



Iya Valley - 3 jours et 2 nuits : Exemple d'itinéraire By car rental

Fall foliage period: Early October to late November

Best period: Late October to mid-November

Iya Valley is a remote mountain valley located in the heart of Shikoku Island. It is known for its deep gorges and mountainous slopes. Three ancient vine bridges are preserved to this day and are the most popular attractions in Iya. In autumn, the landscape is transformed into a gradation of bright colors and the reflection of the red leaves on the surface of the Iya River is truly magnificent.



Oboke Gorge (Iya)

©Dumphasizer <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>

Day 1 : Tokyo / Takamatsu / Oboke (Iya Valley)

Morning departure for Takamatsu by plane from Haneda airport (about 1h50).
Car rental from Takamatsu Airport.

Sightseeing and meal on your own.

Drive to Oboke Gorge, located at the entrance to the Iya Valley, less than 2 hours away.

Check-in at your accommodation in Oboke (ryokan or traditional house for rent)



Dinner and overnight in your accommodation

Suggestions de visites à Oboke:

Suggested visits in Oboke:

- **Oboke station and Yokai Yashiki**
Oboke station features souvenir stores as well as a museum of local Yokais (supernatural creatures from Japanese folklore) where more than 70 of them are displayed.
- **Oboke Gorge Boat Cruise on Yoshino River (30 min.)**
Located in the mountains of Iya Valley, this river runs through most of Tokushima Prefecture from west to east. **A 3-hour rafting option is also available.*
- **Heike Residence**
This museum is located in an Edo period house associated with the descendants of the Taira clan, also known as the Heike, who were defeated by the Minamoto clan in the Heian period. The building remains as it was in the Edo period and exhibits include armor, flags and ancient documents.
- **Hinoji Valley**
Hinoji Valley is so named because this section of the Iya is shaped like the Japanese character Hi "ひ". This area offers a spectacular view of the Iya Valley. In autumn, red leaves cover the entire area from the valley floor to the mountain peaks.
- **Manikin Peeing Boy Statue**
At the edge of this breathtaking 200 meter high cliff stands a statue of a boy posed as if he were peeing from the ledge down the valley. Local folklore says that passing travelers would climb up to pee as a testimony of their bravery.

Check-in at your accommodation in Oboke (ryokan or traditional house for rent)

Dinner and overnight in your accommodation.



Day 2 : Oboke (Iya Valley) / Oku-Iya

Breakfast and check-out. Sightseeing and meals at your own convenience.



Kazurabashi Bridge (Iya)

© Hiroaki Kaneko <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/deed.en>

Suggested visits :

- **Iya Kazurabashi Bridge**

13 bridges once crossed the Iya Valley, but only three are still preserved today. Iya Kazurabashi, the largest and most popular of the remaining bridges, stretches 45 meters across the Iya River in the center of the valley and offers visitors an impressive view of the water from a height of 14 meters.

- **Ochiai Village**

The historic village of Ochiai is located on the side of a mountain and is an example of a traditional hamlet because of its collection of old houses, many of which date back over 200 years. Most of the houses continue to be private residences; however, near the center of the village is the historic thatched Nagaoka-ke House, which has been beautifully restored to its original condition and is open to visitors. Also near the center of the village is the peaceful Sansho Shrine, surrounded by huge, century-old cedar trees

- **Oku-Iya Kazurabashi Bridges**

A little further on are the other two remaining bridges of Iya Valley. The larger of the two bridges, the husband bridge (Otto no Hashi), has a span of 44 meters next to a small waterfall. The span of the neighboring bride bridge (Tsuma no Hashi), has 22 meters.



- **Nagoro, le village aux poupées**

The small village of Nagoro is known all over the world as the village with Iya dolls. These dolls are actually scarecrows, but their purpose is to fight loneliness rather than pest birds. As Nagoro's population dwindled, an elderly resident began replacing the departed people with life-size replicas made of straw and old clothes.

Check-in at your accommodation near Mount Tsurugi (ryokan or traditional house for rent).
Dinner and overnight stay.

Day 3 : Oku-Iya / Tokyo

Breakfast and check-out. Sightseeing and meals at your own convenience.

Drive to **Mount Tsurugi**

Mount Tsurugi is a 1955m high mountain that lies at the eastern end of Iya Valley. This mountain is a popular hiking destination and, despite its name which translates to "sword mountain", is far from being a difficult climb.

- **Hike to Mount Tsurugi** (about 2 hours)

A chairlift takes you almost to the top of the mountain and the hiking trail to the summit takes 30 minutes. For a more athletic hike, there are hiking trails from the foot of the mountain. Adequate fitness and mountaineering equipment are required.

Drive to Takamatsu airport (about 2h30). Return of your rental car and domestic flight to Tokyo.

On the way, visit the beautiful Ritsurin Garden. This garden is considered one of the most beautiful in Japan. A quick visit takes 1 hour, a full visit will take 2 hours..



Ritsurin Garden (Takamatsu) © Lilac and Honey <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/>

You can decide to continue your journey by choosing the **Okayama** and **Shodoshima** option from Takamatsu (see our existing programs) or return to Tokyo at the end of the day.



Recommended for families

Option: Rent a traditional thatched house in the historic Ochiai Village in Higashi Iya.

If you stay in Ochiai Village, you can enjoy the following activities:

- **Buckwheat noodle making experience** (duration: 1h30) *
- **Guided tour of the village** (duration: 1h) *

**Activities only available in Japanese.*

We can shorten or extend your stay, or add other destinations.

Do you enjoy freedom and **lack of constraints**?

We can leave you with a personalized list of interesting activities and locations, giving you the freedom to wander around as you please during your stay.

Do you want a bulletproof plan and **hassle-free getaway**?

We can arrange everything for you in advance, whether it be reserving activities, luggage shipments, car rental or guided tours, and more.

Don't hesitate to contact us for a personalized itinerary.