



**Iya Valley - 3 days: Sample itinerary
By public transport**

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. This program features two of the largest Japanese gardens that are extremely different.



Oboke Gorge (Iya)

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Day 1 : Tokyo / Okayama

Departure at the end of the day for Okayama by Shinkansen from Tokyo (about 3h20).

Dinner on your own.

Night in a hotel.



Day 2 : Okayama / Oboke (Iya valley)

Breakfast and check-out.

Sightseeing and meals at your own convenience.

Departure by train in the morning for Oboke Gorge, located at the entrance of Iya Valley (about 1h40).

Depending on your departure time, stop at **Kourakuen Garden** in Okayama, one of the three most famous gardens in the archipelago.

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.
- **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 3 : Iya Valley / Takamatsu / Tokyo

Breakfast and check-out.

Sightseeing and meals at your own convenience.

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.



Kazurabashi Bridge(Iya)

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Transport by train to Takamatsu (about 2 hours).

Takamatsu is located on the Seto Inland Sea and is a necessary point of passage to the island of Shikoku. Hard hit by the bombings of the Second World War, which caused the loss of its castle, this modern and industrialized city has nevertheless managed to save its main jewel, the Ritsurin-koen, a magnificent garden dating from the Edo period (1603-1867). One can also taste there a famous variety of noodles.



- **Ritsurin Garden**

Founded in 1625, the construction of Ritsurin Garden took more than 100 years. Wonderful space of 75 hectares, it is the largest garden of Japan and many wish to see it integrated the list of the three most beautiful gardens of the archipelago.

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.

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.