



Some Facts	JAPAN	UNITED STATES
Capital	Tokyo	Washington, DC
Area	145,000 sq miles	Whole USA: 3,718,000 sq mi Florida: 66,000 sq mi
Population	123,000,000	330,000,000 Florida: 22,000,000
States	47 Prefectures	50 States
Language	Japanese	English
President / Prime Min.	Fumio Kishida (Since 2021)	Joe Biden (Since 2021)

Japan Brief History (1 of 2)
600 BC: Japan united (loosely) as single country. Regional warfare.
1500 AD: Europeans arrived. International trade began.
1603-1867: Edo period. Isolation from rest of world. Tokugawa Shoguns rather than Emperor.
1867: Civil War. Shogunate ended. Emperor restored (Meiji Restoration).

Japan Brief History (2 of 2)
1867-1890s: Modernization. Industry.
1890s-1945: Wars with neighbors – China, Russia, Korea, Vietnam, even USA (Pearl Harbor). **Defeated in WW2.**
1950s-1980s: Strong economic growth.
1900s-2000s: Economic slowdown.
Since 2010: Slow recovery. Ageing population.

Head of government:
Prime Minister Fumio Kishida
Since October 4, 2021



- The leader of the majority party or majority coalition in the House of Representatives usually becomes prime minister.
- Cabinet: Prime Minister appoints.

Japan also has an Emperor.
Emperor Naruhito.

- Hereditary.
- Succeeded his father who abdicated on April 30, 2019.
- Powers are ceremonial.
- No power in running the government.
- Defined in Japan's Constitution as "the symbol of the state and the unity of the people".

Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako



Reigned since May 1, 2019

Former Emperor Akihito



Reigned 1989 to 2019
Now retired.

Bicameral Parliament (Diet):

House of Councillors:

- 242 seats.
- 6-year terms, half renewed every 3 years.

House of Representatives:

- 465 seats.
- 4-year terms.



Japanese Money

The YEN

Symbol is: ¥

About Yen = 1 US\$



So this 10,000 yen note is worth about US\$



Religion in Japan

“Religion does not play a big role in the everyday life of most Japanese people today.” www.japan-guide.com

Wikipedia: “Less than 40% of the population of Japan identifies with an organized religion”. Of that 40%:

- 35% Buddhism (imported from China).
- 3% to 4% Shinto (developed in Japan).
- 1% to 2% Christianity.

Japan Median Age: population.un.org/wpp/

Historical:	Projection:	Implications (Examples):
1955 22.8	2030 51.5	– Economy general: Labor and skills shortages.
1960 24.8	2040 53.0	– Declining productivity.
1970 28.2	2050 53.6	– Lower tax collections (fewer workers).
1980 31.6		– Increased health-care and pension costs (34% of Japan's 2023 national budget).
1990 36.9		– Increased dependency on carers.
2000 40.7		– Migration.
2010 44.2		
2020 48.0		
2023 49.1		

- #2 in world after Monaco
- USA = 38.1

Japan's Ageing Population

- 29% of people over age 65 (2022).
- 2nd highest in world (after Monaco).
- USA 17%.

Due to ageing population, Japan actually sells more adult diapers than kids' diapers.

9 of the 20 oldest people in the world are Japanese.

Economy

GDP: \$5.1 Trillion (#4 after US, China, India).

Public Debt: 216% of GDP (#2 after Greece) (USA 126%, #11).

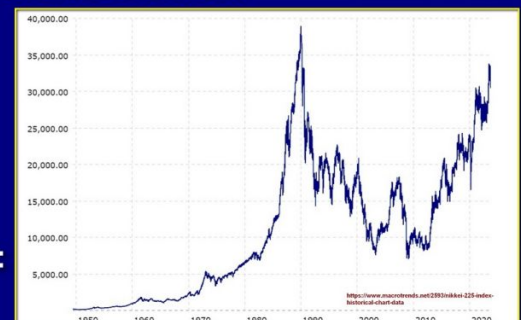
Energy: Nearly 100% dependent on foreign energy (oil, gas, etc).

Industrial Production Growth: 2020 was -4.2%.

Nikkei 225 Index

Major economic slowdown 1990-2013. Still has not recovered.

High Dec 89: 38,957
Low Mar 09: 7,005
Nov 2023: 32,568



KAGOSHIMA



Sakurajima
 "One of the most active volcanoes in the world"
 Volcanodiscovery.com

- First recorded eruption 708 AD.
- 1914 eruption 10 billion tons of lava. Connected the island to the mainland.
- Since then eruptions 1935, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1946, 1948, 1950, and continuously every 4 to 24 hours since 1955.
- Early March 2018 so much ash that Kagoshima Airport was closed for two days.
- 5,000 people live on the "island" today.



On Sakurajima Island, most tourists take a circular bus trip with 3 stops to view the volcano.
 ¥500



View of Sakurajima from Yunohira Observatory

— Visitors cannot get closer than 2 km



Tsukiyomi Shrine 9th c - in Sakurajima Town
Was buried in 1914 eruption

Five Best Museums in Kagoshima

1. Museum of the Meiji Restoration.
2. Sengan-en, Shimazu clan gardens and museum of industrial revolution.
3. Reimeikan, Kagoshima Prefectural Center for Historical Material [sounds dull but isn't!].
4. Kagoshima City Museum of Art.
5. Kagoshima City Aquarium [museum?].

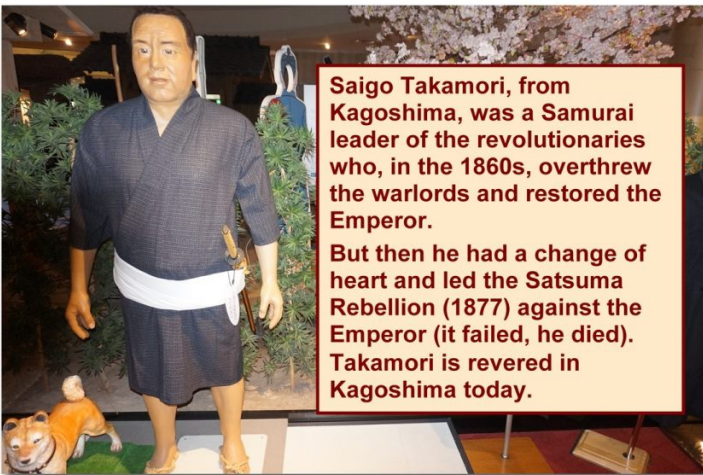
Museum #1: Museum of the Meiji Restoration



In 1868, after 250 years of isolation and rule by warlords, revolutionaries overthrew the warlords and returned the emperor (Meiji) to power.

As a result:

- Industrial revolution came to Japan.
- Japan opened to foreign trade.
- Internal disagreements about how open to be.



Saigo Takamori, from Kagoshima, was a Samurai leader of the revolutionaries who, in the 1860s, overthrew the warlords and restored the Emperor.
But then he had a change of heart and led the Satsuma Rebellion (1877) against the Emperor (it failed, he died). Takamori is revered in Kagoshima today.



Saigo Takamori, from Kagoshima, was one of the leaders of the revolutionaries who overthrew the warlords. He is revered in Kagoshima today.

Théâtre where two major stories about the Meiji Restoration are told with video and animatronics.

Show #1: "The Road to the Restoration". Events and battles (civil war) in 1850s-1870s that led to overthrow of Shogun warlords and returning Emperor to power in 1868. 1868 Emperor was only 16 years old.

Show #2: In 1865, 19 students from Satsuma (former name of Kagoshima) illegally left Japan to study in Britain and tour Europe. Goal: Bring Western knowledge back to Japan. Folk heroes today.

Preserved 16th c Samurai House in a park near Meiji Museum





Two major shopping malls in Kagoshima:
AMU Plaza and
Aeon Mall

Both are at Chuo Station (intercity trains).
Across the street from each other.
Many shops and restaurants.



AMU Plaza Mall: Electronics Store

This store is one of the Bic Camera chain.
Two other major chains of electronics stores
all over Japan: Yodobashi and Yamada Denki.



In Chuo Station: Carousél Sushi Restaurant

Plate colors determine price

Or you can
order off
the menu
(if you read
Japanese)

Ginger

Tea

Several
kinds of soy
sauce

Plates of
sushi move
along
conveyor
belt



Examples of restaurants in AMU Plaza Mall
Plastic food shows menu and prices.

Many varieties of Japanese food, Chinese,
Western including Italian, burgers and pizza.



Wagyu
Steak

Pork
Steak

Wagyu
Burger

Wagyu
Filet
Mignon

Dishes to the
left served with
white rice,
bread, cup of
soup

Cheeseburger

Grilled
Veggies

Eggs
Benedict

Quattro
Formaggi
Pizza

Margherita
Pizza



Museum #2: Sengan-en

Japanese garden attached to a former Shimazu
clan residence in Kagoshima.
Shimazu were civic reformers and industrialists.

- Residence and gardens were begun 1658.
- UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Great views of Sakurajima.



Shimazu Family Home - Built 1658



Shimazu Family Home Courtyard



Shimazu Family Home Interior



Satsuma orange tree at Sengan-en
Seedless, easy to peel
Satsuma is the old name of Kagoshima



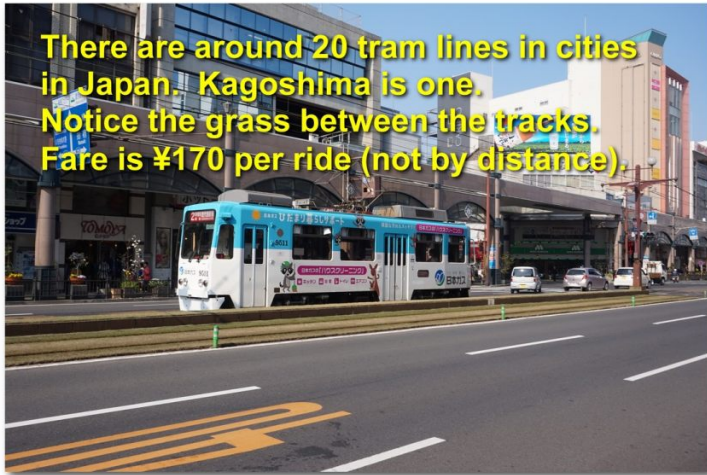
View of Sakurajima from Sengan-en



View of Sakurajima from Sengan-en



Cherry trees in bloom at Sengan-en (March 2018)



There are around 20 tram lines in cities in Japan. Kagoshima is one.
Notice the grass between the tracks.
Fare is ¥170 per ride (not by distance).



Exact change required. There is a change machine if needed.
Pay when you get off.

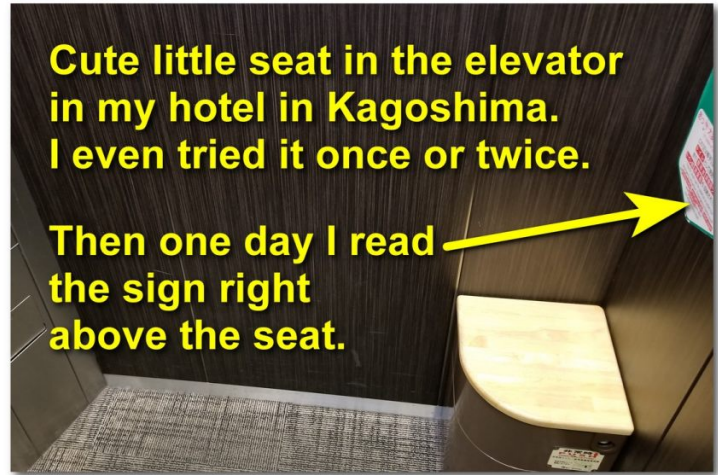


City View Bus
— Stops at 20 tourist attractions.
— 80 minute loop.
— ¥600 for all day on/off. Includes city buses and trams too.
— Or ¥190 for single ride.
Best way to get to Sengan-en, Mt Shiroyama, & Nanshu



1,300 Mr Donut Shops in Japan!
5,500 shops worldwide.
Only ONE left in USA.

Paul recommendation: Cake donut with chocolate
Based on extensive testing



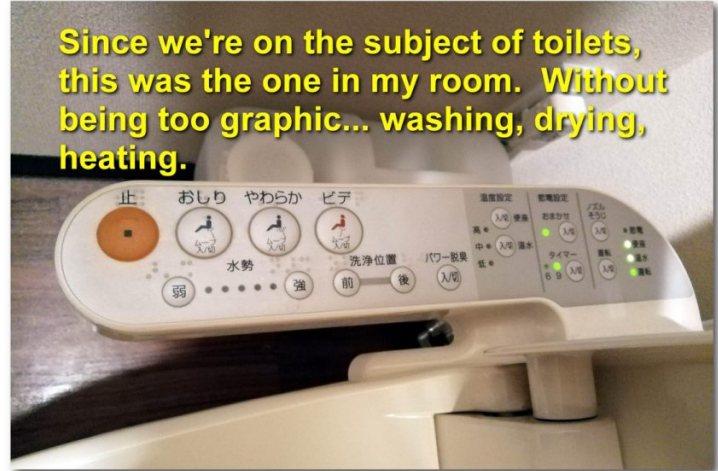
Cute little seat in the elevator
in my hotel in Kagoshima.
I even tried it once or twice.

Then one day I read
the sign right
above the seat.



Not just a seat. Emergency
TOILET in case of earthquake
or tsunami!

めっ 大変! そんな時は...
In case of emergency...
この【EV椅子】は、緊急時には
トイレとして使用できます。
また 飲料水 非常用ライト
トイレ紙 消臭剤 も収納されています。
This EV chair can be used as a toilet for
emergency situation. Emergency items such
as drinking water, emergency light, toilet paper
and deodorant are also
installed in this chair.



Since we're on the subject of toilets,
this was the one in my room. Without
being too graphic... washing, drying,
heating.



Take City View (Tourist) Bus to Mt Shiroyama

View from Mt
Shiroyama

Sakurajima Volcano

History Museum Art Museum

Nishi Hongwanji
Temple



View of Sakurajima from Nanshu Cemetery

Cemetery, on Mt Shiroyama, is burial place for Saigo
Takamori and 2,022 others who, in 1877, fought the new
Imperial army to try to get the shoguns back in power.



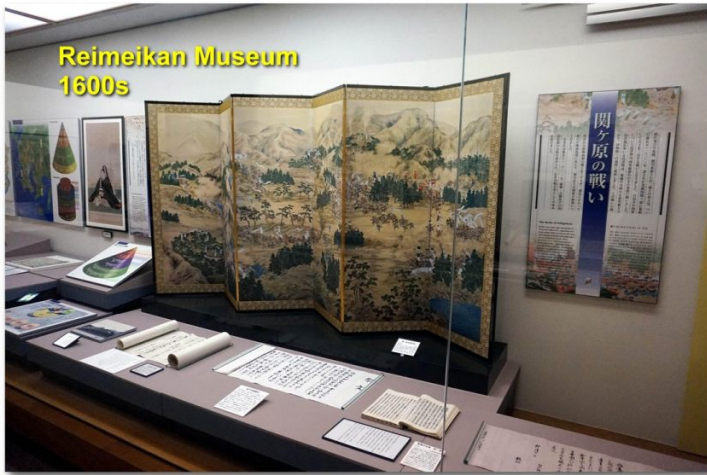
Museum #3: Reimeikan,
Kagoshima Prefectural
Center for Historical
Material



Reimeikan Museum
Bronze Age Pottery
3rd and 4th c BC



Reimeiikan Museum
14th c Tablets



Reimeiikan Museum
1600s



Reimeiikan Museum
Folk Art



Kagoshima Prefectural Museum
Wildlife, plants, ecology, some local culture.
Pales in comparison to the Reimeiikan museum.
Free.



Kagoshima Prefectural Museum
Several large insect displays



Kagoshima Prefectural Museum
Extinct Japanese Ushiuma Horse



Kagoshima Prefectural Museum
Local crabs and lobsters



Terukuni Shrine, 1864
Shinto



Wedding at Terukuni Shrine, Kagoshima



Some shopping streets converted into covered arcades



Shopping arcade



Museum #4: Kagoshima City Museum of Art
Mix of Japanese and Western art.

■ The display is changed each season.
Surprising collection for a small Japanese city

About Our Collection

- Works by Artists from Kagoshima
KURODA Seiki, FUJISHIMA Takeji, WADA Eisaku, HASHIGUCHI Goyo, ANDO Teru, NIIRO Chunosuke, etc.
- Impressionism to Contemporary Western Art
Claude MONET, Pablo PICASSO, Salvador DALI, Wassily KANDINSKY, August RODIN, etc.
- Paintings of Mt. Sakurajima
Satsuma ware and Satsuma Kiriko cut glass

In addition to these, collection also includes works by Cezanne, Renoir, Matisse, Utrillo, Ernst, Sisley, and Warhol.



Kagoshima Museum of Art
Examples of European collection



Museum #5: Kagoshima City Aquarium
Next to Ferry Pier
¥1,500 -- worth it!



Dolphin show at Kagoshima City Aquarium



Pirarucu - world's largest freshwater fish South America

- Up to 10 feet long
- 500 pounds



Great Water Tank at Kagoshima City Aquarium



Triggerfish at Kagoshima City Aquarium

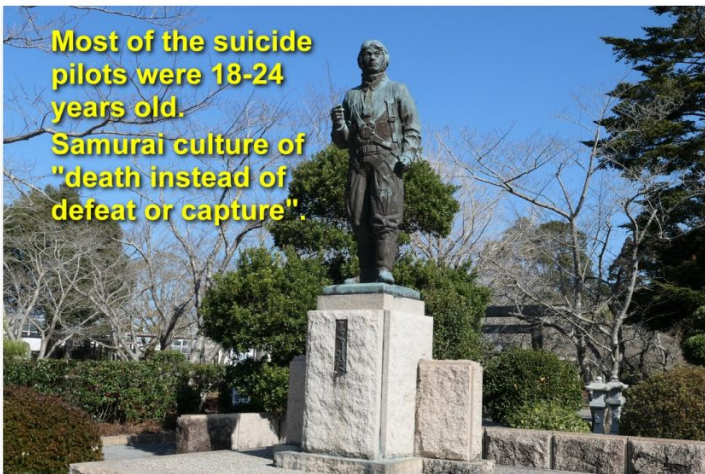


**Bus from Kagoshima Chuo Station (Platform 16) to Chiran Kamikaze Peace Museum
90 minute drive, ¥950 fare**



**Chiran Kamikaze (Tokko) Peace Museum
Focus on personal stories of 1,036 young men who made suicide attacks on Allied ships in the last days of World War 2 (1945) -- after Japan realized they were badly losing the war.**

The Museum is controversial. It tries to tell the personal stories of the suicide pilots – their comments and their families. But some say the museum glorifies and endorses suicide as a tactic of war. And honors aggression rather than condemning it.



Most of the suicide pilots were 18-24 years old. Samurai culture of "death instead of defeat or capture".



Kamikaze aircraft. 13% of kamikaze missions hit their targets.



TAKAMATSU

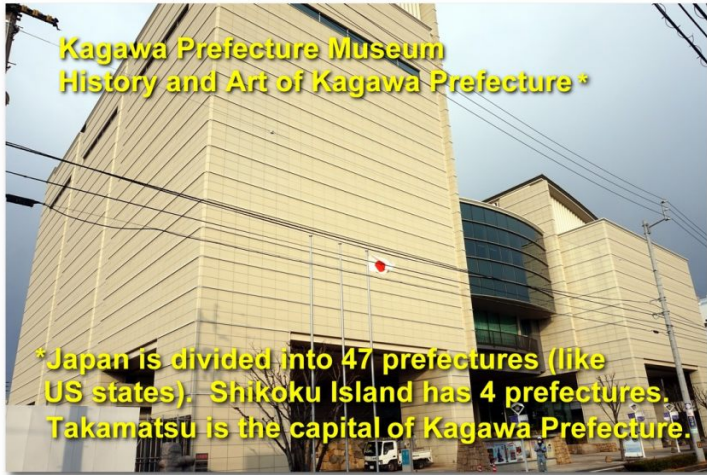


- Because of its strategic importance, bombed and 80% destroyed in WW2.
- Today several bridges from Shikoku Island to Honshu.
- Home of Udon (fat noodles).
- #1 sightseeing attraction is Ritsurin Koen – landscaped feudal garden from 1600s.

- Local transportation:**
- Two train companies have lines with a number of stops within Takamatsu.
 - Local bus system.
 - Intercity trains.
 - Ferries to nearby islands and to Honshu.
 - Taxis (expensive).



Takamatsu Castle
Originally built 1590
Destroyed 1800s
Being rebuilt



Kagawa Prefecture Museum
History and Art of Kagawa Prefecture*

*Japan is divided into 47 prefectures (like US states). Shikoku Island has 4 prefectures. Takamatsu is the capital of Kagawa Prefecture.



Kagawa Prefecture Museum



Ritsurin Koen Garden
Built by feudal Shogun in 1600s.
Regarded as one of 3 best gardens in Japan

- Ponds, hills, trees and classical pavilions.
- Divided into a Japanese style garden in the south and western style garden in the north.
- Set in front of wooded Mt. Shiun which serves as a wonderful background to the gardens.



Ritsurin Koen Garden
Buildings date to early 17th century



Ritsurin Koen Garden
Local folk art museum



Ritsurin Koen Garden
Wood carver at work



Sanuki Udon originated in Kagawa Prefecture

Handmade Udon

1 材料の配合 2 混ぜ 3 足踏み 4 絞かし

5 延ばし 6 練切り 7 茹で 8 氷漬け

新種小麦「さゆき」



**Ritsurin Koen Garden
Takamatsu**



**Ritsurin Koen Garden
Meditation Garden**



**Ritsurin Koen Garden
Takamatsu, Shikoku Island**



**Ritsurin Koen Garden
Koi**



Ritsurin Koen Garden



**City Centre
Takamatsu**



**Takamatsu Station Square
Next to train station and
ferry piers**



**Two train companies have lines
within Takamatsu.**



Spotlessly clean, like most trains in Japan.



Taxis are plentiful in Takamatsu but expensive.



Many local buses, but very few English signs. Once you're on a bus, a phone with GPS is useful.



It is illegal to smoke on a public sidewalk in Takamatsu.



Covered shopping arcades in Takamatsu are 2.7km long (1.7 miles). Longest covered arcades in Japan. Shops, restaurants, two department stores.



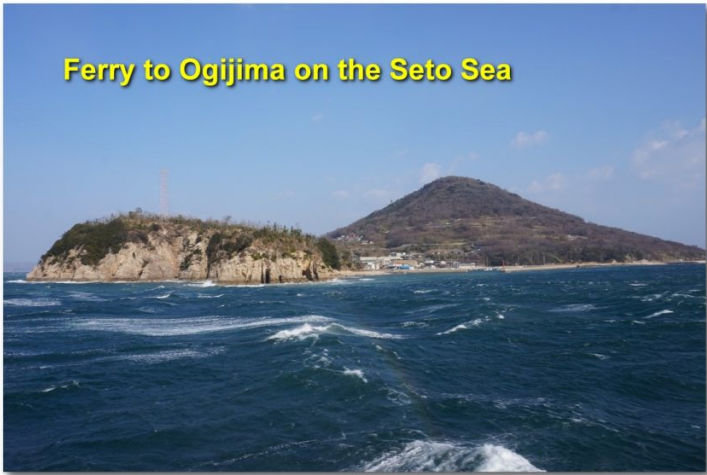
Ferry to Ogijima Island
Population 200
About 5 miles from Takamatsu



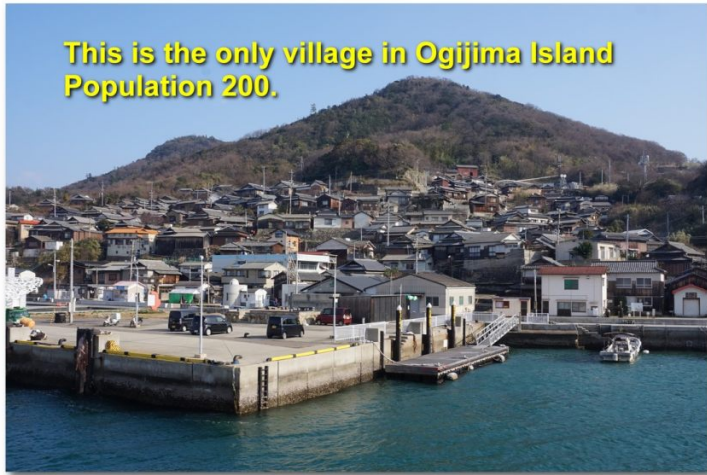
As you would expect, the ferry has seats...



You might not expect that the ferry has mats where you can lie down instead of sitting down!



Ferry to Ogijima on the Seto Sea



This is the only village in Ogijima Island Population 200.



Torii marking entrance to the village



Village slate rooftops and the sea



The village does not seem to be prospering. Some buildings in bad shape or abandoned.



This must have been a beautiful home at one time.



Village's one and only restaurant that's open in the winter.

I think there are several others in summer.



This lady and her husband are the proprietors. 4 choices on blackboard menu Japanese and English.

Notice the heater

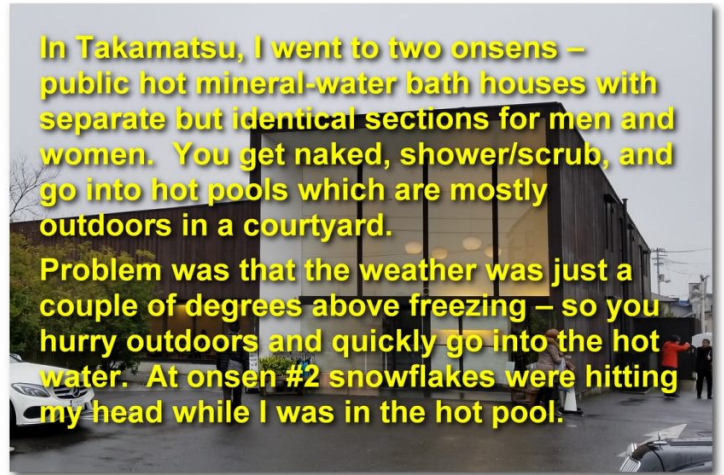
Local customer

Lunch in Ogijima - yellowtail sukuyaki etc.



In Takamatsu, I went to two onsens – public hot mineral-water bath houses with separate but identical sections for men and women. You get naked, shower/scrub, and go into hot pools which are mostly outdoors in a courtyard.

Problem was that the weather was just a couple of degrees above freezing – so you hurry outdoors and quickly go into the hot water. At onsen #2 snowflakes were hitting my head while I was in the hot pool.



Advertising poster by train company to take people to the onsen.



Sign at entrance to Onsen. It says you CANNOT ENTER THE ONSEN IF YOU HAVE ANY TATTOOS



Train to Yashima Temple and Shikoku Mura outdoor museum



Entrance gate to Yashima Temple (Yashima-ji)

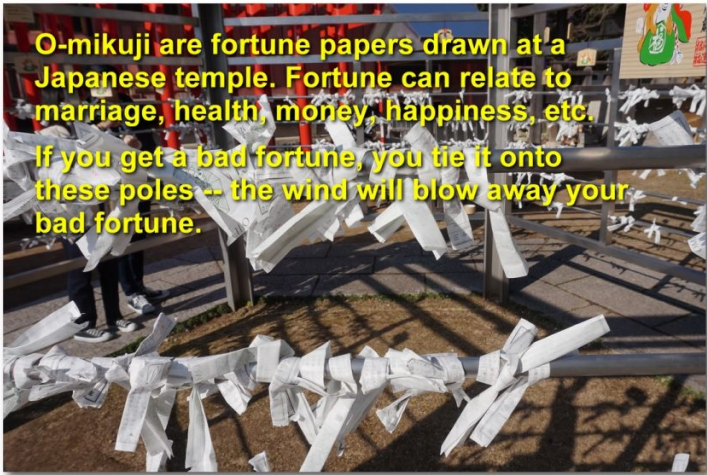


Main Hall of Yashima Temple 1618



Viewing platform is a few minutes uphill walk from the Temple. Great views of Takamatsu and the sea.





O-mikuji are fortune papers drawn at a Japanese temple. Fortune can relate to marriage, health, money, happiness, etc. If you get a bad fortune, you tie it onto these poles -- the wind will blow away your bad fortune.



Typical udon shop in Takamatsu. There are hundreds.

These bowls of udon are 450 Yen (US\$3).



Making Udon by hand



You back your car in, which trips the blue guardrail. You have to pay at the machine to make the blue thing go down to let you out.



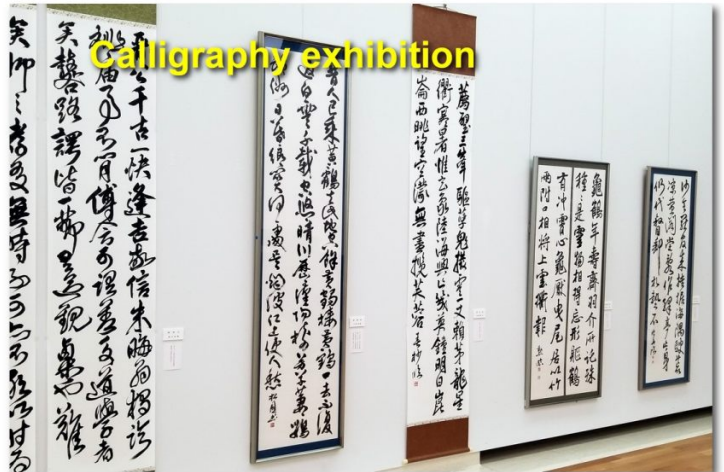
Supermarket in Takamatsu



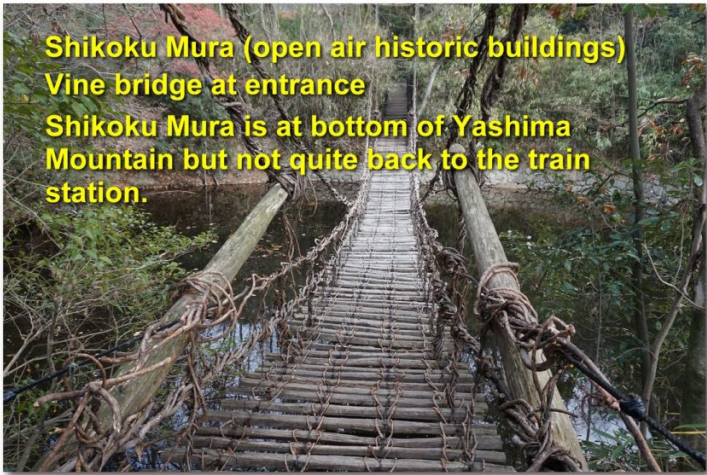
Restaurant window: Plastic replicas of items on the menu at this restaurant



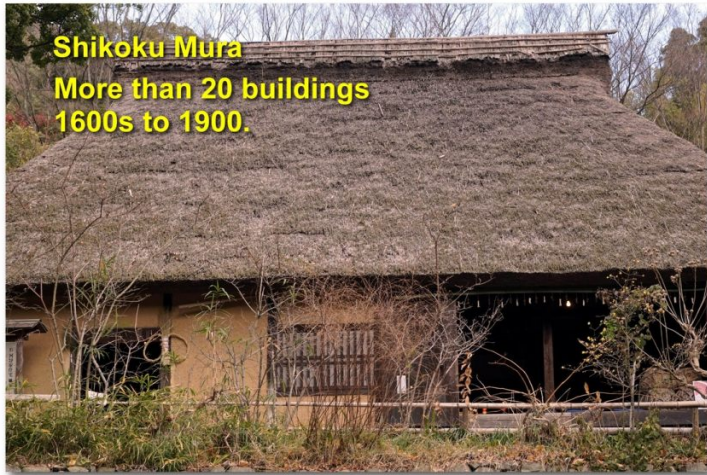
Takamatsu Museum of Art Beautiful building but limited collection.



Calligraphy exhibition



Shikoku Mura (open air historic buildings)
Vine bridge at entrance
Shikoku Mura is at bottom of Yashima Mountain but not quite back to the train station.



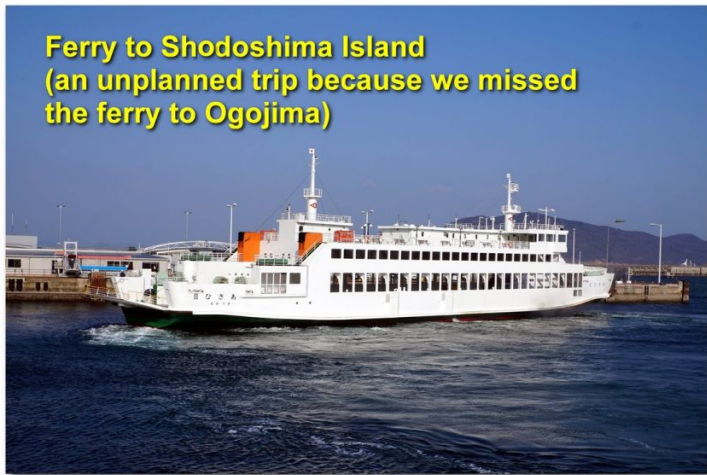
Shikoku Mura
More than 20 buildings
1600s to 1900.



Ancient residence at Shikoku Mura



Old sugar cane press at Shikoku Mura



Ferry to Shodoshima Island
(an unplanned trip because we missed the ferry to Ogojima)

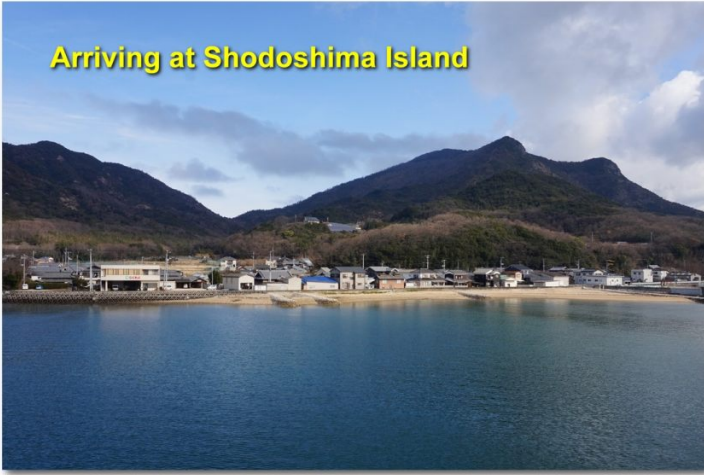


Buying a ferry ticket to Shodoshima



Ferry to Shodoshima Island

Arriving at Shodoshima Island



We got off the ferry with no plan as to what to do. A lady was selling all-day bus passes. We bought them not knowing where to go.



Area of historic homes



Historic homes



Shodoshima Bus



Ming Wong Temple
Built 1522



Ming Wong Temple



Turns out, Shodoshima is the olive growing capital of Japan. We visited an olive garden.





Lots of olives

I think our unplanned trip to Shodoshima turned out pretty well.

HIROSHIMA



Hiroshima Castle
Built 1590s.
Destroyed WWII.
Rebuilt 1958.
Now a museum.



Hiroshima
City Center
Pop. 1.2 million



Hiroshima
Sogo Dept Store



Hiroshima
Tram



Peace Museum
Hiroshima



Atomic Bombs
Hiroshima Aug 6, 1945
and Nagasaki Aug 9, 1945
Ended WWII



Photo of devasation of Hiroshima



Hiroshima Peace Museum Photos



Genbaku Dome
Only building left standing at bomb epicenter.
Now a memorial.

Atomic bombings killed:
90,000–146,000 in Hiroshima and
39,000–80,000 in Nagasaki

In contrast, deaths from Japan's invasion of China, French Indo-China, Dutch East Indies, Korea, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaya:

- Direct war deaths: 5,000,000.
- War-related famine and disease: 20,000,000 to 30,000,000.

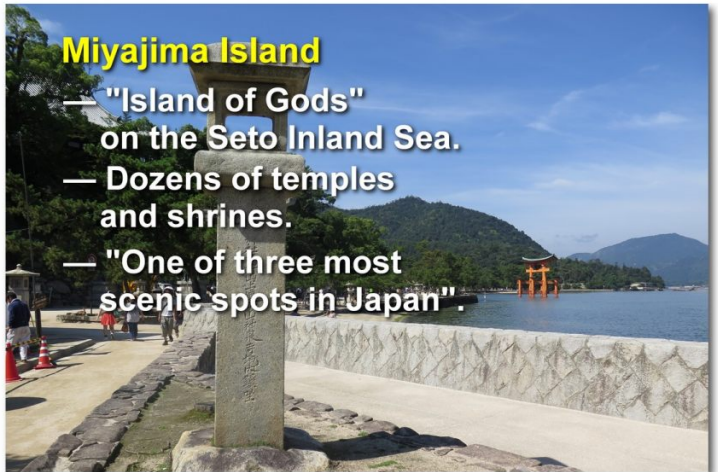
Deaths from Japan's invasions in East Asia 1931-1945

	Total deaths military and civilian	
	Directly due to war	Due to war plus war-related famine
China	10,000,000 to 12,000,000	15,000,000 to 20,000,000
Dutch East Indies	300,000	2,400,000 to 4,000,000
French Indo-china	--	1,000,000 to 2,000,000
Japan	2,500,000 to 3,100,000	2,500,000 to 3,100,000
Korea	500,000	500,000
Malaya and Singapore	100,000	100,000
Philippines	160,000	300,000

MIYAJIMA ISLAND



Ferry from Hiroshima to Miyajima Island
About one hour



Miyajima Island

- "Island of Gods" on the Seto Inland Sea.
- Dozens of temples and shrines.
- "One of three most scenic spots in Japan".



**Itsukushima Shrine - 16th c
UNESCO World Heritage**



**Itsukushima Shrine - 16th c
UNESCO World Heritage**



O-Torii Gate at Itsukushima Shrine.

**First built 1168. Destroyed 7 times.
This one rebuilt 1875.**



Deer on Miyajima Island



**Tokoyuni Shrine
Miyajima Island
16th century**

**In Japan, "shrine" = Shinto religious
structure, "temple" = Buddhist one.**



**5-story pagoda
1407**



**Daiganji Temple -- 6th century
Miyajima**



**Daishoin Temple
9th century
Miyajima Island**



Coming Up in 2024 - All 3 to 4 pm

Italy: Tuscany	Thurs Jan 18
Southern Japan	Mon Feb 5
Estonia	Mon Mar 4
Southern France	Mon Apr 1
Rome Part 1	Mon May 6
Rome Part 2	Mon Jun 3

PDFs of Slides Posted at www.PaulVisits.com

THE END
of our visit to
Southern Japan
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