

Charms of Setouchi
Cherry Blossoms



1 Kintaiyo Bridge [Iwakuni City, Yamaguchi] >> P.26
The combination of cherry blossoms and the scenic beauty of the Kintaiyo Bridge make for a beautiful sight. After dark, the gold color of the Kintaiyo Bridge is illuminated to create a truly mystical landscape.



6 Tsuyama Castle (Kakuzan Park) [Tsuyama City, Okayama]

At Tsuyama Castle, the cherry blossoms bloom against the castle's towering stone walls, and as the trees reach full bloom, visitors will feel as if they are floating on a cloud of cherry trees. ■ Access: 10 minutes on foot from JR Tsuyama Sta.



7 Himeji Castle [Himeji City, Hyogo] >> P.16

The gentle soft pink shades of Himeji Castle's numerous cherry trees mix with the white walls of the castle to attract a large number of visitors every year.



3 Senkoji Park [Onomichi City, Hiroshima] >> P.23

In spring, Senkoji Park is filled with cherry trees, and at night, visitors can revel in the glow of paper lanterns illuminating the pink and white blossoms.



2 Hiroshima Castle [Hiroshima City, Hiroshima]

Sometimes called Carp Castle, Hiroshima Castle was built by Terumoto Mori. Inside the castle grounds, visitors will find a cherry blossom-viewing area toward the center where some 480 cherry trees can be seen in bloom. ■ Access: 15 minutes on foot from "Kamiya-cho-higashi" Sta. on the Hiroshima Electric Railway

4 Matsuyama Shiroyama Park [Matsuyama City, Ehime] >> P.24

Visitors are able to enjoy the cherry blossoms blooming in the background of Matsuyama Castle for an extended period as the early blooms are slowly replaced by trees with later blooms. The nighttime illumination of the castle and the cherry blossoms also create a fantastic sight.



5 Dogo Park [Matsuyama City, Ehime]

From early March, some 30 Camellia winter cherry trees begin blooming throughout Yuzuki Castle ruins, and in late March some 370 Yoshino cherry trees begin to bloom. ■ Access: Directly accessible from "Dogoko-en" Sta. on the Iyo Railway



8 Kotohira-gu Shrine [Nakatado District, Kagawa] >> P.32

Kotohira-gu Shrine is home to some 3,500 cherry trees. At the Cherry Blossom Festival held every year on April 10, a procession of Shinto priests and consecrated shrine maidens walk along the Sakura-no-baba (Kotohira-gu Shrine's most widely known cherry blossom-viewing place) under trees in full bloom.



10 Mt. Bizan [Tokushima City, Tokushima]

Come spring, the cherry blossoms in Mt. Bizan's summit park begin to bloom. The cherry blossom's splash of color fuses with the natural landscape of the summit for a magnificent scene that spreads across the mountain. ■ Access: 10 minutes on foot from JR Tokushima Sta. to Awa Odori Hall (5F, Bizan Ropeway Sanroku Sta.), and then 6 minutes to Mt. Bizan summit



11 Mt. Myoken [Naruto City, Tokushima]

The collection of some 500 cherry trees—including wild cherry, double-flowered cherry, and Yoshino cherry trees—makes for a breathtaking sight. ■ Access: 20 minutes on foot from JR Naruto Sta.

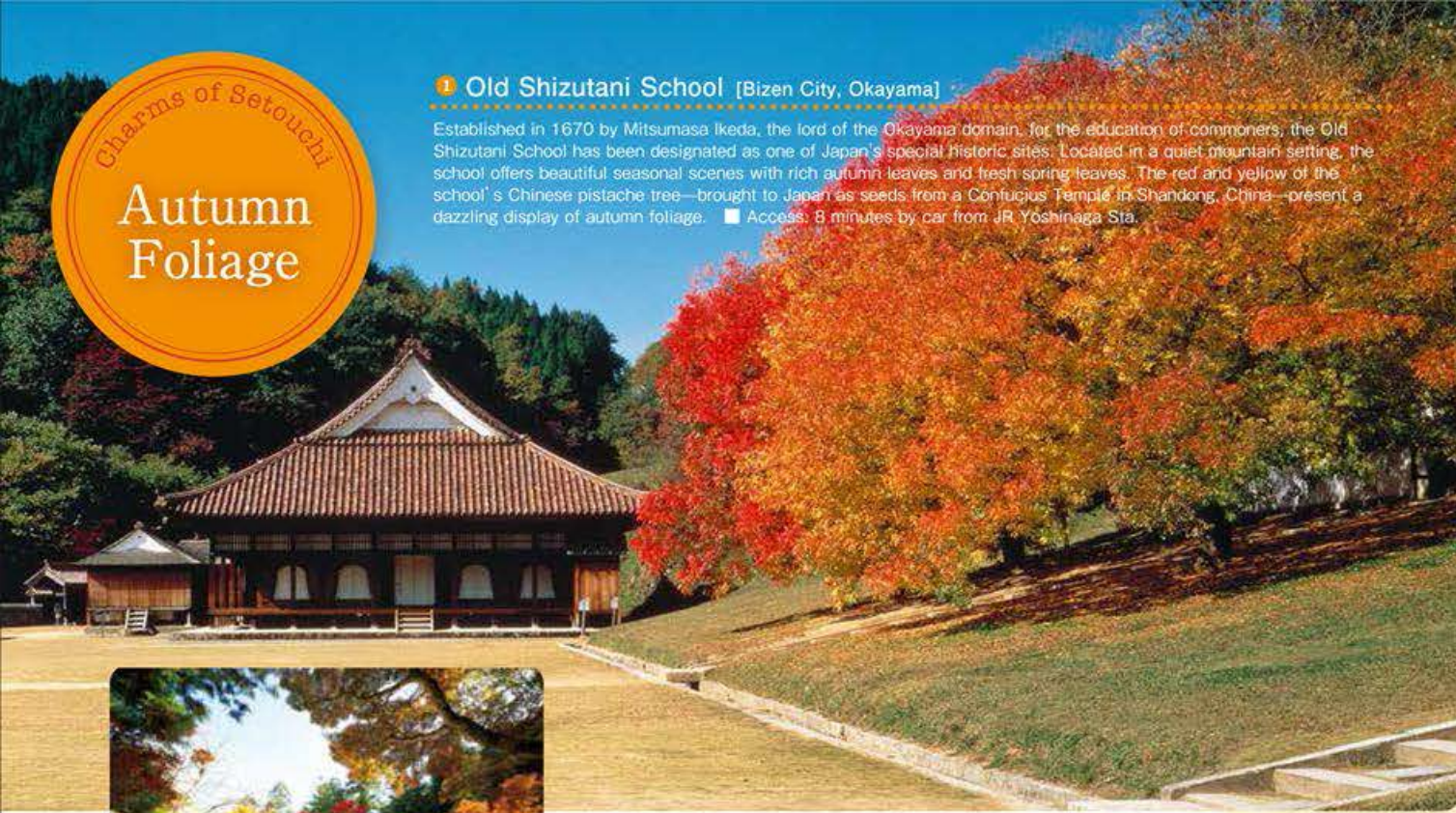


9 Ritsurin Garden [Takamatsu City, Kagawa] >> P.31

The sight of the cherry blossoms against Ritsurin Garden's landscape is awe-inspiring, while the reflection of the cherry blossoms on the surface of the pond combined with the unique landscape of the park are truly awe-inspiring.

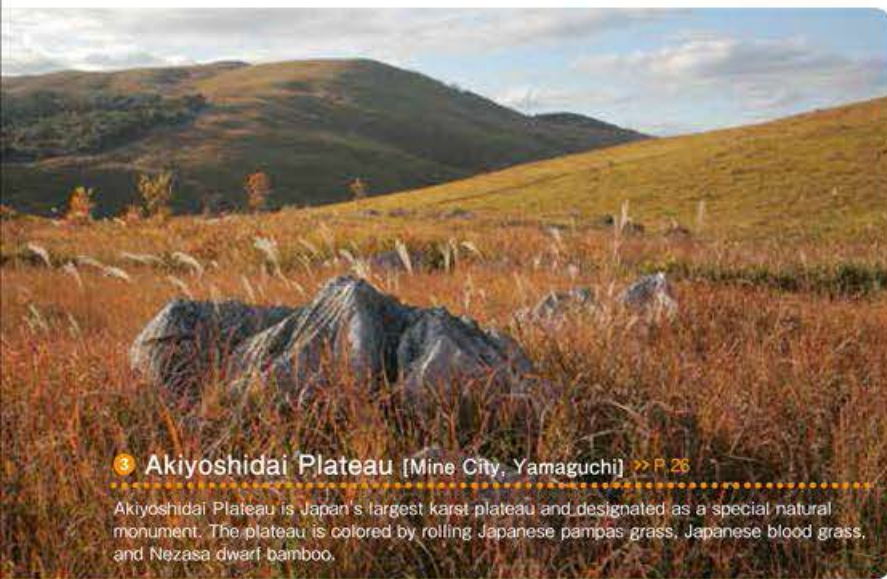
1 Old Shizutani School [Bizen City, Okayama]

Established in 1670 by Mitsumasa Ikeda, the lord of the Okayama domain, for the education of commoners, the Old Shizutani School has been designated as one of Japan's special historic sites. Located in a quiet mountain setting, the school offers beautiful seasonal scenes with rich autumn leaves and fresh spring leaves. The red and yellow of the school's Chinese pistache tree—brought to Japan as seeds from a Confucius Temple in Shandong, China—present a dazzling display of autumn foliage. ■ Access: 8 minutes by car from JR Yoshinaga Sta.



2 Momijidani Park, Miyajima [Miyajima-cho, Hatsukaichi City, Hiroshima]

In autumn, Momijidani Park is painted with the colors of flames as some 700 maple and Japanese maple trees begin to change colors.



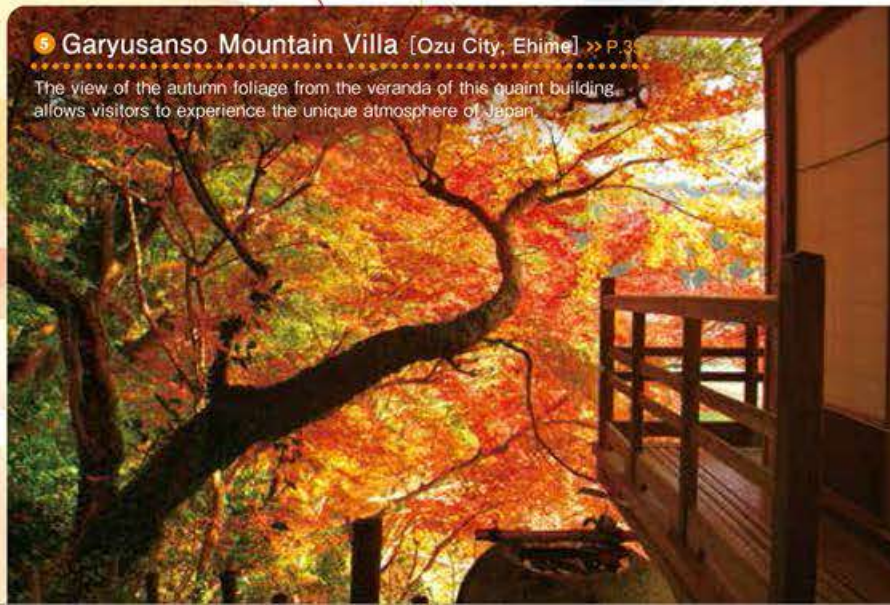
3 Akiyoshidai Plateau [Mine City, Yamaguchi] >> P.26

Akiyoshidai Plateau is Japan's largest karst plateau and designated as a special natural monument. The plateau is colored by rolling Japanese pampas grass, Japanese blood grass, and Nezasa dwarf bamboo.



4 Kozan Park [Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi] >> P.25

The autumn colors of the foliage surrounding Rurikoji Temple's five-story pagoda—one of Japan's three most famous pagodas as well as a national treasure—provide visitors with a scene that exhibits both the traditional beauty and the natural beauty of Japan.



5 Garyusanso Mountain Villa [Ozu City, Ehime] >> P.3

The view of the autumn foliage from the veranda of this quaint building allows visitors to experience the unique atmosphere of Japan.

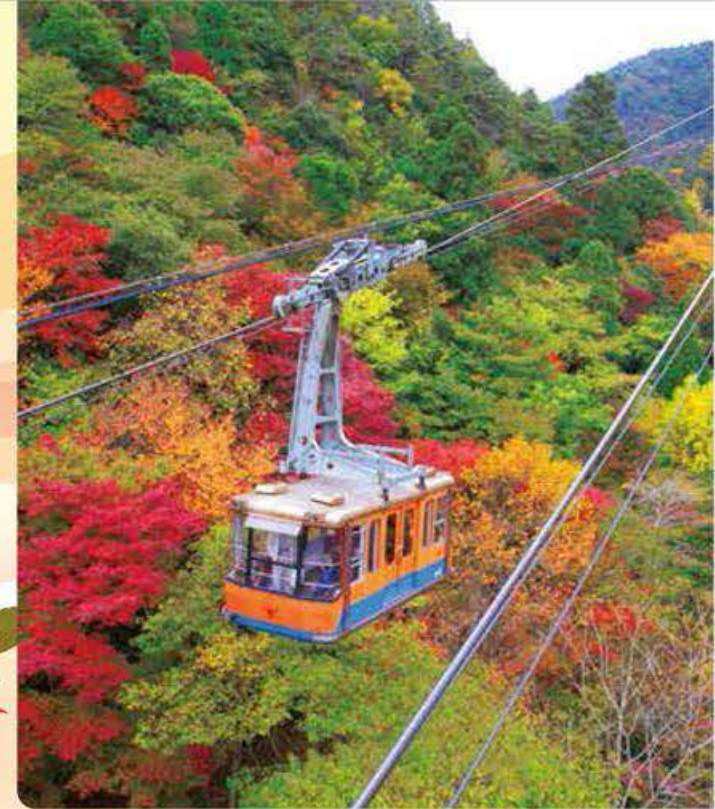


6 Okayama Korakuen Garden [Okayama City, Okayama] >> P.19

In autumn, Okayama Korakuen Garden's "Chishio-no-mori Grove" is dyed a bright red as the Japanese maple trees begin to change color. The forest's change from green to yellow and then red is an impressive display of color. In late November, visitors can enjoy the garden in a different light as the trees are illuminated.

7 Shoshazan Engyoji Temple [Himeji City, Hyogo] >> P.16

The shrine's approach offers visitors a prime location for admiring autumn foliage. The red hues of the Japanese maples and the yellow tints of the ginkgo trees contrast with each other beautifully.



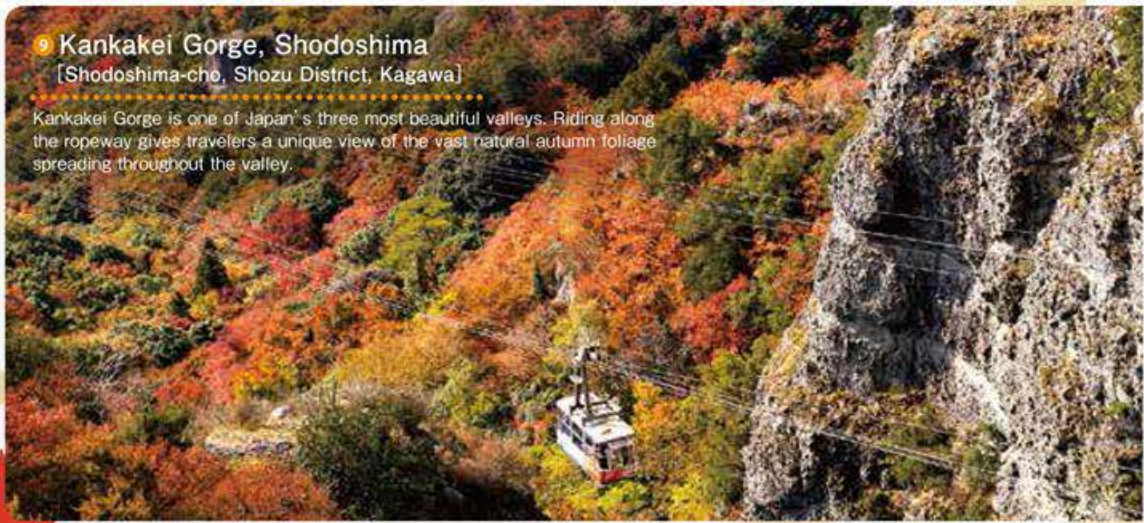
8 Mt. Rokko [Kobe City]

The view along the 12-minute ride on the Rokko Arima Ropeway connecting the summit of Mt. Rokko with Arima Onsen is perfect for viewing the autumn foliage of Mt. Rokko. ■ Access: 15 minutes on foot from Arima-Onsen Sta. on Kobe Electric Railway



9 Kankakei Gorge, Shodoshima [Shodoshima-cho, Shozu District, Kagawa]

Kankakei Gorge is one of Japan's three most beautiful valleys. Riding along the ropeway gives travelers a unique view of the vast natural autumn foliage spreading throughout the valley.



10 Iya Valley [Miyoshi City, Tokushima] >> P.29

In autumn, the Iya Valley turns red from the deepest reaches to the highest peaks. The autumn landscape seen from the Oku-Iya Niju Kazurabashi vine bridge, affectionately referred to as the "Couple's Bridge," is particularly remarkable.

