Access Information

By Airplane

●From Tokyo	5 flights/day	Approx. 1 hr. and 25 min.
●From Osaka (Itami Airport)	8 flights/day	Approx. 1 hr.
●From Fukuoka	2 flights/day	Approx. 1 hr.
●From Oki	1 flight/day	Approx. 35 min.

* An airport bus runs between Izumo Airport and Izumoshi Station. (Approx. 25 min.)

By JR (Japan Railway)

●From Tokyo Station
·Shinkansen (Bullet Train) → (via Okayama) → Tokkyu (Limited Express) Yakumo : Approx. 6 hrs. and 30 min.
·Shindai Tokkyu (Limited Express Sleeping car) Sunrise Izumo : Approx. 12 hrs.

●From Shin-Osaka Station
·Shinkansen (Bullet Train) → (via Okayama) → Tokkyu (Limited Express) Yakumo : Approx. 4 hrs.

●From Okayama Station
·Tokkyu (Limited Express) Yakumo : Approx. 3 hrs.

●From Hakata Station
·Shinkansen (Bullet Train) → (via Okayama) → Tokkyu (Limited Express) Yakumo : Approx. 5 hrs.

By Car

●From Osaka Chugoku Expwy → Yonago Expwy →San-in Expwy → Route 9
●From Hiroshima San-in Expwy → Hiroshima Expwy →Chugoku Expwy (Miyoshi) → Route 54 → Route 9
●From Fukuoka Kyushu Expwy → Chugoku Expwy (Miyoshi) → Route 54 → Route 9

By Express Bus

●From Tokyo :
1/day Approx. 11 hrs. and 25 min.
●From Nagoya :
1/day Approx. 10 hrs.
●From Kyoto :
4/day Approx. 5 hrs. and 45 min.
●From Osaka :
8/day Approx. 5 hrs. and 30 min.
●From Kobe :
3/day Approx. 5 hrs.
●From Okayama :
7/day Approx. 3 hrs. and 50 min.
●From Hiroshima :
8/day Approx. 3 hrs. and 15 min.
●From Fukuoka :
1/day Approx. 8 hrs. and 10 min.

Taxi Information

Izumo Area	●Apollo Hire	0853-22-4141
	●Izumo Ichibata Kotsu	0853-21-1144
	●Izumo Daiichi Kotsu Co., Ltd.	0853-21-2555
	●Takano Taxi	0853-21-2920
	●Tanimoto Hire	0853-21-1051
	●Nihon Kotsu	0853-21-0475
	●Yakumo Kanko Taxi	0853-21-1683
Hirata Area	●Atago Taxi	0853-62-3400
Sada Area	●Susanoo Taxi	0853-84-0836
Taki Area	●Yakumo Kanko	0853-86-2113
Koryo Area	●Koryo Taxi	0853-43-1031
Taisha Area	●Izumo Kanko Taxi	0853-53-3230
	●Taisha Hire	0853-53-3211

Contact :

Izumo Tourism Promotion Section :	Tel 0853-21-6588
Izumo Tourism Association :	Tel 0853-53-2112
Izumo City Culture and Tourism Information Center & Specialty Products Corner :	Tel 0853-30-6015
Taisha Tourism Information Center :	Tel 0853-53-2298
Hinomisaki Tourism Information Center :	Tel 0853-54-5400

http://www.city.izumo.shimane.jp (Izumo City Office)
http://www.izumo-kankou.gr.jp (Izumo Tourism Association)

出雲市
IZUMO

IZUMO

Birthplace of Myths and Legends

Welcome to Izumo, surrounded by traditions from ancient times as well as new ideas, where all the gods from throughout the nation gather in October. We hope you will get great benefits from a wonderful encounter.

IZUMO

Birthplace of Myths and Legends

Asking for a Beautiful Encounter

When Lafcadio Hearn, also known as Koizumi Yakumo, visited Izumo Taisha for the first time in 1890, he confessed his impressions, stating that Izumo is the land of the gods. The dignified appearance of the inner shrine (main hall) with the Chigi material on the roof, soaring to heaven as if entering the clouds, as well as the dignified mood embracing the entire shrine grounds, including the aura emanating from the dense forest lying between Mt. Yakumo and Misen, might also make a foreigner like Hearn feel the existence of invisible gods. Izumo Taisha is known as the shrine where the god of invitations to beautiful encounters is living, and the legend is that all the gods throughout the nation gather here in the Kamiarizuki (October according to the lunar calendar) to discuss encounters between male and female. Thus, many people visit this shrine and clap their hands to ask for their own beautiful encounter.

The Oshimenawa (the sacred straw rope) hanging in the front of the Kaguraden (a stage for Noh or Kagura ritual dance) within the Izumo Taisha, is 13.5m long, with a circumference of about 9m, and weighs around 5 tons, the largest such rope in Japan.

Locally-brewed Sake and Shochu

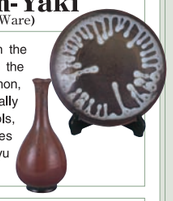
- Alcoholic drinks created by Izumo master brewers, with their traditional skills. There are many sake breweries proud of their Izumo-specific flavor. Various excellent products made from locally-produced rice and water attract the connoisseurs.
- Shochu products are excellent alcoholic drinks created from locally-produced Nishihama sweet potatos or buckwheat with white rice malt.

Hariko no Tora
(Craft Tiger)

There is a custom of using Hariko no Tora (Craft Tiger) as a charm against evil in the Izumo district since olden times. The humorous appearance of the swinging neck is very popular and is often used during seasonal festivals. This is one of the traditional handicrafts of Shimane prefecture.

Banshozan-Yaki
(Banshozan Ceramic Ware)

This ceramic ware dates from the time when the 8th master of the Hino family, named Genzaemon, made it by firing the locally acquired clay. Various tools, liquor bottles, and vases featuring a glaze called Iraboyu are produced.



Seafood

Uppurui Seaweed / Dried square wakame seaweed / Agono- yaki / Squid dried overnight

Uppurui Seaweed
Seaweed grown on underwater rocks, and found only in the Uppurui district. The dried seaweed is formed into sheets with a black-purple color. The pressed product is called Kamojinori.

Dried Square Wakame Seaweed
Seaweed picked up on the seashore is processed into dried squares and is a popular export from the region. It has a splendid flavor, and is also called Menoha. In Cape Hinomisaki, a harvest prayer festival for Wakame called Mekari Shinji is performed.

Agono-yaki (Grilled Flying Fish)
Ago is the name of a flying fish in the San'in district. Ago is ground, flavored, and then grilled. This is a special product of the Izumo district called Agono-yaki.

Squid Dried Overnight
Fresh squid is carefully processed through overnight drying, and is a very pleasant food.

Tsutsugaki Aizome
(Tsutsugaki Indigo Dyeing)

Tsutsugaki Aizome (Tsutsugaki Indigo Dyeing) features a pattern in which the family emblem, called a Kamon, is placed at the center, and good luck figures such as cranes, turtles, pine trees, bamboo, and plum trees, are placed at the four corners.

Fuku-Kozuchi
(Lucky Gavel)

The lucky gavel, called Uchideno Kozuchi, supposed to have been cherished by Okuninushi-no-mikoto (Daikoku-sama), is created using Keyaki (Japanese zelkova tree) specially produced in Izumo. It is often used as a good luck gift, and the surface patina increases as time goes by.

Nishihama Sweet Potato

Nishihama sweet potatoes specially produced in Koryo are famous for their sweetness. Sweet potato shochu and ice cream also enjoy high popularity.

Celebration Kite in Taisha

Kites are traditional with both the Senge and Kitajima families who provide chief priests for Izumo Taisha shrine. A pair of celebration kites featuring the Turtle and Crane Chinese characters, representing Mt. Kameyama (Kitajima family) and Mt. Tsuruyama (Senge family) are located at the back of the Taisha shrine.

Special Products of Izumo

- Uppurui Seaweed
- Taki Fig (Houraishi)
- Izumo Beef
- Shimane Grapes
- Shimane Wine
- Agono-yaki (Grilled Flying Fish)
- Izumo Soba (buckwheat) Noodles
- Nishihama Sweet Potatoes
- Saijo Persimmon / Anpo Persimmon
- Shijimi (Freshwater clams)
- Izumo Zenzai
- Locally-brewed Sake and Shochu
- Izumo Beer

Traditional Crafts in Izumo

- Hariko no Tora (Craft Tiger)
- Tsutsugaki Aizome (Tsutsugaki Indigo Dyeing)
- Joki (Festival paper boat)
- Celebration Kite in Taisha
- Fuku-Kozuchi (Lucky Gavel)
- Izumo Imaichi-tsuchi Dolls
- Banshozan-Yaki (Banshozan Ceramic Ware)
- Keyaki Works (Woods works)
- Wooden Dolls
- Carving with one knife
- Takahashi Steel Products
- Kumiko Zaiku
- Izumo Lion Mask

August (Hazuki)

- Kids & Junior Swim Run (Kirara Beach)
- Swim Run in Taki (Tagi, Taki-cho)
- Hinomisaki Shrine Festival (Hinomisaki Shrine)
- The Myths of Izumo Festival (Izumo Shinwa Matsuri) (Hamayama Park, Hii River-side Park in Takeshi-cho)
- Susa Shrine Kiriake Ceremony (Susa Shrine)
- Taisha Goen Festival (Izumo Taisha Shrine, Inasa-no-hama, Sinmon-dori)
- Koryo Donto-koi Festival (Parking space of Kunibiki-so, Kurhaus Koryo)

September (Nagatsuki)

- Hirata Yakushi Autumn Grand Festival (Hirata Yakushi)
- Izumo Kabuki Murakumo-za Yukemuri Shibai (Kabuki performance at a spa) (Izumo Susa Onsen Yukari-kan)
- Ichibata Yakushi Tea Ceremony (Ichibata Yakushi)

October (Kamiarizuki)

- Izumo All Japan University Invitational Ekiden Taikai (Long-distance Relay Race) (Start: Izumo Taisha Shrine, Goal : Izumo Dome)
- Saka Shrine Autumn Annual Festival (Doburoku Festival) (Saka Shrine)
- Izumo Yaoyorozu Shinshu Festival (Omoide Yokocho Burari)
- Sakita Shrine Aojishimai (Sakita Shrine)
- Agata Shrine Tou-neri (Agata Shrine)
- Sashimu Shrine Annual Festival (Sashimu Shrine)
- Takiki Shrine Jinji-bana (Takiki Shrine)
- Odochi Kou Shrine Annual Festival (Odochi Kou Shrine)
- Ichibata Yakushi Marathon (Ichibata Yakushi)
- Musashibou Benkei Festival (Gakuenji Temple)
- Izumo Zenzai Day (Oct. 31)
- Kamiarizuki Izumo All Japan Soba Festival (Izumo Bunka Denshokan)

November (Shimotsuki)

- Taku Shrine Annual Festival Sasara-mai (Taku Shrine)
- Susanoo Got-koi Festival (Vicinity of Sata district office, Izumo City Hall)
- Kamimukae Ceremony (Inasa-no-hama)
- Ichibata Yakushi Rites for Used Glasses (Ichibata Yakushi)
- Kamiari Festival (Izumo Taisha Shrine)
- Karasade Festival (Izumo Taisha Shrine)
- Izumo Taisha Shrine Kenkoku Festival and Traditional Niiname Festival (Izumo Taisha Shrine)
- Gakuenji Temple Bonsho-e (Gakuenji Temple)
- Susa Shrine Niiname Festival and Daikon Festival (Susa Shrine)
- Susanoo Walk (Vicinity of Susa Shrine)
- Izumo Kabuki Murakumo-za Regular Performance (Susanoo Hall)
- Gakuenji Temple Momiji Festival (Gakuenji Temple)
- 21st Century Izumo Industrial Trade Fair (Izumo Dome)

December (Shiwasu)

- Ichibata Yakushi Rites for Used Charms (Ichibata Yakushi)

Izumo Annual Event Calendar

Izumo Susa Onsen Yukari-kan

Enjoy these abundant hot spring facilities, including diverse types of indoor baths and an open-air bath, for relaxing with a view of the surrounding forest.
Ⓘ 0853-84-0800 Ⓞ 10:00 - 22:00
Ⓒ Tuesdays Ⓐ Adults: 500 yen, 65 or above: 400 yen, Middle and high school: 300 yen, Children: 200 yen, Babies: Free
http://www.yukarikan.com/

Koryo Onsen

This hot spring was discovered beside Lake Jinzai in 1968. Available facilities include public accommodations and the first kurhous in the Chugoku district.
Ⓘ Kokumin-shukusha (hotel facility operated by the local government) Kunibikisou 0853-43-2211
Ⓞ 10:00 - 16:00 19:00 - 21:00 Ⓒ Open year round
Ⓐ Adults: 500 yen, 4 to elementary school: 300 yen
http://www.kunibiki.com/

Taki Ichijiku Onsen

A day-visit hot spring facility with an open-air bath and an ichijiku (fig) herbal bath. You can enjoy Japanese cuisine made with local ingredients at the adjoining restaurant.
Ⓘ 0853-86-2600 Ⓞ March - November 10:00 - 21:00 December - February 10:00 - 20:30 Ⓒ First and third Tuesdays of every month (Third Tuesday in August)
Ⓐ Adults: 400 yen, Children: 200 yen
http://www.kirara-taki.co.jp/03kutsurogu/

Oda Onsen

The hot spring here was discovered at the end of the Taisho Era. This solitary inn is a special retreat filled with the enthusiasm of the artistic host and hostess.
Ⓘ 0853-86-2016 Ⓞ 6:30 - 10:30
Ⓒ No fixed holidays
Ⓐ Adults: 525 yen, Children: 315 yen (Bath is available only to lunch customers or hotel guests.)
http://www.odaonsen.jp/

Along R431 (Route 431) — To IZUMO, the land where ancient tradition and new life meet to bloom.

Fumishima, breeding site of the umineko (black-tailed gull)

The name Fumishima derives from the islands' shape which resembles a row of Buddhist scrolls. Being one of the few breeding sites of black-tailed gulls in Japan, the islet is designated as a national natural treasure. You can also enjoy trekking along a walking trail in the vicinity.

Izumo Hinomisaki Lighthouse

Hinomisaki national park is a scenic site with extraordinary rock formations and cliffs. The lighthouse stands 43.65 meters high at the tip of the park. It is the tallest masonry lighthouse in Japan and registered among the top 100 historic lighthouses of the world.

ⓘ 0853-54-5341 Ⓞ 9:00-16:30
Ⓒ Dec. 30 - 31
Ⓐ Adults 200 yen, Children Free

Hinomisaki Shrine

The vermilion-lacquered shrine pavilions were built by order of Ikenitsu Tokugawa based on Gongen Zukuri, a traditional shrine architectural style, being a valuable architectural work of the early Edo Period. The shrine is designated as a nationally important cultural property. The carvings in Kaerumata of the main hall and other places are beautiful sculptures of traditional subjects such as dragons and tigers, cranes and tortoises, and pine, bamboo, and plum trees, which are definitely worth seeing.

ⓘ 0853-54-5261

Tomb of Izumo-no Okuni

Izumo-no Okuni, the founder of Kabuki is purported to have been a shrine virgin of Izumo Taisha. It has been reported that she spent her final years chanting a Buddhist sutra and composing renga (linked verse) in this province .

Kiccho-kan

This is a facility to exhibit models and panels to introduce the culture, history and religion that have been passed down in Izumo Taisha province, including the traditional event called Kiccho-ban.

ⓘ 0853-53-5858 Ⓞ 9:00-17:00
Ⓒ Year end Ⓐ Free

Old Taisha Station

This station was opened in 1912 and closed in 1990. The post-house was rebuilt in 1924. The building is superior in design, and represents modern Japanese-style architecture. It is designated as a nationally important cultural property along with Tokyo Station and Mojiko Station.

Ⓞ 9:00-16:30 Ⓐ Free

Shimane Museum of Ancient Izumo

A facility with a wide variety of collections gathered to introduce the history and culture of ancient Izumo, the land of mystery and romance. Popular exhibitions include replicas of the ancient Izumo Taisha shrine and bronze implements unearthed in Shimane prefecture.

ⓘ 0853-53-8600 Ⓞ March - October: 9:00 - 18:00 November - February: 9:00 - 17:00
Ⓒ Third Tuesday of every month Ⓐ Admission fee: 600 yen (For special exhibitions, prices vary with the exhibition.)
http://www.izm.ed.jp/

Shimane Winery

Shimane winery is a factory producing wine with local grapes. Besides factory tours and wine tasting, you can enjoy a barbecue of Shimane beef and other tasty food as well as nice souvenirs.

ⓘ 0853-53-5577 Ⓞ 9:30 - 17:00 (June - September open till 18:00)
Ⓒ Open year round Ⓐ Free admission
http://www.shimane-winery.co.jp/

Izumo Dome

Measuring 48.9 meters in height, Izumo dome is one of the largest wooden stadiums in the world. The ground with artificial grass is used for various competitions and events.

ⓘ 0853-25-1006 Ⓞ 9:00 - 17:00
Ⓒ Open year round Ⓐ Dome tour: Adults 150 yen, Middle school age and under 70 yen
http://www.city.izumo.shimane.jp/filelong/sports/dome/index.html

Koukokuji Temple Garden

Kokoku Temple garden was created by Sawa Gentan, the in-house landscape designer of Fumai Matsudaira, the owner of Matsue castle, taking three years to complete. It utilizes the view of Mt. Tabushi and represents the dry garden style (karesansui). Its graceful beauty attracts everyone and it is constantly ranked near the top by Japanese garden magazines published in the United States.

ⓘ 0853-62-2213

Gakuenji Temple

Gakuen Temple is an historic temple of Tendai Buddhism, with the spectacular fall foliage described as one of the greatest spectacles in the vicinity. It offers lots of must-see sights including Zao Hall built in a rocky cavern by the Furo waterfall. It is well known as a place where Musashibou Benkei performed ascetic training in his younger days.

ⓘ 0853-66-0250

Ichibata Yakushi

An historic temple of Rinzai Buddhism, associated with the healing of eye complaints. It is also known as a Buddha to pray to for children's health and growth on occasions such as the 2-year-old's celebration.

ⓘ 0853-67-0111
http://www.ichibata.jp/index1.htm

Lake Shinji Nature Center Gobius

Gobius is a hands-on aquarium which helps you to enjoy learning about the ecology of living creatures that populate brackish and fresh water in Shimane, such as at Lake Shinji and the Hii River.

ⓘ 0853-63-7100 Ⓞ 9:30 - 17:00
Ⓒ Tuesdays, Year-end and new year holidays
Ⓐ Adults 500 yen Elementary, middle and high school age 200 yen
http://www.gobius.jp/

Koyu Kan

The biggest ice rink in Sanin. It provides a rink for ice skating and ice hockey in winter, and a space for other purposes during the off-season.

ⓘ 0853-62-5600 Ⓞ Skating season 10:00 - 19:00 Off-season 10:00 - 17:00
Ⓒ Tuesdays
Ⓐ General 1,100 yen, High school/University students 800 yen, Middle school age and under 600 yen

Along R9 (Route 9) — Go off to find refreshing spots in a pleasant breeze.

Marine Thalasso Izumo

Relaxation facility offering Thalasso-therapy, marine-derived treatment. Overnight guest rooms with a magnificent view of the sunset over the Sea of Japan attract many visitors.

ⓘ 0853-66-7111 Ⓞ 10:30-21:00
Ⓒ Open year round (Closed for one week for maintenance in winter.)
Ⓐ Health program: 6,000 yen and up
Admission to refreshing marine pool: 1,000 yen
Use of fitness room: 500 yen
http://www.talaso-izumo.jp/

Roadside Station Kirara Taki

Northern European style building with nice restaurants and shops. It offers a perfect break point for your trip. Next to this facility, there is Miharashinooka Park with Kirara Cottage.

ⓘ 0853-66-9080 Ⓞ 9:00-18:30
Ⓒ No fixed holidays
http://www.kirara-taki.co.jp/

Kurhaus Koryo

Located in the edge of Lake Jinzai, Kurhaus Koryo is a multi-purpose hot spring facility utilizing water from Koryo hot spring. It provides 12 types of baths, a sauna, and pools, including an air bubble bath and a shallow bath.

ⓘ 0853-43-2266 Ⓞ 11:00-21:00
Ⓒ Tuesdays Ⓐ Entry fee: Adults: 600 yen Middle school: 400 yen Children (3yrs old~elementary school): 200 yen
http://www.kunibiki.com/kurhouse.htm

Lake Jinzai

Lake Jinzai has scenic points called Lake Jinzai kyukei (nine scenic beauties). The picturesque lakefront populated with wild common reed grass and cattails is one of the natural scenic sites that we would like to preserve for the next generation.

Nagahama Shrine

Nagahama shrine enshrines the God of Kunibiki (from the land-pulling legend) who is the deity of martial arts, sports proficiency and victory.

ⓘ 0853-29-0383

Izumo You-Plaza

The biggest water amusement facility in the Chugoku and Shikoku regions. It provides 6 types of pools, a Jacuzzi, and an herbal sauna.

ⓘ 0853-30-0707
Ⓞ 10:00-21:00 (9:00-21:00 during summer holiday)
Ⓒ Thursdays Ⓐ Adults: September - June 800 yen, July - August 1,000 yen Elementary, middle and high school: 400 yen 3yrs old - preschool: 300yen Elderly: 600 yen Under 3 yrs old: Free

Explore IZUMO along 3 routes.

ⓘ Contact info for inquiries
Ⓞ Opening hours
Ⓒ Closed
Ⓐ Admission

Shimane Hana no Sato

Healing space surrounded by pretty flowers throughout the year. Discover a flower paradise in the large glass greenhouse.

ⓘ 0853-20-1187
Ⓞ 9:30-17:00(Open till 16:30 in winter)
Ⓒ Open year round (Closed on Tuesdays in December, January and February)
Ⓐ Adults: 200 yen Elementary,middle and high school: 100 yen
http://www.shimane-hananosato.com/

Izumo Science Center

Besides offering science lessons to local elementary and middle schools, it helps visitors to experience the joy and wonder of science through crafts and experiments.

ⓘ 0853-25-1500 Ⓞ 10:00-18:00
Ⓒ Closed: Third Monday of every month, Year-end and new year holidays
Ⓐ Admission free

Nishidani Tumuli

Clustered tumuli centered on 6 square-shaped tomb mounds with four corners exerted, which is unique to the region. Recent studies uncovered that this site forms a large-scale tumuli with 26 tomb mounds in total, and proved it to be an important ruin representing the most brilliant period of Ancient Izumo.

Hii River

A great river associated with myths, including the famous Yamata no Orochi Legend. In Izumo city, sandbanks create beautiful patterns on the surface of the river.

Lake Shinji

A unique brackish water environment resulting from seawater mixing with fresh water, Lake Shinji is designated as a globally important wetland under the Ramsar Convention, along with Nakaumi. There are plenty of fish and shellfish populating the lake. In fact, Japanese sea perch, Moroge shrimp, eel, cattle egret, ice fish, carp and shijimi clams are particularly known as the seven delicacies of Lake Shinji, and are enjoyed as local specialties.

Taki Ichijikukan

A store and factory specializing in goods made of figs, for example jam and snacks. The store also has a wide variety of locally produced goods on sale.
Earlier booking is required for touring the factory and having a try at making your own fig products.

Tebikigaoka Park (Kazenoko Gakushukan)

A park on a hill overlooking the Sea of Japan, located at the western edge of Izumo city. The landmark to find the park is a big windmill. Kazenoko Gakushukan is established on the same site.

ⓘ 0853-86-3644
http://www.kazenoko-taki.com/

Look Around and Learn. Find your favorite IZUMO!

Ichibata Railways

The Ichibata connects Matsue Shinjiko Onsen Station, Izumo-shi Station, and Izumo Taisha-mae Station. The railroad is colored with beautiful flowers in spring.

Explore the Japanese atmosphere in IZUMO.

Along R184 (Route 184) — Welcome to the sylvan country of healing.

Meda Forest Park

Situated by Meda Pond, Meda Forest Park provides bungalows, tent sites and well-appointed cottages.

ⓘ 0853-84-0805 Ⓞ 9:00-18:00
Open April-November (Closed during the winter season)
Ⓐ High school and above: 200 yen Elementary and middle school: 100 yen
http://www.meda-park.com/

Susa Shrine

Historical shrine that documented in Izumo-yo-kuni Fudoki (local chronicle of Izumo) and enshrines Susano-o no Mikoto, the hero of Izumo mythology. Recently it has been attracting many visitors as one of the most famous power spots in Japan.

ⓘ 0853-84-0605
http://www.susa-jinja.jp/

Yakumo Fuuketsu (Wind Cave)

Mysterious spots which cold wind blows through this cave. The temperature of the wind remains at around 10°C even in summer. Many people visit to enjoy the coolness.

ⓘ 0853-84-0405 Ⓞ 9:00-17:00 (July-August)
Ⓐ Elementary school age and above: 100 yen

Tachikue Kyo (Gorge)

Described as Yabakei of Sanin, Tachikue Kyo lets us enjoy exquisite views with oddly-shaped rocks rising up and a combination of rock columns and old pine trees, providing different charms from season to season (such as fall foliage and snow scenes). You can take a stroll along a walking trail that lead to spots like 500 image of Buddha.

Izumo Cultural Heritage Museum

A museum based in a facility that was originally the mansion of an Izumo region landowner. The main residence and row house were reconstructed together with the garden in the present place. There is a tea ceremony house called Dokurakuan designed by Senno Rikyu (the founder of the Japanese tea ceremony) and Izumo style garden. This museum is worth visiting.

ⓘ 0853-21-2460 Ⓞ 9:00-17:00
Ⓒ Closed Mondays Ⓐ Admission Free

Hirata Honjin Memorial Hall

A memorial hall dedicated to the local history and culture. This relocated house was originally a residence of an old established Honkiss family, who currently resides in Hirata-cho Honmachi. With an exhibition pavilion and tearoom coupled with a graceful Japanese garden, it serves as a place for visitors to enjoy the quiet beauty of Izumo.

ⓘ 0853-62-5099 Ⓞ 9:00-17:00
Ⓒ Closed Tuesdays, and Maintenance days for exhibit switching
Ⓐ Regularly Admission Free, Occasionally admission fee required as follows: Adults: 500 yen Elementary, middle and high school: 200 yen
http://www5.ocn.ne.jp/%7Ehyohon/

Izumo Mingei Museum (Folk Crafts Museum)

Here in the partially renovated house of the Yamamotos, a wealthy farmer family in Izumo, you can see tools and agricultural implements of the old days, as well as craft products for daily life. Historic value is placed not only the exhibitions but also the architectural structures themselves, such as a rice granary and a long house gate.

ⓘ 0853-22-6397 Ⓞ 9:00-17:00
Ⓒ Mondays, Year-end and new year holidays
Ⓐ Admission: 500 yen Elementary and middle school: 100 yen

The Tezen Memorial Hall

This memorial hall exhibits Rakuzan ware with the Matsue Clan, and lacquered tableware crafted by Kojima Shikkosai. It helps you to learn about the local life and culture of the Izumo region.

ⓘ 0853-53-2000 Ⓞ 9:00-16:30
Ⓒ Tuesdays, Year-end and new year holidays, Maintenance days for exhibit switching
Ⓐ Adults: 600 yen Elementary, middle and high school: 400 yen
http://www.icv.ne.jp/_tezen3/index.htm

Take a break and stroll through the townscape...to discover more of exquisite Izumo.

Take your time to walk around the streets and enjoy the nostalgic charm. You might even hear people from ancient times breathing!

Historical aspects of the Monzen-machi

Taisha Shinmon-dori Shake-dori

Many gift shops and restaurants line Taisha Shinmon-dori. Walk along the street from Otorii to Seidamari. You will surely like to stop at attractive spots such as Izumo Taisha-mae Station of the Ichibata Railway, old confection stores, and Zenzai restaurants. The street will bring you through the Monzen-machi and let you enjoy relaxed strolling through the shops feeling nostalgic for ancient times. If you go east from the main site of Izumo Taisha, you will soon find yourself on Shake-dori. Here you can enjoy a quiet stroll through an historic space, and be inspired by a series of historical spots like Yotsuashi-mon, Kitajima Kokusokan, Izumo-kyo Goshinden, Inochi nushi-no yashiro, and Manaa-no Shimizu.

Large momen noren
(cotton hanging cloths)
swing in the breeze,
inviting you to come inside.

A nostalgic space which still conjures up images of Unshu Hirata with its exciting markets.

Momen Kaido

Along the winding Hirata-funagawa River, you will see a row of dwellings with walls of plaster, gable roofs, and an entrance at the gable end (a traditional architectural style called Kiritsuma-tsumairi). This street is referred to as Hirata Momen Kaido, where you can feel the prosperity of the Edo Period. The street is named Momen Kaido (or Cotton Road) because it developed as part of the market town of Matsue, and flourished as the center of the cotton trade.

Sake(rice wine) breweries and soy sauce factories
The tradesmen's houses possess a chic and retrospective atmosphere.

Momen Kaido consists of the streets in Shin-machi, Katahara-machi and Miyano-machi. Shin-machi is a historic zone with Hon-Ishibashi-tei (the head house of Ishibashi family) and Momen Kaido Koryu-kan to introduce you to the local commerce, history and culture. Katahara-machi is a commercial zone with storehouses and merchant houses, such as the long-established crystallized ginger store, the soy sauce brewery which carries on the traditional hand-made process using wooden barrels, and the 130-year-old sake brewery. The row of buildings exhibits the exquisite Izumo-latticework combining different-size grids, and hanging noren with the street name dyed on white cotton cloth. Such an atmosphere of classic elegance makes Momen Kaido a favorite place to visit for nostalgia lovers.

The tang of sea air
and the historic street

Strolling in Sagiura

Sagiura is an outlying area of Taisha-machi over the hill, and faces the Sea of Japan. It once flourished as an anchorage site of Kitamaebune and Osaka Shosen trading boats, and from the mining business in Udo. The antique townscape still remains and reliefs called Kotee on the white mortar walls of storehouses please the eyes of visitors.

Listen to the tranquil sound of a stream and ramble through the fascinating scenery of ancient Izumo.

Stroll along the Takase River

Okaji Shichibei, the builder of Takase River

The Takase River is an irrigation channel built in the early Edo Period by Okaji Shichibei in order to supply water to farm land in Arakihama. From the mid-Edo period, however, it has been actively used for transportation of the domain's rice crop and other supplies, which has built-up Izumo as a mercantile city. The statue of Shichibei standing by the Takase River was made to honor his achievement for having dedicated his life and funds to the reclamation.

Izumo's unique indigo dyeing (tsutsugaki aizome) and adorable paper tiger

Allowing for pleasant strolls, the river has paths on both sides as well as water parks, arbors to sit under and rest, as well as terraces and monuments. You can also find a dye shop and atelier to craft Hariko-no-tora (paper tigers). This makes the waterfront a comfortable spot exhibiting the unique atmosphere of Izumo.

Izumo Brand Guide Book

You will find various tasteful and much-valued foods painstakingly created as slow food specific to Izumo. We hope you will remember these tastes as wonderful souvenirs.

Izumo Soba (Buckwheat) noodle

In Izumo the buckwheat and its outer layer are ground together. Therefore the color of Izumo soba noodle is dark and the flavor is strong. Izumo soba noodle is served with the specific style called Warigo-soba. The buckwheat noodles, cooled immediately after boiling, are placed in vermilion-lacquer round bowls. Add spice and soy sauce. Enjoy this famous Izumo dish.

Shijimi (Freshwater clams)

Lake Jinzai and Lake Shinji have been famous for their large freshwater clams for a long time. A preserving method capable of improving the taste was recently developed, thus making them even more delicious.

Cape Hinomisaki Misaki Seafood Donburi

This bowl of rice is topped with an abundance of seafood from the Japan Sea, featuring an attractive and dynamic taste. When you visit Cape Hinomisaki, please try it together with a local specialty such as roasted squid or cooked turban shell.

Taki Fig (Houraishi)

These Figs are known as Taki specialty and are a famous product of Shimane. Both the processed and the raw figs are good for human health and beauty.

Izumo Zenzai

The pronunciation of Zenzai (red bean soup with pieces of rice cake) is said to derive from the Jinzai (god exist) mochi, and has been served to people in this district in Kamiarizuki (October in the lunar calendar) since olden times. This is one of the new Izumo food brands.

Shimane Wine

The grapes grown in Shimane Prefecture are formed into Shimane Wine in the land of the gods, Izumo. The rich, full-flavored taste is appreciated by many.

Izumo Beef

This densely-marbled beef enjoys a good reputation because of its tenderness and high quality.

Shimane Grapes

These are the origin of Delaware seedless grapes, and are sweet and juicy. Please visit and enjoy grape picking.

Hirata Persimmon (Kaki)

Saijo persimmon
A sweet, soft persimmon, smooth and easy-to-eat.

Anpo persimmon
Soft and sweet dried Saijo persimmons are like Japanese cake.

Izumo Annual Event Calendar

January (Mutsuki)

New Year (Izumo Taisha Shrine, Hinomisaki Shrine, etc.)
Sagiura Shagiri Festival (Sagiura, Taisha-machi)
Kicchо-san and Bannai (Izumo Taisha Shrine, Taisha-machi)
Izumo Taisha Shrine Fukujin Festival (Izumo Taisha Shrine)
Mekari Ceremony (Hinomisaki and Uryu area)

February (Kisaragi)

Setsubun Festival
(Izumo Taisha Shrine, Susa Shrine, etc.)
Kunibiki Marathon (Izumo city)

March (Yayoi)

Sakura Festival
(Izumo Taisha Shrine, Atagoyama Park, Ichinotani Park, etc.)

April (Uzuki)

Ako Shrine Otaue Anzan Ceremony
(Ako Shrine)
Ichibata Yakushi Spring Flower Festival
(Ichibata Yakushi)
Susa Shrine Annual Festival
(Susa Shrine)
Ichibata Yakushi Festival for 2 Year Olds
Thanks-offering for Blessings for 4 Year Olds
(Ichibata Yakushi)

May (Satsuki)

Kutami Shrine Taue Ceremony (Kutami Shrine)
Izumo Taisha Grand Festival
(Izumo Taisha Shrine)

June (Minazuki)

Suzumidono Festival
(Izumo Taisha Shrine)
Hachiman-Shisen-Butsu-Kuyouasi Festival
(Ichibata Yakushi)
Susanoo Spirit (Susanoo Hall)
Opening of Kirara Beach
(Kirara Beach)

July (Fumizuki)

Fuuketsu Biraki
(Yakumo Fuuketsu Park)
Hirata Festival, Tanabata Painted Boat Festival
(Center of Hirata area)
Hirata Tenmangu Hono Festival, Competition of Decorative Craftsmanship
(Umi Shrine, Center of Hirata area)
Izumo Philharmonic Orchestra Regular Concert
Taki Kirara Festival
(Roadside Station Kirara Taki)

Hot Springs in IZUMO

ⓘ Contact info for inquiries Ⓞ Opening hours Ⓒ Closed Ⓐ Admission

Kappou Onsen Yurari

The new area in Hirata includes this hot spring complex situated on the premises of Cel-Pa Nakanoshima. Continuously flowing water from the hot spring attracts visitors.
ⓘ 0853-62-1234 Ⓞ 10:30 - 22:30
Ⓒ Open year round Ⓐ Adults: 800 yen, 65 or above: 400 yen, Children: 300 yen Extra fee of 100 yen charged on Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays.
http://www.cel-pia.com/yurari/

Kitayama Kenko Onsen

This hot spring facility has a panoramic view of the Kitayama mountains. It has individual bathing facilities so elderly visitors and those requiring nursing care can also enjoy bathing.
ⓘ 0853-20-0888 Ⓞ 9:00 - 22:30
Ⓒ January 1, December 31, Wednesdays
Ⓐ Adults: 500 yen, Elementary, middle and high school, and 60 or above: 300 yen 3 - preschool age: 200 yen

Izumo-ekimae Onsen Lamp-no-yu

Conveniently situated just south of JR Izumoshi station, Lamp-no-yu is famous for its hot spring bathing with calm atmosphere surrounded by bamboo trees.
ⓘ 0853-20-2626 Ⓞ 10:00 - 22:00
Ⓒ Wednesdays Ⓐ Adults (middle school and above): 600 yen, Children: 300 yen, 3 and under: free

Izumo Heisei Onsen

Situated on the premises of Heisei Sports Park in southern area, Izumo city, Izumo Heisei Onsen is popular for its herb bath with 7 kinds of herbs.
ⓘ 0853-23-6386 Ⓞ 10:00 - 21:30
Ⓒ January 1, December 31, Mondays
Ⓐ Adults: 500 yen, Elementary and middle school: 300 yen, 60 or above: 300 yen, 3 - preschool age: 200 yen

Tachikue Onsen

Here you can enjoy an urban escape, bathing with a view of oddly-shaped rocks standing high along the limpid stream of the Kando River.
ⓘ Hakkoen: 0853-45-0121, Goshoranba: 0853-45-0211

Historical discovery unlocked the legend of heaven-kissing Grand Shrine.

Giant Shrine Remains

In 2000, remains perceived to be a part of the giant pillars of the huge inner shrine were excavated from the grounds of Izumo Taisha Shrine. They were the remains of three logs bundled together to make up a giant pillar, which closely resemble the diagram of the structure shown in Kanawa-no-gozousi-sashizu (purported ground plan for the building) that has been kept by the Senge Kokuso family. This resemblance has made the finding a historical discovery to shed some light on the existence of the giant shrine in ancient times.

Make it two bows, four hand claps, and a final bow here.

Grand Shrine dedicated to Okuninushi no Okami, the central player of Izumo Mythology.

Izumo Oyashiro Honden (Inner Shrine)

According to the Kojiki and Nihonshoki, Izumo Taisha originated when Amaterasu-Omikami, a sun goddess, created a massive palace with pillars set deep into a rock in the abyss for Okuninushi no Okami on the occasion of his Kuni-Yuzuri (transfer of the land). The current inner shrine, measuring 24 meters in height, was build in 1744, and designated as a national treasure in 1952.

Izumo Taisha Front Shrine (Worship Hall)

After passing under the do-torii (copper shrine gate), you will have a direct view of the front shrine, measuring 13.5 meters in height and made of Japanese cypress, which was reconstructed in 1959. The front shrine building is positioned a little off center to the left, which you will notice when standing beneath the shrine gate at the center. This is to enable visitors to have a view of the inner shrine roof. For the coming Heisei relocation of the shrine spirit, the front shrine is being used as the temporary residence of Okuninushi no Okami.

Heisei Relocation of Shrine Spirit

Inner Shrine Spirit Relocation Festival to be held in May 2013

The existing inner shrine, designated as a national treasure, was constructed and the shrine spirit was settled there in 1744. Since then, the shrine spirit was relocated, using a traditional ceremony, in order to renovate the inner shrine on three occasions: 1809, 1881, and 1953. And now, for the first time in 60 years, we are going to conduct a Heisei Relocation of Shrine Spirit ceremony for another renovation.

Worship at Izumo Taisha Shrine

Although the commonly used ceremony for shrine worship is two bows, two hand claps and a final bow, the procedure employed here at Izumo Taisha is two bows, four hand claps and a final bow.

【Tips for visitors】
~Four gates to pass through before worship~
When you visit and worship at Izumo Taisha Shrine, you are supposed to pass beneath four shrine gates before reaching the hall for worship: o-torii (big gate) on Shinmon-dori, seimon-torii (front gate) in Seidamari, the gate with pine trees at the end of a down-sloping approach, and finally the do-torii (copper gate) before the front shrine.

Approach with pine trees

Walking down the approach from Seidamari(agora), join hands at Harai-no-yashiro(small shrine for ritual purification), go over the Harai-no-hashi bridge, and you will see long rows of towering old pine trees alongside the approach leading to the Aragaki(shrine fence).

O-torii (big gate)

O-torii stands tall by the Uga-bashi bridge on Shinmon-dori. It measures 23 meters in height, which is a little lower than the inner shrine of Izumo Taisha.

Stage of the Kuni-Yuzuri Myth with a Graceful Sunset

Inasa-no-hama

A beach registered among the top 100 beaches of Japan, located roughly one kilometer west of Izumo Taisha Shrine. This is the stage of the famous Kuni-Yuzuri myth of Izumo, where the Kamimukae ceremony is held to declare the commencement of October (when the gods are purported to gather at Izumo). Your can enjoy a glorious view of the sun behind the huge rock before it sinks into the peaceful ocean.