



Gokurakuji Temple is located near the summit of Mt. Gokurakuji, which is at a height of 693 meters above sea level. It was founded by Gyoki in 731, who traveled throughout Japan for study of constructing the Hall of the Great Buddha at Nara. The main hall of the temple was reconstructed by Motonari Mori in 1562, and is designated as a prefectural asset of Hiroshima. Other features around the temple include a virgin pine forest, the mysterious Janoike Pond, various hiking trails and a camping area where visitors can enjoy the natural beauty.

For inquiries regarding sightseeing and products

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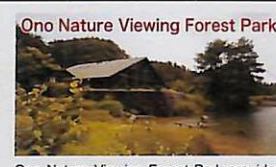
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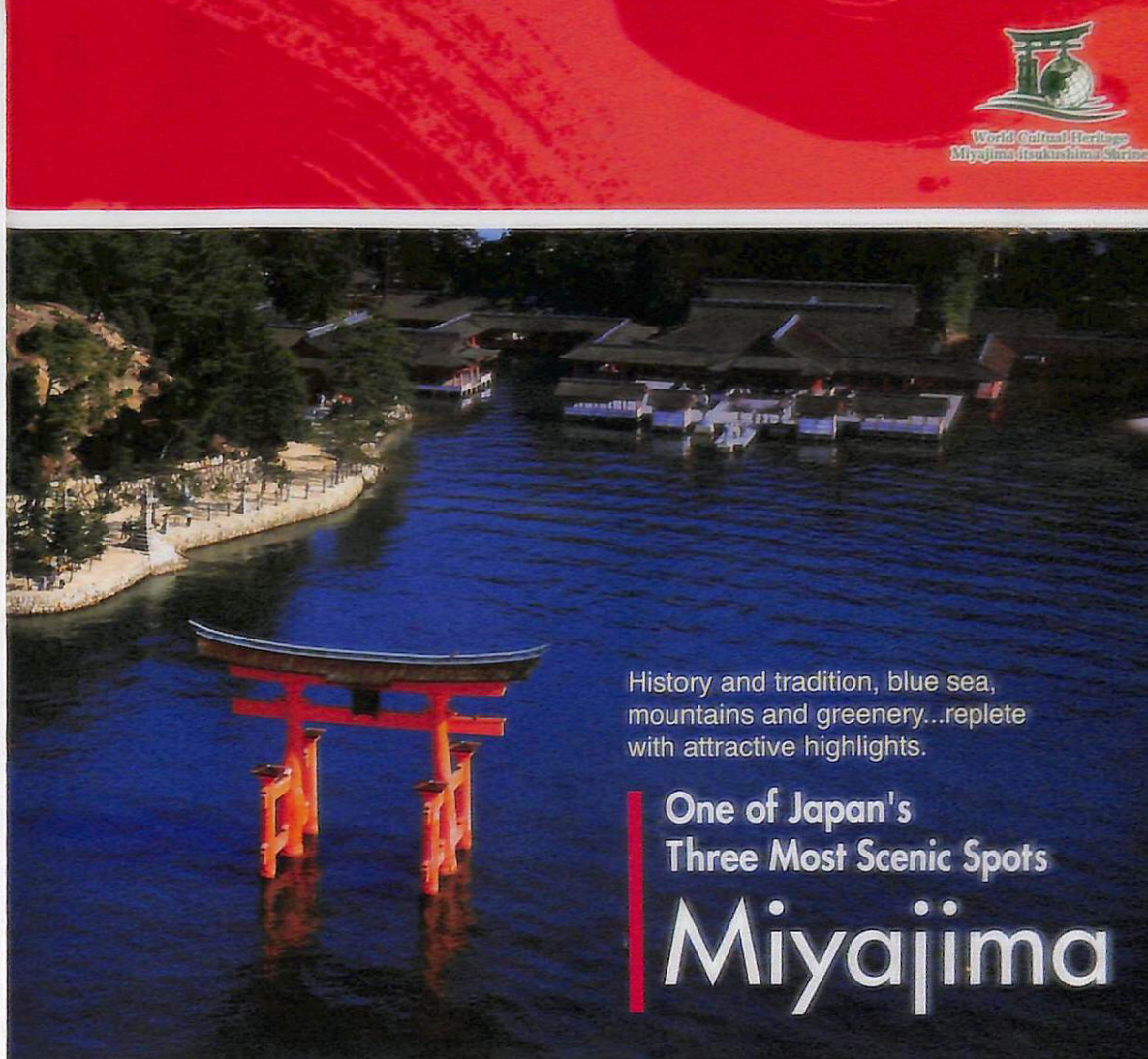
A peaceful and quiet hot spring resort in a slightly hilly area near the Seto Inland Sea, where visitors can enjoy a beautiful view of Miyajima. It offers ample hot spring and accommodation facilities.



Located near the Yoshiwa Interchange Exit (Chugoku Expressway), Megahira Resort offers beautiful skiing terrain, well-equipped hot springs, and accommodation facilities. Relaxing in the hot springs is the perfect way to end a day of skiing.



Ono Nature Viewing Forest Park provides various kinds of facilities for viewing nature. Having contact with birds, insects, and plants in this park, visitors can deepen their understanding of nature. The park commands a beautiful view of Lake Benimansaku, which presents a magnificent autumn kaleidoscope of color with benimansaku (disanthus cercidifolius) trees.



History and tradition, blue sea, mountains and greenery...replete with attractive highlights.

One of Japan's Three Most Scenic Spots Miyajima



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ATTENTION The deer on Miyajima are wild. They may eat paper and cloth. Please pay attention and keep an eye on your personal belongings - especially tickets and souvenirs as the deer might eat them.

Miyajima sightseeing course on foot

- 3hr. course
Pier - Miyajima Traditional Crafts Center - Mikasanohama - Itsukushima Shrine - Nishimatsubara - Aquarium - Omoto Park - Miyajima History and Folklore Museum - Daiganji Temple - Treasure Hall - Tahoto Pagoda - Momijidani Park - Five-storied Pagoda - Hokoku Shrine (Senjokaku)
 - 4hr. course
Pier - Miyajima Traditional Crafts Center - Mikasanohama - Itsukushima Shrine - Nishimatsubara - Aquarium - Omoto Park - Miyajima History and Folklore Museum - Daiganji Temple - Treasure Hall - Tahoto Pagoda - Daishoin Temple - Fujinotana Park - Momijidani Park - Five-storied Pagoda - Hokoku Shrine (Senjokaku)
 - 6hr. course
Pier - Miyajima Traditional Crafts Center - Mikasanohama - Itsukushima Shrine - Nishimatsubara - Aquarium - Omoto Park - Miyajima History and Folklore Museum - Daiganji Temple - Treasure Hall - Tahoto Pagoda - Daishoin Temple - Fujinotana Park - Momijidani Park - Ropeway - Five-storied Pagoda - Hokoku Shrine (Senjokaku)
- More than 3 hours are needed for unforgettable sightseeing on Miyajima.

Specialty Products, Local Delicacies, Souvenirs



anago-meshi ▲ (broiled conger eel on top of rice)



oyster ▲



mori-moji manju ▲

As the centerpiece of tourist spots in the Chugoku region, Miyajima has been transmitting attractive information to the world. With its many historical spots, scenic beauty, and tradition, Miyajima attracts numerous visitors from home and overseas. Exposed to local history and culture, savoring local delicacies, and buying local specialty products as souvenirs are part of the delight of traveling. As for Miyajima's popular local food, anago-meshi (broiled conger eel on top of rice) and various oyster dishes are made with fresh foodstuff from the sea. Also, mori-moji manju, a waffle shaped like a maple leaf, is the most popular sweet on Miyajima. Among the souvenirs of Miyajima, traditional wooden crafts, such as rice scoops, wood-carving and wood-turning crafts are very popular. On the other hand, shikazaru, one of Miyajima's earthenware bells, and Miyajima Hariko (paper dolls) fascinate visitors with their cuteness.



traditional wooden crafts ▲

Miyajima Guide Map

Places of Historic Interest, Cultural Assets and Promenades
Full of the Beauties of Nature.

- From the ferry terminal, it takes:
- Itsukushima Shrine 12 min
 - Daishoin Temple 20 min
 - Daiganji Temple 18 min
 - Treasure Hall 18 min
 - Senjokaku/Five-storied Pagoda 10 min
 - Tahoto Pagoda 20 min
 - Momijidani Park 20 min
 - Fujinotana Park 20 min
 - Omoto Park 25 min
 - Tsutsunigaura Recreation Park 40 min
 - Miyajima Ropeway 25 min
 - Miyajima History and Folklore Museum 20 min
 - Miyajima Aquarium 25 min
 - Kiyomori Shrine 20 min





Itsukushima Shrine

First built in the latter half of the sixth century, Itsukushima Shrine was remodeled into the present beautiful structure by Taira-no-Kiyomori in 1168. Standing in the sea, it is widely known for its grand and unique construction. The sublime and gorgeous appearance displays the artistic beauty of the Shinden style of architecture. About 200 meters in front of the main shrine and standing in the sea is the vermillion colored O-Torii (Grand Gate) which is the most noted symbol of Miyajima. Itsukushima Shrine was officially designated in December 1996 as a precious asset of world heritage.



Omoto Shrine

Omoto Shrine, closely connected with Itsukushima Shrine, stands in a corner of Omoto Park, which was at one time a battleground. This shrine is particularly known for the special method used to shingle its roof, the oldest style existing in Japan.



Tahoto Pagoda

Built by the priest Shukan in 1523, Tahoto is a pagoda with a height of 15.6 meters. Although constructed mainly in Japanese style, parts of the structure have Indian and Chinese architectural features. It presents the unique combination of a square shape on the lower level and a round shape on the upper level.



Hokoku Shrine and the Five-Storeyed Pagoda

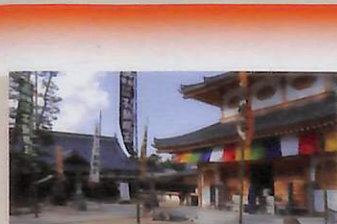
Hokoku Shrine (a.k.a. Senjokaku) is a library of Buddhist sutras that Hideyoshi-Toyotomi started to build in the Irimoya style for the repose of the war dead. Because of Hideyoshi's death, parts of the building, such as the board ceiling and front entrance, remain unfinished.

The five-storeyed pagoda, 28 meters high, is said to have been built in 1407. It shows a splendid structural beauty that skillfully combines Japanese and Chinese architectural styles. The image of Buddha is painted in full color on an inside wall of the pagoda.



Momijidani Park

This is a quiet park located at the foot of Mt. Misen, which is covered by an extensive primeval forest. Particularly in autumn, the park presents a splendid view with its wide variety of scarlet-tinged maple leaves. From spring to early summer, cherry blossoms and lush greenery present a magnificent sight.



Daiganji Temple

Until the Meiji Restoration (1868), this temple was in charge of the repair and construction of Itsukushima Shrine.

Daishoin Temple



As the headquarters of the Omuro Branch of the Shingon denomination of Buddhism, Daishoin is the most distinguished temple of Miyajima, having been in charge of all the rituals as Betto (administrator) of the Itsukushima Shrine prior to the Meiji Restoration (1868).

Homotsukan (Treasure Hall)

Including the Heike Clan's Buddhist sutras, the treasures of the Itsukushima Shrine were dedicated by members of the clan as prayers for their prosperity. A part of them is displayed in this treasure hall. Of the sculptures, paintings and handicrafts, 130 are designated as national treasures or important cultural properties.



Kiyomori Shrine

Kiyomori Shrine was built to eulogize the achievements of the famous general Taira-no-Kiyomori.



Omoto Park

Covered with many old trees, Omoto Park fascinates visitors with the respective beauty of the seasons. There are cherry blossoms in spring, azaleas in summer, and scarlet-tinged maple leaves in autumn.



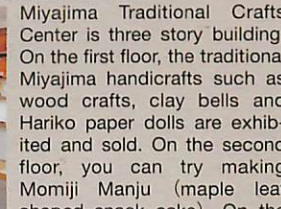
Miyajima History and Folklore Museum

The museum preserves the main house and part of a storehouse which formerly belonged to the Egami family, one of the most prosperous merchant families in Miyajima. On display are about 1000 items of a wide range of folklore materials of Miyajima including ancient documents, paintings and woodcraft.



Miyajima Traditional Crafts Center

Miyajima Traditional Crafts Center is three story building. On the first floor, the traditional Miyajima handicrafts such as wood crafts, clay bells and Hariko paper dolls are exhibited and sold. On the second floor, you can try making Momiji Manju (maple leaf shaped snack cake). On the third floor, you can make your own Shakushi (rice scoop) and experience Miyajima-bori carving.



Miyajima Aquarium

A Seto Inland Sea themed aquarium with a relaxing atmosphere where you can get up close to, even feel the marine life. Spectators can contemplate penguins swimming swiftly in a water tank like birds flying in the sky and also enjoy sea lion shows from up close. Large-scale fish are also displayed here with more than 13,000 creatures and around 350 different kinds of species living comfortably in water tanks of various sizes.



Embracing the trails of many previous generations, Itsukushima Shrine, in perfect harmony with the natural beauty of Mt. Misen, has been designated as a World Cultural Heritage site. Japan's magnificent properties will be passed on to the world and to the future.

Machiya Street



While Omotesando Shopping Arcade is filled with tourists all year round, Machiya Street, which is one block off of the arcade, provides a glimpse into Miyajima's local life with a neat row of centuries-old stores and houses. Bengara latticed merchants' town houses (machiya) and other buildings, which present an aesthetic combination of the historical architecture and the modern style, will take visitors back to the good old days.

Takinokoji Alley

Takinokoji Alley stretches from behind Itsukushima Shrine to Daishoin Temple. There used to be residences for priests and Imperial messengers of which latticed doors and "shikado" doors show a feature of the old-time houses of Miyajima. Near Daishoin Temple is located Awashima Shrine, which is well-known as a guardian deity of safe delivery and good health.



Yamabe Path

Yamabe Path used to be the eastern approach to Itsukushima Shrine. Nyoninzaka Slope is a part of the approach which has a quaint old flavor with stone statues of the guardian deity of children, Jizo and a stone relief of the goddess Nyoinzaka.

Mt. Misen and Ropeway



Covered with luxuriant primeval forests, Mt. Misen, the highest mountain on Miyajima Island rises 535 meters above sea level. The mountain has been considered sacred and an object of worship since ancient times. Near the summit are temples relating to Kobo Daishi, a great Buddhist priest. Also there are unusual shaped rocks and an observatory. A ropeway connects Shishiwa Station on Mt. Misen with Momijidani Park.



Tsutsumigaura Recreation Park

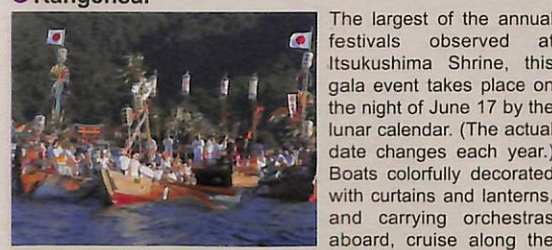
A beautiful sandy beach stretches for 570 meters along the northeast coast of the island and the sea is shallow for some distance from the shore. The serene shoreline is studded with recreational facilities, such as tennis courts, camping ground and beach houses. This big seaside park with clear water and abundant greenery is an ideal family resort for sports and outdoor activities.

Bugaku

The traditional Bugaku, ancient musical court-dance, of Itsukushima Shrine has been handed down through the generations from the day of Taira-no-Kiyomori. The elegant Bugaku performed to the accompaniment of Gagaku music on a grand vermillion colored stage that is reflected beautifully on the blue sea, is reminiscent of the cultural glory of the Heian Period.



Kangensai



The largest of the annual festivals observed at Itsukushima Shrine, this gala event takes place on the night of June 17 by the lunar calendar. (The actual date changes each year.) Boats colorfully decorated with curtains and lanterns, and carrying orchestras aboard, cruise along the coast while Gagaku music is being played. It is like a gorgeous picture scroll of the Monarchical Age spread out over the sea.



Chinkasai

A fire festival held every year on December 31st. In this exciting festival, big bundles of pine wood are set afire at a site for religious service in front of Itsukushima Shrine. Young men scramble for the pine torches, turning the seashore into a veritable "sea of fire."

Tamatorisai

A high-spirited masculine festival that takes place on the sea in front of the Itsukushima Shrine. Young men living on Miyajima jostle and fight for a "precious wooden ball" of good luck suspended from a wooden frame in the sea in front of Itsukushima Shrine.



Hiwatari-shinji

Twice a year, in spring and autumn, a bonfire is built from the "eternal holy fire." People walk barefoot on the embers, praying for fulfillment of their wishes.



Shin-Noh



This dates back to the Noh drama that Motonari Mori dedicated to the shrine in 1568. Shin-Noh (sacred Noh) is performed for three days from April 16 as one event of the Peach Blossom Festival.

Fireworks display

A brilliant display of fireworks takes place on the sea in front of Itsukushima Shrine every year in August. It is one of the largest in Western Japan. The fireworks on the sea give a poetic charm to summer.



Miyajima Oysters Festival

In the second weekend in February, Oysters, Miyajima's specialty, are served at low prices.