

Enjoy the beauty of one of the three most scenic spots of Japan, an area closey connected to the great haiku poet Matsuo Basho and offers delicious cuisine.

松島 Matsushima area 松島エリア

When Basho visited Matsushima on June 25, 1689, he wrote that Matsushima was the greatest scenery in Japan in his book of travels in the Tohoku region. The view of Matsushima, with its over 260 small islands, is nothing short of being one of three most scenic spots of Japan. It is also beautiful when lit by the moon light, or covered with snow. It has various delicious delicacies, including oysters.



Sightseeing at Matsushima Bay

松島湾観光

There are various cruise trips, including cruises around the islands in the bay starting and returning to the Matsushima Sightseeing Pier, and regular sightseeing lines to Shiogama City. Enjoy close-up views of the beautiful islands.



Tourist information

● Matsushima Kaigan Station V Information Center tel.022-354-2263



Zuiganji Temple (National Treasure) (Matsushima Town)

瑞巖寺(国宝)(松島町)

This is a zen Buddhist temple with a long history dating from the ninth century, which was favorably maintained as the family temple of the Date clan, the feudal lord of Sendai in the 17th - 19th centuries. It is characterized by the gorgeous Momoyama style (architecture style of the late 16th century), with the main hall and priest's living quarters, which are national treasures of Japan, and the Onarimon Gate and the Nakamon Gate, which are important cultural properties of Japan.



Godaido (Matsushima Town)

五大堂(松島町)

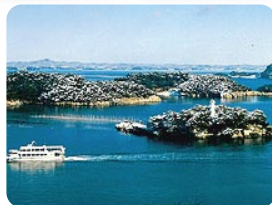
By tradition, this worship hall originated as an enshrinement for the god of treasure called Bishamonten by Sakanoue-no-Tamuramaro, an ancient general, in 807. This is a symbol of Matsushima and also a sightseeing spot. It was constructed as a one-story structure with a pavilion roof on an island to which there is a red bridge with gaps to see the water below.



Shiogama Shrine (Shiogama City)

鹽竈神社(塩竈市)

This Shinto shrine has a history of over 1200 years as the shrine of the highest rank in Mutsu (now Tohoku region). The present shrine was constructed as the benefaction of the Date clan, the feudal lord of Sendai in the 17th - 19th centuries. Shiogamazakura (cherry blossom trees), a natural treasure of Japan, are in full bloom early May.



Tamonzan (Shichigahama Town)

多聞山(七ヶ浜町)

This is one of the four great scenic spots of Matsushima, commanding a spectacular view of Matsushima Bay. It is a 10-minute walk from the parking lot of the Tamonzan observation park.



Entsuin Temple (Matsushima Town)

円通院(松島町)

This was the family temple of Date Mitsumune, a grandson of Date Masamune. A statue of Mitsumune is worshipped in a mausoleum called Sankaiden. There is the small cabinet shrine (zushi) in the mausoleum ornamented with drawings of western-style motifs such as a rose and a heart. This is also a scenic spot for autumn leaves, and the area is lit up at night. You can also experience making a Buddhist rosary.



Sagakei Cliff (Higashimatsushima City)

嵯峨渓(東松島町)

This is one of the three great cliff views in Japan. In contrast to the other views of Matsushima, the white cliff looks more rugged because it has been eroded by violent waves, winds and rains of the Pacific Ocean. There are cruises in which you can see the area closely.



Kanrantei (Matsushima Town)

観瀾亭(松島町)

This traditional tea room from Fushimi Castle was bestowed on Feudal Lord Date Masamune by Toyotomi Hideyoshi. It was moved to its current location by Lord Masamune's son and successor Tadamune in order to enjoy cool days and moon viewing. The museum portion displays valuable belongings connected to the Date Clan. Visitors can enjoy tea and snacks while taking in the beautiful bay.



Shiogama Suisanbutsu Nakaoroshi Ichiba (marine product market) (Shiogama City)

塩釜水産物仲卸市場(塩竈市)

This is a large-scale market with as many as about 120 marine food stores for lined in rows within a large building. Middlemen and general consumers are allowed to buy here. You can buy fresh fish and shellfish and processed marine food at low prices. At restaurants in the market, you can eat sashimi (slices of raw fish) that you have just bought, with the sashimi put on a bowl of cooked rice (Note that they do not cook the food you purchased there).



Oysters

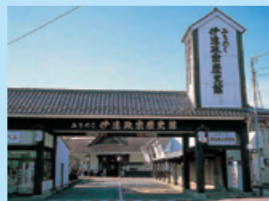
かき

Miyagi Prefecture is a center of oyster production and proud to have the second largest production in Japan. Oyster cultivation is prosperous in the coastal area, especially in Matsushima. Oysters in Matsushima Bay are smaller with firmer meat and full of flavor. (October through March)

Sushi

寿司

Sushi with fresh fish/shellfish caught off the Pacific coast of the Tohoku region is a pride of Miyagi Prefecture. Especially in Shiogama City, where the largest amount of tuna is landed in Japan, there are a lot of popular sushi restaurants.



Michinoku Date Masamune Historical Museum (Matsushima Town)

みちのく伊達政宗歴史館(松島町)

This museum reconstructs 25 major events in the life of Date Masamune with 200 wax figures. It also has 50 wax figures of other great people in the Tohoku region, including Dazai Osamu, a novelist, and Miyazawa Kenji, a poet.



Tohoku History Museum (Tagajo City)

東北歴史博物館(多賀城市)

This museum was opened to provide hands-on exhibitions as a base for transmitting the history and culture of the Tohoku region. It has a general exhibition hall and a special exhibition hall where the history of the Tohoku region from the Old Stone Age to the present is displayed. It also has a Children's History Museum where children can enjoy hands-on experiences such as making a fire.