

Stories about
Sunsets from Izumo!

Sunset in the Sacred Land of

Izumo



Touring the sunsets of a land loved by the deities.



Yuuhi



Misaki

Inasa no Hama Beach & Bentenjima Island

Story

Grade-schooler Misaki has come to Izumo for the very first time to hang out with her friend Yuuhi. Now, what sort of story is waiting for her in Izumo...?



Yuuhi's
grandmother

About Japanese Heritage

Japan Heritage is a collection of historical and cultural highlights that have been handed down from generation to generation in various parts of Japan.

In order to promote the charm of local cultural properties, the government began certifying them in 2015.

In 2017, the story of the sunset in Izumo ("Sunset in the Sacred Land of Izumo") was recognized as Japan Heritage.



Sunset in the Sacred Land of Izumo

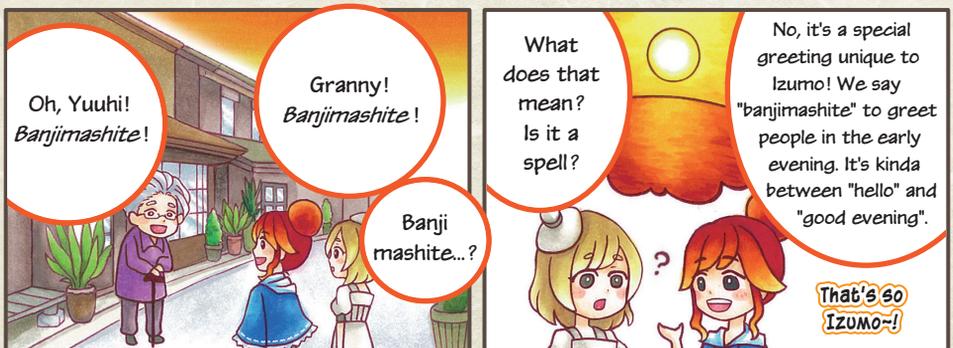
The coastal areas of Izumo have a storied history of beautiful views of the sunset.

In the ancient capital of Japan, Yamato (current Nara Prefecture), Izumo was well known as a sacred place particularly because it is located in the direction the sun sets.

The fact that Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine and Hinomisaki Jinja Shrine have other names related to the setting sun indicates that Izumo has long been considered "the sacred land of sunsets".

The people of Izumo have always had a special fondness for the evening. Why don't you visit Izumo's coastline and shrines and experience the sunset in the sacred land of Izumo for yourself?

Greetings in Izumo



Height
43.65m

That's amazing!

Sunset in the Sacred Land of
Izumo

Izumo Hinomisaki Lighthouse

So this is the tallest lighthouse in Japan! Come on! Let's climb up together!

This lighthouse has a double structure, with the outer wall made of stone and the inner wall made of brick, which is an unusual feature worldwide.

There's so many stairs!



Wonder what it looks like at the top!

Spiral Staircase with 163 Steps

It's so tall!

It's huge!!

Yay! We made it!!

Wow!

There's an entry fee to take a look inside so don't forget your wallet!

The view is amazing!!!

You have a 360-degree view!

A breathtaking view is waiting for you!

Facts!!

- This is tallest stone lighthouse in Japan!
- This lighthouse has been keeping the coast safe since 1903!
- I see! So, it's an important national cultural property!
- It has been selected as one of the 100 best lighthouses in the world! ※

※ IALA List of 100 Lighthouses as Historic and Architectural Monuments

Woah~~ / You know, they say that Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine used to be even taller than this (48m).



That's amazing!

Sunset in the Sacred Land of Izumo

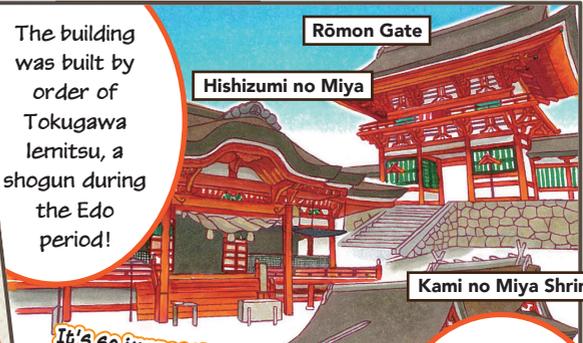
Hinomisaki Jinja Shrine



Woah!!
What is that beautiful building?

Looks like a palace for a dragon!!

Let's go see it up close!



The building was built by order of Tokugawa Iemitsu, a shogun during the Edo period!



It's so impressive up close!
It's beautiful!

Apparently, the carpenter who built the World Heritage Site "Nikko Tōshōgū Shrine" helped them build Hinomisaki Jinja Shrine, too!



So that's why the sculptures are so pretty!

There are many beautiful animal and plant sculptures on the top of the building!



Can you find them all?

Oh, cool! I found "three wise monkeys"!



Woah~~ / Apparently, "Hishizumi no Miya" was originally located on Fumishima Island, off the nearby coast.



Facts!!

- Most of the shrine buildings are registered as nationally important cultural properties!
- Amaterasu, a sun deity, is associated with sunrise and sunset. We venerate her at Hishizumi-no-miya!
- It is said that Hinomisaki Jinja Shrine in Izumo protects the night time for all of Japan.





There's all sorts of rituals and events in Izumo!

That's amazing!

Sunset in the Sacred Land of Izumo

Various Shinto Rituals and Events

On the evening of the 10th day of the 10th month of the ancient lunar calendar, priests from Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine go to Inasa no Hama Beach and perform a ceremony called "Kamimukae Shinji". This ceremony welcomes deities from all over Japan to Izumo!



All of those deities gather in Izumo once a year to discuss human relationships and bonds over a period of seven days at the upper shrine.



Please let me have good relationships this year!

On the evening of August 7th, priests from Hinomisaki Jinja Shrine make a journey out to Fumishima Island to perform a ritual. It is known as the "Festival of the Sunset".



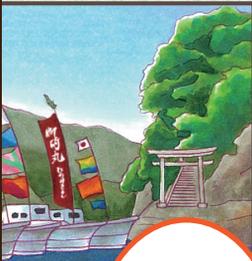
It's a mystical sight, many photographers come to snap a pic of the moment!

On an evening in late July, the town of Sagiura hosts "Gongen Festival" to pray for a good catch and safe seas.



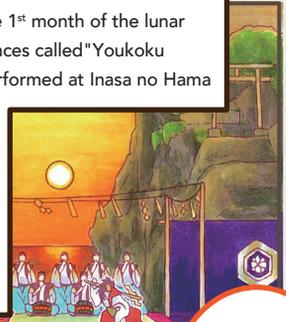
Oh my, the boats have their fishing flags up! How beautiful they look in the evening sun~

On the 5th day of the 1st month of the lunar calendar, priests sail to Gongenjima Island in the Uryuu Harbor to harvest the first wakame seaweed of the year. This ritual is called "Mekari Shinji".



They told me no one harvests wakame seaweed until this ritual is over!

On the 5th day of the 1st month of the lunar calendar, kagura dances called "Youkoku Kagaribi-mai" are performed at Inasa no Hama Beach in the light of the setting sun. Ōdochi Kagura, a troupe designated as a major national property, performs.



Sunsets in the sacred land of Izumo are incredible~



Story Location



Sea of Japan



Izumo City, Shimane Prefecture

Major Cultural Properties in the Story



Izumo Hinomisaki Lighthouse



Hinomisaki Jinja Shrine



Inasa no Hama Beach



Fumushima Island



Inome Cave



Sono no Nagahama Beach



Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine



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Sunset in the Sacred Land of Izumo Website

Sunset in the Sacred Land of Izumo

Izumo Tourism Association Website

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