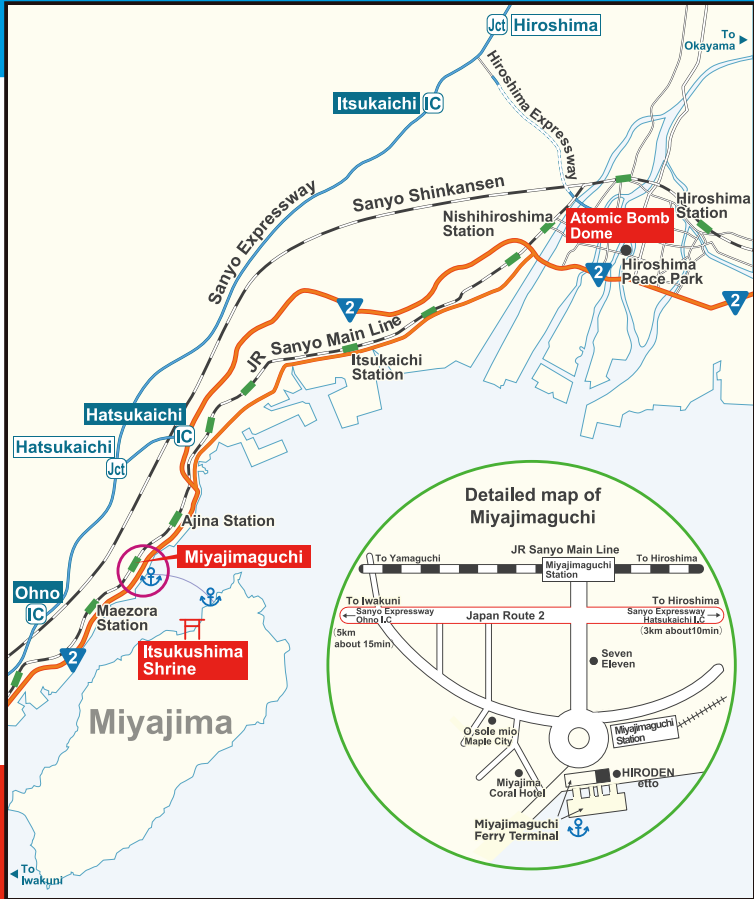


Miyajima Guide Map

Places of Historic Interest, Cultural Assets and Promenades
Full of the Beauties of Nature.

From the ferry terminal, it takes:

- Itsukushima Shrine 12min
- Daishoin Temple 20min
- Daiganji Temple 18min
- Treasure Hall 18min
- Hokoku Shrine(Senjokaku)/Five-storied Pagoda 10min
- Tahoto Pagoda 20min
- Momijidani Park 20min
- Fujinotana Park 20min
- Omoto Park 25min
- Tsutsumigaura Recreation Park 40min
- Miyajima Ropeway 25min
- Miyajima History and Folklore Museum 20min
- Miyajima Aquarium 25min
- Kiyomori Shrine 20min



ATTENTION

The deer on Miyajima are wild. They may eat paper and cloth. Please pay attention and keep an eye on your personal belongings-especially tickets and souvenirs as the deer might eat them.



One of Japan's Three Most Scenic Spots

For inquiries regarding sightseeing and products

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Itsukushima Shrine

O-Torii

First built in the latter half of the sixth century,Itsukushima Shrine was remodeled into the present beautiful structure by Taira-no-Kiyomori in 1168. Standing in the sea, it is widely known for its grand and unique construction. The sublime and gorgeous appearance displays the artistic beauty of the Shinden style of architecture.About 200 meters in front of the main shrine and standing in the sea is the vermilion colored O-Torii (Grand Gate) which is the most noted symbol of Miyajima. Itsukushima Shrine was officially designated in December 1996 as a precious asset of world heritage.



Tahoto Pagoda

Built by the priest Shukan in 1523,Tahoto is a pagoda with a height of 15.6 meters. Although constructed mainly in Japanese style,parts of the structure have Indian and Chinese architectual features. It presents the unique combination of a square shape on the lower level and a round shape on the upper level.



Hokoku Shrine and the Five-Storeied Pagoda

Hokoku Shrine(a.k.a Senjokaku) is a library of Buddhist sutras that Hideyoshi Toyotomi started to build in the Irimoya style for the repose of the war dead. Because of Hideyoshi' s death,parts of the building,such as the board ceiling and front entrance,remain unfinished. The five-storeied pagoda,28 meters high,is said to have been built in 1407. It shows a splendid structural beauty that skillfully combines Japanese and Chinese architectural styles. The image of Buddha is painted in full color on an inside wall of the pagoda.



Takinokoji Alley

Takinokoji Alley stretches from behind Itsukushima Shrine to Daishoin Temple. There used to be residences for priests and Imperial messengers of which latticed doors and "shikado" doors show a feature of the old-time houses of Miyajima. Near Daishoin Temple is located Awashima Shrine,which is well-known as a guardian deity of safe delivery and good health.



Yamabe Path

Yamabe Path used to be the eastern approach to Itsukushima Shrine. Nyoninzaka Slope is a part of the approach which has a quaint old flavor with stone statues of the guardian deity of children, Jizo and a stone relief of the goddess Nyoninzo.



Omoto Shrine

Omoto Shrine,closely connected with Itsukushima Shrine,stands in a corner of Omoto Park,which was at one time a battleground. This shrine is particularly known for the special method used to shingle its roof,the oldest style existing in Japan.



Momijidani Park

This is a quiet park located at the foot of Mt. Misen,which is covered by an extensive primeval forest. Particularly in autumn,the park presents a splendid view with its wide variety of scarlet-tinged maple leaves. From spring to early summer,cherry blossoms and lush greenery present a magnificent sight.



Daishoin Temple

As the headquarters of the Omuro Branch of the Shingon denomination of Buddhism,Daishoin is the most distinguished temple of Miyajima,having been in charge of all the rituals as Betto(administrator) of Itsukushima Shrine prior to the Meiji Restoration(1868).



Homotsukan (Treasure Hall)

Including the Heike Clan' s Buddhist sutras,the treasures of Itsukushima Shrine were dedicated by members of the clan as prayers for their prosperity. Some of them are displayed in this Treasure Hall. Of the sculptures,paintings and handicrafts,130 articles are designated as national treasures or important cultural properties.



Daiganji Temple

Until the Meiji Restoration (1868),this temple was in charge of the repair and construction of Itsukushima Shrine.



Machiya Street

While Omotesando Shopping Arcade is filled with tourists all year round,Machiya Street,which is one block off of the arcade,provides a glimpse into Miyajima' s local life with a neat row of centuries-old stores and houses. Bengara latticed merchants' town houses (machiya) and other buildings,which present an aesthetic combination of the historical architecture and the modern style,will take visitors back to the good old days.



Mt.Misen and Ropeway

Covered with luxuriant primeval forests,Mt.Misen,the highest mountain on Miyajima Island,rises 535 meters above sea level. The mountain has been considered sacred and an object of worship since ancient times. Near the summit are temples relating to Kobo Daishi,a great Buddhist priest. There are also unusually-shaped rocks and an observatory. A ropeway connects Shishiiwa Station on Mt. Misen with Momijidani Park.



O-Shakushi(Big rice scoop)

This "world's largest rice scoop" was created to pass down the traditional handicraft of Miyajima woodwork and as a symbol of Miyajima as the birthplace of the rice scoop. Length: 7.7 m, Max. width: 2.7 m, Weight: 2.5 tons, Material: Japanese zelkova (270 years old)

Miyajima History and Folklore Museum

The museum preserves the main house and part of a storehouse which formerly belonged to the Egami family,one of the most prosperous merchant families in Miyajima. On display are about 1000 items of a wide range of folklore materials of Miyajima including ancient documents,paintings and woodcraft.



Miyajima Traditional Crafts Center

Miyajima Traditional Crafts Center is three story building. On the first floor,the traditional Miyajima handicrafts such as wood crafts,clay bells and Hariko paper dolls are exhibited and sold. On the second floor,you can try making Momiji Manju(maple leaf shaped snack cake). On the third floor,you can make your own Shakushi(rice scoop) and experience Miyajima-bori carving.

Miyajima Aquarium

A Seto Inland Sea themed aquarium with a relaxing atmosphere where you can get up close to and even feel the marine life. Spectators can observe penguins swimming swiftly in a water tank like birds flying in the sky and also enjoy sea lion shows from up close. Large-scale fish are also displayed here with more than 13,000 creatures and around 350 different kinds of species living comfortably in water tanks of various sizes.



Bugaku

The traditional Bugaku,ancient musical court dance,of Itsukushima Shrine has been handed down through the generations from the day of Taira-no-Kiyomori. The elegant Bugaku performed to the accompaniment of Gagaku music on a grand vermilion colored stage that is reflected beautifully on the blue sea is reminiscent of the culturalglory of the Heian Period.



Hiwatari-shinji

Twice a year,in spring and autumn, a bonfire is built from the "eternal holy fire." People walk barefoot on the embers,praying for fulfillment of their wishes.



Shin-Noh

This dates back to the Noh drama that Motonari Mori dedicated to the shrine in 1568. Shin-Noh(sacred Noh) is performed for three days from April 16 as one event of the Peach Blossom Festival.

Specialty Products, Local Delicacies, Souvenirs



anago-meshi
(broiled conger eel on top of rice)



oyster



momiji manju



traditional wooden crafts



Kangensai

The largest of the annual festivals observed at Itsukushima Shrine,this gala event takes place on the night of June 17 by the lunar calendar. (The actual date changes each year.) Boats colorfully decorated with curtains and lanterns,and carrying orchestras aboard,cruise along the coast while Gagaku music is being played. It is like a gorgeous picture scroll of the Monarchial Age spread out over the sea.



Tamatorisai

A high-spirited masculine festival that takes place on the sea in front of the Itsukushima Shrine. Young men living on Miyajima jostle and fight for a "precious wooden ball" of good luck suspended from a wooden frame in the sea in front of Itsukushima Shrine.



Chinkasai

A fire festival held every year on December 31st. In this exciting festival,big bundles of pine wood are set afire at a site for religious service in front of Itsukushima Shrine. Young men scramble for the pine torches,turning the seashore into a veritable"sea of fire."



Miyajima Oysters Festival

In the second weekend in February,Oysters,Miyajima' s specialty,are served at low prices.

