. walk from Higashi-Hagi Sta., is an interesting museum containing a variety of art objects and antiques. Admission: ¥700. Open daily: 9:00 - 16:00. Closed: Mon. Wed and Fri.

**Hagi Meirin Gakusha Visitor Center** (萩・明倫学舎), about 5 min. walk from Hagi bus center, is Hagi's tourism hub which has a tourist information center. An introduction of five World Heritage sites in the city, forming part of the industrial revolution sites during the Meiji restoration, and its background with some 600 original pieces relating to the science of the day are exhibited in the Building No. 2. [The Building No. 2] Open: 9:00-17:00. Admission: ¥300.

**Horiuchi** (堀内) once was the residential section for upper class Samurai like the **Kuchiba Residence** (口羽家), and **Hagi Castle Town** (萩城下町) located east of Horiuchi was for rich merchants like the **Kikuya Residence** (菊屋家), doctors belonging to feudal domain and lower class Samurai. Each section preserves the old castle town atmosphere best.

**Tokoko Temple** (東光寺), dedicated to the Mouri Clan who governed Hagi during 260 years of the Edo Period has Soumon Gate, Sanmon Gate, Bell Tower and Daihohden designated as Important Cultural Properties.

**Shizuki Park** (指月公園), 8 min. by the Ma-ru bus (westerly course) from Hagi bus center, is a castle-site park at the foot of the 145m-high Mt. Shizuki. Only stone walls and the inner moat remain from the original castle. The hilltop is reached in 20 min. on foot from the park. Admission: ¥220. Open: Daily: 8:00 - 18:30 (Apr.-Oct.), 16:30 (Nov.-Feb.) and 18:00 (Mar.).

**Shoin Shrine** (松陰神社), 22 min. by the Ma-ru bus (easterly course) from Hagi bus center, is dedicated to Shoin Yoshida (1830-1859), a famous Hagi-born thinker who influenced many revolutionaries who played important roles in the Meiji Restoration.

**Shoka-Sonjuku** (松下村塾), a private school which he directed, is in the shrine precincts.

**Alba River** (朝陽川), a small canal-like river, is a peaceful haven for multi-colored carp. The placid neighborhood, reminiscent of olden times, offers a restful promenade for a stroll.
Cycling Tour of Hagi: (4 hours required)

Hagi-yaki Pottery Kilns for Visitors:
A number of pottery kilns are located around Shizuki Park, most are open to visitors.
- Jozangama Kiln (城山窯) at Shizuki Park (0838)25-1666
- Hagi-yaki Shiryokan or the museum (萩焼資料館) at Shizuki Park
  Admission: ¥500. Open: 9:00-17:00 (0838)25-8981
- Senryuzangama Kiln (泉流山窯) at Maeobata (0838)22-0541
  Open: 8:30-17:00 Closed: Wed. (except holiday Wednesdays)

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>1️⃣ Hagi Grand Hotel TENKU (H)</td>
<td>(0838)25-1211</td>
<td>¥¥¥</td>
<td>4️⃣ Minshuku Abugawa (M)</td>
<td>(0838)22-2739</td>
<td>¥¥¥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2️⃣ Ryokan Hokumonyashiki (R)</td>
<td>(0838)22-7521</td>
<td>¥¥¥</td>
<td>5️⃣ Hagi Youth Hostel (Y)</td>
<td>(0838)22-0733</td>
<td>¥¥¥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3️⃣ Ryokan Tomoe (R)</td>
<td>(0838)22-0150</td>
<td>¥¥¥</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remarks: Numbers 1️⃣ – 8️⃣ correspond to those on the map on page 2/5. Rate per person.
H = Hotel
R = Ryokan
Y = Youth Hostel
M = Minshuku (family-run inn)
BH = Business Hotel

Remarks:

- ¥¥¥ = more than 15,000 yen
- ¥¥ = 8,001 yen – 15,000 yen
- ¥ = 8,000 yen or less
- Standard basis rate (no meals, taxes included)

See p. 5 for admission and opening times.
How to get around:
Tsuwan is ideally sized to be explored on foot or by bicycle. A walking tour (5–6 hrs.) or a bike tour (4 hrs.) can cover the major town sights and places of interest. Rental bike costs about ¥500 for 2 hrs., ¥800 for a full day.

Major Places of Interest:
Yorokan (渋谷焙烙館), a 15min. walk from the station, is a feudal domain school which produced scholars with nationwide fame including Ogai Mori and Amane Nishi. The school buildings were first relocated in 1855 to the main street of Tsuwano by lord Kamei to teach medicine, mathematics, military science etc., then after the Meiji restoration they were used as town hall and then public library. Though the majority of the school ground was altered throughout the history, the remaining buildings have now been restored to its original style.

Tsuwan Kyodokan Museum (津和野町郷土館), 20 min. on foot from the station, is a history museum which contains a rich collection of materials and articles associated with the regional history and native-born figures such as Ogai Mori and Amane Nishi. Admission: ¥400. Open: 8:30–17:00. Closed: Tue. & New Year Holidays.

Yasaka-jinja shrine (弥栄神社), 20 min. walk from Tsuwano Sta., is the home of the traditional annual festival “Sagimai” (Egret Dance), held on Jul. 20, 24 and 27.

Taikodani Inari-jinja Shrine (太鼓谷稲成神社), 40 min. on foot from the station, has a long tunnel-like approach with a large number of red torii gates. Thronged by visitors from far and wide, the approach is lined with souvenir shops and tea houses.

Tsuwan Castle Ruins (津和野城跡), an exceptionally large-scale mountain-top castle, is now left with stone walls and stone bases. About 30 min. walk on one of the few nature trails of the mountain leads to the castle-site, from where a panoramic view of the town can be enjoyed. Or you may take a chair lift from the base (¥500 for round trip), then the summit is a 15-min. walk.

Mori Ogai Memorial Museum (森臨外記念館), 45 min. on foot from Tsuwano Sta., is where Ogai, one of the most prominent figures in the history of Japanese literature, lived until he was 11 years old. Open: 9:00–17:00 (enter by 16:45). Closed: Mon. Admission: ¥600.

Yomeiji Temple (永明寺), a 15-min. walk from Tsuwano Sta., is a quiet Zen temple revered for a long time by the provincial lords in the feudal period. Ogai’s tomb is here. Admission: ¥300.
**AKIYOSHI DO CAVE**

**Akiyoshi-do Cave** (秋芳洞): A large cave created under the limestone plateau, extends for about 11 km, of which about 1 km permits human access. Admission: ¥1,300. Open: daily. 8:30-17:30 (Mar-Nov), 8:30-16:30 (Dec-Feb) Inside the cave, an elevator is linked to Akiyoshi-dai Plateau.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bus Center</th>
<th>Akiyoshi-do Cave</th>
<th>Entrance of (The main cave)</th>
<th>Elevator Entrance (The branch cave)</th>
<th>Kurotani Entrance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>秋芳洞バスセンター</td>
<td>秋芳洞</td>
<td>10 min. walk</td>
<td>30 min. walk</td>
<td>15 min. walk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Accommodations:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Facilities</th>
<th>Tel.</th>
<th>Room rate (¥)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shuho Royal Hotel Shuhokan (H)</td>
<td>(0837)62-0311</td>
<td>¥¥¥</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akiyoshi-dai Youth Village (Y)</td>
<td>(0837)62-0341</td>
<td>¥¥</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Remarks:** Rate per person.
- H = Hotel ¥¥¥ = more than 15,000 yen
- Y = Youth Hostel ¥¥ = 8,000 yen – 15,000 yen
- ¥ = 8,000 yen or less

*Standard basis rate (no meals, taxes included)*

**TOURIST INFORMATION in the area**

**Hagi Tourism Association (next to JR Hagi Sta.):**
3537-3 Tsubaki, Hagi City, Yamaguchi
Hours: 9:00-17:00 (17:45 from Mar. to Nov.).
Tel. (0838) 25-1750

**Tourism Association of Tsuwano (near JR Tsuwano Sta.):**
171-2 Ushiho-cho, Tsuwano-cho, Kanoashi-gun, Shimane
Hours: 9:00-17:00.
Tel. (0856) 72-1771

**Akiyoshidai Tourist Information Center**
(Akiyoshi-do Bus Terminal):
3506-2 Akiyoshi, Shuhoo-cho, Mine City, Yamaguchi
Hours: 8:30-17:00.
Tel. (0837) 62-0115

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

**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)

**Goodwill Guide Groups** offer tourists from overseas local tours guided in English or other languages. The guides are registered with JNTO 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.

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

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