Travel on route buses!

Yamaguchi Sightseeing Guide

Yamaguchi Prefecture
Travel on travel buses!
Yamaguchi Prefecture Sightseeing Map

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*Information in this pamphlet is current as of the end of March 2018.
This wholesale market is open not only to food professionals but also casually to the general public. You can get reasonably priced fresh foodstuffs, including puffer fish, one of the specialties of Shimoseki City. On Fridays and Saturdays (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) and Sundays and holidays (8 a.m. to 3 p.m.), they open the ‘Kaiyukan’, a vertical aquarium where seafood stalls appear in the market and you can eat sushi, seafood bowls, puffer fish soup, and more with fresh seafood provided by wholesale dealers.

**Tourist Spots in the Area**

1. **Shimonoseki Kaikyokan (aquarium)**
   - Kaiyukan exhibits 20,000 aquatic animals belonging to 500 species. The Seta Inland Sea tunnel tank recreates the Kaizan Straits to make it feel as if you are walking on the seabed. The aquarium also features exhibitions unique to the Shimoseki such as a skeletal display of the entire body of a blue whale exhibiting only in Japan, as well as more than 120 species of puffer fish from around the world.

2. **Akama Shrine**
   - The shrine is dedicated to Akihiko, a child emperor who drowned himself in the Battle of Dannoura. Held by the Nao of the Second Rank. There is the Shubarama gate having plaster and vermilion walls, and inside the grounds are the graves of the Taira clan, the hall of Shōchi the Emperors, and a treasure house exhibiting precious materials.

3. **Tawaryama Onsen**
   - The hot spring, which has a history of more than 1,200 years and is known as an idyllic spa resort, is designated as one of the national hot spring health resorts. Legend says that it was discovered by a white monkey, an incarnation of Yaku-ku Noyata (Yasugayagumo). The hot spring boasts one of the greatest and strongest alkaline waters in Japan.

4. **Motonosumi Inari Shrine**
   - The shrine is divided from Taikadani Inari Shrine in Tsuwano Town in Shimane Prefecture due to the prophecy of a white fox. The scenery of 123 torii gates standing for more than 100 m is overwhelming. It is believed that if you can successfully throw away money into the offering box hanging at the top of the about 6 m high gate, your wish will come true.
**Akiyoshido Cave**

Designated as a special national treasure, the huge limestone cave is located at the base of Akiyoshidai Plateau and one of the best in the East. The entrance is 24 m high and 8 m wide, with the widest part of the cave reaching 200 m wide and the highest part 80 m tall. Although its general tourist route is less than 1 km, the total length of the cave is said to be about 10 km long. As the temperature inside the cave is about 17 degrees C regardless of the season, you can explore the cave comfortably throughout the year. In November 2005, Akiyoshidai Groundwater System was registered as one of the Ramsar Convention sites.

**Tourist Spots in the Area**

**5 Akiyoshidai Plateau**

- Designated as a special national treasure, the largest karst tableland in Japan spreads in the eastern region of Mine City. On the grounds, there are countless numbers of limestone columns as well as many sinkholes, and below it there are many limestone caves such as Akiyoshido, Teshoto and Kageyokudo.

**Access from Akiyoshido**

- About 5 to 9 minutes / 240 yen / one way

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**6 Akiyoshidai Safari Land**

- At Safari Land, you can casually observe large animals such as elephants and tigers living freely in the nature from the park bus or your own car. The facility also has an amusement park.

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**Tokiwa Park**

Tokiwa Park around Lake Tokiwa is a comprehensive park boasting an area of 189 ha, which is colored by greenery, flowers, and sculptures. It was chosen as a Registered Monument (Place of Scenic Beauty) for the first time in Yamaguchi Prefecture and one of the 100 Best Cherry Blossom Viewing Spots in Japan. In 2016, Lake Tokiwa was registered as a Heritage Irrigation Structures site. You can appreciate seasonal flowers including cherry blossoms in spring, as well as sweet flags and hydrangeas. There also are many great facilities such as Tokiwa Museum, Tokiwa Botanical Museum, a zoo, an amusement park, Ube Biennale sculptures hill, and the Coal Mining History Museum.

**Tourist Spots in the Area**

**7 Kotozaki Hachimangu Shrine**

Fukubara Ichigos, one of the persons assigned responsibility for the Kimmar Incident, was exhumed here in 1905. The shrine bustles with many citizens at the beginning of the new year and during seasonal festivals and is famous for selling more than 700 kinds of lucky charms.

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**8 Street Sculptures**

In the central urban area of Ube City, there are various sculptures here that look as if they blend into the people’s everyday life. You can enjoy a leisurely walk from Ube-Shinkawa Station to the city’s central part while looking at the sculptures.

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*Bus fares are as of the end of March 2017.*
Hagi Castle Town

Nationally designated historical site

The city of Hagi, which had flourished for 260 years as a castle town since Mori Terumoto established Hagi Castle in 1604, is one of the foremost historical sites. The strong atmosphere of a castle town remains here as seen in the magnificent old samurai residences, earthen fenses, and namako walls over which you can see natsumikan (citrus fruit), and in the street layout with sharp turns surrounded by earthen walls.

Tourist Spots in the Area

9 Shokasonjuku Academy

This World Heritage site in the culture category is a private school held by Shun Yoshiba who educated students during the later days of the Edo period (around the mid-19th century). The academy produced many people who contributed to the modernization of Japan from the later days of the Edo period to the early Meiji period (toward the later 19th century).

10 Hagi Reverberatory Furnace

This World Heritage site in the culture category is the remains of a reverberatory furnace built in 1856 by the Hagi Dazan who aimed at casting Western-type iron cannons. The reverberatory furnace is a metal smelting furnace necessary for casting cannons. Currently, the 10.5 m high chimney is the only part that remains.

Yuda Onsen

Yuda Onsen: One of the Hundred Famous Onsen in Japan

Yuda Onsen is located in the central part of Yamaguchi Prefecture and has a long history from old times of having hot springs boasting the largest amount of hot water in the San’yo area. The spring quality is a simple alkali, characterized by its softness that complements the skin. Legend says a wounded white fox soaked its legs in the spring and healed its wound. The spring was also chosen as one of the Hundred Famous Onsen in Japan.

Tourist Spots in the Area

11 St.Francis Xavier Memorial Church

The Catholic church was built in 1933 to commemorate the 450th anniversary of St. Francis Xavier’s coming to Yamaguchi. The current building rebuilt in April 1988 has a unique structure carrying two towers. The structure and sounds of its peace bells are loved by the citizens.

12 Rurikoji Temple Five-storied Pagoda

Rurikoji Temple’s five-storied pagoda, one of the three great pagodas of Japan, was built in 1442. This 31.2 m high pagoda has gynnosarca-fashioned roofs and was designated as a national treasure in 1903.

Access from Shin-Yamaguchi Station

- **Railway Line Exit**
- **About 22 minutes**
- **520 m / one way**

Access from Shin-Yamaguchi Station

- **Bus ticket booth**
- **Bus to Yuda Onsen (Yuda Onsen-dori)**
- **About 25 minutes**
- **520 m / one way**
Tenmangu are shrines that enshrine Sugawara-no-Michizane who is worshiped as the god of learning. This is the first Tenmangu shrine in Japan and is known as one of the Three Great Tanjir Shrine. In Japan along with Kitano Tenmangu in Kyoto and Dazaifu Tenmangu in Fukuoka. Because Michizane is the god of learning, many young worshipers come to buy writing brushes and entrance-exam lucky charms. About more than 300,000 people visit during the first three days of the new year. Ume (Japanese plum) flowers come into bloom in or around February coloring the shrine premises.

**Tourist Spots in the Area**

### 13 Mori Clan Garden

The garden and residence of the Mori Clan, the lords of the former Hagi Domain, are together designated as a National Site of Scenic Beauty. The strikingly beautiful garden is renowned for its design and scenery. The residence built in 1716 is a magnificent all-cypress building, a part of which is a museum that houses and displays national treasures and important cultural properties.

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**Travel App**

Used for sightseeing spots, restaurants, and events. You can also be linked to the multi-lingual call center which provides support with translation between Japanese and foreign languages. Make use of the service when having trouble with communication!

**Contact**

Yamaguchi Prefectural Tourism Federation  Tel: +81-83-924-0462

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**Yamaguchi Travel Support Mall Center**

This service is aimed to tourists from overseas and is provided for free (*) by Yamaguchi Prefectural Tourism Federation. Guidance for tourists and translation services are available in 12 languages 24/7, 365 days a year. In addition, tourists from overseas, prefectural residents, and business operators can also use this service for free (**) when having trouble in dealing with visitors from overseas.

* You are responsible for call charges when contacting via telephone and communication charges when contacting via internet.

** You can use English, Chinese, Korean, Thai, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Portuguese, Spanish, French, Russian, German, and Italian when contacting via mobile phone or gaiatsu service. (call +81-83-924-6670)

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**Yamaguchi Travel App**

All kinds of information that will make your travel more fun are available here including Yamaguchi Prefecture’s sightseeing spots, restaurants, and events. You can also be linked to the multi-lingual call center which provides support with translation between Japanese and foreign languages. Make use of the service when having trouble with communication!

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**Hofu Tenmangu Shrine**

**Kintaikyo Bridge**

A National Site of Scenic Beauty.

Kintaikyo Bridge is a wooden bridge with five continuous arches spanning over the clear water of Nishiki River and is one of the three strana Shaped Bridges in Japan. It was built in 1673 by the third lord of the Iwakuni Domain, Hirokatsu Kikkawa, and the current bridge is in its fourth generation. The bridge is supported by the combination of wood materials without using any fasteners such as nails, wires, and clamps. It is designated as a National Site of Scenic Beauty. At the Kintaikyo Festival held on April 29, you can get the impression of being in the Edo period by viewing the damyos procession crossing the bridge.
**Easy-to-ride and convenient**

**Hagi Junkan Ma-ru Bus**
*(Hagi Loop-line Bus)*

**Service time** *(Hagi City Hall is the Origin and destination stop for both routes)*

**East route** 7 a.m. (first bus) to 6 p.m. (last bus) *(Higashi-mawari: Shoin-sen)***

**West route** 7 a.m. (first bus) to 6 p.m. (last bus) *(Nishi-mawari: Shinsaku-kun)***

Both east-route and west-route buses run every 30 minutes during these time periods. *(May arrive late depending on the traffic conditions.)*

**Ticket types** *(One-day Pass: Unlimited ride for one day at 550 yen, Two-day Pass: Unlimited ride for two days at 700 yen)*

**Points of sale** *(Hagi City Office, general information booth, Hagi Tourist Bureau, Hagi Bus Center, Higashi-Hagi Station tourist information booth, Stores in Civil Hospital, Drivers of Ma-ru Bus)*

**Reasonable bus tickets are available!**

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**Sightseeing in Shimonoseki**

**One-day Pass**

**Fares** *(Adults: 720 yen, Children: 360 yen)*

**Ticketing Locations** *(Bus ticket booth in front of Shimonoseki Station: 7:30–19:30 (Opens all year round), Karasuno ticket booth: 7:30–18:30 (Opens all year round) – Afternoon break from 1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.), Shimonoseki Station and Shimonoseki-Imabari Station tourist information booths: 9:00–18:00 (Closed only on January 1)*

**How to use** *(Buy a ticket at one of the ticketing places and specify day of use. Check the covered bus sections at the booth.)*

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**Expressway bus information**

From Yamaguchi Prefecture to neighboring cities

**Travel while saving money**

**Go to TOKYO** *(Yamaguchi Bus PASS Not covered)*

- **Hagi Bus Center**
- **Yuda Onsen**
- **Hofu Station**
- **Tokuyama Station**
- **Iwakuni Station**
- **Tokyo Station**

Required time: About 14 hours and 40 minutes / Fare: 11,400–14,400 yen / One bus a day

**Go to KYOTO** *(Yamaguchi Bus PASS Not covered)*

- **Hagi Bus Center**
- **Yuda Onsen**
- **Hofu Station**
- **Tokuyama Station**
- **Iwakuni Station**
- **Kyoto Station** *(Kyoto Prefecture)*

Required time: About 13 hours and 20 minutes / Fare: 10,200 yen / One bus a day

**Go to HIROSHIMA** *(Yamaguchi Bus PASS Not covered)*

- **Yuda Onsen**
- **Hofu Station**
- **Tokuyama Station**
- **Hiroshima Bus Center** *(Hiroshima Prefecture)*

Required time: About 3 hours and 30 minutes / Fare: 2,830 yen / 5 buses a day

**Go to FUKUOKA** *(Yamaguchi Bus PASS Not covered)*

- **Tokuyama Station**
- **Hofu Station**
- **Hakata Bus Terminal** *(Fukuoka Prefecture)*

Required time: About 3 hours and 30 minutes / Fare: 3,400 yen

Weekdays: 4 buses a day, Saturday/Sunday/holidays: 5 buses a day

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**Buses are convenient for sightseeing in Shimonoseki! Unlimited-ride tickets are for sale!**

**Areas covered**

- **Shimonoseki Station**
- **Chouchikumae**
- **Sakamachi-chome**
- **Shimonoseki City Aquarium “KURUKO”**
- **Kakkoyu-choir**
- **Kakoyu-cho**
- **Shimonoseki Station**
- **Kakoyu-choir**
- **Shimonoseki City Aquarium “KURUKO”**
- **Kakkoyu-choir**

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How to use bus  Getting on and off a bus / Manners when using a bus

Getting on a bus

**STEP 1** Before boarding
- Only Japanese yen is accepted, so have some yen coins in advance for smooth bus use. (On the bus, you can exchange only coins and 1,000-yen bills.)

**STEP 2** Waiting at the bus stop
- Check your destination and timetable at the bus stop. After your bus arrives, do not step off the sidewalk until the door opens.
- When buses arrive, check their destination on the sign.
- If you are not certain if the bus will go to your destination, ask the driver.

**STEP 3** Boarding the bus
- Board from the entrance.
- Form one line when boarding.
- Take one numbered ticket, which will be required when getting off the bus. You will pay the fare when getting off.

**STEP 4** On the bus
- To prevent accidents on the bus, always take a seat when the bus is running, or if you are standing, hold the strap or handrail.

Getting off a bus

**STEP 5** Before getting off a bus
- The name of your destination bus stop will be shown on the fare indicator set at the front. Press the closest stop button before getting off.
- If no one presses the button, the bus may pass the stop.
- For safety reasons, do not stand up until the bus completely stops and the door opens.

**STEP 6** Checking the fare
- Check the fare indicator set at the front and the number of your ticket. Be sure to have exact change ready.

**STEP 7** Paying the fare
- Check the fare indicator and your ticket’s number, and put the fare in the fare box.

**STEP 8** Getting off a bus
- Check your luggage and belongings and do not leave anything behind.
- Get off at the exit.
- When getting off, watch your step and watch out for bicycles or others on the street.
- Running out into the street after getting off the bus is dangerous.

Manners when using a bus

- Offer your seat to an elderly person, handicapped person, or pregnant woman.
- Share seats with others.
- Keep quiet in the bus.
- Refrain from talking on the cellphone.
- Take all garbage with you.
Unlimited-ride bus ticket within Yamaguchi Prefecture for foreign tourists

Yamaguchi Bus Pass

These one-day to three-day unlimited-ride passes for foreign tourists visiting Yamaguchi Prefecture cover all the general route buses running within the prefecture, some expressway buses connecting cities, airport shuttle buses and community buses. The cost-saving ticket is printed in Japanese, English, Chinese, and Korean.

Covered users

Foreign tourists (including foreign students)
*You are required to show your passport when buying a ticket.
*There is no ticket for children available.

Sales prices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period of validity</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1DAY</td>
<td>2,000 YEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2DAYS</td>
<td>4,000 YEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3DAYS</td>
<td>5,000 YEN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Points of sale

- Bus ticket booth in front of Shimonoseki Station
- Shin-Yamaguchi Station (Railway Line Exit) bus ticket booth
- Shin-Yamaguchi Station (Shinkansen Exit) bus ticket booth
- Yamaguchi Station bus ticket booth
- Tokuyama Station bus ticket booth
- Hagi Kanko Hotel
- Hiroshima Bus Center ticket booth

How to buy a ticket

1. Fill out the purchase form at one of the points of sale. Your ticket will be issued after your passport (including face photo, personal name, and country name other than Japan) is checked and examined against the purchase form.
2. “Beginning day of usage” and “period of validity (one-day, two-days, or three-days) and sales price” are stamped on the face of the pass.
3. A serial number by the point of sale is written or stamped on the upper right of the face of the pass.

*The ticket is valid from the day of purchase. However, it can be issued at points of sale from the previous day of the beginning day of usage.

Participating bus operators / Members of Yamaguchi Bus Association

- Bocho Bus Company Limited; Sanden Kotsu Co., Ltd.; Funaki Tetsudo; Ube Bus; Blue Line Kotsu; Iwakuni Bus Co., Ltd.; Chugoku JR Bus Company

Covered routes / Bus routes within Yamaguchi Prefecture operated by the abovementioned member bus operators (including the following buses)

- Yamaguchi Ube Airport bus, Iwakuni Kintaikyo Airport bus, Super Hagi bus (Shin-Yamaguchi Station – Hagi Meirin Center), designated expressway buses (those operated by Bocho Bus or Iwakuni Bus and departing from / arriving at Hiroshima Bus Center), designated community buses (Yamaguchi City Community Bus, Hagi Junkan Ma-ru Bus)
- As for buses operated by Bocho Bus, routes in Tsuruoka Town in Yamaguchi Prefecture are also covered.