

Seto-Ohashi Bridge

SETOUCHI highlight

Variety of Inland Sea of Japan 2020



Highlight of the tour

<Included Hands-on Experience>

Day3: Udon cooking class for Lunch @Takayama

Day7: Make-up brush factory @ Hiroshima



Dates

No.	Arrival Date	Departure Date
1	18-Mar-20	28-Mar-20
2	1-Apr-20	11-Apr-20
3	15-Apr-20	25-Apr-20
4	29-Apr-20	9-May-20
5	13-May-20	23-May-20
6	27-May-20	6-Jun-20
7	24-Jun-20	4-Jul-20
8	22-Jul-20	1-Aug-20
9	26-Aug-20	5-Sep-20
10	9-Sep-20	19-Sep-20
11	7-Oct-20	17-Oct-20
12	21-Oct-20	31-Oct-20
13	11-Nov-20	21-Nov-20

ITINERARY

Day 1: Kansai or Itami apt. - Osaka

Upon arrival at Kansai or Itami airport, meet your English speaking staff at the arrival lobby and he/she will take you to the limited express train (from Kansai) or limousine bus (from Itami) to Osaka station (train or limousine bus ticket will be given from the assistant). After arrived at Osaka station, check in Hotel Granvia Osaka on your own. The hotel is connected to the station. Free at leisure for the rest of the day. **[Meals: No meals included]**

*The information of your assembling time on Day 2 will be delivered to your room on this day.

Day 2: Osaka – Kyoto - Osaka

Enjoy your breakfast at the hotel. You will meet your fellow travellers and the English speaking guide, and start the tour of Osaka and Kyoto. The tour will visit Umeda Floating Garden Observatory with the height of 173m. After enjoying the view of whole Osaka city the tour will proceed to Dotonbori, Osaka's gourmet and entertainment district. Osaka is famous for its local food such as "Okonomiyaki" (Japanese style pancake) or "Takoyaki" (dumplings with octopus). Those local foods are reasonable and please enjoy for lunch while having free time there.

The tour will continue to Kyoto to show you the historical capital of Japan. Visit Kinkaku-ji temple, being famous for the golden pavilion, and Ryoanji temple.

Kinkakuji is the Buddhist temple originally constructed in 1397 by Ashikaga shogun(commander in chief of Samurai administration), and new building was built in 1955 after original has been burnt down by arson. Then visit Ryoanji temple which is famous for beautifully shaped stone garden. The guide will escort you back to Osaka.

For the dinner, gather as the group for welcome dinner.

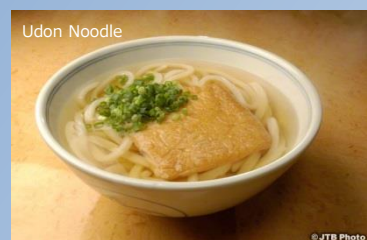
[Meals: BB, DD] *walking level 🐾🐾🐾

Day 3: Osaka – Takamatsu

This morning leave Osaka by the "Shinkansen" (super express train) and local train for Takamatsu, one of the gate cities to Shikoku Island. On the way there, the train passes the Seto-Ohashi Bridge. This bridge, being finished the construction in 1988, for the first time connected the main land of Japan and Shikoku Island by the land route. **Your will have chance to make your own lunch udon noodles**, which is local specialty of Kagawa prefecture. Please enjoy a walking tour inside Ritsurin Park, highly noted for its beautiful landscape.

Check in to your hotel and free at leisure for the rest of the day.

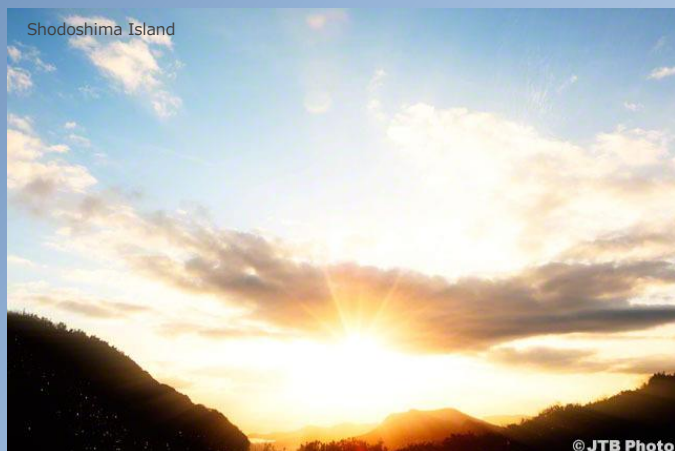
[Meals: BB, LL] *walking level 🐾🐾



Day 4: Takamatsu – Shodoshima Island - Takamatsu

This day will be your first day to visit one of the islands of the Inland sea of Japan. Take a ferry from Takamatsu port to Shodoshima Island, which is famous for olives and soy sauce. After strolling around the Olive Garden which has 100 years history to learn the historical connection between Japan and olives, continue to view the island from atop of Kankakei valley. Afterwards learn how soy sauces are made at a soy sauce factory museum, so that you can deeply learn the Japanese cuisine. Take the ferry back to Takamatsu port to return to your hotel and enjoy the rest of the day free at leisure.

[Meals: BB] *walking level 🐾🐾🐾



ITINERARY

Day 5: Takamatsu - Matsuyama

In the morning, take a local express train to Matsuyama, another city on Shikoku island. This city has Dogo district, where is famous for having one of the oldest hot springs in Japan. This area appears in a novel written by Soseki Natsume, a famous writer in late 19th century, and now has sightsee spot connected to the novel called "Botchan". The hotel you will stay is located right in the center of Matsuyama city, so you can enjoy strolling out for dinner tonight.

[Meals: BB] *walking level 🐾🐾



Day 6: Matsuyama - Hiroshima

The tour starts to move to Hiroshima, located on the Honshu main island. Take a superjet ferry to Hiroshima port, to visit Peace Memorial Park and Museum in Hiroshima city center.

Hiroshima was severely damaged by the world's first atomic bomb at the end of WW II, but the residents made a great effort to recover the town and now became the biggest city in this region. This park and museum were constructed to keep and pass the history and the preciousness of peace. After enjoying "Okonomiyaki" pancake lunch, transfer to the hotel to stay free at leisure.

[Meals: BB, LL, DD] *walking level 🐾🐾🐾



Day 7: Hiroshima - Kurashiki - Okayama

Today start the tour by visiting a makeup-brush making factory on the way to Kurashiki. Visit Kurashiki by local train to stroll around Bikan Historical Quarter which used to be the center of goods transportation. There you can enjoy lots of classical warehouses constructed with white and black walls, most of which are well preserved along the river. Followed by Ohara Art Museum which has been built in 1930, head to Okayama city to visit Okayama castle and stay at hotel in Okayama

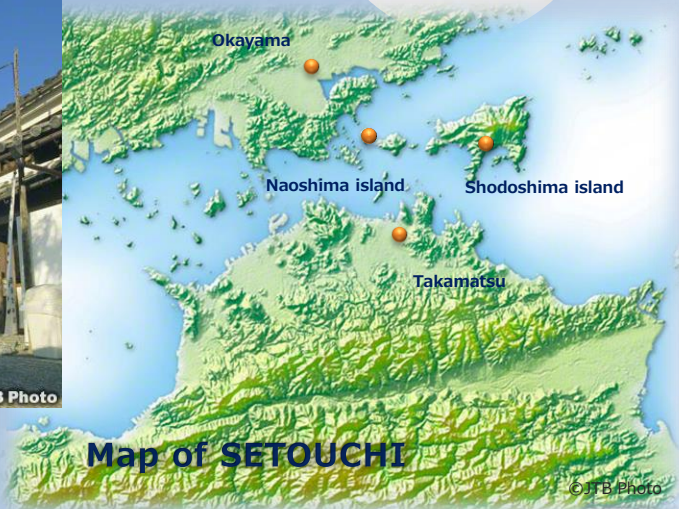
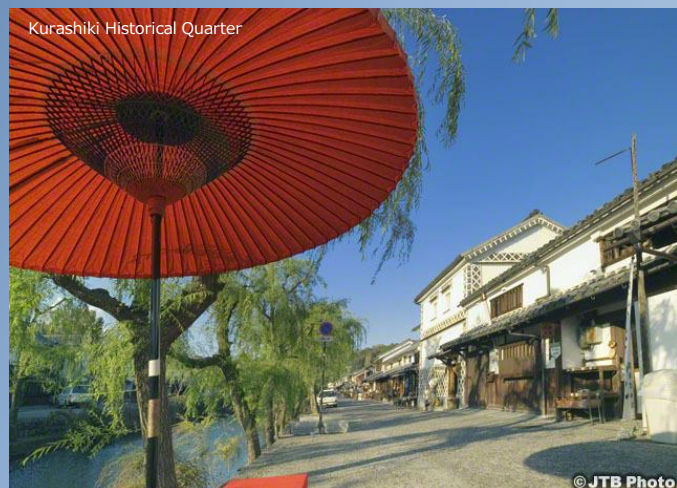
[Meals: BB] *walking level 🐾🐾🐾



Day 8: Okayama - Naoshima - Okayama

Enjoy a day trip to Naoshima on Japan's Inland Sea on this day. Naoshima is well known as the island featuring modern art. After enjoying your lunch at the restaurant in Benesse House visit Chichu Art Museum and "Ie" (Japanese traditional houses) project exhibitions,. After the visit return to the hotel and enjoy for the rest of the day.

[Meals: BB] *walking level 🐾🐾🐾



ITINERARY

From Day 9, your optional choices will be embodied.

Main Group

Himeji & Kyoto

Day 9: Okayama – Himeji – Kyoto

Take a Shinkansen to Himeji station. In Himeji there is a white beautiful castle registered as the UNESCO World Heritage site. Constructed in 1346 it still remains the original building and hence regarded as the National Treasure of Japan. Please enjoy the walking tour of the castle from the station. After lunch at the local restaurant transfer to Kyoto to spend the afternoon free at leisure.

[Meals: BB] *walking level  



Himeji Castle

Day 10: Kyoto

Spend the day free at leisure. You may join sunrise tours. Please be ready to join our farewell dinner all together with those who went on the Matsue option.

[Meals: BB, DD] *walking level

MATSUE Option

Matsue & Izumo

Day 9: Okayama – Izumo – Matsue

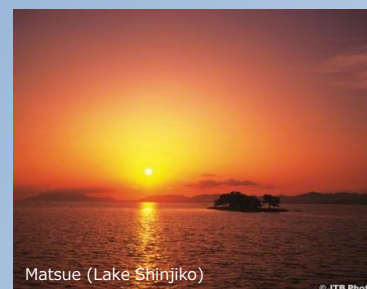
Early in the morning, hop on a local express towards Izumo and Matsue. Arriving at Izumo city, visit the Izumo shrine which is known for holding a meeting once a year that myriad of gods from all over Japan attends. Then transfer back to Matsue city, located on the shore of Shinji Lake. Visit another castle here to see how the city is located ashore the lake.

[Meals: BB] *walking level   

Day 10: Matsue – Yasugi – Kyoto

In the morning, visit Shiominawate district, a remaining area of Matsue castle town. This area is also chosen as one of the hundred roads in Japan, for having traditional landscape of this castle town. After that the tour takes you to the final venue, Adachi Museum of Art. Located in a rural area, the art from the window includes the landscape itself as the part of it. With 6 divisions of the style, the garden has an area of 16 thousand square meters. This museum is awarded 3 stars by Michelin Green Guide Japon and Guide Bleu Japon. After the museum, have lunch before taking the train back to Kyoto to join the farewell dinner in Kyoto.

[Meals: BB, LL, DD] *walking level   



Matsue (Lake Shinjiko)



Shiominawate district

Day 11: Kyoto – Kansai or Itami apt.

Transfer to Kansai or Itami airport by shuttle taxi with your luggage. Your room is available until regular check our time.

[Meals: No meals included]

<Note>

*Your luggage will be transported from Osaka to Takamatsu on Day 3, Takamatsu to Hiroshima on Day 5, and Okayama to Kyoto on Day 9 separately. Please prepare overnight bags for the stay on Day 4, 6, 10.

*If the number of participant is 10 people or less the tour may be organized by public transportation except for on Day 4, 6, 10.

LINK TO CENTRAL JAPAN

If you are interested in Japan more, choose "Spritual Heart of Central Japan" tour and use "Link" day to start Setouchi Highlight. Assistant will bring you to Osaka when the other tour ends so that you can join this group.

Spritual Heart of Central Japan will take you around Central Japan from Tokyo, visiting Kusatsu hot spring, Nagano, Kanazawa, Takayama, Kyoto, and Ise or Nara with Sendai pre tour.