



IZUMO

Birthplace of Myths and Legends



Welcome to Izumo, encompassed by ancient traditions and new ideas, this land serves as a gathering point where deities from across the nation gather for Kamiarizuki (October/November). We hope the encounters and experiences you have here will blossom into something wonderful.

Izumo Ōyashiro Grand Shrine dedicated to Ōkuninushi-no-Ōkami, a key figure in Izumo myths



Honden (Main Hall)
According to the Kojiki and Nihonshoki, Izumo Ōyashiro Grand Shrine was established when the sun goddess Amaterasu created a large palace with pillars set deep into a rock in the abyss for Ōkuninushi-no-Ōkami on the occasion of his "kuni-yuzuri" (transfer of the land). The current main hall, measuring 24 metres in height, was built in 1744, and designated as a national treasure in 1952.

Haiden (Worship Hall)
After passing under the copper torii gate, you will have a direct view of the worship hall. Measuring 13.5 meters in height and made of Japanese cypress, it was reconstructed in 1959. The worship hall 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 give visitors a view of the main hall's chigi roof.

A discovery that unlocked the truth behind the legend of the Grand Shrine that reaches the heavens

Remains of the Grand Shrine

In 2000, remains considered part of the original pillars of the huge main hall were excavated from the grounds of Izumo Ōyashiro Grand Shrine. They were the remains of three logs bundled together to make up a giant pillar, which closely resembled the diagram of the structure shown in the purported ground plan for the building that has been kept by the Senge Kokusō family. This resemblance has made the finding a historic discovery, and sheds some light on what the grand shrine may have looked like in ancient times.



Bow twice, clap four times, then end with a final bow

Praying at Izumo Ōyashiro Grand Shrine

The standard method used to invoke the enshrined god before prayer is two bows, two claps, prayer, then a final bow. Here, however, supplicants bow twice, clap four times, pray, then end with a bow.

[Tips for visitors]

Four gates to pass through before worship—When you visit and worship at Izumo Ōyashiro Grand Shrine, you are supposed to pass beneath four shrine gates before reaching the hall for worship: o-torii (big gate) on Shinmon-dōri Street, seimon-torii (front gate) in Seidamari Square, the gate with pine trees at the end of the downhill approach, and finally the copper torii gate before the worship hall.



Pine Approach
Walking down the approach from Seidamari Square, join hands at Harae-no-Yashiro Shrine for purification, go over the Harae-no-hashi Bridge, and you will see long rows of towering old pine trees lining the approach leading to the shrine fence.

Ō-torii (big gate)
Ō-torii stands tall by the Ugabashi Bridge on Shinmon-dōri Street. It measures 23 meters in height, which is a little shorter than the main hall of Izumo Ōyashiro.

Kamiarizuki (the month with gods)



According to the lunar calendar, the 10th month of every year is referred to as Kannazuki, or "the month without gods". This name comes from the idea that, during this time, the myriad deities from across Japan leave their respective shrines and gather at Izumo Ōyashiro Grand Shrine. Because of this, in the Izumo area, the month is known by the name Kamiarizuki, "the month with gods".

Seasonal Foods & Products

IZUMO BRAND

Food



Izumo Soba (Buckwheat Noodles)



Izumo Zenmai (Red Bean Soup with Mochi)



Wine, Sake, Shochu (Spirits)

Pottery



Shussai-Yaki (Ceramic Ware)

Sea Food



Kaisendon (Seafood Rice Bowl)



Noyaki (Fish Sausage)

Fruits



Hirata Kaki (Persimmons)

Delaware Grapes



Taki Houraishi (Figs)

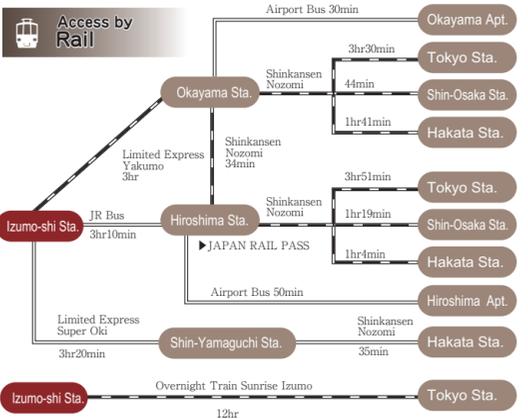
ACCESS

Access by Airplane



Access by Highway Bus
Osaka, Okayama, Hiroshima
Ichihata Travel Service Highway Bus Reservation Center
0852-20-5252

Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyoto, Osaka
Kobe, Okayama, Hiroshima, Fukuoka
JR Highway Bus Reservation Center
0853-21-0591



Contact :

- Inbound Tourism Promotion Division (Izumo City Hall) : Tel 0853-21-6801
- Izumo Tourism Association : Tel 0853-31-9466
- Izumoshi Station Information Center : Tel 0853-30-6015
- Shinmon-dōri Visitor Center : Tel 0853-53-2298
- Hinomisaki Visitor Center : Tel 0853-54-5400

Ancient Japan, IZUMO

Explore our new website for further information

Facebook: @AncientJapanIzumo

Instagram: @ancient_japan_izumo

website: <https://ancient-japan-izumo.com>

QR codes for social media and website.

IZUMO

Birthplace of Myths and Legends

Praying for a Beautiful Encounter

When Lafcadio Hearn, also known as Koizumi Yakumo, visited Izumo Ōyashiro Grand Shrine (Izumo Taisha) for the first time in 1890, he later published his impressions, describing Izumo as the land of the deities. The honden (inner shrine) is sublime with its chigi roof, the interlocked beams pointing heavensward as if penetrating the very clouds above them. This dignified edifice, in tandem with the powerful aura emanating from the dense forest that lies between Mts. Yakumo and Misen, can make anyone sense the mystical presence of the Japanese gods just as Hearn did. Izumo Ōyashiro Grand Shrine is believed to be the home of the god of beautiful encounters, and legend has it that all of the gods throughout the country gather here in the month of Kamiarizuki (10th month of the lunar calendar) to discuss the current and future relationships between men and women. This, many people visit this shrine to pray for their own beautiful encounter.



The Oshimenawa (the sacred straw rope) hanging in the front of the Kaguraden (Ceremony Hall) within the Izumo Ōyashiro, is 13.5m long, with a circumference of about 9m, and weighs around 5 tons, the largest such rope in Japan.

歴史 History



1 Hinomisaki Lighthouse

日御崎灯台
Hinomisaki National Park is a scenic site with extraordinary rock formations and cliffs. The lighthouse stands 43.65 meters high at the edge of the park. It is the tallest masonry lighthouse in Japan and is registered among the world's top 100 historic lighthouses.
● 0853-54-5341 ● 9:00-16:30 ● Dec. 30 * 31
▲ Adults 300 yen; Children Free



2 Hinomisaki Jinja Shrine

日御崎神社
The vermilion-lacquered shrine pavilions, built under the orders of lemitsu Tokugawa, were based on Gongen-zukuri, a traditional shrine architectural work from the early Edo Period. The shrine is designated as a nationally important cultural property. The carvings on the lintels of the main hall and other buildings in the shrine complex depict traditional subjects such as dragons and tigers, cranes and tortoises, and pine, bamboo, and plum trees.
● 0853-54-5261



3 Susa Jinja Shrine

須賀神社
This historic shrine is documented in the Izumo-no-kuni Fudoki (local chronicle of Izumo) and enshrines the god Susano-no-mikoto, a hero in Izumo mythology. Recently, it has been attracting many visitors as one of the most famous power spots in Japan.
● 0853-44-0905
http://www.susa-jinja.jp/



4 Gakuenji Temple

鵜飼寺
Gakuenji Temple, a historic Tendai Buddhist temple, offers spectacular fall foliage that is described as one of the most beautiful sights in the vicinity. There are many things to see here such as Zao Hall which was built in a rocky cavern by the Furo waterfall. It is well known as a place where Musashibō Benkei performed ascetic training in his younger days.
● 0853-66-0250 ▲ Adults 500 Yen; middle and high school 300 Yen; Elementary school 200 Yen

文化 Culture & Museums



5 The Izumo Museum of Quilt Art

出雲生糸の産物館
The Izumo Museum of Quilt Art was the first quilt museum to open in Japan. It houses a collection including works by Ms. Mutsuko Yawatazaki, one of the most renowned producers of Japanese-style quilting.
● 0853-72-7146 ● 10:00-17:00 ● Wednesdays, every third Sunday
▲ Adults 700 yen; middle school and below 500 yen.



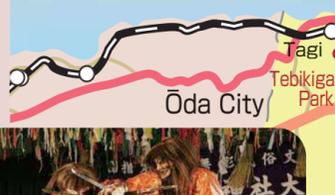
6 Kojindani Archeological Sites & Museum

荒神谷博物館
The discovery of 358 ancient copper swords here in July of 1984 drew national attention and sheds light on life in ancient Izumo.
● 0853-72-9044 ● 9:00-17:00 ● Tuesdays ▲ Admission: Free, but fee required for entrance to exhibit room.



7 Tezen Museum

手鏡記念館
This museum exhibits Rakuzan-ware from the Matsue Clan era and lacquered tableware crafted by Kojima Shikkosai. You will learn a lot about the local culture of the Izumo region here!
● 0853-53-2000 ● 9:00-16:30 ● Tuesdays, Year-end and new year holidays. Maintenance days for exhibit switching
▲ Adults 300 yen; Elementary, middle and high school Free
http://www.tezen-museum.com/



Izumo Kagura

出雲神楽
Tagisakurai-Family's Japanese Traditional Iron Manufacturing Sites



8 Izumo Yayoi-no-Mori Museum (Nishidani Tumuli sites)

出雲弥生の森博物館
The Nishidani Tumuli Sites are a collection of Japan's largest royal tombs from the Yayoi period. Izumo Yayoi-no-Mori Museum features precious glass magatama beads and bracelets found in the tombs.
● 0853-25-1841
● Every Tuesday (if Tuesday is a national holiday, following day), New Year holidays
▲ Free (except for Special Exhibitions).
http://www.city.izumo.shimane.jp/yayoinomori



9 Izumo Cultural Heritage Museum

出雲文化伝承館
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. There is a tea ceremony house called Bokurakuan designed by Senno Rikyū (founder of Japanese tea ceremony) and an Izumo style garden.
● 0853-21-2460 ● 9:00-17:00 ● Mondays
▲ Free (except exhibition room)



10 Shimane Museum of Ancient Izumo

古代出雲歴史博物館
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 Ōyashiro Grand Shrine, and bronze implements and bells unearthed in Shimane prefecture.
● 0853-53-8600
● March - October 9:00 - 18:00 November - February 9:00 - 17:00
● Every Third Tuesday
▲ Adults 310 yen; University Students 200 yen; Students 100 yen
Please show your passport, residence card, or special permanent resident certificate at the reception.
(For special exhibitions, prices vary with the exhibition.)
http://www.izm.ed.jp/



11 Hirata Momen Kaidō Cotton Road

本綿街道
Momen Kaidō's cotton trade flourished in the Edo Period. Hence, it received the name "Cotton Road". Its townscape, lined with shops and family homes of old, retains the atmosphere of the days when goods flowed through its canals. Here, you can experience and explore traditional establishments such as sake and soy sauce breweries.

自然 Nature



12 Yunokawa Onsen Hot Spring

湯の川温泉
Starting with the Yunokawa Hot Spring, known as one of the three "Bijin-no-yu" or beautiful hot springs of Japan, Izumo has many traditional hot springs to offer.

13 Lake Shinji



13 Lake Shinji

宍道湖
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, Moroko shrimp, eel, cattle egret, ice fish, carp and shirimi clams are particularly known as the seven delicacies of Lake Shinji, and are enjoyed as local specialties.

