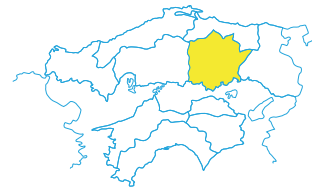


OKAYAMA



Okayama Korakuen Garden MAP 18



Okayama Korakuen Garden, built some 300 years ago as a garden belonging to the area's daimyo (domain lord), is one of Japan's three great gardens and represents the once-great power of the samurai. This garden has been awarded 3 stars by the Michelin Green Guide Japan. *Opening hours vary according to season.

■ Admission: General 400 yen, Seniors 140 yen (65 and older) ■ Access: 15 minutes by bus from JR Okayama Sta. to "Korakuen-mae" bus stop
 ■ Location: 1-5 Korakuen, Kita Ward, Okayama ■ Contact: +81-86-272-1148
 Website: <http://okayama-korakuen.jp/english/>

Okayama Castle MAP 20



Towering right next to Okayama Korakuen Garden is Okayama Castle, one of Japan's top 100 castles. The costume rental facilities, offering visitors the chance to experience the castle as a feudal lord or a princess, are popular destinations. *Opening dates and hours vary according to season.

■ Admission: General 300 yen, Students 120 yen (elementary and junior high) ■ Access: 15 minutes by bus from JR Okayama Sta. to "Kencho-mae" bus stop ■ Location: 2-3-1 Marunouchi, Kita Ward, Okayama
 ■ Contact: Okayama Castle Office, +81-86-225-2096
 Website: <http://okayama-kanko.net/ujo/english/index.html>

Bizen Pottery Gallery Walk MAP 22



Pottery is often called the art of the flame. On this gallery walk, visitors can visit the various galleries scattered around Imbe Station in search of their favorite flame-crafted artwork.

■ Access: Near JR Imbe Sta. ■ Location: Imbe, Bizen, Okayama
 ■ Contact: Bizen Tourism Association, +81-869-72-1919
 Website: <http://bizen-kanko.com/>

Inujima Seirensho Art Museum MAP 19



Photo:Daici Ano

Inujima Seirensho Art Museum is a museum that preserves and repurposes the remains of a copper refinery. The inside of the museum is kept comfortable with only natural energy and zero electricity used.

*Opening dates and hours vary according to season.

■ Admission: 2,060 yen *Combined ticket for Inujima "Art House Project" and Seaside Inujima Gallery ■ Access: 10 minutes by liner from Houden Port ■ Location: 327-4 Inujima, Higashi Ward, Okayama ■ Contact: +81-86-947-1112 Website: <http://benesse-artsite.jp/en/art/seirensho.html>

Okayama Station Shopping Area MAP 21



Okayama Station is a convenient base for shopping thanks to its collection of large shopping malls, department stores, and electronics stores. Shoppers can also find souvenir shops inside the station.

■ Access: Near JR Okayama Sta. ■ Location: Okayama City
 ■ Website: <https://www.okayama-japan.jp/en/spot/genre/shopping>

Bizen Osafune Japanese Sword Museum MAP 23



Located in Osafune—the sword capital of Japan, known for both its quality and quantity of sword production—the Bizen Osafune Japanese Sword Museum is dedicated to exhibiting Japanese swords. With temperatures reaching 1,300 degrees Celsius and sparks flying through the air, the metal workshop demonstration is an exciting experience for visitors. *Closed Monday and the day following a holiday (closed temporarily during exhibition exchanges).

■ Admission: General 500 yen, Students 300 yen (senior high and university) ■ Access: 7 minutes by taxi from JR Osafune Sta. ■ Location: 966 Osafune-cho, Setouchi, Okayama ■ Contact: +81-869-66-7767
 Website: <http://www.city.setouchi.lg.jp/token/>

Kurashiki Bikan Historical Area MAP 24



With the white 'Namako-kabe' walls (covered with square tiles joined with raised plaster) and latticed windows of townhouses lining the streets, the Kurashiki Bikan Historical Area offers visitors a look at the charming beauty of traditional Japanese architecture. Rather than walking, the view from the Kurashiki Funenagashi riverboat cruise offers visitors a different perspective from which to enjoy the townscape.

■ Access: 10 minutes on foot from JR Kurashiki Sta.
 ■ Location: 1-4-8 Chuo Ward, Kurashiki, Okayama
 ■ Contact: Kurashikikan Tourist Information Center, +81-86-422-0542
 Website: <http://www.kurashiki-tabi.jp/for/en/>

Ohara Museum of Art MAP 25



The Ohara Museum of Art, Japan's first museum of modern Western art, gives visitors the chance to paintings and artwork from world-famous artists including Picasso, El Greco, and Renoir. *Opening dates and hours vary according to season.

■ Admission: General 1,300 yen, Students 800 yen (university) / 500 yen (elementary, junior high, and senior high) ■ Access: 15 minutes on foot from JR Kurashiki Sta. ■ Location: 1-1-15 Chuo Ward, Kurashiki, Okayama
 ■ Contact: +81-86-422-0005
 Website: <http://www.ohara.or.jp/200707/eng/menu.html>

Fruit Picking at Tomomien Fruit Farm MAP 27



Try your hand at picking elegantly sweet Muscat and Pione grapes and white peaches. Enjoy as much fresh fruit as you'd like on the spot! *Fruit picking is available from July to October. *Reservation and fee required.

■ Access: 40 minutes by bus from JR Okayama Sta. to "Shimoichi" bus stop, and then 5 minutes on foot ■ Location: 218-1 Kamiichi, Akaiwa, Okayama
 ■ Contact: +81-86-958-5444
 Website: http://www.hakutou.jp/peach-picking/index_en.html

Hiruzen-Kogen Heights Cycling MAP 29



Cyclists will enjoy a refreshing ride while admiring the magnificent natural scenery along this 30 km course with travel limited to bicycles only.

■ Access: 1 hour 15 minutes by community bus from JR Chugoku-Katsuyama Sta. ■ Location: Mikigahara - Hiruzen-Kogen Sports Park, Hiruzen Area, Maniwa, Okayama ■ Contact: Hiruzen Tourism Association, +81-867-66-3220 Website: <http://www.hiruzen.info/>

Seto Ohashi Bridge Cruise MAP 26



Witness the impressive magnificence of the Seto Ohashi Bridge up close while touring the many large and small islands dotting the Seto Inland Sea. These cruises are also a popular way to view the sun setting in the Seto Inland Sea and the night view of factories in the area. *Cruises are available for groups of 3 or more. Service dates and hours vary according to season.

■ Fare: General 1,550 yen, Students 780 yen (elementary) *A separate fee is required for nighttime cruises.
 ■ Access: 5 minutes on foot from JR Kojima Sta. (Kojima Sightseeing Port)
 ■ Location: 3-23 Kojima Ekimae, Kurashiki, Okayama ■ Contact: Seto Ohashi Sightseeing Boat Association, +81-86-473-6777
 Website: <https://www.kurashiki-tabi.jp/for/en/>

Kojima Jeans Street MAP 28



Kojima is the birthplace of Japan's domestic jeans. With its many stores operated by jeans manufacturers, Jeans Street features numerous products with Made-in-Japan distinctiveness.

■ Access: 15 minutes on foot from JR Kojima Sta. ■ Location: Ajino, Kojima, Kurashiki, Okayama ■ Contact: Kojima Jeans Street Cooperative Office, +81-86-441-9127 Website: <http://jeans-street.com/>

Bitchu Matsuyama Castle MAP 30



Located near a 430 m peak, Bitchu Matsuyama Castle is one of Japan's top 100 castles. The castle is famously known as the "Castle in the Sky," as it appears to be floating on a sea of clouds. *Opening dates and times vary according to season.

■ Admission: General 300 yen, Students 150 yen (elementary and junior high) ■ Access: 10 minutes by taxi from JR Bitchu-Takahashi Sta., and then 20 minutes on foot ■ Location: 1 Uchisange, Takahashi, Okayama
 ■ Contact: Takahashi City Tourism Association, +81-866-21-0461
 Website: <http://takahasikanko.or.jp/>