**BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS IN OKAYAMA**

▲Cherry blossoms: Okayama Sakura Carnival (Okayama City) (late March to 1st week of April)
About 250 cherry trees border the banks of the river along the Okayama Korakuen Garden and color up this area in a pretty pink! Why don't you sit on the banks and enjoy a cherry picnic? Illuminated blossoms at night are so beautiful.

Cherry blossoms: Kayabe Jinja Shrine (Maniwa City) (early to late April)
The 1km path to Kayabe shrine is bordered by sakura. When fully bloomed, it forms a sakura tunnel. It is a must-see place in Maniwa city.

▲Peony: Kibitsu Jinja Shrine (Okayama City) (late April to early May)

▲Azalea: Okayama Korakuen Garden (Okayama City) (mid June to early July)

▲Hydrangea: Kibitsu Jinja Shrine (Okayama City) (late June to mid July)

▲Sunflower field: Hiruzen Jerseyland (Maniwa City) (late July to mid August)

▲Cosmos: Hokubo Cosmos Hiroba (Maniwa City) (early to late October)

▲Autumn leaves: Ukankei, Kibichuo Town (early to late November)
The 1km river bank of (Ukankei) is surrounded by the beautiful autumnal colours. The contrast between the autumn leaves colours and the “Red bridge” are the perfect illustration of “Japanese Autumn”. With the lighting up during this period of the year, you can enjoy the scenery during daytime and night time.

▲Autumn leaves: Kimendai, Maniwa city (late October to early November)
The observatory deck offers a 360° scenic view of the Mt. Hiruzen and the Mt. Daisen. During the autumn, you can enjoy the majestic colours of the distant mountains. Due to the great temperature differences, clouds are born in lower altitude. The observatory deck is a popular photography spot to catch the city area enfolded in a sea of clouds and the rising Sun on the Mt. Daisen.

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Okayama’s Best Specialty
WHITE PEACH

Okayama’s Fruits Kingdom - blessed with a moderate climate, surrounded by the Seto Inland Sea, a variety of delicious fruits is produced in Okayama. Indeed, Okayama is the largest producer of beautiful juicy white peaches and jewelry-like shiny Muscat in Japan. Their outstanding sweetness and tastes are attracting more and more attention in the world.

Peaches in Okayama are grown carefully with affection covering each fruit with a paper bag to avoid an excess of direct sunlight. That is why the peaches are not reddish but so elegantly white and sweet with smooth texture.

Okayama’s Peaches & Grapes in Market

Muscat is Okayama’s pride! Try some different kinds and taste the differences! The Muscat of Alexandria – the queen of the grapes – is flavorful and fresh. The Shine Muscat is also very popular since it is seedless and its skin is edible. Besides these, so many kinds of grapes are grown in Okayama: Pione, Aurora Black, Seta Giants, Shien and more.

If you visit Okayama during August to October, the grape picking is a must!! (See next page for the farm list)
Other fruits in Okayama!!

▲ Strawberry

The sun shine makes strawberries sweet!
Since Okayama is called “Hare-no-kuni (The Land of Sun)”, it is perfect to grow the sweet strawberries here! There are various kinds of berries and they all have different taste. Picking and eating, that is the best way to enjoy the fresh strawberries! Let’s go to the farms!
Season: January to May

▲ Ashimori melon

We also have melting sweet melon called “Ashimori Melon”. It is greenhouse-cultivated, so you can enjoy it all year round.

▲ Atago pear

Besides white peach and muscat, Okayama is also the top producer of Atago pear. This pear is wonderfully big and its flesh is crispy and juicy! Season: November to January

▲ Blueberry

June to mid July marks the rainy season in Japan. Once this humid season is gone, the blueberries get ready to be picked! Kibichuo Town and Maniwa City have good blueberry farms since these areas are located on a plateau. The blueberry is well-known for its benefits for the eyes, but it’s not only that! It contains high level of fibres and vitamins. Ladies! It is good for your skin as well! Why don’t we go picking some fresh blueberries?
Season: July to early September

Enjoy fruits picking!
Farms List

▶ Nishiyama Farm
[Address] 218-1 Kamiichi, Akaiwa City
[TEL] +81-86-958-5444
- Peach (late June - early September)
- Grapes (mid July - mid August)
- Reservation required
*Reservation is required by 17:00 of the previous day.
ENGLISH WEB SITE

▶ Tomomi-en
[Address] 218-1 Kamiichi, Akaiwa City
[TEL] +81-86-958-5444
- Peach (late June - early September)
- Grapes (late August - late September)
*Reservation is required by 17:00 of the previous day.
ENGLISH WEB SITE

▶ Kubo Farm
[Address] 274-1 Akashiki, Kita-ku, Okayama City
[TEL] +81-86-726-0511
- Grapes (late August - early October)
- Strawberries (late January - mid May)
You can also enjoy chestnuts picking or potato digging.

▶ South Village
[Address] 3668 Kosaka, Minami-ku, Okayama City
[TEL] +81-86-362-5500
- Strawberries (January - early June)
- Grapes (early August - mid September)
In this facility, there is a play ground for kids, a grass square and a big farmers market. It is a perfect spot for families!

▶ Yume Farm “Haru”
[Address] 4217-1 Yoshikawa, Kibichuo Town, Kaga-gun
[TEL] +81-90-5262-4315
- Strawberries (February - May)
- It’s 30 minute all-you-can-eat!
- How many strawberries can you eat?

▶ Ishihara Farm
[Address] 893-6 Sairyuji, Higashi-ku, Okayama City
[TEL] +81-86-944-0117
- Grapes (mid July - late October)
- Pear (early September - mid November)
30 kinds of grapes are cultivated in this farm! This is only farm where you can enjoy pear picking in Okayama.

▶ Hiruzen Kogen Cultivate Blueberry Garden
[Address] 584 Hiruzen Higashikayabe, Maniwa City
[TEL] +81-90-1682-3087
- Blueberries (July - early September)
- Enjoy the tasty fresh blueberries and the great view on the Hiruzan-Sanza mountains from the farm.

Other fruits in Okayama!! Enjoy fruits picking!
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Fantasy illumination event at Okayama Castle & Okayama Korakuen Garden “Ujo-Togenkyo” & “Genso-Teien”

Three times a year, both Okayama Castle and Okayama Korakuen Garden are lit up with illuminations. These exceptional events bring to light a new perspective on these Cultural Heritages. Stage performances will also be held during the period.

| April/May | 4/26/2019 - 5/6/2019 | (illumination 18:00-21:30) *admission until 21:00
| August | 8/1/2019 - 8/31/2019 | (illumination 18:00-21:30) *admission until 21:00
| November | 11/15/2019 - 11/24/2019 | (illumination 18:00-21:30) *admission until 21:00

Combined tickets for Okayama Castle & Okayama Korakuen Garden: 560 JPY
Admission is free for children under 14.

Kibichuo Town

Traditional festival
Yoshikawa Hachiman-gu Tobansai

This traditional autumn festival lasts for a month long. The impressive finales event “Taisai-gyoji” is held on the forth Sunday of October.

October | “Taisai-gyoji” : 10/27/2019
[Place] Yoshikawa Hachiman-gu Shrine
[Address] 3932 Yoshikawa, Kibichuo Town, Kaga-gun, Okayama Prefecture

Kibichuo Town

One of the 3 biggest Festival in Okayama Prefecture
Kamo Taisai

This festival has been held for over 950 years and is one of the three largest festivals in the prefecture. In this festival, priests from several local shrines form a procession to the large Kamo Shıجة-gu Shrine.

October | 10/20/2019
[Place] Kamo Soja-gu Shrine
[Address] 1567 Kamoichiba, Kibichuo Town, Kaga-gun, Okayama Prefecture

Maniwa City

Traditional townscape
Katsuyama Ohina Matsuri

The “Ohina sama” Girl’s-day Doll Displays of Katsuyama is unique in that it brings together the agricultural heritage of the community and the tradition of ornament doll.

March | 5/1/2019 - 5/5/2019
[Place] Yoshikawa Hachiman-gu Shıجة
[Address] 3932 Yoshikawa, Kibichuo Town, Kaga-gun, Okayama Prefecture

Maniwa City

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[Address] 1567 Kamoichiba, Kibichuo Town, Kaga-gun, Okayama Prefecture

Maniwa City

Summer Festival in Yubara hot spring area
Hanzaki Matsuri

This unique festival celebrates the giant Japanese salamanders known as “Oo-sansho-uo” or “Hanzaki”, with huge floats and a firework show in addition to a dance parade and various food stalls.

August | 8/8/2019
[Place] Yubara Onsen, Maniwa City

Kibichuo Town

City’s best summer festival
Okayama Momotaro Festival

Dancers with special make-up perform the Uraja Dance Parade to delight the public for 2 days in August! You can try this unique “Ura make-up” for free at various locations. Join the “So-odori” dance parade during the finale on the second night.

August
Events held near Okayama station and each district of the city. 10:00 -
One of the fun of travelling is shopping! Let’s enjoy shopping after a fulfilling sightseeing day. Shopping malls with fashion and general merchandise, cosmetics and of course unique souvenirs from Okayama are available.

1. AEON Mall Okayama

Directly connected to the station, it is the largest shopping mall in Okayama. There are more than 200 apparel shops and various goods stores, more than 60 restaurants and other daily products stores as well as several supermarkets. And for overseas travelers, there are tax-free shops. For more information, contact the information counter on the 1st floor. *Free Wi-Fi is available.

2. Okayama Ichibangai / Sun Station Terrace Okayama

Okayama Ichibangai / Sun Station Terrace Okayama is a shopping centre located in Okayama station underground to its 5th floor. From clothes and miscellaneous goods, cosmetics, restaurants to souvenirs shops, you will have a multitude of choice to enjoy shopping. You will find the Halal certified sweet manufactured by Koeido, the Kibi Dango on the 2nd floor (find about Koeido on page 36). There is also the popular Matsumoto Kiyoshi drugstore in the basement: a place to find Made in Japan cosmetics and medicines, always popular among overseas travelers.

3. Don・Quijote (Okayama Ekimae)

Another very popular shop you will find in Okayama is Don・Quijote. The all discount store offers everything including clothing, daily products, cosmetics, medicines, household appliances, toys, foods, etc. and all tax free!! The shop is conveniently located in front of Okayama station.

4. Bic Camera (Okayama Station Store)

The large home electronics shop is in front of the Okayama station. The shop offers tax-free services. There is an abundant selections of household appliances, daily products, toys, stationaries and so on. Free Wi-Fi available. You can reserve in advance what you want to buy before coming in Japan on their homepage. For more information, check the QR code below.
5. Tenmaya Okayama

Tenmaya Okayama

A 5-minute walk from Okayama Station.


6. Okayama Takashimaya

Okayama Takashimaya

A 5-minute walk from Okayama Station. You can access Tenmaya Department Store from here.


7. Harenokuni Okayamakan

Harenokuni Okayamakan

A 3-minute walk from Okayama Station. The best place to find all kinds of Okayama specialties.


We found good souvenirs in Okayama City!

For your friends & family...

These products, pride of Okayama city, have received the Halal and the Peach Mark certifications. Muslim customers can purchase them with confidence. A great product from Okayama for your friends and family.

Yamamoto Seika - Rich crackers

Halal certified product made with natural ingredients. It's savory and crispy! Once you start, you can't stop eating!

[Where to buy]
- Tenmaya Okayama
- "Onmyo-ya-kaido Okayama" at JR Okayama Station 2F

Suzukiya - Momotaro Senbei Cookies

These cute cookies with "Momotaro the Peach Boy" design are perfect as souvenirs for your family & friends!

[Where to buy]
- Tenmaya Okayama
- Okayama Takashimaya
- Sun Station Terrace Okayama (Okayama Station 2F)
- "Haremachi Tokku 365" @ AEON Mall 5F

Fuku-cha - Okayama Peach Green Tea

Carefully grown, this Okayama green tea is flavoured with peach. Relax and enjoy your tea time with this fresh and elegant tea.

[Where to buy]
- Fuku-cha
(Access) 2-1-1 Okonomicho, Kita-ku, Okayama City
(Tel) +81-86-250-5355

Miyukiya Fujimoto - Konnyaku yam cake ball

The konnyaku is a Japanese healthy food made from the konnyaku potato and well-known as a low-calorie and high fiber food. This product is made with only carefully selected domestic ingredients. Just stir-fry and season it as you like!

[Where to buy]
- "Obachan-no-daidokoro" @ AEON Mall 5F

Yamada Bee Farm - Health & Beauty Products

Safe, high quality, healthy beauty products made with honey derivative ingredients. See more details at their website

[Where to buy]
- Ichibangai (Okayama Station 8F)
- AEON Mall Okayama 1F

Nippon Olive - “Olive Manon” cosmetics

Fresh & natural. Nippon Olive is well-known throughout Japan for producing high quality cosmetics products: facial lotions and creams, hand creams, bath salts, and more. Each package which contains 2 teabags is designed with a cute Momotaro! Perfect for souvenir!

[Where to buy]
- Ichibangai (Okayama Station 8F)
- AEON Mall Okayama 1F
Kibichuo Town is the Rice Kingdom!

Kibichuo town is one of the leading producers of rice in Okayama prefecture. Located at an altitude between 200 to 500 meters, the temperature range is wide, which creates pure water in the surrounding mountains. These conditions make the rice produced here delicious. The use of organic fertilizer and a drastic reduction in the use of pesticides make the rice of Kibichuo safe for consumption. Carefully raised over time and labour, the rice is a real deal. The quality of the rice makes it enjoyable in different forms. One of it is rice flour which is produced locally to make sweets. It is a very popular souvenir.

Do not forget to shop here in Maniwa City!

**Hiruzen Kogen Center**

If you visit Maniwa city, you have to stop by! You will find all Maniwa city’s specialties in this very big souvenir shop. There are goods such as cookies, cakes, snacks, rice crackers, dairy products, buckwheat, cheese, toys, key holders and of course Hiruzen Kogen Centre original goods. It is the best shopping spot to choose your souvenirs from Maniwa. You can also enjoy Genghis Khan made with Halal meat (for more details, see page 42). Briefly said, you can lunch and shop!

**Roadside Station KAYO**

- sugared puffed rice
  - The sweet is made with Kibichuo locally produced rice. Just like popcorn, the rice is coated with sugar and puffed! Its mild sweetness is very popular among children. We recommend Muslim customers to choose the plain ones which doesn’t contain alcohol.
  - [Where to buy] Roadside Station KAYO

**Roadside Station KAMOGAWA ENJO**

- Blueberry Product
  - Locally grown "Bancha" green tea
  - The Kamogawa Enjo road station is renowned for its handmade "Bancha" green tea. The delicate smell will captivate you as soon as you open the tea bag.
  - [Where to buy] Roadside Station KAMOGAWA ENJO

**Xiwang**

- Rice flour products
  - Xiwang is a company manufacturing rice flour based from the rice produced in Kibichuo. The company has contracts with only reliable local rice farmers to insure quality and consumption safety. Xiwang’s pancake mix, madeleine mix, rice flour for cookie and bread are all 100% rice flour.
  - [Where to buy] Roadside Station KAYO, Roadside Station KAMOGAWA ENJO

**Komiya Yokan "Takasebune"**

- Painstakingly made Japanese sweets
  - The yokan is a Japanese sweet made with sugar syrup and azuki (red bean) gently cooked with agar. The Komiya Yokan’s famous sweet "Takase Bune" is carefully made with selected red beans.
  - [Where to buy] Roadside Station KAYO, Roadside Station KAMOGAWA ENJO, Roadside Station Kaze-no-ile

**Kamogawa Enjo road station**

- "Bancha" green tea
  - The Kamogawa Enjo road station is renowned for its handmade "Bancha" green tea. The delicate smell will captivate you as soon as you open the tea bag.
  - [Where to buy] Roadside Station KAMOGAWA ENJO

**Roadside Station Kaze-no-ile**

- Eating, shopping, and having fun! Hiruzen’s must!
  - [Address] 1974-5 Kita, Kibichuo Town, Kaga-gun
  - [TEL] +81-866-55-6008

**Maps**

- B-8, B-9, B-10, B-11
Indian cuisine

milenga

Handmade udon noodles and freshly deep-fried tempura. Halal noodles and soup are available upon request. Muslim guests may use the prayer room of nearby ‘milenga’.

Udon noodle

Matsushita Udon

Japanese cuisine

healthy café

SANTE

Healthy is the concept of the restaurant. No artificial seasoning is used. The chef carefully selects locally grown vegetables. Desserts are also recommended! A prayer room is available upon advanced request.

Casual French

Korakuen Shiakis

Korakuen Shiakis is a Japanese restaurant located outside of Okayama Korakuen Garden. Enjoy Okayama local specialities with the bounty of the seasons.

Sushi

Sushi Youkan (Saidaiji shop)

Fresh and delicious sushi with well selected locally grown rice and fishes directly sent from the tuna wholesalers. Check out for the tuna flaking event!

Japanese cuisine

Pasta & more

ALO ALO

The casual Italian restaurant located close to the Okayama Korakuen Garden serves a variety of meals such as Italian pastas. Western style dishes and more. The restaurant uses fresh chicken for its dishes which gives Muslim guests more choices.

Pizzeria

Pal Pasta

Some pastas and pizza only use vegetables and seafood without alcohol which can also be enjoyed by Muslims. Their fresh pasta and the authentic pizza out of the stone oven are worth trying.

Japanese cuisine

Ramen

Ramen Okinoshima

Okinoshima, an island in Japan sea, is a treasure trove of seafood. This ramen shop uses mineral-rich sea salt and claim birth for their soup which has a mild and rich taste. For Muslim guests, their ‘Halal Noodle’ is recommended.

Ramen Noodle

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Japanese cuisine

Ryotei Yokochi

A specialized hot-pot restaurant for Shabu-shabu and Sukiyaki. The chef carefully selects locally grown vegetables. Desserts are also recommended! A prayer room is available upon advanced request.

Japanese cuisine

Ryotei Tamachi

Ryotei Tamachi also offers authentic Japanese cuisine. Halal menu is available upon advanced reservation. Dinner is 2,500 JPY upon advanced reservation.

Ryotei Yokochi

A specialized hot-pot restaurant for Shabu-shabu and Sukiyaki. The chef carefully selects locally grown vegetables. Desserts are also recommended! A prayer room is available upon advanced request.

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**Café Antenna**

This retro-modern café is located at only a minute walking distance from Okayama Korakuen garden. The vegetation and alcohol-free organic vegetable Sri Lankan curry is popular.

**Café Moni.**

This café offers various coffee selections, homemade cakes and a food menu. Some halal lunch and cafe selections are available, including sandwiches and chiffon cake. With advance reservations, Muslim-friendly full-course meals can be prepared.

**Ciel Blue**

Ciel Blue offers Halal-certified curry for Muslim guests. It's located inside of the 1st floor of the Okayama Convention Center.

**Halal Meat**

For Muslim guests, the curry and rice and some sandwiches selections are recommended. The café uses Halal-certified curry ingredients.

**Bento lunchbox**

Salvo's Muslim friendly lunch box contains no pork nor alcohol derivatives. It is prepared with halal certified ingredients purchased at a halal shop and nicely arranged to meet the taste of Muslim guests.

**Donuts take-out**

Daily made classic Hawaiian-style halal doughnuts are made upon order. Flavors for the halal doughnuts change every day; please see the menu board or consult the staff.
**Hotel Granvia Okayama**

Hotel Granvia is the first “Peach Mark 2” certified hotel in Okayama. This luxurious hotel is directly connected to Okayama Station. At the end of March 2019, they will offer new “Family Deluxe Room” which has 4 beds plus 1 extra sofa bed attached. The room can accommodate up to 7 people. It is perfect for big family or group journey! For Muslim guests, Qibla marked room, prayer room, prayer mat and Qibla compasses are available. The on-site restaurant has a Peach Mark 2 certification. It has a menu that uses only Halal certified meat and no alcoholic or pork-derivatives. A vegetarian menu is also available. (reservation is required 3 days in advance) This is perfectly safe and comfortable hotel for Muslim guests.

**Okayama Royal Hotel**

Royal Hotel Okayama is at the forefront of Muslim friendly accommodation and services for Muslim visitors in Okayama. With a dedicated prayer room, Muslim friendly menu selection with ingredients information in English, and an excellent staff service, the Royal Hotel Okayama is one of the best accommodation choice for Muslims.

**Hotel Excel Okayama**

Conveniently located from the east exit of the JR Okayama Station. Take a tram bound for Naka-Okayama for 5 minutes and get off at the third stop, Shiroishi. It takes only 5-10 minutes walk to Okayama Castle and Okayama Korakuen Garden. It is also close to the business district. This hotel is perfect for both sightseeing and business trip!

**Ark Hotel Okayama**

8 minutes walk from the JR Okayama Station east exit, and right across ACON shopping mall. Japanese Tatami rooms are available. Breakfast buffet has more than 30 kinds of meals using the vegetables and rice produced in Okayama. Enjoy the healthy breakfast.
Biomass Tour MANIWA

Visit Maniwa, a densely forested town with sustainable energy resources.

Through interactive industrial tourism, you can see challenges to sustainable living by renewable energy and local resource recycling. Many people who think about the future of the earth will find a tour that helps to create new ideas; we will continue to develop.

Schedule: Monday through Friday. The tour requires a minimum of 10 participants.

Pick up/ drop off points: Maniwa City Office

This is a guided tour. An interpreter will not be provided.

A course:

Woody Biomass course (Moriyama area) Duration: 6 hours

Regional circulation by woody biomass

Maniwa’s woody biomass resources are by-products of the local forestry and wood industries. We will see the creation of renewable energy from these by-products and how they will help for a sustainable region.

One-day tour: 13,000 yen

B course:

Agricultural course by biomass circulation (Hiruzen area)

Duration: 4 hours

Agriculture utilizing regional biomass

Observe the agricultural and dairy farming by avoiding environmental hazards by avoiding soil erosion and utilizing local resources.

One-day tour: 12,000 yen

For details, please visit our website or email us. http://www.biomass-tour-maniwa.jp/

For more details of snow park, see Page 22.
**JR-WEST RAIL PASS**

### Kansai Area Pass

- **Purchasing outside Japan**
  - 1-day: ¥2,200
  - 2-day: ¥4,300
  - 3-day: ¥5,300
  - 4-day: ¥6,300

- **Purchasing in Japan**
  - 1-day: ¥2,300
  - 2-day: ¥4,500
  - 3-day: ¥5,500
  - 4-day: ¥6,500

### Kansai WIDE Area Pass

- **Purchasing outside Japan**
  - 1-day: ¥9,000
  - 5-day: ¥10,000 (Also valid for rides on the Shinkansen)

- **Purchasing in Japan**
  - 1-day: ¥9,000
  - 5-day: ¥10,000 (Also valid for rides on the Shinkansen)

Children (6-11 years old) can purchase at half the price.

*The above information is current as of February 2019.

For details, visit: [www.westjr.co.jp/global/en](https://www.westjr.co.jp/global/en)