Visit Hiroshima, a land of peace, hope and endless appeal.

Times from Hiroshima Station to other major stations

To JR Miyajimaguchi Sta.  Approx. 30 min.
To JR Onomichi Sta.  Approx. 1 hr.
To JR Fukuyama Sta.  Approx. 35 min.
To JR Saijo Sta.  Approx. 35 min.

Access chart
Visit HIROSHIMA

An endless history connected by the maritime Silk Road. Activities pursued on island after island, made possible by modern technology. The warm climate of the inland sea. The abundant natural blessings that come from the weather of the plains, plateaus, basins and mountains. Beautiful scenery. Agricultural and marine foods. The colors of spring flowers, the blue of summer, the colors of autumn and the harvest, and the unbroken white of snow in the winter. Pure spring water and the magnificent sound of a waterfall. The moon and stars reflected in the peaceful sea. The feeling of standing in Hiroshima, a land dedicated to peace. The culture, folk entertainment and handicrafts of the people of Hiroshima living their lives right in front of you.

As evidenced by the number of people who visit, in Hiroshima, you can have any kind of trip you like.
MIYAJIMA

Miyajima is one of the three scenic views of Japan, along with Matsushima and Amanohashidate. The entire island is revered as a holy land that is home to kami, and it flourished as a maritime transportation hub in the Heian era (794-1185) and as one of Japan’s leading tourist destinations since the Edo period (1603-1868).

HIROSHIMA

Hiroshima developed as a military center beginning in the Meiji era (1868-1912), and it was the first city in the world to have a nuclear bomb dropped on it, during World War II. The city made a strong recovery and now continues to spread a message of peace to the world.

SAIJO

As one of Hiroshima’s leading sake-producing areas, Saijo has seven long-standing sake breweries within a 1-kilometer area known as Sakagura-dori (sake brewery street) that continue to brew rice wine. White plaster walls, black “namako kabe” walls and houses with lattices of evenly spaced vertical timber bars combine to create elegant scenery.

ONOMICHI

Onomichi once flourished as a key point for shipping, and its good old-fashioned townscapes with lots of hills is a popular tourist destination. In recent years cafes and shops have opened in renovated storehouses and vacant homes, giving the area a new charm.

TOMONOURA

Tomonoura, which is certified as Japan Heritage, is a tourist attraction that retains vestiges of the time when it flourished as a port city in modern times. Its townscapes have a gentle, soothing ambiance.
This shrine was built more than 1,400 years ago and its buildings, said to have been constructed by the military commander Taira no Kiyomori some 800 years earlier, are in a linked-corridors style. As a symbol of Miyajima, one of the three scenic views of Japan, Itsukushima Shrine was registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996, along with the Hiroshima Peace Memorial. The shrine has many structures that are national treasures and important cultural properties, as well as much art and crafts. The tides and scenery that changes with the four seasons accentuate the mysticism of this site.
Daishoin Temple

Daishoin is the oldest temple in Miyajima and is said to have been founded by the monk Kukai, the originator of Shingon Buddhism. It was visited by great men including Toyotomi Hideyoshi, who is called the most successful person of the Sengoku era, and today about 500,000 people visit it per year. When pilgrims climb the stairs lined with prayer wheels and statues of the Five Hundred Disciples of the Buddha and arrive at the gate for honored persons, they are greeted by Henjokutsu Cave, which has the same effect as the henro pilgrimage, and the dazzling Maniden Hall.

Mt. Misen

As the highest peak on Miyajima, this mountain has been worshipped since ancient times. Its primeval forest is a nationally designated natural monument, and the mountain’s summit affords a magnificent view of the Seto Inland Sea and the islands in it. Japan’s first prime minister Ito Hirobumi said, “The view from the summit is what makes Miyajima one of the three great views of Japan.”

Momijidani Park

This park spreads out along a ravine and the Momijidani River at the foot of Mt. Misen. The land was reclaimed in the Edo period (1603-1868) and damaged by a typhoon in 1945. It was subsequently restored and made into the erosion control park it is today. The autumn scenery consisting of 700 trees that change color all at once is worthy of being called “magnificent natural beauty.” The best time to see it is in mid-November.

Bugaku dance

Bugaku is a traditional dance accompanied by court music handed down to Japan from India, China, and the Korean Peninsula around the 5th to 9th centuries. The dancers sometimes perform wearing masks known as bugakumen, and the music developed into court music among the nobility. The military commander Taira no Kiyomori reportedly brought bugaku from Shitennoji Temple in Osaka to Miyajima.

Sea kayaking

Set off in the open sea in a sea kayak, head for Itsukushima Shrine’s great torii gate and take in the view of it from the water. You can get up close to this torii you’ve been looking at from a distance. When this enormous symbol of Itsukushima Shrine is right before your eyes, you will feel the aura of the shrine precincts that have traveled across eons and have a one-of-a-kind experience.
Hiroshima Peace Memorial (UNESCO World Heritage Site)

This is a bombed structure that conveys the cruelty of nuclear weapons. This structure damaged by a nuclear bomb looks almost the same as it did just after the bombing, and after the war, it was preserved as a peace monument. It was registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996, and for ages has been an international symbol of the abolition of nuclear weapons and the importance of perpetual peace.
The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum was opened to tell later generations about the disastrous scene that occurred when an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. In addition to displaying photographs, as well as clothing, wristwatches, and other items that were owned by the deceased and donated by citizens, it also introduces the historical background to the atomic bombing and peace initiatives.

This park was created near ground zero of the atomic bomb with a wish for world peace. Designed by architect Kenzo Tange, it is full of monuments to peace such as the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Atomic Bomb Memorial Mound; and a Peace Bell rung each Aug. 6 during the Peace Memorial Ceremony.

This is a memorial to the victims of the atomic bomb and war and a Christian church built with a wish for world peace. Hugo Enomiya-Lassalle, a priest who was injured by the atomic bomb in Hiroshima, built the church with the cooperation of people around the world. Architect Togo Murano designed it and it was completed in 1954.

This garden was built for the villa of Hiroshima daimyo Asano Nagaakira. Tea expert and Asano chief retainer Ueda Soko created the garden. There are islands of various sizes in the pond in the center of the garden, and a path around the pond with a cleverly placed ravine, bridge and arbor.

Mori Terumoto, one of Toyotomi Hideyoshi’s Council of Five Elders, built this castle on the plains. The castle tower that was designated a national treasure was collapsed by the atomic bomb but rebuilt in 1958. The sight of it gave courage to citizens rebuilding the city. Its interior is now a history museum focused on Hiroshima.

From this location just east of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, you can view Hiroshima’s two UNESCO World Heritage Sites. From an open-air observation deck, you can not only see the streets of Hiroshima but also, on a clear day, look out over Mt. Misen on Miyajima. There are also a products museum and a cafe, so it’s a place where you can eat and see and experience Hiroshima.
Senkoji Temple
This is a Shingon Buddhism temple the monk Kukai reportedly founded in 806. The main hall painted a vivid vermillion and the bell tower that was chosen as one of the “100 Select Soundscapes of Japan” are famous symbols. A park surrounds the temple, and you can see the beautiful streets of Onomichi from the temple grounds.

Kosanji Museum (Kosanji Temple)
Industrialist Kozo Kosanji built this temple out of appreciation for his mother. Temple buildings that incorporate the traditional style of Buddhist architecture stand in a row, and they are linked to a museum exhibiting Kozo Kosanji’s precious art collection and to a white marble garden called Miraishin no Oka (the Hill of Hope).

Shimanami Kaido cycling
This is a cycling road that links islands in the Seto Inland Sea using seven bridges. Enjoy the natural scenery on the 70-kilometer journey in this “cycling holy land.”
This area is known for the seven sake breweries crowded together on the east side of Saijo Station. There are retro western-style houses, red-brick chimneys, a group of breweries with thick, earthen walls, houses with lattices of evenly spaced vertical timber bars and other elements from long ago remaining here, and visitors can tour the breweries and compare the local sakes while steeping in the nostalgic ambiance.

Fukuzenji is a Shingon Buddhism temple said to have been built in the Heian period (794-1185). Taichoro was built adjacent to Fukuzenji around 1690 as a place for the Joseon missions to Japan to stay. Through its wide-open windows, Benten Island is visible in the front and Sensui Island in the rear, so visitors can view island scenery. The scene composed of the garden and scenery, which were praised by the Korean high officials, is as beautiful as a painting.

This building, which was a brewery of medicinal alcoholic beverages made in Tomonoura from the Edo period (1603-1868), is a government-designated important cultural property. The beautiful garden and Japanese architectural styles inside the house are a visual treat for visitors.
**OTHER AREAS**

**Okunoshima Island**
This small island is about 15 minutes by boat from Tadanoumi Port in Takehara. There once was a poison gas factory there, but it became a national park and today is inhabited by 700 rabbits. Many people visit the island for its multifaceted nature and soothing effect.

**Sandankyo Gorge**
This 16 kilometer gorge has been designated a national place of exceptional scenic beauty. With its course containing five waterfalls, two deep pools and a series of countless other picturesque sights, the beautiful scenery created by nature instills the air with a serenity that could be said to be the prototype for Japanese-style gardens. Sandankyo Gorge is popular for its moderate-length trail and boat cruises.

**Kagura (ancient Shinto music and dancing) of Hiroshima**
In a time when there were few amusements, a court music pavilion would be set up on the grounds of a shrine and the entire village would enjoy ancient Shinto music and dancing as an important annual event. The music and dancing were performed as a prayer to the gods and with a feeling of gratitude. Today this tradition is carried on by close to 300 active kagura troupes in Hiroshima Prefecture.
GOURMET

Oysters
Hiroshima, which has all the favorable conditions for oyster growth including gentle waves and tidal currents, boasts the top production volume in Japan, and its oysters’ abundant meat and rich, delicious flavor are a big draw. They can be grilled, deep-fried or eaten in any other of many ways.

Conger eel rice
This is a famous gourmet item long-beloved in Miyajima. Whole, plump, roasted conger eels are boiled with flavored bone stock, then combined with rice soaked in sauce. This combination really stimulates the appetite. It is also popular as a bento that can be eaten cold.

Okonomiyaki
This local cuisine of Hiroshima is made by topping wheat-flour batter with cabbage, bean sprouts, pork and other ingredients and then grilling it. Hiroshima’s okonomiyaki differs from that of the Kansai region in that the toppings are just placed on top without mixing them with the batter. The way the cabbage is cut and the seasonings also are different.

Onomichi ramen
These are local noodles of Onomichi. The soy-sauce-based soup that combines stock taken from small fish caught in the Seto Inland Sea with minced back fat is rich and full-bodied and mixes well with the flat noodles. There are many longstanding Onomichi ramen shops in the city offering the same taste they always have.
SOUVENIRS

Setouchi Lemons

Lemons raised in the gentle climate of the Seto Inland Sea not only have the highest production volume in Japan, but care is also taken about their flavor and safety, and they have achieved popularity under the name “Setouchi Lemons.” There are also many processed foods such as juice and snacks made using these lemons.

From left, seasonings blended with lemon juice, lemon rinds and chili peppers. Cake with lemon jam kneaded into the dough. A flavoring consisting of fermented lemon juice, rinds and salt. Squid tempura that allows you to enjoy the delicious taste of lemon. *The photo is for illustrative purposes only.

Momiji manju

The moderate sweetness and unaffected flavor of this cake consisting of sweet bean paste wrapped in baked sponge cake are perfect for tea time. Chocolate, matcha and cheese-cream flavored versions also are popular.

Famous cake

Kumano brushes

Traditional brushes hand-crafted in Kumano, Aki district. They have been made since the Edo period (1603-1868) during farmers’ slack season, and that skill has been handed down to the present. The quality of the calligraphy, painting and makeup brushes is recognized in Japan and abroad, making this Kumano craft famous around the world.

Oysters

The oysters that grow in the abundant Seto Inland Sea are rich, sweet and loaded with nutrition. Many processed foods high in quality and safety are made of oysters that have cleared strict shipping standards, and many are popular as souvenirs or gifts for back home.

From left, savory grilled oysters packed in corn oil. A dish made by pickling oysters and ripe seaweed-salt lemon in olive oil. Soy sauce with the delicious flavor of oysters. Baked rice crackers topped with oyster. *The photo is for illustrative purposes only.

Local sake

Saijo sake

Saijo is known as one of the leading sake-producing localities because of its climate, which is well-suited to brewing, and water quality. Longstanding breweries are fussy about the best rice, water and chief brewers, and the put out many excellent local sake.

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Toy

Hatsukaichi kendama

This traditional Japanese toy got its start when the French bilboquet was improved in the Taisho period (1912-1926) and renamed michigetsu ball. The inventor, Hamaji Egusa, visited Hatsukaichi, a city that contains Miyajima, and asked that it be produced. This led to it being known as the birthplace of the kendama.

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2 Day, 1 Night Plan
Touring UNESCO World Heritage Sites — Golden Route

Day 1
Your trip will begin with enjoying the beauty of a garden at the famous Shukkei-en １. At the Assumption of Mary Cathedral ２, you’ll inspect the magnificent architecture, and for lunch enjoy the renowned dish okonomiyaki ３ at Okonomimura. After eating, you will tour facilities in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park ４, then head for the new and famous Hiroshima Orizuru Tower ５. After enjoying yourself with shopping and the viewing platform, you’ll watch the traditional entertainment kagura ６, then call it a day.

Day 2
The second day will start with a cruise ７ for Miyajima that connects the two UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Hiroshima Peace Memorial and Itsukushima Shrine ０. After you experience getting up close to the great torii in a sea kayak ８, you’ll eat the local dish conger eel rice ９. For the finale, climb Mt. Misen 10 and see the beautiful scenery from the summit. And very last, you’ll return to Hiroshima city and eat as many rich, delicious Hiroshima oysters 11 as you like to end your trip.

3 Day, 2 Night Plan
See the beauty of multiple islands — Beautiful Scenery Route

Day 1
First, you’ll head for Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park １ to learn about the peace city of Hiroshima. At Hiroshima Orizuru Tower ２, take your time looking at the streets of Hiroshima before eating a lunch of rich, delicious oysters ３. In the afternoon, visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site Itsukushima Shrine ４ and climb to the summit of Mt. Misen ５. Enjoy the superb views while descending, then spend the night in an inn on the island.

Day 2
On the second day, you’ll return to the city, then head for Onomichi. Use the ropeway ６ to visit Senkoji Temple ７, then for lunch have Onomichi ramen ８, which locals have loved for many years. In the afternoon you’ll get a bicycle and go cycling ９ on the Shimanami Kaido. You’ll be soothed by the beauty of nature while riding through the islands of the Seto Inland Sea.

Day 3
On the last day, you’ll take a sightseeing flight １０ to enjoy the view of the Seto Inland Sea from the air, then travel to Tomonoura. For lunch eat a dish of sea bream １１, caught with traditional net fishing. After eating, you’ll see the process of manufacturing medicinal alcoholic beverages at the Residence of the Ota Family １２, an important cultural property, then wrap up your trip by looking out over the scenery of Tomonoura from Ijji Temple １３.
First get your fill of the magnificent scenery of the Seto Inland Sea while paddling a sea kayak from Tomonoura, then for lunch enjoy local dishes made using small fish and other locally harvested ingredients. After eating, travel to the Shinshoji Zen Museum and Gardens, where you will experience art and zen. After going by ferry to Sensui Island and experiencing the grandeur of nature, see the refined architecture of the Edo period at the Residence of the Ota Family, then spend the night at Tomonoura.

On the second day, travel to Onomichi. Take in the scenery of the Seto Inland Sea from the ocean and the sky on an amphibious aircraft sightseeing flight, then for lunch eat superb local dishes made using fish made strong by the tidal currents of the Seto Inland Sea. In the afternoon, set off for a cycling tour on the Shimanami Kaido. While crossing the bridges connecting the islands, experience the history, culture and abundant nature of the Seto Inland Sea, then return to Onomichi and stay in an inn with a view of the port.

At the start of the third day, use the ropeway to visit Senkoji Temple, then take a stroll in the park that surrounds it. After that, travel to Saijo, one of Japan's leading sake localities and tour the longstanding breweries of Saijo Sakaguradori Street. For lunch try Bishunabe, a hot pot dish that was a sake brewery workers’ meal, then taste and compare different kinds of sake. In preparation for the final day's itinerary, travel to Hiroshima to spend the night.

First, visit the Assumption of Mary Cathedral and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park to experience the message of peace Hiroshima sends out to the rest of the world. Travel to Miyajima by ferry, and enjoy the local dish of conger eel rice for lunch. Visit Itsukushima Shrine, which has a mysterious appearance as it stands in the ocean. Finally, wrap up your trip by learning about Japanese culture with a workshop program that includes the tea ceremony, calligraphy and kimonos.