



FRANCE TRAVEL CENTER S.A.
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Sustainable tourism: Sunrise night Train Seto/Izumo

A magnificent garden, the most beautiful castle in Japan and the island of gods

Explore three of the most beautiful cities in western Japan: Himeji, Hiroshima and Okayama.

By taking the night train, you will contribute to responsible tourism and arrive in the early morning to start discovering three UNESCO World Heritage Sites and one of the most beautiful gardens in Japan, all in one weekend.



Miyajima

@Image courtesy of Hiroshima Prefecture

Day 1 : Tokyo (or Yokohama) / Okayama

Late evening departure to Okayama by night train (meal not included).

Night on board the train.



Day 2 : Okayama / Hiroshima / Miyajima / Hiroshima

Early morning train arrival in Okayama.
Transfer by train to Hiroshima (about 30min).

Scheduling of sightseeing and meals are at your convenience.

*On the Seto Inland Sea, **Hiroshima** is the largest city in the Chugoku region, on the far west of the main island of Honshu. The atomic bombing completely destroyed every building in the center of the city, except for what is now known as the Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Dome, a UNESCO World Heritage Site as a testament to the ravages of nuclear weapons and a symbol for world peace.*

Suggested visits :

- **The Peace Memorial Park**

It is located at the site of the first atomic bomb in history, which fell on August 6, 1945. In this quiet and spacious place, completed in 1954, are the ruins of the former industrial exhibition hall, located only 160 meters from the hypocenter of the explosion, renamed Atomic Bomb Dome..

- **Remembrance and Peace Museum**

The remarkable museum, designed by star architect Kenzo Tange and dedicated to the consequences of the bomb.



Atomic Bomb Dome

@Courtesy of Hiroshima Prefecture



Departure for Miyajima Island (about 40min).

Miyajima, also known as *Itsukushima*, is the jewel of the San'yo coast. The "Island where men and gods live together", sacred in the Shinto religion, is home to a shrine built in 593 and classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, symbolized by a vermillion floating torii, or portico, which is one of the three most famous sights in Japan.



Itsukushima Shinto Shrine @Jean-Pierre Dalbéra <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>

Suggested visits :

- **Itsukushima Shrine**

Although the site has existed since the 6th century, the present structure dates from the 12th century, explaining the refined architecture of the Heian period (794-1185). Built on platforms on stilts, the shrine lacquered in a flamboyant vermillion red contrasts sublimely with the intense blue of the sea and the deep green of the primitive forests of Mount Misen. It features a remarkable 262 meter long and 4-meter-wide gallery, or the one and only Nō theater stage built on water. The famous vermillion torii gate, 16.6 meters high and weighing 60 tons, is a must-see in the bay.

- **Senjo-kaku**

On the hill just above Itsukushima, Toyokuni Shrine is dedicated to Hideyoshi Toyotomi, one of the three unifiers of Japan in the 16th century. The building is commonly called Senjo-kaku or Thousand Tatami Pavilion, a name that reflects its position as the largest structure in Miyajima. Next to it is a five-story pagoda, a majestic lacquered structure 27.6 meters high.

Return to Hiroshima (about 40min).

Overnight at the hotel.



Day 3 : Hiroshima / Okayama / Himeji / Shin Yokohama or Tokyo

Breakfast at the hotel.

Rail transportation to Okayama (about 35min).

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 the Kōraku-en, as well as Okayama Castle, nicknamed the Raven Castle because of its black walls.

Suggested visits :

- **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 garden

@Courtesy of Kōraku-en Garden



Rail transportation to Himeji (about 20min).

***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.*



Himeji castle

Suggested visits :

● **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.

Return to Tokyo (or Yokohama) by train.



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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.