

# 廿日市市

Hatsukaichi City



Island known as the resting place of the gods. Beauty carved from religious faith.



Since ancient times the island of Miyajima has been revered and worshipped. Itsukushima shrine was originally constructed by worshippers in 593 and later restored to its current splendor by Taira no Kiyomori in 1168. This bold and unique structure sits on the water with the sea spread out in front of it and the virgin forests of Mt. Misen, the island's highest peak, forming its backdrop. The historical significance, natural beauty and tranquility of Miyajima has earned it a place on the World Cultural Heritage List.



Itsukushima Shrine

# Miyajima



Momijidani Park



Itsukushima Shrine • Five-story Pagoda

Itsukushima Shrine

Tahoto Pagoda



## Area Map



Ferryboat

### Model course



## 1 大鳥居 Otorii Gate

Otorii Gate is the symbol of Miyajima. Constructed from camphor wood, this awesome structure stands 16m high with a supporting base 10m in circumference. Its base appears as if it has been buried in the ocean floor. However, it actually stands on the ocean bottom supported by its own weight. The gate is situated 200m from the shrine and at low tide visitors are able to walk out and stand beside it.

ACCESS 10 min. walk from Ferry terminal



## 2 厳島神社 Itsukushima Shrine

Itsukushima Shrine was constructed approximately 1,400 years ago using the Shinden style of architecture, symbolic of the type of construction used for the residences of the noble classes. It seems as if it is floating on the sea. Visitors get the sensation of being on a boat. The beauty of the Otorii Gate and Itsukushima Shrine are illuminated from dusk until 11pm.

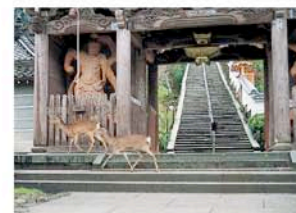
OPEN 6:30-18:00 (vary by season)  
 ¥ 300 yen  
 ACCESS 11 min. walk from Ferry terminal



## 3 宝物館 Treasure Hall

The museum's exhibits focus on items offered for the prosperity of the Taira Clan and holds approximately 3,500 items including artwork, weapons, colorful masks and instruments. The museum holds 130 items alone that are national treasures or important cultural artifacts including scrolls from the clan.

OPEN 8:00-17:00 ¥ 300 yen  
 ACCESS 15 min. walk from Ferry terminal



## 4 大聖院 Daishoin Temple

This Buddhist temple oversaw the Itsukushima Shrine festival until Shinto and Buddhism were separated during the Meiji Era. The entrance to the temple is guarded on both sides by Buddhist statues and there are many others in the main hall such as the Wave-cutting God of Fire and the Eleven-headed Buddha. The elevated location of the Temple offers beautiful views of Miyajima and the cityscape on the opposite shore.

OPEN 8:00-17:00 ACCESS 15 min. walk from Ferry terminal

## 5 豊国神社 (通称:千畳閣) Toyokuni Shrine (Senjokaku)

Hideyoshi Toyotomi ordered its construction in 1587, but it was left uncompleted following his death in 1598. The interior is large enough to lay down 857 tatami mats, hence its name Senjokaku (literally meaning hall of a thousands mats). The interior is also decorated with many wooden plaques.

OPEN 9:00-16:00 ¥ 100 yen ACCESS 10 min. walk from Ferry terminal



## 6 五重塔 Five-storied Pagoda

This 27m high Pagoda is said to have been constructed in 1407, and beautifully blends Japanese architecture with that of Tang Dynasty, China. The Pagoda has five levels and a hollow construction in the interior.

OPEN Visitors may view the Pagoda from the outside but are not permitted into the interior.

ACCESS 10 min. walk from Ferry terminal

## Gourmet



## アナゴ飯 Grilled eel on rice

Charcoal grilled eel seasoned with soy sauce and mirin served on boiled rice. The aroma that rises from the cooking eel is mouthwatering.



## カキ Oysters

Hiroshima is Japan's leading oyster producing area and the oysters that come out of Hiroshima are popular for their delicious flavor. They are generally eaten raw or grilled but we also recommend you try the Oyster Dote hotpot, in which a sweet miso paste is gradually blended into the stock.



## 宮島かき祭り Miyajima Oyster Festival

The oyster festival is held in the beginning of February. Visitors are able to feast on a variety of oyster dishes including grilled oysters, oyster okonomiyaki, and the famed oyster hotpot and buy oysters at ridiculously low prices. Special cooking areas are also provided so you can cook oysters yourself.

ACCESS Short walking distance from Ferry terminal



Spring



Summer



Autumn



Winter

### The four seasons

Miyajima, with its beautiful natural surroundings, has many attractions that emphasize the changing of the seasons. The cherry blossoms blooming in spring and the startling reds and oranges of the trees in autumn create a perfect backdrop to the historic, traditional buildings and the island festivals which entertain large numbers of visitors to Miyajima. There are also many seasonal religious rituals that have been passed down over the years to be seen in the shrines and temples on the island.



### 7 町家通り Machiya dori Ave.

Machiya Dori is an old-style main street located one street behind the Omotesando Shopping Street. This popular street houses galleries amongst other attractions and with its white walls and timber lattice work, blends the modern with the past to create a retro atmosphere.

ACCESS 10 min. walk from Ferry terminal

### 8 滝小路 Takinokoji Ave.

In past years, the road leading to the Daishoin Temple from behind Itsukushima Shrine was home to the temple residences and accommodation facilities known as "Shukubou". Traces of the past are still visible along the old street.

ACCESS 15 min. walk from Ferry terminal



### 9 弥山 Mt. Misen

Mt Misen, at 530m above sea level, is the highest peak on Miyajima and offers spectacular views of the Seto Inland Sea from its summit. A ropeway takes you from Momijidani Park at the foot of the mountain, over the virgin forest to the summit. However, if you are feeling a little more energetic there are a variety of walking trails winding their way to the top.

●Miyajima Ropeway  
OPEN 9:00-17:00 ¥ One way:1,000 yen  
ACCESS 25 min. walk from Ferry terminal to Momijidani Ropeway station



### 10 紅葉谷公園 Momijidani Park

Momijidani Park is famous for the beautiful red colors of the maples and other tree varieties in autumn. The best time to visit is in November. The walking trails throughout the park are lined with cherry blossoms in the spring, deep greens in the summer, vibrant reds in autumn, peaceful pines in the winter and a gorge that runs through the mountains, making this a pleasant spot year round

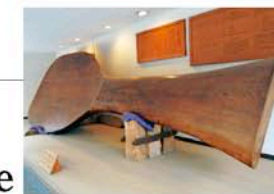
ACCESS 20 min. walk from Ferry terminal



### 11 表参道商店街 Omotesando Shopping Arcade

On your way from Miyajima Port to the Itsukushima Shrine you can pass through a shopping area approximately 300 m in length. This street, lined with souvenir stores selling woodcraft, pottery, picture postcards and sweets, is a popular spot among visitors. You can also find shops offering fresh seafood and grilled oysters. There is a massive wooden ladle 7.7m in length and weighing 2.5 tonnes on display in the center of the street.

ACCESS 10 min. walk from Ferry terminal



### 12 大杓子 Giant Rice Paddle

## Events

### 舞楽 Bugaku (Ancient form of court dance)

Bugaku was originally brought to Japan from China, India and Korea but it is no longer practiced in these countries. The dances are performed on a high stage in the center of the shrine as the performers dance elegantly in time with the Gagaku, classical court music.



### 宮島水中花火大会 Miyajima Fireworks display



The fireworks festival, held in the middle of August, is a large event that lights the summer evening sky over Miyajima. The underwater fireworks and other varieties launched into the evening sky from a boat sitting out in the bay give the Grand Gate and Itsukushima Shrine a mystical appearance.

ACCESS 15 min. walk from Ferry terminal

### 管絃祭 Kangen festival



The Kangen festival, held on the 17th day of the 6th lunar month, is the largest event at the Itsukushima Shrine. To the sound of the Gagaku music, beautifully decorated boats depart Itsukushima as they make the return trip to shrines on the opposite shore with an accompanying flotilla. This majestic festival can also be viewed from the water on one of the sightseeing vessels.

ACCESS 15 min. walk from Ferry terminal

### みやじま雛めぐり Miyajima Hina Doll Festival



Held between late March and early April, the Hina doll festival is a nation wide tradition celebrating the good health of daughters in the family. Elaborately carved and costumed Hina dolls are put on display along with offerings of Hishimochi (rice cakes) and Shirozake (a variety of Japanese sake). Hina dolls that have been passed on over the years from merchants and families on Miyajima are put on display in approximately 30 locations in homes and historic buildings.

OPEN 8:30-17:00 (Will depend on location)  
ACCESS 5-20 min. walk from Ferry terminal

## Souvenir



### 宮島細工 Miyajima Crafts

Representative of the craft on Miyajima is the wooden ladle. The wooden ladle, with the hope of defeating opponents, is commonly used as a good luck charm at sporting events. Other popular crafts symbolic of Miyajima are wood turning and Miyajima wood carvings.



### 宮島焼き Miyajima Pottery

Miyajima pottery is said to have originated towards the end of the 18th Century when sand from the Itsukushima Shrine was mixed to make clay vessels for festive occasions. The rustic and warm colors of the earthen pottery bells and other ornaments make them popular items.



### もみじまんじゅう Momi Manju (Confectionery in the shape of a maple leaf)

Traditionally, these are soft sponge cakes filled with refined red beans. Now, there are a variety of flavors offered including custard, cheese and chocolate fillings.