



BEYOND EXPO 2025
Osaka Kansai

Explore West Japan

Find your Japan in the Chūgoku Region

To those visiting Japan on the occasion of
the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai

Located on the western doorstep of the Kansai region, the Chūgoku Region consists of the prefectures of Hiroshima, Okayama, Yamaguchi, Shimane, and Tottori.

As well as the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Atomic Bomb Dome in Hiroshima and Miyajima on the Seto Inland Sea, and Iwami Ginzan and the castle town of Hagi on the Japan Sea Coast, the region boasts many off-the-beaten-track traditional towns and villages, impressive natural scenery, and deep culture. The Chūgoku region offers something for everyone.

This selection of curated itineraries will be both a source of inspiration and a starting point from which you can craft unforgettable journeys for customers looking to avoid the crowds and find their own Japan, in the wonderful Chūgoku Region.

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1 THEMES

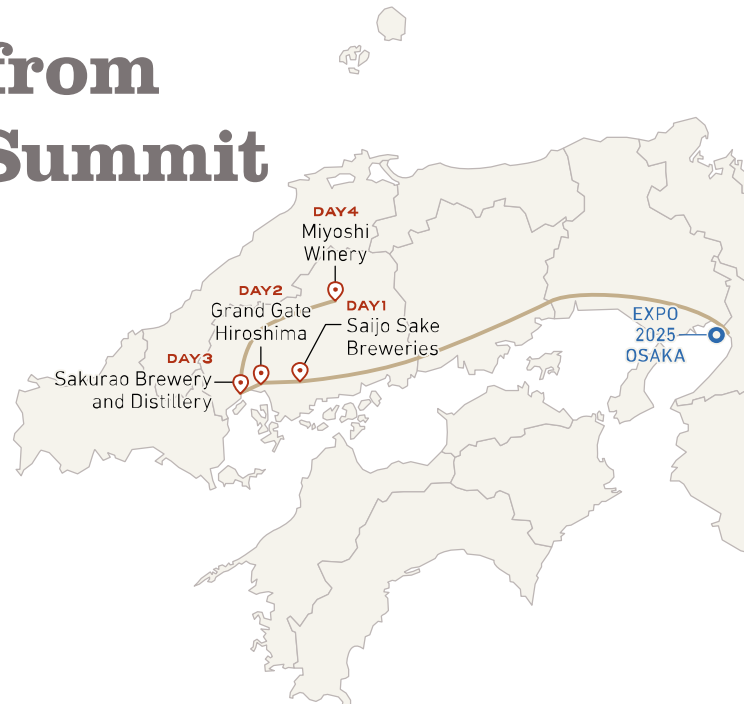
G7 Summit, Sake, Whisky



Sake and Culinary Delights from the G7 Hiroshima Summit

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

In addition to Fushimi in Kyōto and Nada in Hyōgo, Saijō in Hiroshima is one of the three biggest sake producing areas in Japan and its sake was served to heads of state at the G7 Hiroshima Summit. Try this incredible sake for yourself, as well as sake from Yamaguchi Prefecture that has a rich, but light flavor profile differing from the sake of Saijō. From sake to local Miyoshi wines, to single malt Japanese whisky Togouchi, savor the drinks featured during the G7 Hiroshima Summit 2023 along with elegant meals that complement them.



SCHEDULE

DAY 1

Shin-Osaka Station **BULLETRAIN** 1hr 25min Hiroshima Station **TRAIN** 40min Saijō Station » Sake breweries of Saijō, sake tasting, sake hotpot (Higashi-Hiroshima City) » Saijō Station **TRAIN** 40min Stay the night in Hiroshima City

DAY 2

Hiroshima City **CAR** 50min Kintaikyō Bridge: one of the three most famous bridges in Japan. Kintaikyō Bridge is a wooden bridge designated as a National Site of Scenic Beauty (Iwakuni City) **CAR** 50min Atomic Bomb Dome and Peace Memorial Park **CAR** 10min Grand Gate Hiroshima: Hiroshima North Beer from Kameyama Brewery (Hiroshima City) **CAR** 10min Stay the night in Hiroshima City

DAY 3

Hiroshima City **TRAM** 50min Sakurao Brewery and Distillery (Hatsukaichi City) **TRAM** 13min Miyajima-guchi **FERRY** 10min Miyajima: Visit Itsukushima Shrine (World Heritage Site), Miyajima Brewery, lunch at Iwasō **FERRY** 26min Stay the night at the Grand Prince Hotel (Hiroshima City)

DAY 4

Hiroshima City **CAR** 1hr 10min Miyoshi Winery **CAR** 30min Takano Roadside Station: local delicacies, souvenirs, and more **CAR** 1hr 30min Hiroshima Station **BULLETRAIN** 1hr 25min Shin-Osaka Station

Note: Drinking and driving is against the law. Be sure to have a designated driver.

Travel times are approximate and may vary depending on the season, weather conditions, and schedule changes.

2 THEMES

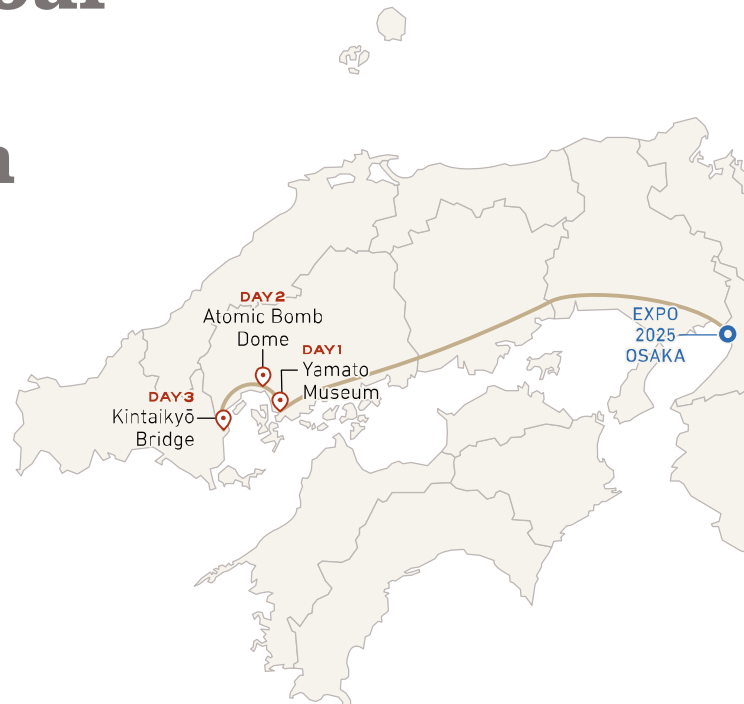
Military history, A-bomb, World Heritage



Hiroshima Peace Tour by Chartered Tram and Bike Excursion

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

Retrace the history of Hiroshima from the catastrophic damage of the atomic bombing to its incredible recovery. The streetcars that survived the bombing and continue to run today are known as hibaku streetcars. They began running just three days after the bombing and are a symbol of Hiroshima's recovery. Take a ride in one of these historic cars and learn about the history of Hiroshima and peace from an interpreter who will guide you through the city. See what Hiroshima was like before the bombing with virtual reality tour technology in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, before taking a guided bicycle tour which highlights the city's recovery. In the evening, enjoy the quiet beauty of the city.



SCHEDULE

DAY 1

Shin-Osaka Station **BULLET TRAIN** 1hr 25min Hiroshima Station **TRAIN** 50min Yamato Museum (Kure City) » Kure Port **FERRY** 45min Hiroshima Port via SEA PASEO **TRAM** 30min Stay the night in Hiroshima City

DAY 2

Hiroshima City **TRAM** 10min Chartered Hibaku Streetcar ride » Atomic Bomb Dome: Experience Hiroshima before the bombing via VR » **BICYCLE** Sokoiko! Peace Cycling Tour: Take a guided cycling tour of the city that follows the story of Hiroshima from WWII to post-war recovery while visiting the major atomic bomb-related sites in Peace Memorial Park and the downtown area (includes option to stop by Schmoë House) » Hiroshima Castle: Hiroshima Imperial Headquarters during the Sino-Japanese War » Stay the night in Hiroshima

DAY 3

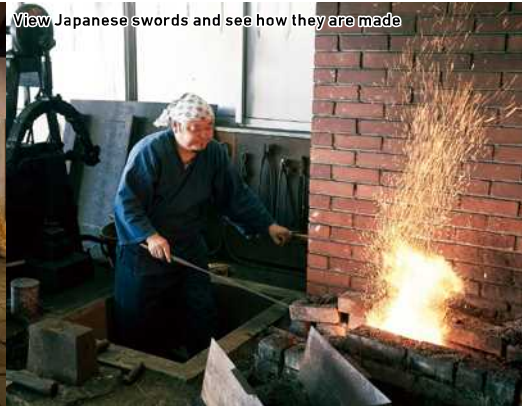
Hiroshima City **BULLET TRAIN** 15min Shin-Iwakuni Station **BUS** 15min Kintaikyō Bridge: one of the three most famous bridges in Japan, designated as a National Site of Scenic Beauty, visit Iwakuni Castle via ropeway **TRAIN** 21min Miyajima-guchi **FERRY** 10min Miyajima: Visit Itsukushima Shrine (World Heritage Site) **FERRY** 10min Miyajima-guchi **TRAIN** 27min Hiroshima Station **BULLET TRAIN** 1hr 25min Shin-Osaka Station

3 THEMES

Samurai Culture, Japanese Swords



Bizen Osafune Sword Museum



View Japanese swords and see how they are made



Ōyamazumi Shrine



Japanese Iron Museum

Japanese Swords and the Chūgoku Region

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

Experience the world of Japanese swords, a symbol of samurai culture. Admire the Japanese swords on display at the Bizen Osafune Sword Museum located in Setouchi City, Okayama, a city known for making Japanese swords in the Bizen osafune style. Afterwards, you'll learn how these incredible swords are made, as well as tour a tataro ironmaking facility, which produces the iron used in making swords and ironware, and even get some hands-on experience! We end the tour at Ōyamazumi Shrine on Ōmishima, home to 80% of the weapons and armor designated as National Treasures and National Important Cultural Properties, including swords from the Middle Ages, armor, and more.



SCHEDULE

DAY 1

Shin-Osaka Station **BULLETRAIN** 45min Okayama Station **CAR** 1hr Bizen Osafune Sword Museum: View Japanese swords, learn how swords are made (Setouchi City) **CAR** 1hr Okayama Station **TRAIN** 2hr 15min Stay the night in Yonago City

DAY 2

Yonago City **CAR** 20min Japanese Iron Museum: The only ironmaking museum in Japan! Learn all about tataro ironmaking from the museum's curator (Yasugi City) **CAR** 20min Adachi Museum of Art: Japanese art collection, including works by Taikan Yokoyama, and Japanese garden **CAR** 1hr Oku-Izumo Tataro Ironmaking and Sword Museum **CAR** 20min Stay the night at Kamedake Hot Springs (Oku-Izumo City)

DAY 3

Kamedake Hot Springs **CAR** 35min Kabeya Shuseikan/Sakurai Family Residence, Ōhara Shinden Rice Terraces **CAR** 2hr 10min Ōyamazumi Shrine: displays 80% of the weapons and armor designated as National Treasures and National Important Cultural Properties (Ōmishima, Ehime Prefecture) **CAR** 1hr 20min Fukuyama Station **BULLETRAIN** 1hr Shin-Osaka Station

4 THEMES

Nature, Outdoor Activities, Onsen

Nat'l Treasure: Nageire-dō Hall, Mt. Mitoku



(C) Tottori Pref.

Paragliding



(C) Tottori Pref.

Ao-ishi-datami Stone Pathway



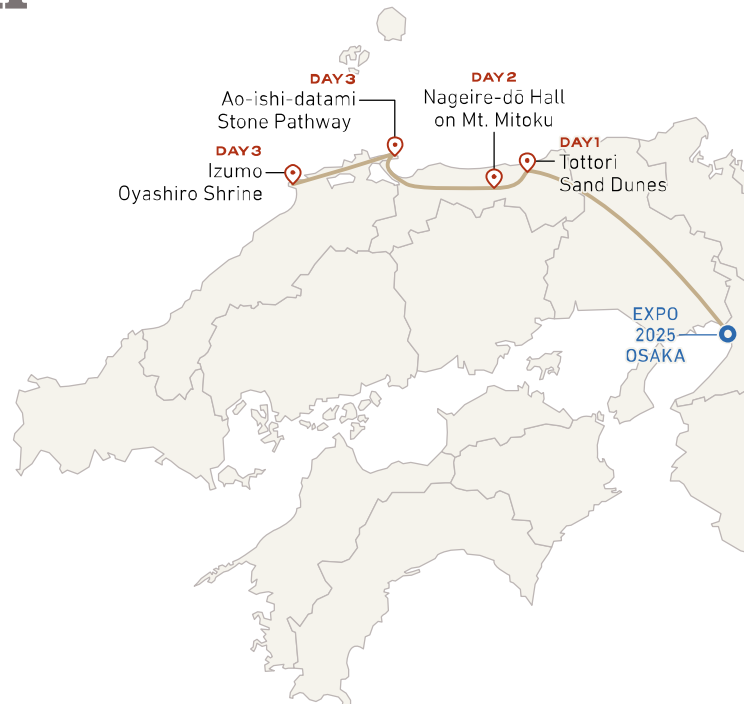
Izumo Oyashiro Shrine



The Ultimate San'in Experience

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

Experience the extraordinary in the San'in region, home to places you won't find anywhere else, including the most hazardous National Treasure in Japan, as well as the biggest sand dunes in all of the country. Nageire-dō Hall in Sanbutsu-ji Temple on Mt. Mitoku is known as the most hazardous National Treasure in Japan due to the challenging hiking trail to get there. Perched cliffside, the hall is surrounded by natural beauty and is an architectural marvel. At the Tottori Sand Dunes, the biggest in the country, you can try your hand at beginners paragliding across the expansive dunes or zip around on a Segway.



SCHEDULE

DAY 1

Shin-Osaka Station **TRAIN** 3hr 25min Tottori Station **CAR** 20min Tottori Sand Dunes: The largest sand dunes in Japan; enjoy a variety of activities like biking on fat bikes, paragliding, and Segway riding, followed by a visit to the Sand Museum **CAR** 20min Stay the night in Tottori City

DAY 2

Tottori City **CAR** 1hr Nageire-dō Hall on Mt. Mitoku: Known as the most hazardous National Treasure in Japan; for safety reasons, one guide is needed per 10-15 participants (Misasa-cho) **CAR** 12min Stay the night at Misasa Hot Springs: one of the most radioactive springs in the world, containing high concentrations of radon (Misasa-cho)

DAY 3

Misasa Hot Springs **CAR** 1hr 50min Lighthouse, Miho Shrine, Ao-ishi-datami Stone Pathway **CAR** 1hr 45min Dentetsu Lake Shinji Onsen Station **TRAIN** 3hr 10min Dentetsu Izumo Taisha-mae Station » Izumo Oyashiro Shrine: Visit this ancient shrine known for matchmaking » Izumo City Station **TRAIN** 3hr 30min Okayama Station **BULLETRAIN** 1hr Shin-Osaka Station

5 THEMES

Cruise, Island Hopping, Traditional Townscapes



Cruise the Seto Inland Sea In Style

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

Cruise the Seto Inland Sea in style aboard pleasure cruiser SEA SPICA, the same boat that world leaders boarded during the G7 Hiroshima Summit! The Seto Inland Sea is full of incomparable beauty, dotted with about 700 islands, and known for its mild climate. Colorful and unique bridges span between islands and the ever-changing contrast of islands, ocean, and sky will have you captivated. Experience the grandeur of the Seto Inland Sea and its many islands through visits to places like Shimokamagarijima Island, where boats would dock in the Edo period and diplomatic missions of old would visit, as well as the Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter, Okayama Castle, and Korakuen Garden. Each new island provides you the chance to get a glimpse of island culture and connect with locals.



SCHEDULE

DAY 1

Shin-Osaka Station **BULLET TRAIN** 1hr 25min Hiroshima Station **TRAM** 15min Peace Memorial Park **TRAM** 1hr 10min Miyajima-guchi **FERRY** 10min Miyajima: Visit World Heritage Site the Itsukushima Shrine, take the ropeway to the observation deck on Mt. Misen » Miyajima-guchi **FERRY** 26min Stay the night in Ujina, Hiroshima City

DAY 2

Ujina, Hiroshima City **FERRY** 4hr 40min Setouchi cruise aboard SEA SPICA » Ono-no-Seto (view from the boat) » Aki Nada Ōhashi Bridge (view from the boat) » Shimokamagarijima Island: Explore the island » Chigirishima Island, known as the Battleship Island of Setouchi (view from the boat) » Okunoshima Island: Take a stroll around the famous Rabbit Island » Mihara Port » Mihara Station **TRAIN** 12min Senkō-ji Temple Park: Take in the scenic view of the Seto Inland Sea (Onomichi City) **TRAIN** 1hr 10min Stay the night in Kurashiki City

DAY 3

Kurashiki City » Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter: Ōhara Museum of Art and stroll along the white-walled and weeping willow-lined streets **TRAIN** 20min Okayama Castle, Korakuen Garden, Izushi-cho: Take a step back in time in this area, home to many historic buildings **TRAIN** 20min Okayama Station **BULLET TRAIN** 45min Shin-Osaka Station

Travel times are approximate and may vary depending on the season, weather conditions, and schedule changes.

6

THEMES

Local Food, Morning Hike, World Heritage



Fruit-picking in Okayama



Make your own momiji manjū



JR sightseeing train etSETOra

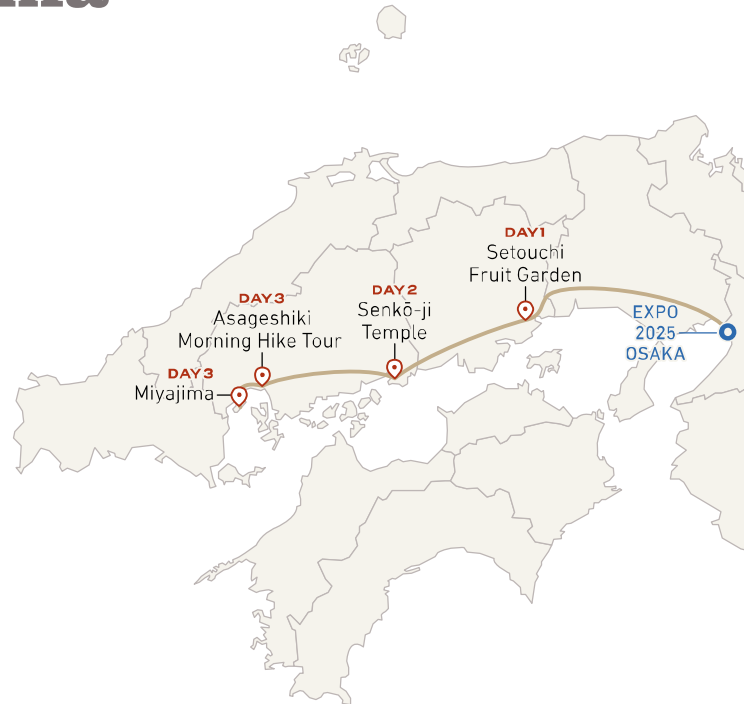


Asageshiki

Eat Local in Okayama and Hiroshima

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

Savor the unique food cultures of Okayama and Hiroshima on this gourmet tour! Thanks to abundant sunshine and advanced technological developments, Okayama is home to many farms where you can hand-pick seasonal, premium fruit. In addition to fruit, try Okayama's famed Japanese confection, kibi dango. In Hiroshima, the gourmet tour begins with breakfast made using local ingredients and served on Mt. Futaba with a view of the whole city. For lunch, savor Hiroshima soul food Okonomiyaki. Don't forget a snack: Hiroshima- favorite momiji manjū (small, maple leaf-shaped cakes)!



SCHEDULE

DAY 1

Shin-Osaka Station **BULLETRAIN** 45min Okayama Station **CAR** 45min Hinase Oyster Okonomiyaki (Bizen City) **CAR** 1hr Setouchi Fruit Garden: Strawberries from Apr.-May (Setouchi City)/Tomomien Peach and Grape Orchard: Peaches from late June-Aug., Pione and muscat grapes from late Aug.-early Oct. (Akaiwa City) **CAR** 1hr Kōeidō: Founded in 1856. See how famed Okayama confection kibi dango is made and enjoy a tasting (limited to weekdays in July, Sept.-early Dec)(Kurashiki City) **CAR** 1hr Stay the night in Okayama City

DAY 2

Okayama City » Okayama Station **TRAIN** 1hr 25min Onomichi Station » Onomichi ramen lunch, walk around old temples, visit the observation deck on top of Senkō-ji Temple » Onomichi Station **TRAIN** 3hr (Enjoy dessert and sake aboard EtoSetora, luxury JR sightseeing train) » Hiroshima Station » Stay the night in Hiroshima City

DAY 3

Hiroshima City » Early morning hiking in the downtown Hiroshima area and breakfast with a view, provided by Asageshiki **TRAM** 10min Atomic Bomb Dome **TRAM** 1hr Miyajima-guchi **FERRY** 10min Miyajima: Visit World Heritage Site the Itsukushima Shrine, make your own momiji manjū (famed Hiroshima confection), okonomiyaki lunch **FERRY** 10min Miyajima-guchi **TRAIN** 30min Hiroshima Station **BULLETRAIN** 1hr 25min Shin-Osaka Station

Travel times are approximate and may vary depending on the season, weather conditions, and schedule changes.

7

THEMES

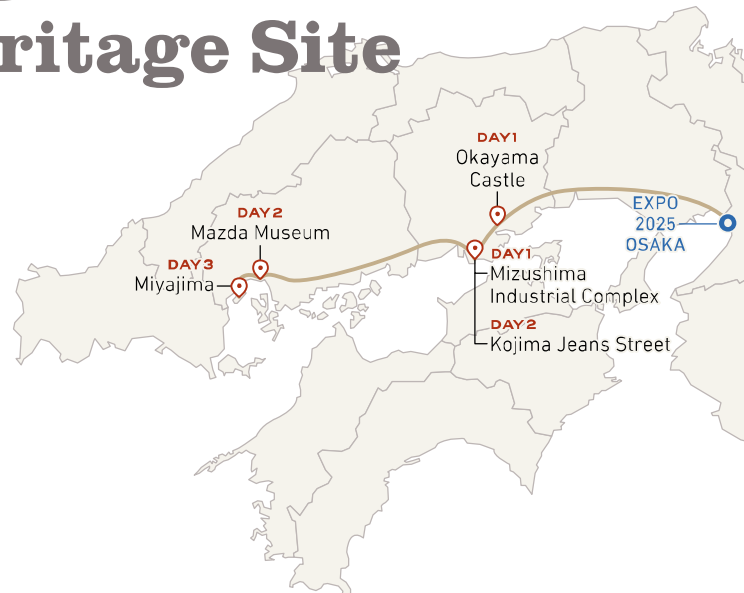
Castles, Factories, World Heritage



Manufacturing and Industry in the Chūgoku Region; Miyajima World Heritage Site

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

Careful manufacturing that Japan is known for and cutting edge, eco-friendly manufacturing that uses the latest technology come together in the Chūgoku region. Kojima Jeans in Okayama was the first company to make domestic-made jeans. Popular overseas, jeans may have been invented in the US, but they have evolved in Japan, where each hand-sewn pair is made with care. On the manufacturing side, known for their beautiful design and beloved the world over, you'll take a tour of the Mazda car factory and of storage battery production plant Power Base, an eco-friendly, state-of-the-art facility designed by world-famous architect, Kazuyo Sejima.



SCHEDULE

DAY 1

Shin-Osaka Station **BULLETRAIN** 45min Okayama Station **TRAM** 20min Okayama Castle, Korakuen Garden **CAR** 50min Tour of the Okayama Kirin Beer Factory and freshly brewed beer tasting **CAR** 1hr 10min Tour Power X's Power Base plant (tours begin in 2025; Tamano City) **CAR** 1hr 15min Mizushima Industrial Complex Night Cruise (Kurashiki City) » Stay the night in Kurashiki City

DAY 2

Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter: Ōhara Museum of Art and stroll along the white-walled and weeping willow-lined streets **CAR** 30min Kojima Jeans Street: Where domestic jean production began! This approx. 400-meter street is lined with local jean makers **CAR** 1hr Okayama Station **BULLETRAIN** 40min Hiroshima Station **TRAIN** 6min Mukainada Station » Mazda Museum tour (weekdays only) » Stay the night in Hiroshima

DAY 3

Hiroshima **TRAM** 10min Atomic Bomb Dome and Peace Memorial Park **TRAM** 35min Inokuchi Station » Otafuku Sauce Factory tour: watch how okonomiyaki sauce is made and bottled at the Otafuku Sauce Factory. visit the Okonomiyaki Museum, and try your hand at making okonomiyaki » Inokuchi Station **TRAM** 30min Miyajima-guchi **FERRY** 10min Miyajima: Visit World Heritage Site the Itsukushima Shrine **FERRY** 10min Miyajima-guchi **TRAIN** 30min Hiroshima Station **BULLETRAIN** 1hr 25min Shin-Osaka Station

Travel times are approximate and may vary depending on the season, weather conditions, and schedule changes.

8

THEMES

Nature, Outdoor Activities, Spirituality



SCHEDULE

DAY 1

Shin-Osaka Station **TRAIN** 3hr 25min Tottori Station **CAR** 20min Tottori Sand Dunes: The largest sand dunes in Japan; enjoy a variety of activities like biking on fat bikes, paragliding, and Segway riding, followed by visit to the Sand Museum **CAR** 20min Stay the night in Tottori City

DAY 2

Tottori City **CAR** 30min San'in Coast Geopark, Uradome Coast: After learning about the landscape, geological features, and plants and animals of the San'in Coast at the Museum of the Earth and Sea, take a cruise on a sightseeing boat (Iwami-cho) **CAR** 1hr 20min Stroll around the Shirakabe Dozôgun storehouses (guided tour, includes Ogawa's garden Kansuien and the Kurayoshi Figure Museum; Kurayoshi City) **CAR** 20min Stay the night at Misasa Hot Springs

DAY 3

Misasa Hot Springs **CAR** 12min Sanbutsu-ji Temple on Mt. Mitoku: Visit the most hazardous National Treasure in Japan **CAR** 1hr 20min Guided walk through the Beech Forest of Mt. Daisen **CAR** 30min Stay the night in Daisen

DAY 4

Daisen **CAR** 1hr 15min Walk around on Shigeru Mizuki Road (Sakai-Minato City) **CAR** 2min Sakai Port **FERRY** 20min Beppu Port **CAR** 3hr 10min Oki UNESCO Geopark, Matengai Cliff of Kuniga Coast, Tsûten-kyô, etc. (Nishi-no-Shima-cho) » Stay the night on Nishi-no-Shima Island

DAYS

Beppu Port **FERRY** 1hr 30min Saigô Port **CAR** 6min Tamawakasu-mikoto Shrine, Mizuwakasu Shrine » Kayaking, sightseeing cruise around Rôsoku-jima(Candle Island) (Oki-no-Shima-cho) **FERRY** 50min Stay the night on Oki-no-Shima Island

DAY 6

Saigô Port **FERRY** 3hr 10min Sakai Port **CAR** 1hr 50min Stroll around Hi-no-Misaki (Izumo City) **CAR** 25min Izumo Oyashiro Shrine: Visit this ancient shrine known for matchmaking **CAR** 3hr 10min Izumo City Station **TRAIN** 3hr 10min Okayama Station **BULLETRAIN** 45min Shin-Osaka Station

Natural Wonders and Culture of San'in Geopark and National Park

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

The geological features and landscape in San'in Geopark have remained unchanged from the time that the Japanese archipelago was a part of the Asian continent. Experience local culture and history rooted in the colorful, natural landscape of the park. Enjoy outdoor activities on the Tottori Sand Dunes and Mt. Daisen, and, on Oki-no-Shima Island, once a part of the Eurasian continent,

you'll find Matengai Cliff rising 257 meters straight up from the surface of the sea off the Kuniga Coast. Cows and horses graze atop the cliff, providing a surreal pastoral view that contrasts with the sea below. Arched stone bridge Tsûten-kyô is another highlight of the park.

9

THEMES

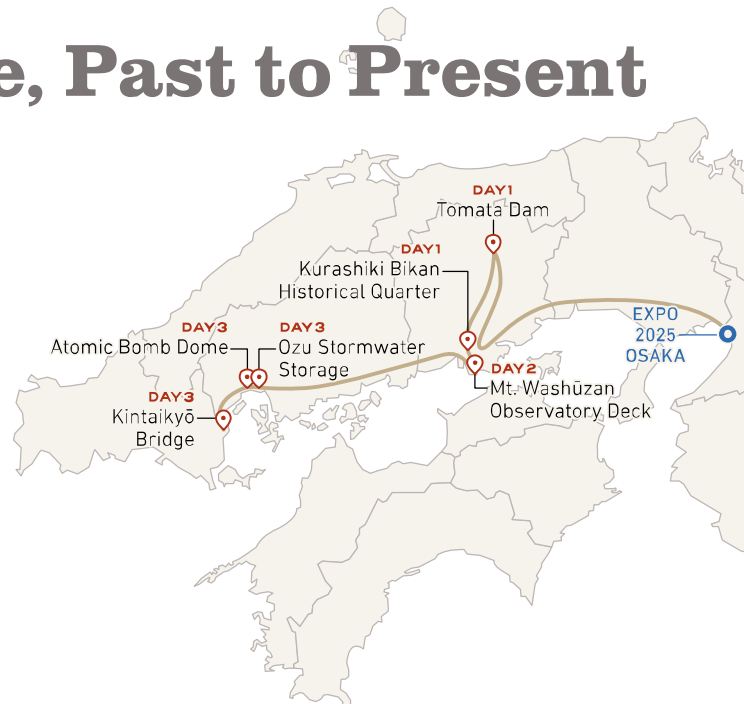
Infrastructure, Architecture, World Heritage



Resilience Against the Power of Nature, Past to Present

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

Since ancient times, the Chūgoku region has been home to a variety of places steeped in the knowledge of disaster mitigation. On this tour, you'll visit infrastructure such as the Kintaikyō Bridge in Yamaguchi Prefecture. The bridge's highly unique five connecting arches are the result of the passion of our forebearers who wanted to build a bridge that would not be washed away. You'll also visit Tomata Dam in Okayama, built in the modern era. Able to handle flooding due to typhoons and dry years due to decreased rainfall, the dam plays an active part in managing water to control flooding and water utilization. In addition, you'll also tour storage battery production plant Power Base, an eco-friendly, state-of-the-art facility designed by world-famous architect, Kazuyo Sejima.



SCHEDULE

DAY 1

Shin-Osaka Station **BULLETRAIN** 45min **Okayama Station** **CAR** 1hr 30min
Tomata Dam: This beautiful dam is equipped with Japan's first ever emergency labyrinth spillway. Tour the observation room and watch them release water from the dam (Kagamino-cho) **CAR** 1hr 50min **Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter**: Ōhara Museum of Art and stroll along the white-walled and weeping willow-lined streets **Stay the night in Kurashiki City**

DAY 2

Kurashiki City **CAR** 50min **Mt. Washūzan Observatory Deck**: This scenic spot provides you with a view of the many islands that dot the Seto Inland Sea, as well as the impressive span of the Seto Ōhashi Bridge (Kurashiki City) **CAR** 50min **Tour Power X's Power Base plant** (tours begin in 2025) (Tamano City) **CAR** 2hr 25min **Stay the night in Hiroshima**

DAY 3

Hiroshima **CAR** 15min **Ōzu Stormwater storage**: Tour this stormwater storage facility located under Mazda Stadium to alleviate flooding in the Hiroshima Station area (100m in diameter, 5.4m in height, storage capability of 1,500m³) (Hiroshima City) **TRAM** 15min **Atomic Bomb Dome** **TRAM** 1hr **Miyajima-guchi** **FERRY** 10min **Miyajima**: Visit World Heritage Site the Itsukushima Shrine **FERRY** 10min **Miyajima-guchi** **CAR** 45min **Kintaikyō Bridge**: one of the three most famous bridges in Japan, Kintaikyō Bridge is a wooden bridge designated as a National Site of Scenic Beauty (Iwakuni City) **CAR** 1hr 15min **Hiroshima Station** **BULLETRAIN** 1hr 25min **Shin-Osaka Station**

Travel times are approximate and may vary depending on the season, weather conditions, and schedule changes.

10

THEMES

Nature, Onsen, Sake



The Best of Chūgoku Region 6-Day Tour

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

This tour is perfect for first-time visitors to the Chūgoku region, those who want to experience historic Japan, and those who want to do more than just to visit famous sightseeing destinations. Join us for 6 days of the very best sightseeing spots, breathtaking scenic views, and mouth watering cuisine! Experience the Sanyō region that faces the Seto Inland Sea known

for its calm waters and abundance of beautiful islands, and the San'in region facing the Sea of Japan and full of extraordinary natural beauty. In addition, you'll also visit World Heritage sites on this all-star tour full of nature, culture, history, food, and more!

SCHEDULE

DAY 1

Shin-Osaka Station **BULLETRAIN** 1hr Fukuyama Station **CAR** 45min Abuto Kannon: Kannon hall located atop a sheer cliff **CAR** 10mins Fukuzen-ji Temple: The view of the Seto Inland Sea from Taichōrō Hall is breathtaking **CAR** 1hr Senkō-ji Temple via ropeway (Onomichi City) **CAR** 1hr 50min Atomic Bomb Dome **CAR** 30min Miyajima-guchi **FERRY** 10min Miyajima: Visit World Heritage Site the Itsukushima Shrine **FERRY** 10min Miyajima-guchi **CAR** 1hr 50min Stay the night at Yuda Hot Springs (Yamaguchi City)

DAY 2

Yuda Hot Springs **CAR** 40min Akiyoshi-dai: The largest karst plain in Japan (Mine City) **CAR** 1hr 10min Tsunoshima Ōhashi Bridge: This bridge spans the cobalt blue waters of the sea for a spectacular view (Shimonoseki City) **CAR** 40min Motonosumi Shrine: This incredibly scenic shrine features vermilion torii gates surrounded by greenery (Nagato City) **CAR** 30min Kaisen Mura Kita-Nagato: Savor a fresh kaisen-don (rice bowl topped with sashimi and more) for lunch **CAR** 25min Hagi Castle Town (Hagi City) **CAR** 5min Stay the night at Hagi Hot Springs (Hagi City)

DAY 3

Hagi Hot Springs **CAR** 2hr 20min Iwami Tatami-ga-Ura (Hamada City) **CAR** 55min Iwami Silver Mine: Approx. 45-minute walk (each way) to World Heritage Site Ryūgenji Mabu Mine Shaft (Ōda City) **CAR** 1hr 20min Stay the night at Matsu-no-Yu, Tamatsukuri Hot Springs (Matsue City)

DAY 4

Tamatsukuri Hot Springs **CAR** 1hr Izumo Oyashiro Shrine: Visit this ancient shrine known for matchmaking, savor Izumo soba for lunch **CAR** 50min Matsue Castle: Visit the castle tower, a National Treasure (guided tours require reservations) **CAR** 40min Adachi Museum of Art: Japanese art collection, including works by Taikan Yokoyama, and Japanese garden (Yasugi City) **CAR** 25min Stay the night in Yonago City

DAYS

Yonago City **CAR** 35min Daisen-ji Temple: Overlooks a magnificent view of the Sea of Japan **CAR** 1hr 50min Tottori Sand Dunes: Visit to the largest sand dunes in Japan and the Sand Museum **CAR** 50min Nageire-dō Hall on Mt. Mitoku: Known as the most hazardous National Treasure in Japan (Misasa-cho) **CAR** 20min Stay the night at Misasa Hot Springs: one of the most radioactive springs in the world, containing high concentrations of radon (Misasa-cho)

DAY 6

Misasa Hot Springs **CAR** 2hrs Kibitsu Shrine (Okayama City) **CAR** 40min Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter: Ōhara Museum of Art and stroll along the white-walled and weeping willow-lined streets **CAR** 45min Okayama Station **BULLETRAIN** 45min Shin-Osaka Station

Travel times are approximate and may vary depending on the season, weather conditions, and schedule changes.

11

THEMES

Private Island, Onsen, Nature

Kujira-jima Island, private deserted island in the Seto Inland Sea



Dinner and breakfast prepared by a private chef



Hiruzen Plateau



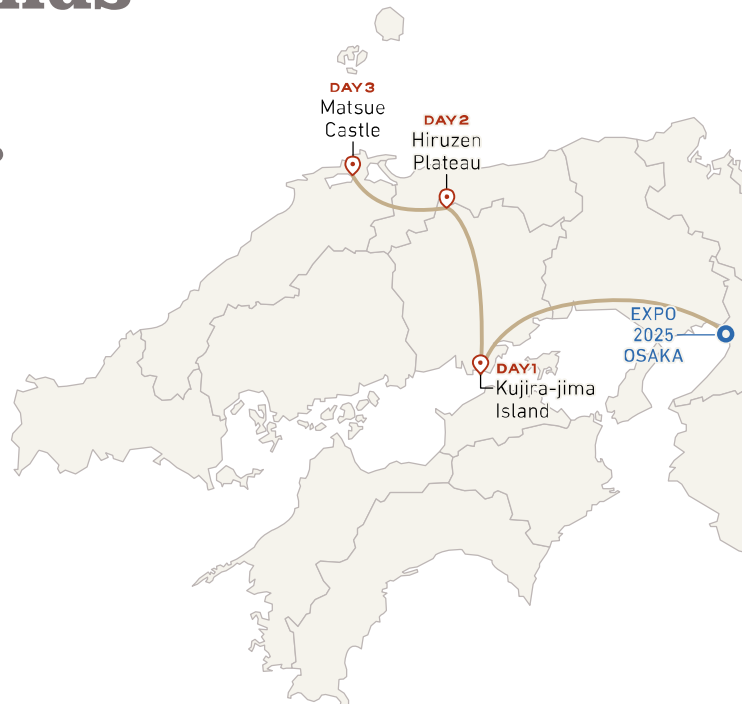
Matsue Castle and castle moat boat ride



Islands and Highlands Exclusive National Park Tour

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

Join us on a tour of the mountains, ocean, and national parks of the Chūgoku region. At the Seto Inland Sea National Park, the first national park in Japan, enjoy glamping on a private deserted island while a private chef whips up culinary delights against a breathtaking backdrop of islands big and small. At the Daisen Oki National Park, take part in activities built around the characteristic gentle sloping mountains and savor local delicacies while taking in the majestic landscape around you.



SCHEDULE

DAY 1

Shin-Osaka Station **BULLET TRAIN** 45min Okayama Station **TRAIN** 55min Uno Port **FERRY** 15min Kujira-jima Island, private deserted island in the Seto Inland Sea* Stay the night in Seto Inland Sea National Park (Kurashiki City)
*Dinner will be prepared by a private chef. Other activities available upon request. The premium glamping plan can accommodate up to 10 people.

DAY 2

Kujira-jima Island **FERRY** 15min Uno Port **TRAIN** 50min Okayama Station **CAR** 1hr 30min Hiruzen Plateau: GREENable HIRUZEN, ice cream-making experience in Joyful Park, Hiruzen Plateau Center, Hiruzen Winery (Maniwa City) **CAR** 1hr 5min Matsue Lake Shinji Hot Springs » Stay the night in Matsue City

DAY 3

Matsue City **CAR** 5min Matsue Castle and Castle Moat: Visit the castle tower, a National Treasure (guided tours require reservations) » Kaka-no-Kukedo Marine Cave **CAR** 10min Matsue Station **TRAIN** 2hr 35min Okayama Station **BULLET TRAIN** 45min Shin-Osaka Station



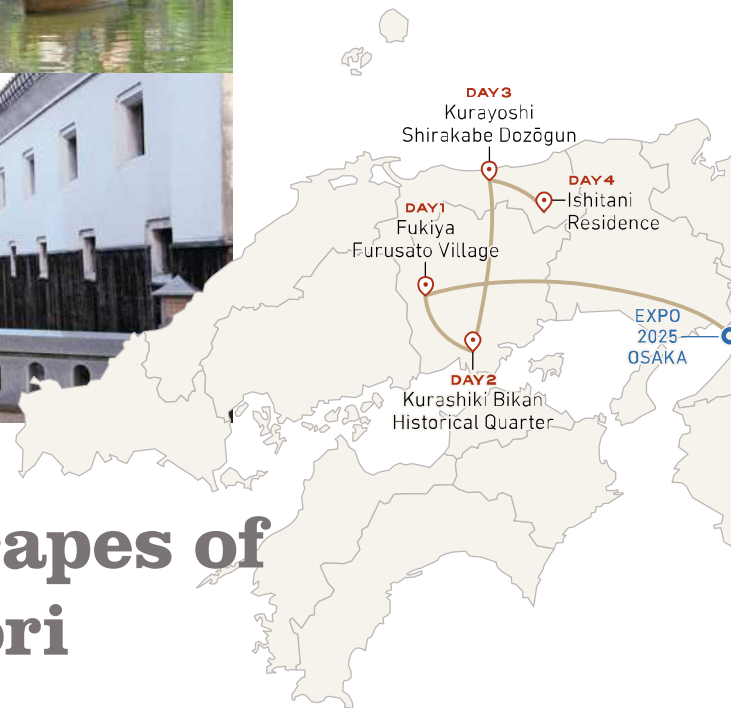
*Reservations Here

KUJIRA JIMA INFO
<http://www.kujira-jima.jp>

12

THEMES

Samurai Culture, Traditional Townscapes, Gardens



Traditional Townscapes of Okayama and Tottori

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

The Chūgoku region has long been a hub for trade and manufacturing, and each community within the region has a one-of-a-kind townscape that reflects their individual history. The Shirakabe Dozōgun storehouses of Kurayoshi are modeled off castle towns in the Muromachi period. In the Edo period, commerce and industry flourished and you can still see traces of that in the

town today. The Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter once prospered as a hub for trade via ships. The traditional and cohesive townscape is balanced by the beautiful weeping willow-lined streets. Takahashi City, famed for its production of red ochre and copper, is the birthplace of the color known as Japan Red, and its distinctive red townscape continues to welcome visitors today.

SCHEDULE

DAY 1

Shin-Osaka Station **BULLETRAIN** 45min Okayama Station **CAR** 10min Korakuen Garden **CAR** 1hr 30min Fukiya Furusato Village: This red townscape is a rarity in Japan; enjoy a stroll down the retro streets (Takahashi City) **CAR** 1hr Bisei Astronomical Observatory: Stargazing through a 101-cm telescope (Bisei-cho) **CAR** 1hr Stay the night in Kurashiki

DAY 2

Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter: Ōhara Museum of Art and stroll along the white-walled and weeping willow-lined streets **CAR** 2hr 40min Matsue Castle: Visit the castle tower, a National Treasure (guided tours require reservations) **CAR** 1hr Visit to Daisen-ji Temple **CAR** 10min Stay the night in Daisen-cho (At night, join a professional photographer on a tour of the starry night sky; check schedule in advance)

DAY 3

Daisen-cho **CAR** 1hr Stroll around the Shirakabe Dozōgun storehouses (guided tour; includes Ogawa's garden Kansuien and the Kurayoshi Figure Museum; Kurayoshi City) **CAR** 1hr Tottori Sand Dunes: The largest sand dunes in Japan; visit to the Sand Museum **CAR** 1hr Tottori Saji Astropark: Stay in the Constellation Cottage with a telescope to watch the stars (Tottori City)

DAY 4

Tottori City **CAR** 35min Ishitani Residence in Chizu: Designated as an Important Cultural Property, visit the residence and its exquisite Japanese garden (Chizu-cho) **CAR** 20min Mori-no-Oto, Nishi-Awakura: Tour a musical instrument and toy workshop that makes products out of local cypress (Nishi-Awakura Village) **CAR** 1hr 50min Okayama Station **BULLETRAIN** 45min Shin-Osaka Station

13 THEMES

Nature, Onsen, Historical Buildings



Off-the-beaten-track Highlights of Nature and History

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

The Chūgoku region is home to Japan's largest limestone cave, Akiyoshidō Cave, as well as Makidō Cave, a limestone cave illuminated by colorful LEDs. On this tour, you'll also discover Nageire-dō Hall, known as the most hazardous National Treasure in Japan. Considered sacred, it is used as the final destination for Shugendō training in the tradition of Japanese

mountain asceticism that worships the gods of the mountain and whose monks train in rugged mountain areas. The region is full of castles that use the natural environment around them to their advantage, as well as the castle towns that thrived around them. Come and experience the natural beauty of the region, as well as the cities, towns, and livelihoods born from it.

SCHEDULE

DAY 1

Shin-Osaka Station **BULLETRAIN** 1hr 52min Shin-Yamaguchi Station **CAR** 30min Akiyoshi-dai and Akiyoshidō Cave (Mine City) **CAR** 1hr Motonomi Shrine: This incredibly scenic shrine features vermilion torii gates surrounded by greenery (Nagato City) **CAR** 55min Hagi Castle Town **CAR** 5min Stay the night at Hagi Hot Springs (Hagi City)

DAY 2

Hagi Hot Springs **CAR** 3hr 40min Stroll around Hi-no-Misaki (Izumo City) **CAR** 20min Izumo Oyashiro Shrine: Visit this ancient shrine known for match-making **CAR** 5min Inasa-no-Hama Beach: Known for its stunning sunset views **CAR** 20min Stay the night in Izumo City

DAYS 3

Dentetsu-Izumoshi Station in Izumo City **TRAIN** 1hr Matsue Shinjiko-Onsen Station **CAR** 6min Matsue Castle: Visit the castle tower, a National Treasure (guided tours require reservations) **CAR** 45min Gassantoda Castle (Yasugi City) **CAR** 30min Remnants of Yonago Castle (Yonago City) **CAR** 17min Kotobuki Castle: A dessert museum inside a replica of Yonago Castle (Matsue City) **CAR** 1hr 6min Stay the night at Misasa Hot Springs: one of the most radioactive springs in the world, containing high concentrations of radon (Misasa-cho)

DAY 4

Misasa Hot Springs **CAR** 15min Nageire-dō Hall on Mt. Mitoku: Known as the most hazardous National Treasure in Japan; for safety reasons, one guide is needed per 10-15 participants (Misasa-cho) **CAR** 2hr 30min Stay the night at Taishakukyō Gorge (Shōbara City)

DAYS

Taishakukyō Gorge **CAR** 1hr 10min Explore Makidō Cave (Nimi City) **CAR** 45min Bitchu Matsuyama Castle (Takahashi City) **CAR** 55min Kino Castle **CAR** 40min Stay the night in Okayama City

DAY 6

Okayama City **TRAM** 20min Okayama Castle and Korakuen Garden **TRAM** 20min Okayama Station **BULLETRAIN** 45min Shin-Osaka Station

Travel times are approximate and may vary depending on the season, weather conditions, and schedule changes.

14 THEMES

World Heritage, Myths & Legend, Art

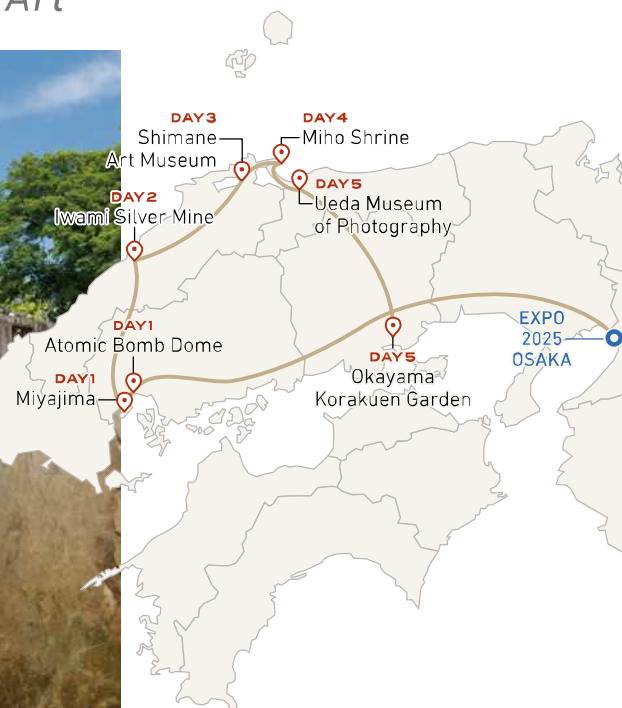


Itsukushima Shrine

Atomic Bomb Dome

Miho Shrine

Ōmori area, Iwami Silvermine



SCHEDULE

DAY 1

Shin-Osaka Station **BULLET TRAIN** 1hr 25min Hiroshima Station **TRAM** 15min Atomic Bomb Dome **TRAM** 1hr Miyajima-guchi **FERRY** 10min Miyajima: Take ropeway to Mt. Misen, watch the sunset at Itsukushima Shrine » Stay the night on Miyajima

DAY 2

Miyajima » Visit the Itsukushima Shrine (World Heritage Site) **FERRY** 10min Miyajima-guchi **TRAIN** 30min Hiroshima Station **CAR** 2hr 30min Iwami Silver Mine: World Heritage Center, explore the mine shaft, take a stroll around the Ōmori area (Ōda City) **CAR** 35mins Stay the night on Mt. Sanbe (Weekends: watch an Iwami Kagura performance: Ōda City)

DAY 3

Mt. Sanbe **CAR** 20min Sanbe-Azukihara Buried Forest Park **CAR** 45min Yunotsu: Walk around the part town that shipped silver from World Heritage Site the Iwami Silver Mines **CAR** 1hr 25min Matsue Castle: Visit the castle tower, a National Treasure (guided tours require reservations) **CAR** 7min Shimane Art Museum: Home to one of the world's largest collections of Hokusai (Matsue City) **CAR** 30min Pleasure cruise to Kaka-no-Kukedo Marine Cave **CAR** 30min Stay the night in Matsue City

DAY 4

Matsue City » Early morning visit to Miho Shrine **CAR** 10min Miho-no-Seki Lighthouse **CAR** 35min Yūshien Japanese Garden **CAR** 35min Adachi Museum of Art: Japanese art collection, including works by Taikan Yokoyama, and Japanese garden (Yasugi City) **CAR** 45min Daisen-ji Temple (Daisen-cho) **CAR** 1min Stay the night in Daisen-cho

DAYS

Daisen-cho **CAR** 15min Shōji Ueda Museum of Photography: View the upside-down mountain reflected on the surface of a reflecting pool (Hōki-cho) **CAR** 2hr Okayama Castle and Korakuen Garden **CAR** 8min Okayama Station **BULLET TRAIN** 45min Shin-Osaka Station

World Heritage and Myths of Japan Tour

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

Visit three different world heritage sites in the Chūgoku region from three eras: the Itsukushima Shrine, Iwami Silver Mine, and the Atomic Bomb Dome. The floating vermilion torii gate of the Itsukushima Shrine on Miyajima is a sight that symbolizes Japan. In its heyday, Japanese silver comprised one-third of the world's silver, and of that Japanese silver, most of it came from the Iwami Silver Mine. The mine was profitable enough to cover the expenses of sengu (building a new home for a deity) for the

Itsukushima Shrine when the main hall was rebuilt. The Atomic Bomb Dome continues to convey to the world the horrors of the atomic bombing and appeal for lasting world peace. Learn the history and historical context of these three sights, as well as the reason why they continue to be preserved for the next generation.

15 THEMES

Hiroshima, Traditional Townscapes, Cycle Tours

Sokoiko! Peace Cycling Tour



Keep the Time Cycling Tour



Keep the Time Cycling Tour



E-Bike Cycling Tour by Furusato (Castle Town Course)



Hiroshima, Castle Towns, and Scenic Townscapes by Bike

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

This tour is made for bicycle enthusiasts! Experience the natural beauty, history, and local community of Hiroshima, Hagi, and Tsuwano. Cycling around castle towns Hagi and Tsuwano, you'll feel like you've been transported back into the Edo period. In Hiroshima, which achieved a remarkable recovery after the atomic bombing, take your time and relish the sights. New discoveries await at every turn on this e-bike tour that's also perfect for beginners and those returning to bike riding.



SCHEDULE

DAY 1

Shin-Osaka Station **BULLETRAIN** 1hr 25min Hiroshima Station **TRAM** 15min Atomic Bomb Dome » Sokoiko! Peace Cycling Tour: Take a guided cycling tour of the city that follows the story of Hiroshima from WWII to post-war recovery while visiting the major atomic bomb-related sites in Peace Memorial Park and the downtown area » Atomic Bomb Dome **TRAM** 15min Hiroshima Station **BULLETRAIN** 30min Shin-Yamaguchi Station; stay the night in Yamaguchi

DAY 2

Shin-Yamaguchi Station **CAR** 1hr 15min Keep the Time Cycling Tour by Yu-na: An approx. 3-hour tour featuring the history, culture, and lush natural environment of Tsuwano (Tsuwano-cho) **CAR** 2hr Motonosumi Shrine: This incredibly scenic shrine features vermilion torii gates surrounded by greenery (Nagato City) **CAR** 50min Stay the night in Hagi City

DAY 3

E-Bike Cycling Tour by Furusato (Castle Town Course): Take in the refined and traditional cityscape full of stone roads and historic buildings while heading to the summit of a mountain for a view of the entire townscape (max of 8 participants per tour; Hagi City) » Tour of Hagi-yaki pottery workshop and visit to the Hagi Pottery Museum **CAR** 40min Akiyoshi-dai and Akiyoshidō Cave (Mine City) **CAR** 30min Shin-Yamaguchi Station **BULLETRAIN** 1hr 52min Shin-Osaka Station

Travel times are approximate and may vary depending on the season, weather conditions, and schedule changes.

16

THEMES

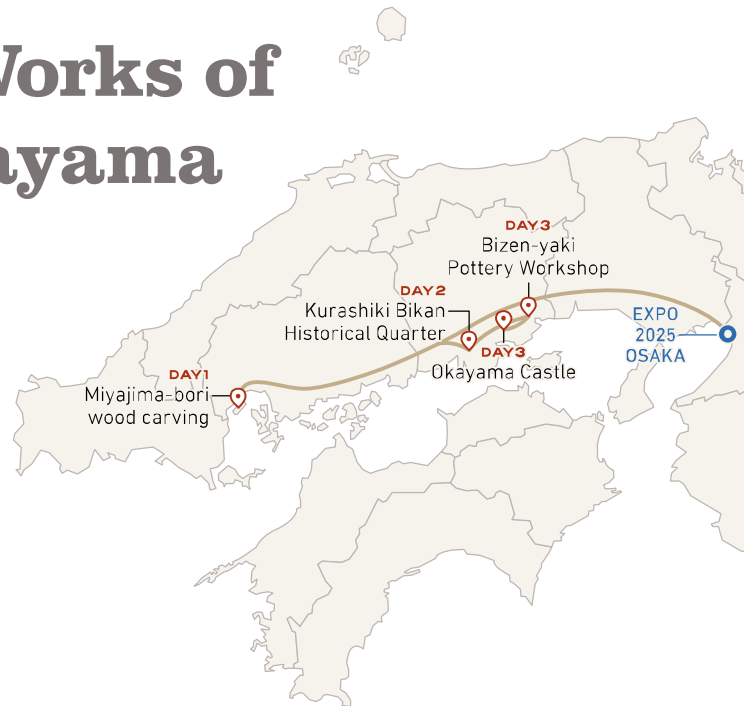
Traditional Crafts, World Heritage, Traditional Architecture



Handmade Beauty: Traditional Craft Works of Hiroshima and Okayama

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

Traditional craft works evolved in each community of the Chūgoku region. On this tour, experience the wonder of artisan culture while learning the history and context of each craft, as well as the techniques to make them. On Miyajima, try your hand at Miyajima-bori wood carving which is rooted in techniques used by shrine carpenters that worked on the reconstruction of the Itsukushima Shrine. In Kurashiki, visit the Kurashiki Museum of Folkcraft and discover their timeless beauty. Then, in Bizen City, admire Bizen-yaki pottery, an extremely simple form of pottery that makes use of the natural colors of the clay and doesn't rely on decorations. Be sure to purchase your favorite piece as a souvenir from your trip!



SCHEDULE

DAY 1

Shin-Osaka Station **BULLETRAIN** 1hr 25min Hiroshima Station **CAR** 10min Atomic Bomb Dome **CAR** 25min Miyajima-guchi **FERRY** 10min Miyajima: Visit the Itsukushima Shrine, Miyajima-bori wood carving experience **FERRY** 10min Miyajima-guchi **TRAIN** 40min Stay the night in Hiroshima City

DAY 2

Hiroshima City **CAR** 2hr 10min Kojima Jeans Street: Where domestic jean production began! This approx. 400-meter street is lined with local jean makers (Kurashiki City) **CAR** 35min Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter: Ōhara Museum of Art, Kurashiki Museum of Folkcraft **CAR** 10min Mitsui Outlet Park Shopping Mall Kurashiki or the biggest dagashi snack shop in Japan (Setouchi City) **CAR** 10min Stay the night in Okayama City or Setouchi City

DAY 3

Okayama City or Setouchi City **CAR** 50min Bizen Osafune Sword Museum: View Japanese swords, learn how swords are made **CAR** 15min Bizen-no-Sato: Visit a bizen-yaki pottery workshop, Bizen Pottery Kiln Ruins (Bizen City) **CAR** 45min Okayama Castle and Korakuen Garden **TRAIN** 20min Okayama Station **BULLETRAIN** 45min Shin-Osaka Station

17

THEMES

Folk Performances, Myths & Legends, Traditional Townscapes



Akitakata Kagura performance



Yakage-cho townscape



Bitchū Kagura performance



Iwami Kagura performance

Discover the Magic of Kagura in the Chūgoku Region

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

The Chūgoku region is home to one of the most active kagura communities in Japan. Kagura began as an ancient ritual to pray for a bountiful harvest and plentiful catch of fish, as well as to ward off illness, and it has been performed across Japan since days of old. The dynamic movements, extravagant costumes, pounding taiko drums, and lilting kagura flute differ in each community. This tour will introduce you to three styles of kagura that continue to be passed down in their respective communities today: Bitchu Kagura emphasizes the entertainment elements, whereas Akitakata Kagura focuses more on the dramatic elements and has a wide appeal. Iwami Kagura features clear-cut stories that are easy for beginners to follow.



SCHEDULE

DAY 1

Shin-Osaka Station **BULLETRAIN** 45min Okayama Station **CAR** 1hr 5min Ikura-dō Cave: The second biggest limestone cave in western Japan after Akiyoshidō Cave (Nimi City) **CAR** 40min Fukiya Furusato Village: This red townscape is a rarity in Japan; enjoy a stroll down the retro streets (Takahashi City) **CAR** 25min Watch a performance of Bitchū Kagura » Stay the night in Takahashi City

DAY 2

Takahashi City **CAR** 35min Yakage Honjin and Waki Honjin: History tour of the former Sanyō Road with a tour guide (Yakage-cho) **CAR** 2hr Watch a performance of Akitakata Kagura in the Kagura Dome or Kamukura-za Theater (Akitakata City) **CAR** 1hr 5min Weekend evening performance of Iwami Kagura, stay the night in Hamada City (Hamada City)

DAY 3

Katsurō Kakita Mask Workshop: watch how kagura masks are made and try your hand at it **CAR** 15min Ueda Snake Costume Workshop **CAR** 1hr 50min Izumo Oyashiro Shrine: Visit this ancient shrine known for matchmaking **CAR** 55min Shimane Art Museum: Home to one of the world's largest collections of Hokusai (Matsue City) **CAR** 7min Matsue Station **TRAIN** 2hr 30min Okayama Station **BULLETRAIN** 45min Shin-Osaka Station

18 THEMES

Local Trains, Onsen, Scenic Views

Tsuyama Railroad Educational Museum



Sakubi Sakura Sightseeing Train



DeHaNi 50 series train driving experience



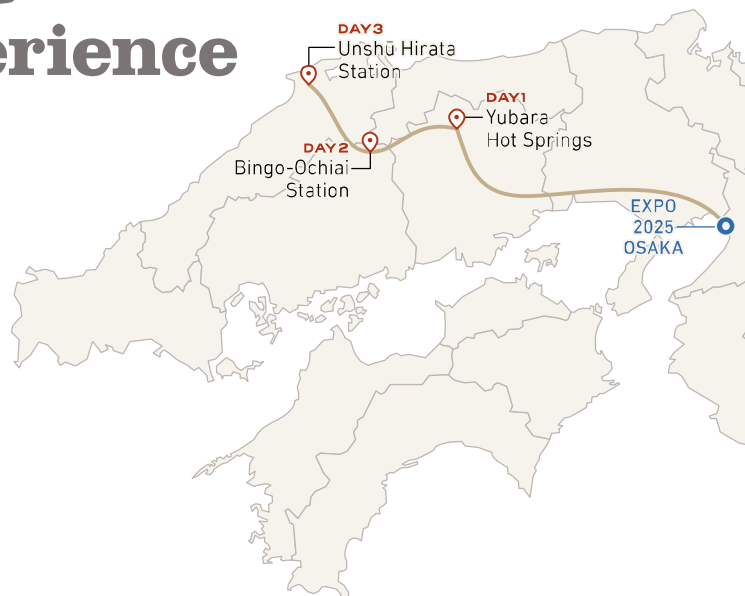
Yubara Hot Spring Sunayu in Maniwa



All Aboard! Local Train Lines in the Chūgoku Region and Train Driving Experience

ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE

The Chūgoku region stands out in Japan as a region home to many different kinds of trains. By riding, watching, and experiencing trains old and new, you'll learn their history and why they appeal to so many. Join us aboard the shinkansen, limited express trains (Yakumo), and local trains as we travel to places like the Tsuyama Railroad Educational Museum, where the historic Tsuyama Fan-Shaped Locomotive Depot is preserved. You can also try driving the oldest class of train in Japan and so much more on this unique tour.



SCHEDULE

DAY 1

Shin-Osaka Station **BULLET TRAIN** 45min Okayama Station **TRAM** 22min Okaden Museum (Okayama City) **TRAM** 22min Okayama Station: Sakubi Sakura Sightseeing Train **TRAIN** 1hr 35min Tsuyama Station » Visit the Tsuyama Railroad Educational Museum (former Tsuyama Fan-Shaped Locomotive Depot: Tsuyama City) **CAR** 40min Stay the night at Yubara Hot Springs

DAY 2

Yubara Hot Springs **CAR** 1hr 5min Ikura-dō Cave: The second biggest limestone cave in western Japan after Akiyoshidō Cave (Nimi City) **CAR** 1hr 10min Bingo-Ochiai Station (Kisuki Line; includes a switchback along the way) **TRAIN** 2hr 52min Shinji Station (San'in Line) **TRAIN** 15min (Change trains) Izumo City Station; stay the night in Izumo City

DAY 3

Dentetsu-Izumoshi Station **TRAIN** 22min Unshū Hirata Station (try driving a DeHaNi 50 series train after taking a training session! Afterwards, travel to Izumo Oyashiro Shrine on the Ichibata Electric Railway) **TRAIN** 25min Izumo Taisha-mae Station » Izumo Oyashiro Shrine: Visit this ancient shrine known for matchmaking, savor Izumo soba for lunch » Izumo Taisha-mae Station **TRAIN** 25min Dentetsu-Izumoshi Station » Izumo City Station **TRAIN** 3hr 15min Okayama Station **BULLET TRAIN** 45min Shin-Osaka Station

LEARN MORE

About The Chūgoku Region

CHŪGOKU REGION TOURISM GUIDE

Multi-language guide to the whole of the Chūgoku Region.



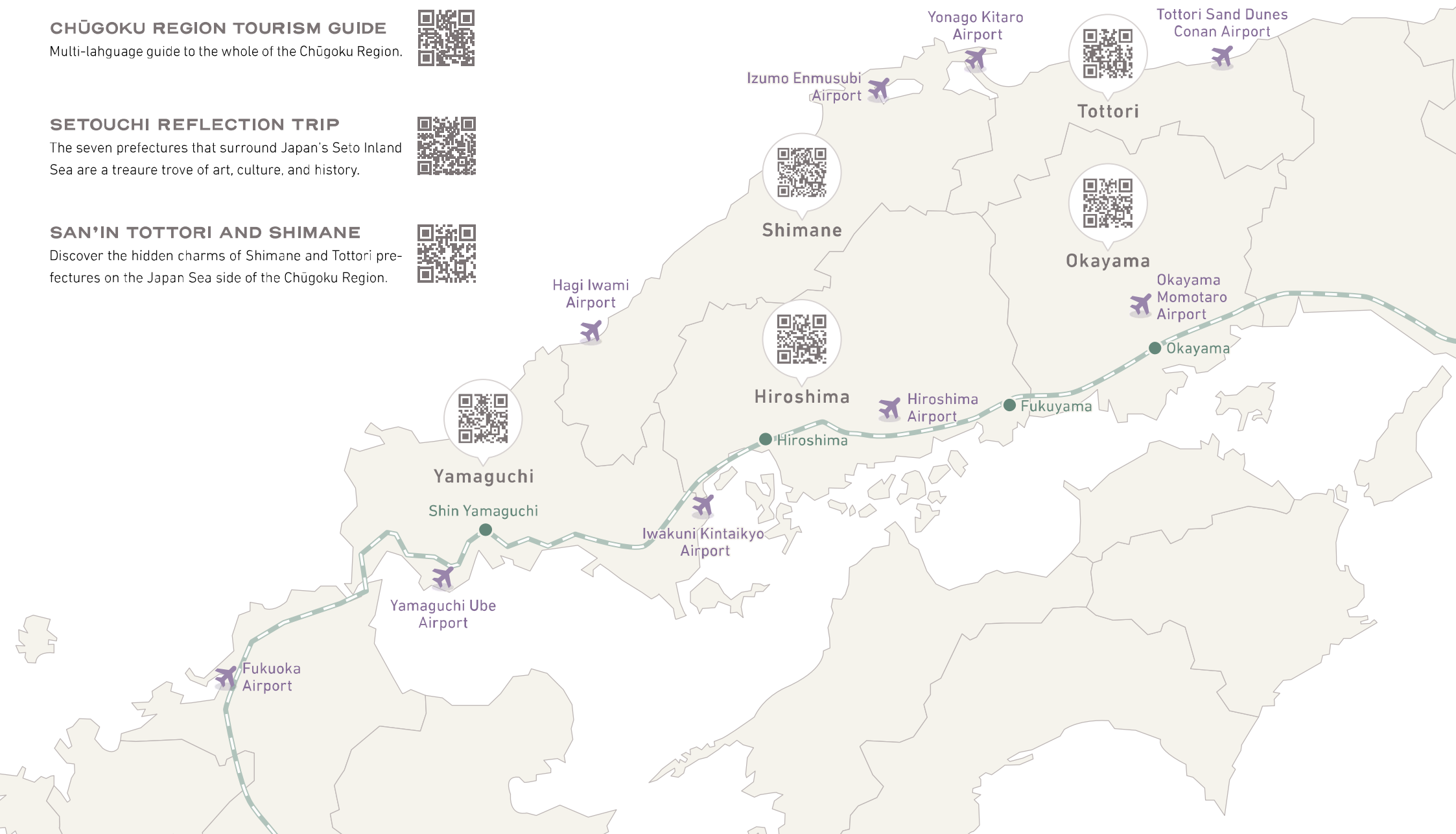
SETOUCHI REFLECTION TRIP

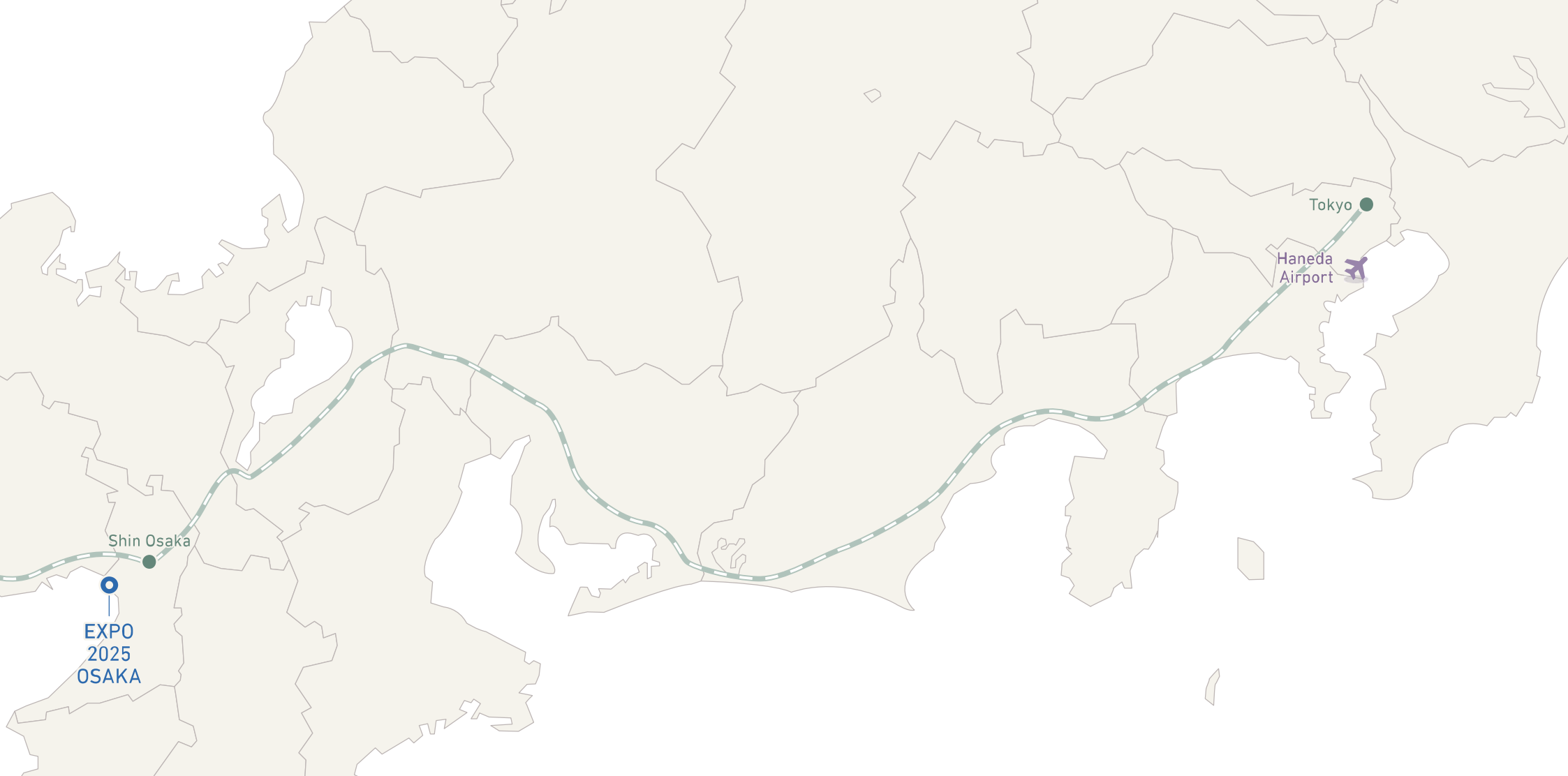
The seven prefectures that surround Japan's Seto Inland Sea are a treasure trove of art, culture, and history.



SAN'IN TOTTORI AND SHIMANE

Discover the hidden charms of Shimane and Tottori prefectures on the Japan Sea side of the Chūgoku Region.





By air	
From Haneda	Travel time
Okayama Momotaro Airport	1 hr 35min
Yamaguchi Ube Airport	1 hr 40min
Izumo Enmusubi Airport	1 hr 20min
Hagi Iwami Airport	1 hr 30min
Yonago Kitano Airport	1 hr 20min
Tottori Sand Dunes Conan Airport	1 hr 15min

By Bullet Train (Shinkansen)	
From Shin Osaka Station	Travel time
Okayama Station	50min
Fukuyama Station	1 hr 7min
Hiroshima Station	1 hr 25min
Shin Yamaguchi Station	1 hr 52min-2hr 35min



Japan. Endless Discovery.