

Practical Travel Guide - 601

MATSUE and IZUMO-TAISHA SHRINE



Japan National
Tourism Organization
日本政府観光局



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In collaboration with
Tourist Information Centers in the area



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 Nakaumi connects with Lake Shinji. 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:

From	To	Operated by	Approx. Travel Time	Access to Downtown
Haneda (Tokyo)	Izumo	JAL	1 hr. 20 min.	[To JR Matsue Sta.] - By bus 25 min. ¥1,030
Haneda (Tokyo)	Yonago	ANA	1 hr. 15 min.	[To JR Matsue Sta.] - By bus 45 min. ¥990

By Train(JR):

From	To	By	Time required	Price
Tokyo	Matsue	Limited Express “Sunrise Izumo” (Sleeper)	12 hrs.	¥22,790*
Kyoto		Shinkansen “Nozomi” to Okayama Limited Express “Yakumo”	4 hrs. 25 min.	¥12,320*
Shin-Osaka		Shinkansen “Nozomi” / “Mizuho” to Okayama Limited Express “Yakumo”	4 hrs. 20 min.	¥10,810*
Okayama		Limited Express “Yakumo”	3 hrs. 10 min.	¥6,030*

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

By Bus:

From	To	Approx. Travel Time	Price	Ticketing & Operator
Tokyo Sta. (Yaesu-South)	Matsue Sta.	11 hrs. 20 min.	From ¥11,400	Ichibata Bus (0852) 20-5252 (in JP) Chugoku JR Bus (0570) 666-012 (in JP)
	Izumoshi Sta.	12 hrs. 15 min.	From ¥11,800	
Shin-Osaka Sta.	Matsue Sta.	4 hrs. 30 min.	From ¥5,000	Hankyu Bus (06) 6866-3147 (in JP) Ichibata Bus (0852) 20-5252 (in JP)
	Izumoshi Sta.	5 hrs. 25 min.	From ¥5,500	

Major Places of Tourist Interest in Matsue

① – ⑨): 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. This 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** (城山公園). 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 “Shiominawate” 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.), –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.

*See p. 5 for admission and opening times.

- ④ **Former House of “Lafcadio 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** (田部美術館), next door to Hearn’s Former House, displaying many objects relating to tea ceremony, “Rakuzanyaki” “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 “Irimoyazukuri” architectural style. It was originally built in 1779 by Lord Fumai Matsudaira 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.)–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 Matsudaira family, with surrounding rows of stone lanterns and a fine specimen of mausoleum gate architecture. 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.
- ⑨ **Shimane Furusato-kan / Shimaneken Bussan Kankokan** (島根ふるさと館／島根県物産観光館), in front of “Otemae & Horikawa Sightseeing Boat Pier” bus stop on “Lake Line” bus route, displays and sells folk craft, pottery and food, which are produced in Shimane Pref. Open: 9:00–18:00. Closed: Dec. 31–Jan. 1.

Major Places of Interest in the Vicinity:

Izumo Kambe no Sato (出雲かんべの里)

A facility where you can enjoy the myths and folklore and traditional crafts of Izumo province. You can talk with the artisans and learn about their craftsmanship. You can even actually try creating things by yourselves if you make reservations.

A few minutes walk from Izumo kambe no sato bus stop, which is 25 min. by bus from Matsue sta. Open 9:00–17:00. Closed: Tue. (If Tue. is a national holiday, the next day will be closed). Admission: ¥260 (for myths). Tel: (0852)28-0040.

Tamatsukuri Spa (玉造温泉), 30 min. by bus from Matsue Sta. (Fare: ¥520), contains calcium sulphate, efficacious against rheumatism and skin disease, etc. Public bath (Tamatsukuri Spa Yuuyu): Open: 10:00–22:00. Closed: Mon. Admission: ¥500. Bluish agate is prized as one of the specialties of the town.

Yushien Garden (由志園)*, 55 min. by city bus (route 70) or 25 min. by “Matsue-Sakaiminato Direct Bus”, is a circuit-style Japanese garden located in Daikon Is. in Lake Nakaumi. The beauty of peony blooming all year round is notable. Also, the garden is covered with graceful flowers in each season. Open: 9:00–17:00 (extended at peak periods). Admission: ¥800 (regular season), ¥1,000 (peak season).

Adachi Museum of Art (足立美術館)*, 20 min. by bus or taxi from JR Yasugi Sta. The museum is famous for its vast Japanese style garden and the collection of modern Japanese paintings including those of Taikan Yokoyama, famous master of this century. In the ceramic exhibition hall, works of prominent ceramic artists are exhibited. Open: 9:00–17:30 (Apr.–Sep.), 9:00–17:00 (Oct.–Mar.). Admission: ¥2,300 (including main exhibition and ceramic exhibition).

<http://www.adachi-museum.or.jp/en/>

Horikawa Sightseeing Boat (堀川遊覧船)*

Major tourist sites dispersed in the town around Matsue Castle can be visited on a Japanese-style sightseeing boat along the rivers flowing in the environs. Charge: ¥1,230. Total sailing time : About 50 minutes.

Lake Shinji Pleasure Cruise (宍道湖観光遊覧船) offers the beautiful view of Lake Shinji and Matsue city. Two piers are available in the center. The pier No. 2 is easy to access from Matsue Sta (5 min. on foot). At least 5 services in a day (depending on the season). Charge: ¥1,450. Total sailing time: About 1 hour.

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 transportations such as Ichibata Electric Railway, Ichibata 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.

<https://www.visit-matsue.com/>

*See p. 5 for admission and opening times.

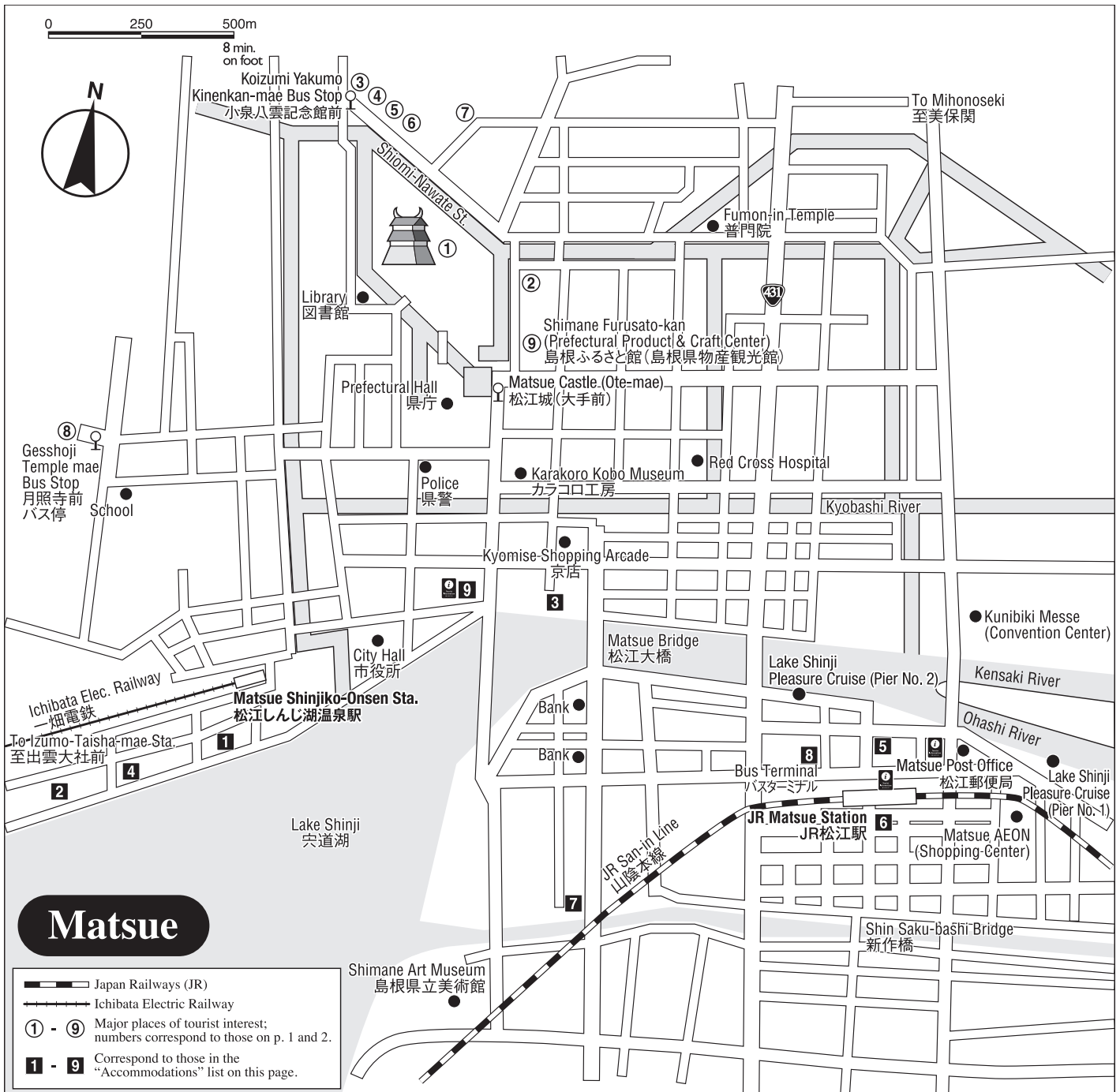
Accommodations:

Name of facilities	Tel.	Room rate (¥)	Name of facilities	Tel.	Room rate (¥)
Matsue:			Tamatsukuri:		
1 Hotel Ichibata (H)	(0852)22-0188	¥¥¥	Chorakuen (R)	(0852)62-0111	¥¥¥
2 Naniwa Issui (R)	(0852)21-4132	¥¥¥	Yutei Konya (R)	(0852)62-0311	¥¥¥
3 Minami-Kan (R)	(0852)21-5131	¥¥¥	Kasuien Minami (R)	(0852)62-0331	¥¥¥
4 Suitenkaku (R)	(0852)21-4910	¥¥	Grand Hotel Choseikaku (R)	(0852)62-0711	¥¥¥
5 MATSUE EXCEL HOTEL TOKYU (H)	(0852)27-0109	¥¥	Hoshino Resort Kai Izumo (R)	(0852)62-0211	¥¥¥
6 Matsue Plaza Hotel (BH)	(0852)26-6650	¥	Izumo:		
7 Terazuya (R)	(0852)21-3480	¥	Takeshi Sanso (BH)	(0853)21-1111	¥
8 Toyoko Inn Matsue Ekimae (Y)	(0852)60-1045	¥	Inaba (M)	(0853)22-6178	¥
9 New Urban Hotel (BH)	(0852)23-0003	¥	Super Hotel Izumo Ekimae (BH)	(0853)21-9000	¥

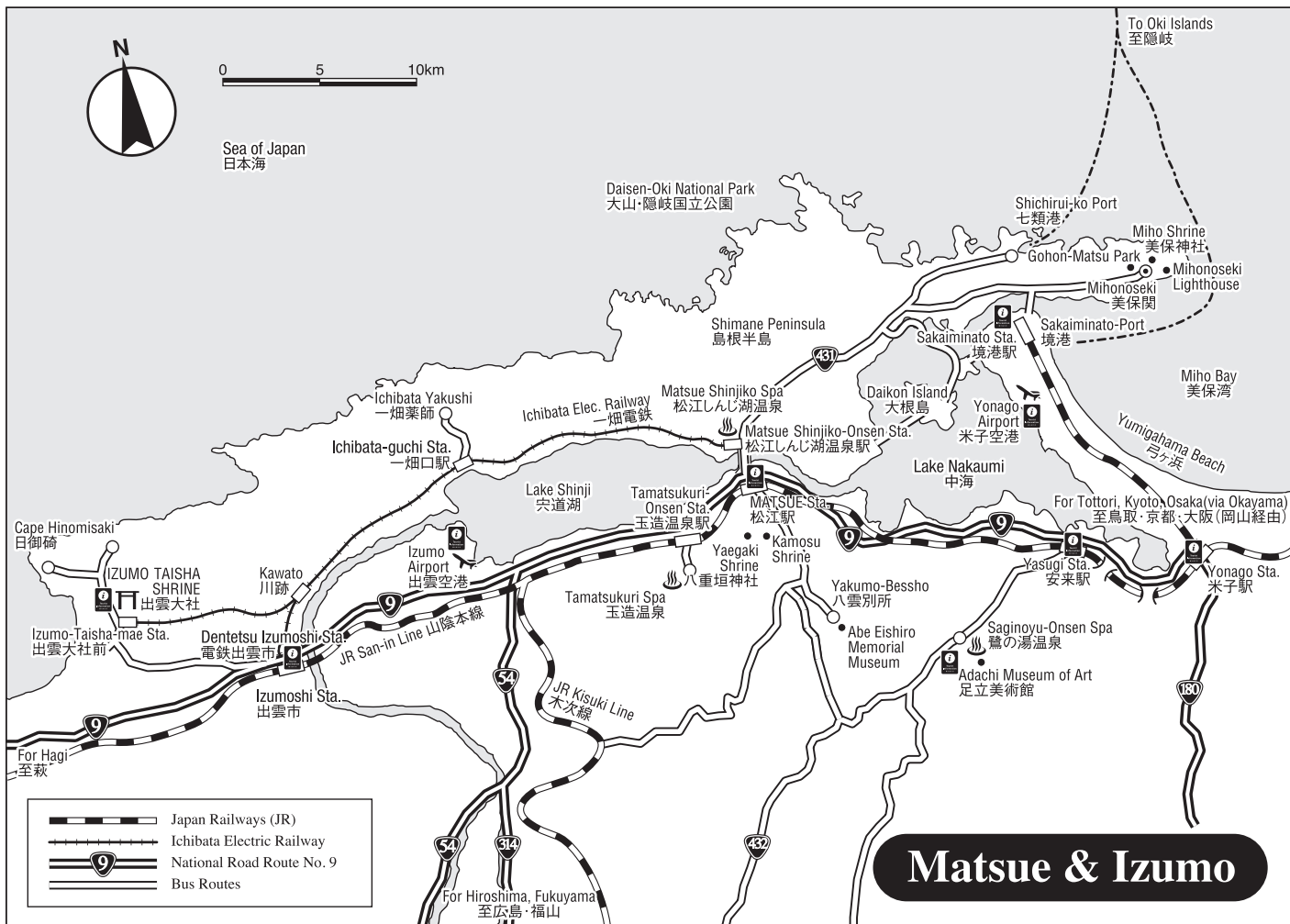
Remarks:

*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
- 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)



*See p. 5 for admission and opening times.



IZUMO-TAISHA SHRINE

Access to Izumo-Taisha Shrine (5 min. walk from Izumotaisha-mae Sta. to the entrance):

From Matsue Shinjiko-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

accommodations 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 "Kamiarizuki" (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.

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/>



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.japan.travel/en/plan/list-of-volunteer-guides/>




Japan Official Travel App




**TOURIST INFORMATION
in the area****Matsue 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:

11 Ekikitamachi, 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/>**



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 March 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.