



Sustainable tourism: Sunrise night Train Seto/Izumo

Two splendid gardens and the most beautiful castle in Japan

Gardens, like castles, have long been used to instrumentalize the power of feudal lords. During the Edo period, the techniques reached their peak and magnificent gardens were created all over the country. Discover two of the most beautiful gardens and the most spectacular castle in the archipelago. Enjoy the elegance, beauty and originality.



Himeji castle

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Day 1 : Tokyo (or Yokohama) / Takamatsu

Late evening departure for Takamatsu by night train (meal not included).
Night on board the train.



Day 2 : Takamatsu / Okayama

Early morning train arrival in Takamatsu.

Scheduling of sightseeing and meals are at your convenience.

***Takamatsu** was badly hit by the bombings of the Second World War, which caused the loss of its castle. Nevertheless, this modern and industrialized city managed to save its main jewel, the Ritsurin-koen, a beautiful garden dating from the Edo period (1603-1867). In this city, one can taste a famous variety of noodles called Sanuki Udon (a type of thick noodle dipped in a soup often accompanied by seasoned tuna and seaweed).*

Suggested visits :

- **Bonsai Village in Takamatsu**

The Kokubunji and Kinashi areas are the largest pine bonsai production areas in Japan. The bonsai village exhibits and sells bonsai brought by the farmers of those 2 regions.

- **Ritsurin-Kōen**

Founded in 1625, the construction of Ritsurin Garden took more than 100 years. Wonderful space of 75 hectares, it is the largest garden in Japan and many people wish to see it included in the list of the three most beautiful gardens of the archipelago. Using Mount Shiun as a backdrop, it is divided into two parts, the southern part being dedicated to the Japanese style and the northern part to the Western style.



Ritsurin Garden, Takamatsu

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Transfer to Okayama by express train (about 1 hour).

Overnight at the hotel.



Day 3 : Okayama / Himeji / night in the Sunrise Seto train

Breakfast at the hotel.

Scheduling of sightseeing and meals are at your convenience.

*Administrative and commercial center, **Okayama** was a prosperous lordly city from the 16th to the 19th century. It also has a valuable cultural heritage: in addition to many museums, it is home to Kōraku-en, one of the three most beautiful gardens in Japan, as well as Okayama Castle, nicknamed the Raven Castle because of its black walls.*

- **Kōraku-en**

Located on an island in the Asahi River, is considered one of the three most beautiful gardens in the country. This masterpiece, created in 1687 by the powerful lord of the Ikeda clan, consists of huge lawns, ponds connected by canals, several tea pavilions, a beautiful maple forest as well as a lovely hill covered with cherry trees, a plum grove and shrines, all with Okayama Castle as a backdrop.



Kōraku-en



Continue to Himeji by Shinkansen (about 20 min).

***Himeji**, located fifty kilometers west of Kobe, is worth a stop for its wonderful feudal castle: the Himeji fortress or the "White Heron", is one of the oldest monuments of medieval Japan. A cultural treasure of Japan, it was built in the 14th century and has often been used as a backdrop in movies, especially in films by director Akira Kurosawa.*

Transportation to Himeji Castle by local bus (about 3 min).

- **Himeji Castle**

Also known as the White Heron Castle (Shirasagijo) because of its elegant white appearance, is widely regarded as Japan's most spectacular castle for its imposing size and beauty and its intricate, well-preserved park. The castle is both a national treasure and a world heritage site. Unlike many other Japanese castles, it was never destroyed by war, earthquake or fire and survives to this day as one of the country's original twelve castles. The castle recently underwent extensive renovations over several years and was fully reopened to the public in 2015.

- **Koko-en**

Japanese garden built in 1992 which is located next to the castle. With an area of 3.5 hectares, it consists of nine different gardens established on the archaeological site of Nishi-Oyashiki (the western residence of the feudal lord) and some samurai houses. Using the gardening techniques of the Edo period (about 1600-1860) as a model, Koko-en reproduces the atmosphere of the past and offers a splendid view of Himeji Castle.

Return to Tokyo (or Yokohama) by night train (meals not included).
Overnight on board. Arrival in Tokyo or Yokohama the next morning.

We are here to help you plan and achieve your wishes.
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.

Feel free to contact us for a personalized itinerary