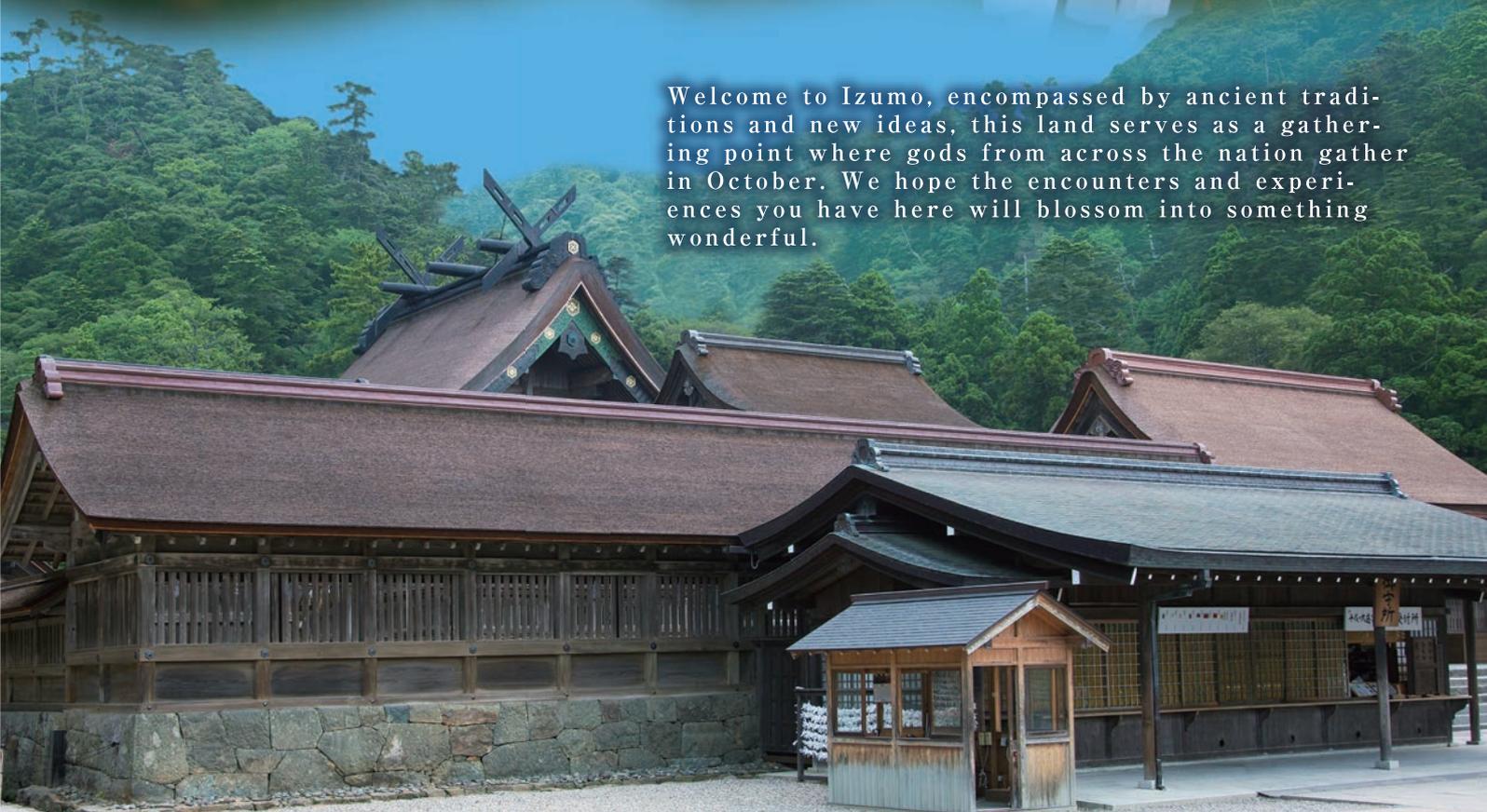




# IZUMO

Birthplace of Myths and Legends

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



**Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine is dedicated to Okuninushi-no-Okami, the key figure of Izumo's myths**



**Izumo Oyashiro Honden (Inner Shrine)**

According to the Kojiki and Nihonshoki, Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine originated when Amaterasu-Omikami the sun goddess created a large 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 built in 1744, and designated as a national treasure in 1952.

**Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine 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, it 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.

**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 perceived to be a part of the giant pillars of the huge inner shrine were excavated from the grounds of Izumo 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 Kanawa-no-gozouei-sashizu (the purported ground plan for the building) that has been kept by the Senge Kokuso family. This resemblance has made the finding a historical discovery and sheds some light on the existence of the giant shrine in ancient times.



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

**Praying at Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine**

Although the standard ceremony performed to invoke the enshrined god at a Japanese shrine is two bows, two hand claps and a final bow, the ritual used here 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 Grand 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**

**O-torii (big gate)**

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

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.



**Kamiarizuki (the month of the gods)**



According to the lunar calendar, the 10<sup>th</sup> month of every year is referred to as Kannazuki, or the month of no gods. This name comes from the idea that during this time, the yaoyorozu-no-kami (the myriad gods throughout the country) leave their respective shrines and gather at Izumo Grand Shrine. Because of this, in the Izumo area, the month is known by the name Kamiarizuki, the month of the gods.

# IZUMO

Birthplace of Myths and Legends

## Praying for a Beautiful Encounter

When Lafcadio Hearn, also known as Koizumi Yakumo, visited Izumo Grand Shrine 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 person without a drop of Japanese blood, like Hearn, feel the existence of the Japanese gods. Izumo Grand Shrine is believed to be the home of the god of beautiful encounters, and legend has it that all the gods throughout the country gather here in the month of Kamiarizuki (October of the lunar calendar) to discuss the current and future relationships between men and women. Thus, 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 (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.

# 歴史 History



## 1 Izumo 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 200 yen, Children Free



## 2 Hinomisaki Shrine

日御崎神社

The vermilion-lacquered shrine pavilions, built under the orders of Iemitsu Tokugawa, were 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.

☎ 0853-54-5261



## 3 Susa Shrine

須佐神社

This historical shrine is documented in the Izumo-no-kuni Fudoki (local chronicle of Izumo) and enshrines the god Susano-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/>



## 4 Gakuenji Temple

鵜飼寺

Gakuenji Temple, a historic temple of Tendai Buddhism, offers spectacular fall foliage that is described as one of the most beautiful things to see 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 Musashibou 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

📞 Contact Info for Inquiries 🕒 Opening Hours 🗓 Closed 🎫 Admission



## 5 The Izumo Museum of Quilt Art

出雲キルト美術館

The Izumo Museum of Quilt Art was the first quilt museum to open in Japan. It houses a collection including works by Ms. Mutsuko Yawatagaki, 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. Visiting here will help you learn about the local 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.tezen-museum.com/>



## Izumo Kagura

出雲神楽



## 8 Izumo Yayoinomori 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 Yayoinomori Museum features precious glass maga-tama 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 in the present place. There is a tea ceremony house called Dokurakuan designed by Senno Rikyū (the founder of the Japanese tea ceremony) and Izumo style garden.

☎ 0853-21-2460 🕒 9:00-17:00 🗓 Mondays  
👤 Free (except exhibition room)



## 10 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 Taisha shrine and bronze implements unearthed in Shimane prefecture.

☎ 0853-53-8600 🕒 March - October 9:00 - 18:00 November - February 9:00 - 17:00  
🗓 Every Third Tuesday  
👤 Admission fee: 610 Yen (For special exhibitions, prices vary with the exhibition.)  
<http://www.izm.ed.jp/>



# 自然 Nature



## 11 Hiikawa River

斐伊川

The upstream currents of the Hiikawa River are famous for being the site where Yamato no Orochi (The mythical 8-headed and 8-tailed serpent) was slain. The river also appears in numerous historical records and myths, including the Kojiki (Japan's historical record) and Izumo no Kuni Fudoki (a detailed report on Izumo's ancient traditions and culture). The mouth of the river leading to Lake Shinji is also famous for being a site where birds such as swans gather.



## 12 Yunokawa Hot Spring

湯の川温泉

Starting with the Yunokawa Hot Spring, known as one of the three "Bijin-no-yu" beautifying hot springs of Japan, the city offers many traditional hot springs.

## 13 Lake Shinji



## 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 shijimi clams are particularly known as the seven delicacies of Lake Shinji, and are enjoyed as local specialties.

# Seasonal Foods & Products

## Food



Izumo Soba (Buckwheat) Noodle



Izumo Zenzai (Red Bean Soup with Pieces of Rice Cake)

## Wine, Sake, Shochu(Spirit)



## Pottery



Shussai-Yaki (Ceramic) Ware

## Sea Food



Sea Weed



Noyaki (Fish Sausage)

## Fruits



Hirata Persimmon (Kaki)

## Shimane Grapes



Taki Fig (Houraishi)

# ACCESS

## Access by Airplane



## Access by Highway Bus

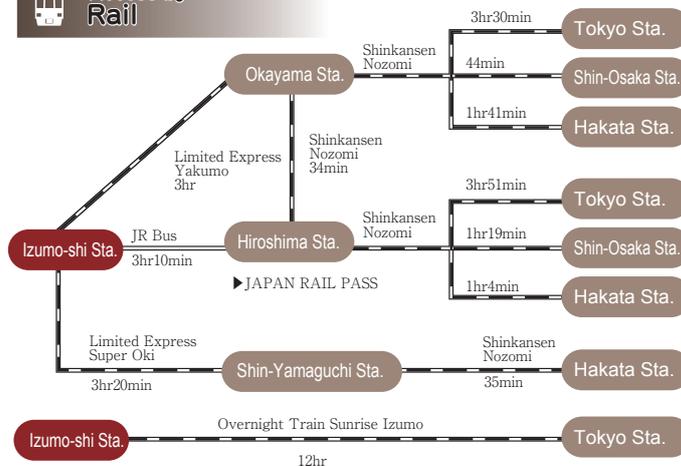
Tokyo, Osaka, Hiroshima, Okayama

Ichibata Travel Service, Highway Bus Reservation Center  
0852-20-5252

Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyoto, Kobe, Osaka, Fukuoka, Hiroshima, Okayama

JR Highway Bus Reservation Center  
0853-21-0591

## Access by Rail



## Contact :

Izumo Tourism Promotion Division (Izumo City Hall) : Tel 0853-21-6588  
Izumo Tourism Association : Tel 0853-53-2112

## VISITOR CENTER

Izumo City Culture and Tourism  
Information Center & Specialty Products Corner : Tel 0853-30-6015  
Shinmon-dori Tourism Information Center : Tel 0853-53-2298  
Hinomisaki Tourism Information Center : Tel 0853-54-5400

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https://ancient-japan-izumo.com



• Izumo, Japan 4K (Ultra HD)