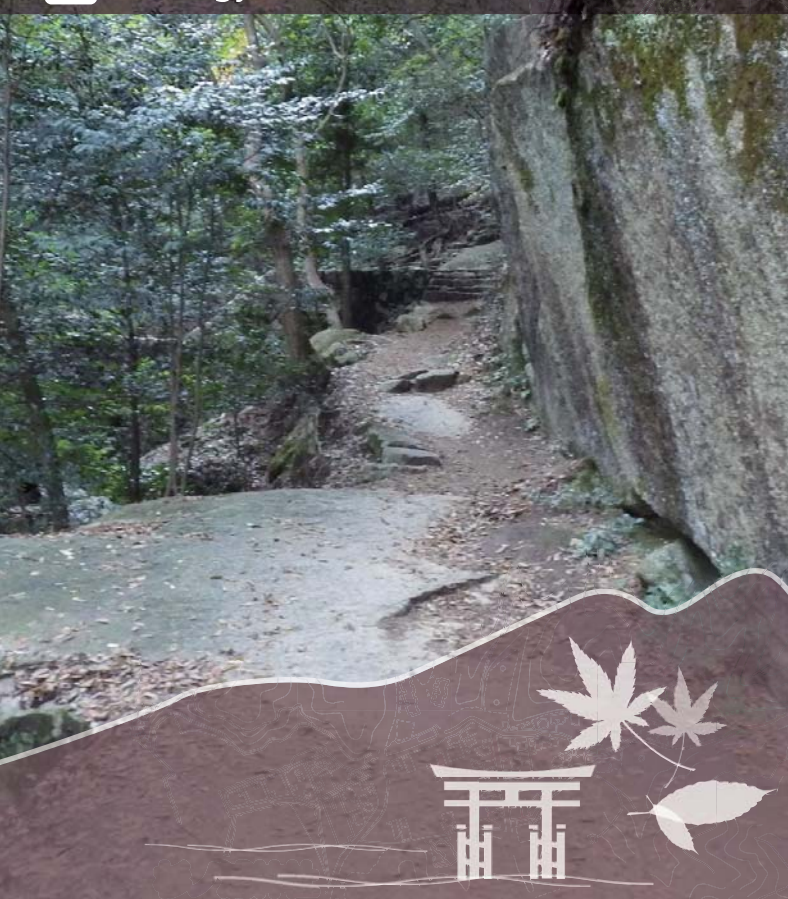


Miyajima Hiking Map

3 Geology Course Omoto Route – Momijidani Route



3 Geology Course

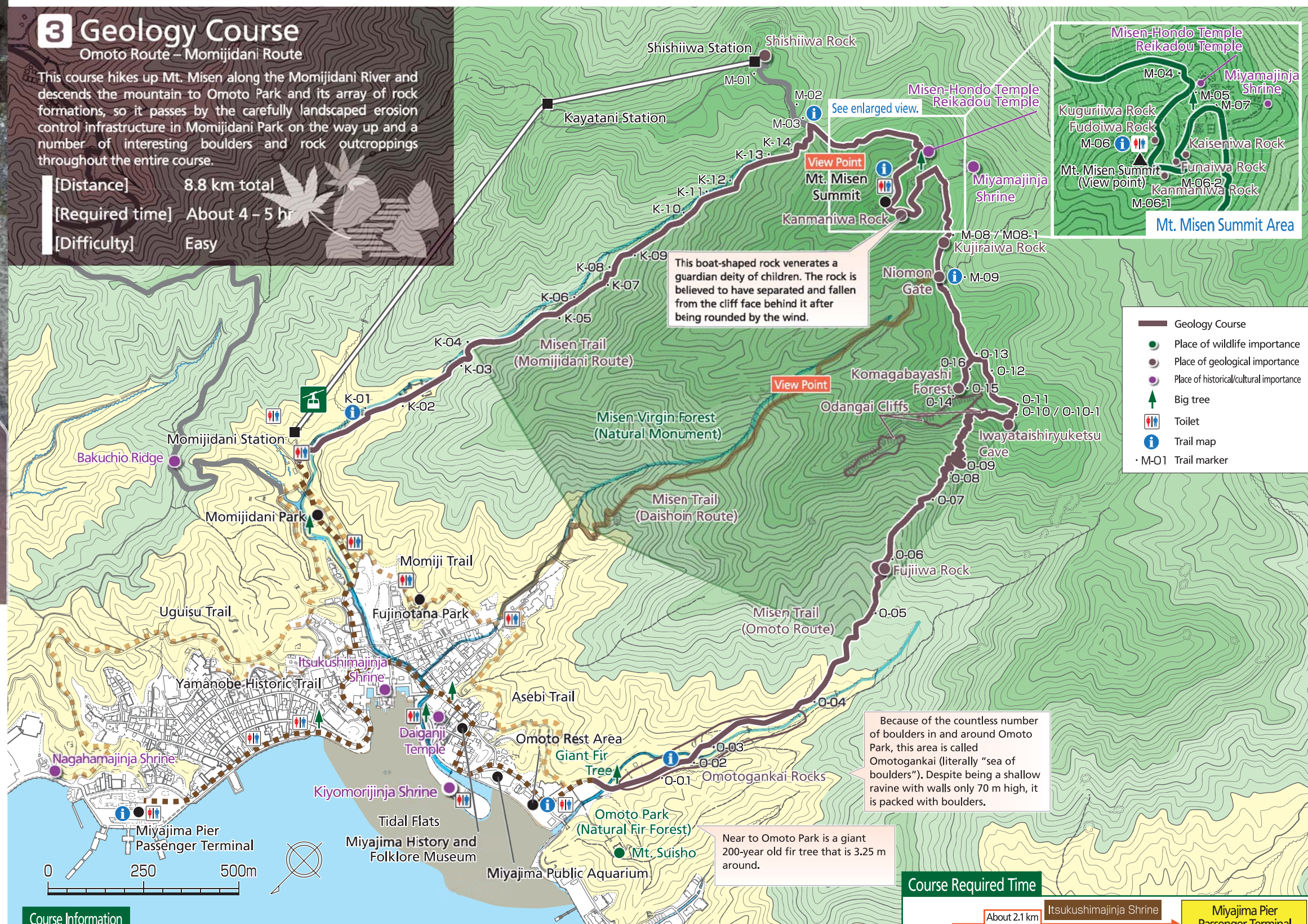
Omoto Route – Momijidani Route

This course hikes up Mt. Misen along the Momijidani River and descends the mountain to Omoto Park and its array of rock formations, so it passes by the carefully landscaped erosion control infrastructure in Momijidani Park on the way up and a number of interesting boulders and rock outcroppings throughout the entire course.

[Distance] 8.8 km total

[Required time] About 4 – 5 hr

[Difficulty] Easy



Ropeway & Ferry Information

Miyajima Ropeway Timetable (About every 15 min)

Dec. – Feb. 9:00 ~ 16:30 (Last ride down: 17:00)
 March – Oct. 9:00 ~ 17:00 (Last ride down: 17:30)
 Nov. 8:00 ~ 17:00 (Last ride down: 17:30)
 GW/Obon 8:30 ~ 17:30 (Last ride down: 18:00)

Miyajima Ferry Timetable (About every 15 min [Daytime])

[Miyajima Matsudai Kisen Tourist Ship]	[JR-W]
Departing Miyajimakuchi 7:15 ~ 20:35	Departing Miyajimakuchi 6:25 ~ 22:42
Departing Miyajima 7:00 ~ 20:35	Departing Miyajima 5:45 ~ 22:14

*Timetables are valid as of 03/31/2014.

* Both the ropeway and ferry lines operate according to special timetables during events, etc.
 For more information, contact the respective operators.

Other Model Courses

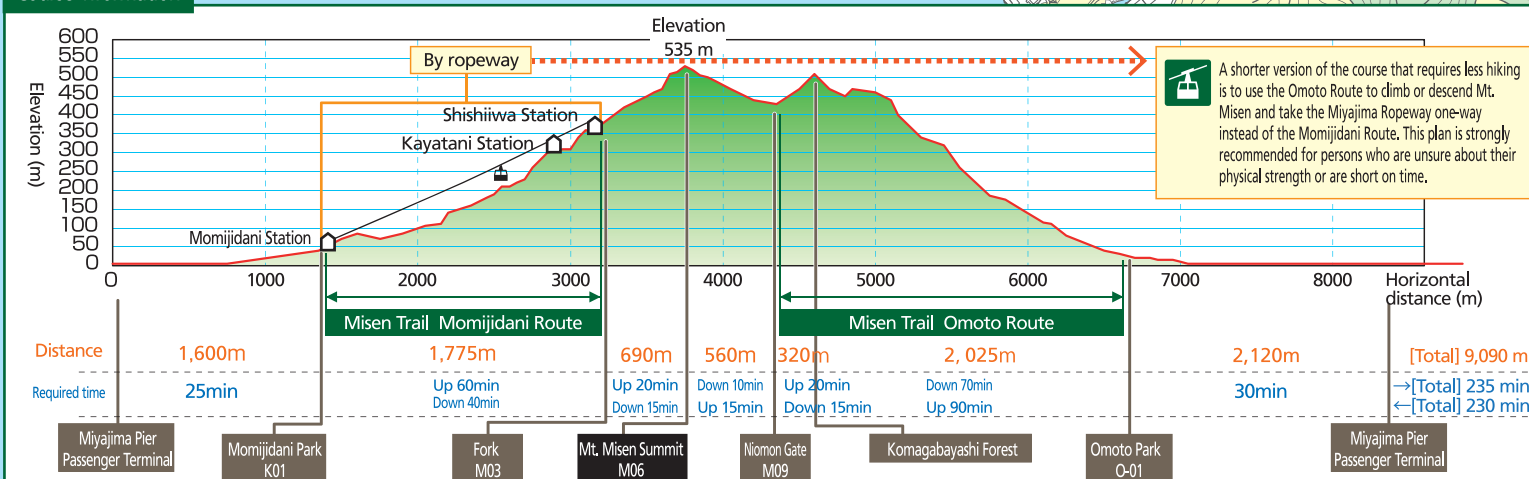
- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1 Nature Course | Daishoin Route – Miyajima Ropeway – Tsutsumigaura Nature Trail |
| 2 Wildlife Course | Omoto Route – Momijidani Route |
| 4 History & Culture Course | Tsutsumigaura Nature Trail |

Guide maps can be downloaded from the below website.

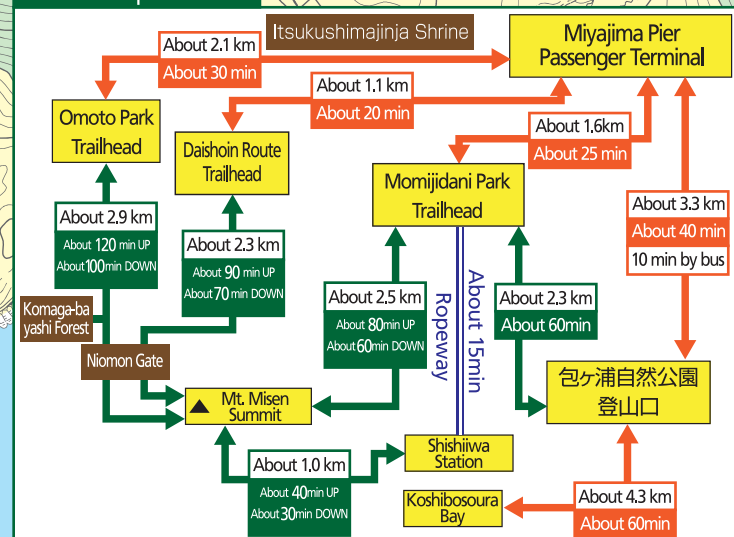
Website
http://chushikoku.env.go.jp/nature/miyajima_guide_map/



Course Information



Course Required Time



3 What to See Along the [3] Geology Course

The Geology Course hikes up Mt. Misen along the [1] Momijidani Route (Momijidani Park - Mt. Misen Summit) and hikes down the mountain along the [2] Omoto Route (Mt. Misen Summit - Omoto Park), past the boulders in the Komagabayashi Forest. It is designed for enjoying the richly diversified landscape and geological features.



Geological Features Along the Momijidani Route

When Miyajima was hit by Typhoon Makurazaki in 1945, it was decided to restore Momijidani Park with locally sourced materials on account of the widespread postwar shortages. So, along this course, you will see an erosion control dam made with natural stones that blend in beautifully with the natural surroundings much like a traditional rock garden. There are also boulders such as Sakuraiwa Rock and, on the way up Mt. Misen, you will see a tract of unusual looking rocks that go by the names of Byobuiwa (literally “folding screen rock”), Hibiwariwa (literally “cracked rock”) and Kamauiwa (literally “sickle rock”). Also, the ravine up the mountain backtracks a series of small cascades at the upper reaches including Momijidani Falls.



Geological Features Along the Omoto Route

Despite being a shallow ravine with walls only 70 m high, there is one section of this route packed with boulders, quaintly called Omotogankai (literally “sea of boulders”). Higher up the mountain is a tract of interesting rock formations including one giant boulder that looks like Mt. Fuji and is so named. As you approach the ridgeline, the cliffs of the Komagabayashi Forest appear in front of you as a single piece of solid granite that curves along the ridgeline like a planned detour. Along the way can be seen Iwayataishiryuketsu Cave. You make your ascent to the summit in the Komagabayashi Forest along the crest of the ridgeline.

Natural Highlights

Momijidani Park and Mudslide Prevention



Momijidani Park stretches along the Momijidani River at the foot of Mt. Misen and has been known as a scenic location since long ago. A section of the park was buried in a mudslide spawned by Typhoon Makurazaki of 1945, but restoration work was

passionately pursued by the local community with donations and cooperation from all across Japan, and is today a beautifully landscaped park with cleverly incorporated erosion control infrastructure. Professional landscape artists were employed to conserve the natural beauty while ensuring absolute safety. So, they used quarry stones from the area without any processing, left trees standing in place and positioned rocks so that cement surfaces would be hidden to the eye. Autumn is particularly worth seeing as the diverse species of Japanese maple trees change colors all at once. Spring with its cherry blossoms and summer with the fresh green foliage are equally as beautiful.

Shishiwa Rock



Located near the highest ropeway station up Mt. Misen, Shishiwa (literally “lion rock”) gets its name from its resemblance to a lion. The station is designed as an observation point with views of the steep cliffs to the east, south and west, as well as a magnificent view of the Mt. Misen Summit that you shouldn't miss.

Geode



The exposed rock face near the summit of Mt. Misen has many holes both large and small. Called “geodes,” these holes were formed by venting gas and steam as magma solidified into granite. Many of the geodes have small druses on the inside that look like quartz or potash feldspar crystals.

Mt. Misen Summit

[Markers] M-06, M-06-1, M-06-2



[Kanmaniwa Rock]

Just above Funaiwa Rock and slightly down the western side from the summit is a large rock with a tiny hole. The hole is but 10 cm across and filled with water that oddly enough overflows at high tide and dries up and leaves a salt residue at low tide. Druses are found around the hole, which has led some to think the hole itself is a geode.

[Funaiwa Rock]

A little ways uphill from Dainichido Shrine is a boat-looking rock where a guardian deity of children is worshipped. It is called “Funaiwa” (literally “boat rock”) because of its shape. The thicket of trees above it would be its sail. This strangely shaped rock is believed to have separated and fallen from the cliff face behind it after being rounded by the wind.

Kujiraiwa Rock

【標識番号】 M-08-1



As its name suggests (literally “whale rock”), this rock looks like a whale right down to the blowhole. And, the round rock next to it looks like its poop. From here, you have a wondrous view of Okumoin Temple and Mt. Iwafune and, beyond that, the Seto Inland Sea and Otake City.

Miyajima Hiking Rules

Because of its historical importance and scenic beauty, the entire island of Miyajima is a national park. Moreover, the Misen Virgin Forest is designated a Natural Monument of Japan. Therefore, it is strictly forbidden to pick plants, catch animals, collect rocks or light fires anywhere on the island. Please observe the below rules in order to preserve the rare natural environment of Miyajima for future generations.



Do not pick plants.



Do not trap animals.



Do not feed wild animals.



Do not light fires.

Iwayataishiryuketsu Cave

[Markers] O-10-1



Underneath a massive cliff in Komagabayashi Forest is a mammoth boulder known as “Iwayataishido.” In the rock is a fairly spacious cave where Kobo-Daishi, the Japanese monk responsible for propagating Buddhism in Japan, is said to have practiced Mandala Yoga to improve his memory. Kobo-Daishi is venerated at the rear of the cave.

Komagabayashi Forest



There is a large boulder at the highest point of the Komagabayashi Forest northwest of Mt. Misen that is a great spot for looking down on Itsukushimajinja Shrine and out across the islands of the Seto Inland Sea and Shikoku in the offing. The western edge of the Komagabayashi Forest is a 50 m high cliff where, in 1555, the armies of Motonari Mori and Takafusa Sue met in the Battle of Itsukushima.

Odangai Cliffs

These cliffs are seen on the western edge of the Komagabayashi Forest (highest point: 509 m). There are numerous boulders below the rock face that are believed to have detached and fallen over time.



Mt. Suisho

Crystals can be found all over Miyajima. They are made of silicon dioxide, shaped like hexagonal columns and pointed at the end. Of those identified on the island, the large ones are opaque and the smaller ones clear.



Distance Marker

Stone markers such as this have indicated the route up Mt. Misen to Misendo Temple since ancient times. With the summit being the 24th such marker, each stone marks about 109 m. The oldest of these markers bears the date 1559.

Precautions for Hikers

- The required times in this brochure are for good weather and small groups of experienced hikers aged 40 to 50 prepared for a one-day hike. They do not include any time for sightseeing, nature observations or breaks, therefore use them as a basic reference.
- Being on trails after sunset is very dangerous. Check that the ropeway and other modes of transportation are running, confirm the last service of the day before setting out, and **start your descent at least 3 hours before sunset.**
- **All courses involve hiking.** Whether taking an easy or moderate trail, wear shoes and clothing suited for hiking, and carry emergency food and beverage with you.
- Watch out for harmful wildlife (poisonous snakes, hornets, etc.).

▼ Nature and History of Miyajima

Wildlife

Miyajima is a natural habitat for many rare plants and animals, including naturally growing fir trees in the Misen Virgin Forest and lowlands, vegetation peculiar to beachheads and salt marshes, and a species of mangrove skimmer that lives only on Miyajima. There are also deer all over the island, but they are wild and must not be fed.

Landscape and Geology

Miyajima is home to many temples, shrines and historical sites to note Mt. Misen, Daishoin Temple and Daiganji Temple and, of course, the World Heritage Itsukushimajinja Shrine.

History and Culture

Miyajima is home to many temples, shrines and historical sites to note Mt. Misen, Daishoin Temple and Daiganji Temple and, of course, the World Heritage Itsukushimajinja Shrine.

Itsukushimajinja Shrine (World Heritage)



Itsukushimajinja Shrine was registered as a World Heritage in 1996. The buildings and surrounding environment are highly valued for their integrated relationship as there is no other shrine in the world that incorporates the tide into its design.

Misen Virgin Forest (Natural Monument)



The Misen Virgin Forest is a designated Natural Monument of Japan. Its vegetation is a mixture of southern plants and conifers. It is a rare find where you can see wheel trees and other primeval plants in a natural state.

Wetland of International Importance and The Mangrove Skimmer



Miyajima is the only place in Japan where the mangrove skimmer lives. This particular species of dragonfly is classified as a Critically Endangered Species by both Japan's Ministry of the Environment and the Hiroshima Prefectural Government. Its wetland habitat along the southwestern coast of the island was registered under the Ramsar Convention as a Wetland of International Importance in July 2012.

Natural Fir Forest (Omoto Park)



Firs are a kind of conifer that likes cool mountainous environments and rarely grows along the coast. This section of Omoto Park features naturally growing firs, hemlock spruces and Japanese nutmegs that are normally found in colder regions, making it a rare botanical find.

Nanaurajinja Shrine (Subsidiary Shrines of Itsukushimajinja Shrine)



What is known as the “Nanaura Meguri” (literally the “Seven-Bay Pilgrimage”) is a time-honored Shinto practice of circumnavigating the roughly 30 km perimeter of Miyajima by boat with Mt. Misen always to the starboard side, and ultimately paying homage to the gods at the shrines venerated in each of seven bays.

Waterfront Wildlife



Miyajima has an environmentally diverse coastline that includes tidal flats, rocky shores and salt marshes. The expansive tidal flats that extend from Itsukushimajinja Shrine to Omoto Park is home to a wide variety of shellfish, crabs and other marine life, and is certainly worth a visit.