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# MATSUE and IZUMO-TAISHA SHRINE

JNTO Website : <http://www.jnto.go.jp>

Tourist Information Center (TIC)

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"YOKOSO" means "welcome"

## MATSUE AND VICINITY

**Matsue** (松江), pop. 200,000, the capital city of Shimane Prefecture, commonly known as the "City of Water," lies at the point where the Nakaumi Lagoon connects with Lake Shinji. Matsue is an old castle town forming the heart of Izumo Province (present-day Shimane Prefecture), a veritable "treasure house" of cultural assets and historic sites closely related to the

myths and legends of yesteryear Japan. The city is especially well known among foreigners and Japanese students studying English because of its association with Lafcadio Hearn, the author of many books on Japan, (1850–1904), who assumed the Japanese name of Yakumo Koizumi after his naturalization.

### Access

#### By Air:

To	From	Operated by	Time required	One-way fare	Remark
Izumo	Tokyo (Haneda)	JAL	1 hr. 20 min.	¥28,100	25 min. by bus from Izumo Airport to JR Matsue Sta. (¥1,000)

#### By Train (to Matsue):

From	Type of Train	Time required	Fare	Remarks
Tokyo	Sleeping train "sunrise Izumo"	11 hrs. 40 min.	¥21,110-	depart Tokyo at 22:00
Osaka	JR Tokaido Sanyo line to Shinosaka, JR Shinkansen "Hikari" to Okayama, JR Limited Express train "Yakumo" to Matsue.	4 hrs. 30 min.	¥10,010	
Okayama	Limited Express train "Yakumo"	2 hrs. 50 min. - 3 hrs. 10 min.	¥5,670	
Kyoto	JR Shinkansen "Nozomi" to Okayama, JR Limited Express train "Yakumo" to Matsue.	4 hrs. 25 min.	¥11,680	

#### By Bus:

To	From	Time required	Fare	Remarks
Matsue Izumo	Tokyo (Shibuya Mark City Bus Terminal) (in front of JR Shibuya Sta. Hachiko Exit)	10 hrs. 35 min. 11 hrs. 25 min.	¥11,550 ¥12,070	depart Tokyo at 20:00 (for return, depart Izumo-Shi Sta. at 19:10 and depart Matsue Sta. at 20:00) Reservation : Tel. (0852)20-5252 (English is not available.)
Matsue Izumo	Shin-Osaka	4 hrs. 40 min. 5 hrs. 30 min.	¥5,050 ¥5,550	Hankyu Bus (06)6866-3147 in Osaka. (English is not available.) Ichibata Travel Service (0852)21-0208. (English is not available.)

### Major Places of Tourist Interest in Matsue

(①–⑨): Location on the City Map on page 3/4)

① **Matsue Castle** (松江城), a few min. walk from Kencho-mae (県庁前) bus stop, being a 10-min. bus ride from Matsue Sta., is the symbol of the city. This castle, originally built in 1611, is an example of a practical fortress rather than a castle-residence. The five-storied donjon, reconstructed in 1642, commands an extensive view of the surrounding scenic spots including Lake Shinji and Mt. Daisen. Part of the castle

grounds form **Jozan Park** (城山公園). The castle is Open: 8:30–18:00 (Apr.–Sep.) 8:30–16:30 (Oct.–Mar.). Admission: ¥550.

② **Matsue Cultural Museum** (松江郷土館), a few min walk from Kencho-mae (県庁前) bus stop, displays arts, crafts, and folk utensils and implements with a total of some 1,300 items covering the three eras of Meiji, Taisho and Showa. Open: 8:30–16:40. Admission: free.

- ③ **Koizumi Yakumo (“Lafcadio Hearn”) Memorial Museum** (小泉八雲記念館), 2-min. walk from Koizumi Yakumo Kinen-kan (Memorial Museum)-mae bus stop, faces the northern moat of the castle. This Museum dedicated to the celebrated interpreter of Japan. Hearn lived in the city for 15 months as an English teacher of Matsue Middle School. His impressions of the city are given in his essay “In a Japanese Garden,” included in the volume “Glimpse of Unfamiliar Japan.” The hall contains a good collection of his manuscripts and other valuable articles, all suggestive of his life in Japan. Open: 8:30 – 18:30 (Apr.–Sep.), 8:30–17:00 (Oct.–Mar.). Admission: ¥300.
- ④ **Former House of “Lafcadio Hearn”** (小泉八雲旧居) is next door to the Memorial Museum, where he stayed for 7 months. This house has remained unchanged since he left Matsue. Open: 9:00–17:00 (Mar.–Nov.) 10:00–16:40 (Dec.–Feb.). Admission: ¥350. Closed: Dec. 16–29 and Jan. 1.
- ⑤ **Tanabe Art Museum** (田部美術館), next door to Hearn’s Former House, displaying many objects relating to tea ceremony, “Rakuzanyaki” “Fujinayaki” ware and other ceramics, calligraphy works, paintings and antiques. Woodblock prints by local artists are sometimes exhibited. Open: 9:00–16:30. Closed: Mon. and Dec. 29–Jan. 1. Admission: ¥600 (depend on the type of exhibition).
- ⑥ **Buke-Yashiki** (武家屋敷), or Preserved House of *Samurai* (Feudal Warrior), next door to the Tanabe Art Museum, displaying various articles illustrative of the daily life of a samurai family in the Edo period. Open: 8:30–18:30 (Apr.–Sep.), 8:30–17:00 (Oct.–Mar.). Admission: ¥300.
- ⑦ **Meimei-an Tea House** (明々庵), 5-min. walk from Buke-Yashiki, is a well-preserved typical tea house of the “*Irimoyazukuri*” architectural style. It was originally built in 1779 by Lord Fumai Matsudaira of the Matsue clan, a noted patron of the tea ceremony, in his retainer’s residential garden and moved to its present location on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the lord’s death. Open: 9:00–17:00. Fee: ¥400 In the adjoining **Hyakuso-tei Arbor** (百草亭) tea is served on request. From the nearby look-out one enjoys a distant view of the castle donjon. Open: 9:00–17:00. Admission: ¥400.
- ⑧ **Gesshoji Temple** (月照寺), a few minutes walk from Gesshoji Temple mae (月照寺前) bus stop, which is 20-min, by bus from Matsue Sta., is the mausoleum enshrining generations of the Matsudaira family, with surrounding rows of stone lanterns and a fine specimen of mausoleum gate architecture. The Treasure House Hall in the compound contains Lord swords and personal effects. Open: 8:30–17:30 (Apr.–Oct.), 8:30–17:00 (Nov.–Mar.). Admission: ¥500.
- ⑨ **Shimaneken Bussan Kanko-kan (Shimane Prefectural Product & Craft Center, 島根県物産観光館)**, 5-min. walk from **Kenmin Kaikan-mae** (県民会館前) bus stop, displays and sells folk craft, pottery and food, which are produced in Shimane Pref. Open: 9:30–18:00.

#### Major Places of Interest in the Vicinity:

**Tamatsukuri Spa** (玉造温泉), a few minutes walk from Ichibata bus stop, which is 30-min, by bus from Matsue Sta. (Fare: ¥510), contains calcium sulphate, efficacious against rheumatism and skin disease, etc. Public bath (Tamatsukuri Spa Yuuyu): Open: 10:00–21:30. Closed: Mon. Admission: ¥600. Bluish agate is prized as one of the specialties of the town.

**Adachi Museum of Art** (足立美術館), 20-min. by bus or taxi from JR Yasugi Sta. The museum is famous for its vast Japanese style garden and the collection of modern Japanese paintings including those of Taikan Yokoyama, famous master of this century. In the ceramic exhibition hall, works of prominent ceramic artists are exhibited. Open 9:00–17:30 (Apr.–Sep.), 9:00–17:00 (Oct.–Mar.). Admission: ¥2,200. (including main exhibition and ceramic exhibition)

<http://www.adachi-museum.or.jp/e/index.html>

**Mihonoseki** (美保関), 1 hr. 10 min. by Ichibata Bus (一畑バス) and Choei Bus (町営バス) from Matsue Sta. (Admission: ¥930), situated at the eastern extremity of Shimane Peninsula, was formerly an inspection point.

**Gohon-Matsu (Five-Pines) Park** (五本松公園), 5-min. walk from Mihonoseki bus stop, then 3 min. by chair lift, is famous for its panoramic view of Mt. Daisen and the Oki Island.

#### Horikawa Pleasure Boat (堀川遊覧船)

Major tourist sites dispersed in the town around Matsue Castle are visited on a Japanese-style boat along the rivers flowing in the environs. Admission: ¥1,200. Total sailing time : About 50 minutes.



**Goodwill Guide Groups** offer tourists from overseas local tours guided in English or other languages. The guides are registered with JNTO and display the badge shown. As they are volunteers, there is no charge for their service. You are only expected to pay for their transportation, admission to tourist facilities if you visit any and their meals if you eat with them.

**JNTO Website**

[www.jnto.go.jp/eng/arrange/essential/guideservice.html](http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/arrange/essential/guideservice.html)



## TOURIST INFORMATION

(Visit Japan Information Network)

**Matsue International Tourist Information Office:**

665, Asahi-machi, Matsue City, Shimane Pref.

Tel.(0852)21-4034

9:00-18:00

**Accommodations:**

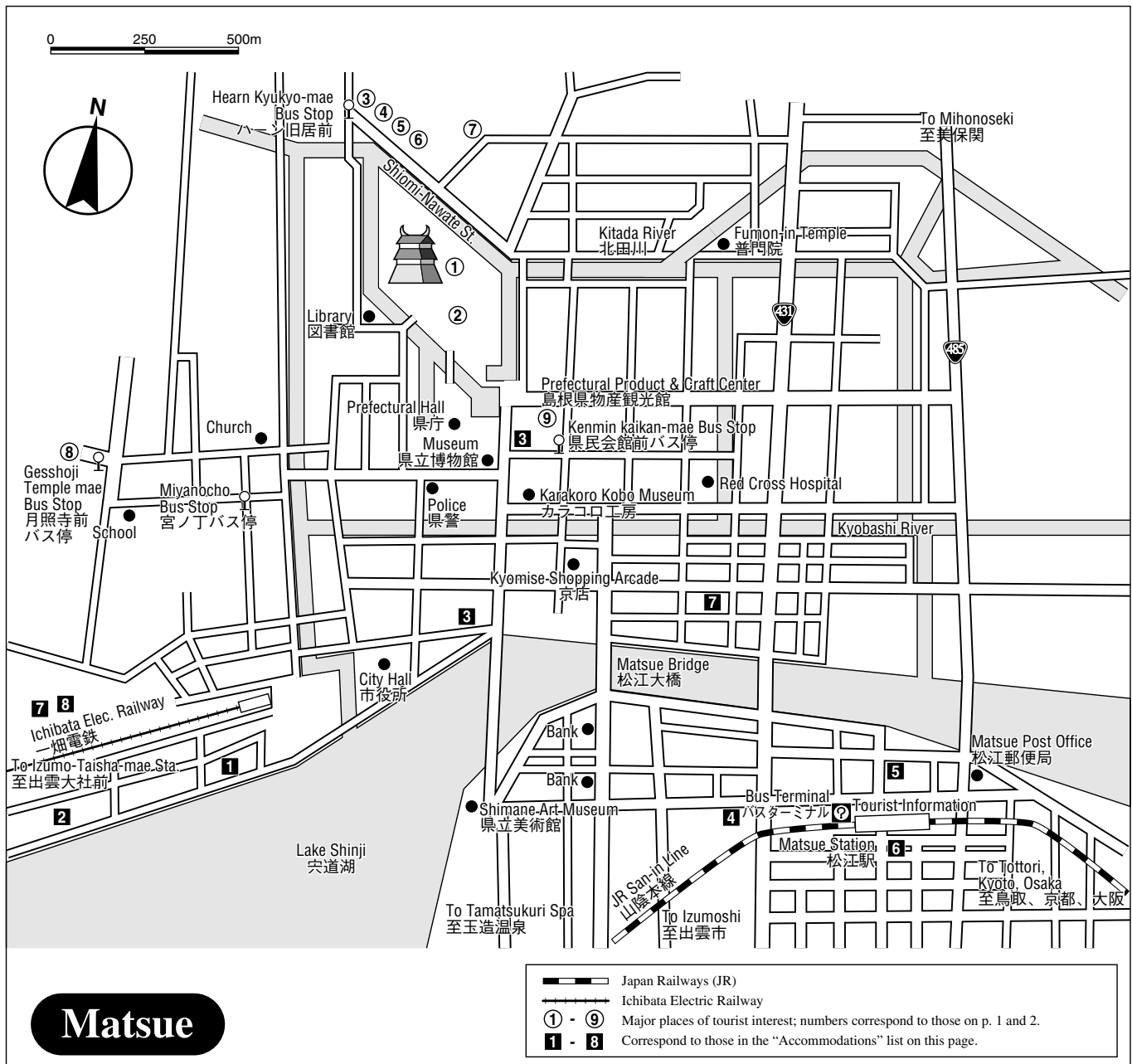
Name of facilities	Tel.	Room rate (¥)	Name of facilities	Tel.	Room rate (¥)
<b>Matsue:</b>			<b>Tamatsukuri:</b>		
<b>1</b> Hotel Ichibata(H)	(0852)22-0188	¥¥¥	Chorakuen(R)	(0852)62-0111	¥¥¥
<b>2</b> Naniwa Issui(R)	(0852)21-4132	¥¥¥	Yutei Konya(R)	(0852)62-0311	¥¥¥
<b>3</b> Horaiso(R)	(0852)21-4337	¥	Kasuien Minami(R)	(0852)62-0041	¥¥¥
<b>4</b> Business Ishida(R)	(0852)21-5931	¥	Grand Hotel Choseikaku(R)	(0852)62-0711	¥¥¥
<b>5</b> Matsue Tokyu Inn(H)	(0852)27-0109	¥¥	Kasentei Yuraku(R)	(0852)62-0211	¥¥¥
<b>6</b> Matsue Plaza Hotel(BH)	(0852)26-6650	¥	<b>Izumo:</b>		
<b>7</b> Pension Tobita(P)	(0852)36-6933	¥	Takeshi Sanso(BH)	(0853)21-1111	¥
<b>8</b> Matsue Lakeside Youth Hostel(Y)	(0852)36-8620	¥	Inaba(M)	(0853)22-6178	¥

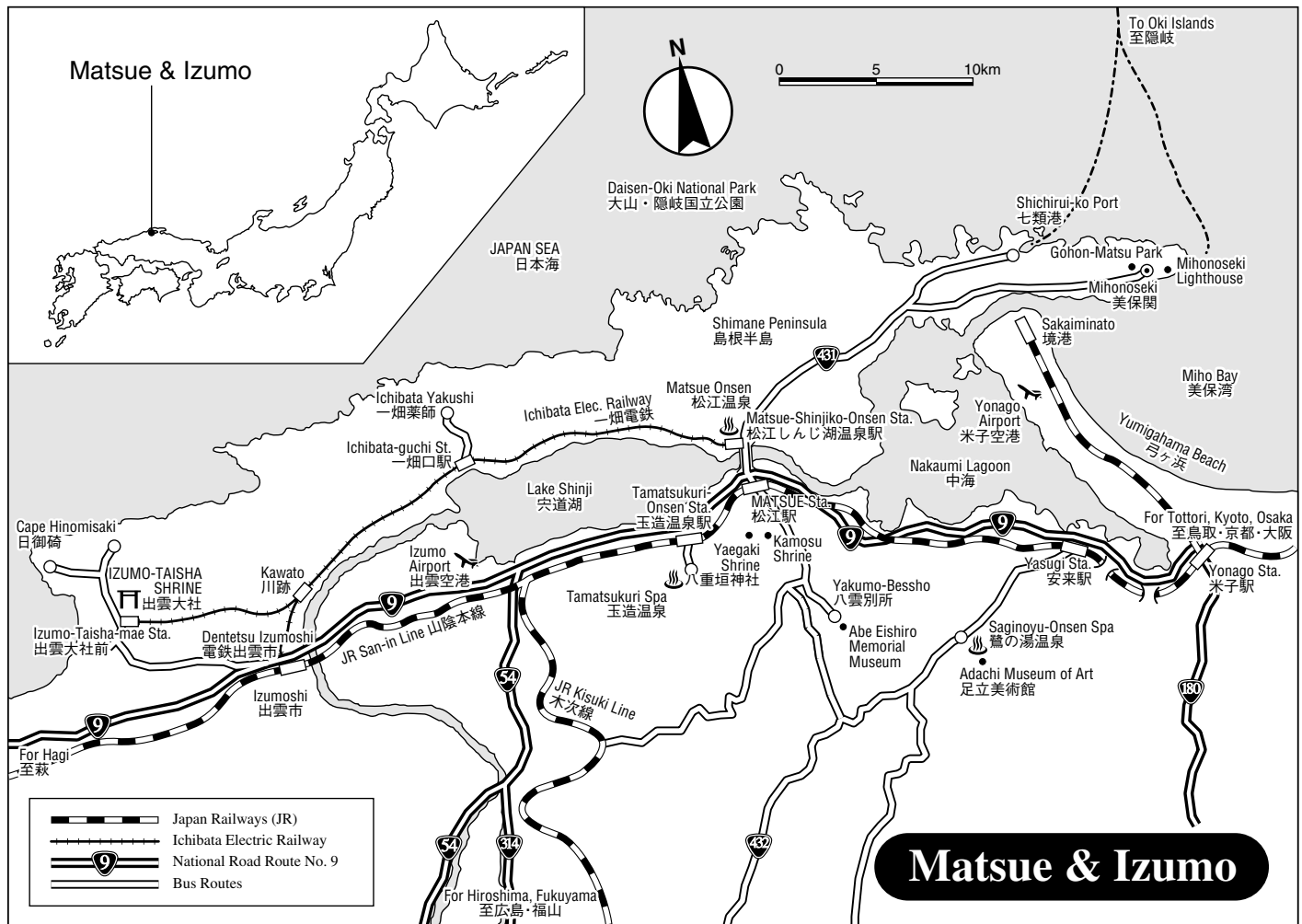
Remarks: \*Numbers **1** - **8** correspond to those on the map page of this page.

- H = Hotel Rate for a twin room.
- R = Ryokan Rate per person.
- BH = Business Hotel Rate per person.
- Y = Youth Hostel Rate per person.
- M = Minshuku (family-run inn) Rate per person.
- P = Pension Rate per person.

- ¥¥¥ more than 15,000 yen
- ¥¥ 8,001 yen – 15,000 yen
- ¥ 8,000 yen or less

**"Lake Line" Loop Bus**  
 Stops at 33 different tourist spots.  
 Leaves from Matsue Sta.  
 ¥500 for 1-day pass. Tel: (0852)60-1111.





## IZUMO-TAISHA SHRINE

### Access to Izumo-Taisha Shrine:

#### From Matsue-Shinjiko-Onsen Sta. (松江しんじ湖温泉駅):

60 min. by Ichibata Electric Railway (一畑電鉄) (Fare: ¥790), change trains at Kawato (川跡) Sta. to Izumo-Taisha-mae (出雲大社前) Sta., then 15 or 20 min. walk to the shrine.

#### From JR Izumoshi Sta. (出雲市駅):

25 min. by Ichibata Bus from JR Izumoshi (JR出雲市) Sta. Bus terminal to Seimon-mae (正門前) Bus stop (Fare: ¥510).

### Places of Interest:

**Izumo-Taisha Shrine** (出雲大社) is the oldest shrine in Japan, and is well known for its god of marriage. It is dedicated to Okuninushi-no-Mikoto, a Shinto deity who has been traditionally credited with introduction of the art of medicine, sericulture and farming. The present shrine buildings, mostly built in 1668, lies at the foot of Yakumo Hill and are approached through an avenue protected by magnificent pine trees. The precincts contain a large number of buildings, including the main shrine dating from 1744 ("National Treasure"), which is surrounded by a double fence. The shrine follows the earliest style of architecture known in Japan, and is dignified and rather imposing in appearance. A pair of large rectangular shrine buildings standing on the east and west sides of the precincts are traditionally believed to house the Shinto gods, who are supposed to meet annually at

the shrine in October (lunar calendar). October is thus called "Kannazuki" (Month without Gods) in all other parts of Japan and "Kamiarizuki" (Month with Gods) in Izumo Province.

#### **Izumo Kambe no Sato** (出雲かんべの里)

A facility where you can enjoy the myths and folklore and traditional crafts of Izumo province. You can talk with the artisans and learn about their craftsmanship. You can even actually try creating things by yourselves if you make reservations.

A few minutes walk from Izumo kambe no sato bus stop, which is 18 min. by bus from Matsue sta. Open 9:00–17:00. Closed: Mon. (If Mon is a national holiday, the next day will be closed) Admission: ¥400. (for myths) Tel: (0852)28-0040.

All information, including transportation schedules, fares, prices and accommodation charges, which is contained in this leaflet is based on data as of August 2006, and is subject to change without notice. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of all information, regrettably errors do occasionally occur. Therefore, you should check with organizations concerned for updated and accurate information on your chosen destination. JNTO shall not be liable for any loss or damage of whatever nature that may arise as a result, directly or indirectly, from the use of any of the information or material contained in this leaflet.