

# Hiroshima Miyajima

## Eco-tour at a UNESCO World Heritage and Ramsar Site

### Discover Amazing Nature, Culture and History

Please select preferred tour date from dates below:

- (1) **Saturday, August 19, 2017**
- (2) **Saturday, September 9, 2017**

- **Meeting place:**  
Motoujina-guchi Station  
(Hiroshima Electric Railway, Line 5)
- **Meeting time: 9:00**
- **Maximum number of participants:**  
10 persons (First come, First serve)
- **Participation fee: JPY 5,000**
- **Contact: Hiroden Chugoku Shimbun  
Travel Co., Ltd. Shinichi Sugihara  
E-mail: info@topic-tour.co.jp**

- If the number of applicants is less than 6 people, the tour will be canceled.
- The tour may be postponed to the next day (Sun.) according to weather conditions such as strong winds or high waves.
- A boat cruise, a box lunch and event insurance are included.
- Bring a sun hat, and wear sun-protective clothes and walkable shoes as we will hike around rocky and sandy beaches. Also, please bring a bottle of water and sunscreen. An extra set of clothes may be necessary if you get wet during the tour.
- If you would like to stay at Miyajima after the tour, please take a public ferry to Miyajima-guchi.
- ※ Air or Bullet-train tickets are not included in the tour fee. Please contact us for details.

[Program]

9:00 Pick-up at Motoujina-guchi

9:15 Depart Motoujina-guchi

10:00-11:00 Cruise around the island (visiting 7 shrines) and head to Koshiboso Cove

11:00-12:00 Koshiboso Cove: Field observation of intertidal flora and fauna

12:00-13:00 Lunch

13:00-13:30 Depart for Aonori Cove

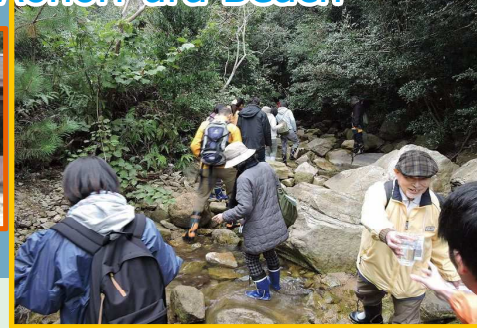
13:30-15:00 Aonori Cove: Field observation of brackish water flora and fauna, light trekking and sketching

15:00-16:00 Depart for Miyajima Pier

16:00-16:40 Group photo at scenic Miyajima Shrine Gate

16:40-17:00 Depart for Motoujina-guchi

※The contents of the tour may be changed according to weather conditions. Thank you for your understanding.t.



# Hiroshima Miyajima

## Eco-tour at a UNESCO World Heritage and Ramsar Site – Discover Amazing Nature,

### Nana Ura Meguri— A Tour to the Seven Shrines



#### The First place: Sugino-ura Shrine

Sokotsuwatsumi-no-mikoto is enshrined. Participants visit the shrine to pray for the safety and accomplishment of this eco-tour to the seven shrines, and join a Shinto purification ritual called chinowa-kuguri. It is said that impurities such as sins and evils could be cleansed by walking through a large grass “chinowa” hoop.



#### The Second place: Takanosu-ura Shrine

Sokotsutsu-no-o-no-mikoto is enshrined. Participants see the shrine from a boat. The shrine was originally built at Takanosu-ura, however, due to the construction of a fortification at Takanosu-ura in 1898, the shrine was moved and rebuilt at Irihama. In the mid-Meiji Era, the First Sino-Japanese War took place (1894-1895), and military headquarter was established in Hiroshima. Therefore, Takanosu-ura was considered to be a route for enemy fleets during wartime.



#### The Third place: Koshiboso-ura Shrine

Nakatsuwatsumi-no-mikoto is enshrined. Participants see the shrine from a boat. A 50 m wide sand coast stretches 85 m from east to west. The shrine is built on top of the 1.8 m high stone wall.



#### The Fourth place: Aonori-ura Shrine

Nakatsutsu-no-o-no-mikoto is enshrined. Participants visit the shrine to pray for the safety of the tour, and join a ritual of chinowa-kuguri.



#### The Fifth place: Yamashiro-hama Shrine

Uwatsuwatsumi-no-mikoto is enshrined. Participants see the shrine from a boat. The shrine is built on a hill of large rocks.



#### The Sixth place: Suya-ura Shrine

Uwatsutsu-no-o-no-mikoto is enshrined. Participants visit the shrine to pray for the safety of the tour, and walk through a chinowa hoop (chinowa-kuguri). The shrine building is surrounded by an evergreen broadleaf forest. It is said that there was a spring called ‘Suya-no-shimizu’ known for its high-quality water. A sandbank is formed along the seashore, and halophytes such as beach vitex (*Vitex rotundifolia*) can be seen there.



#### The Seventh place: Mitoko Shrine

This shrine is dedicated to the three goddesses, collectively known as Munakata Sanjoin; Ichikishimahime-no-mikoto, Tagorihiime-no-mikoto, and Tagitsuhime-no-mikoto. Participants see the shrine from a boat. According to legend, Saeki-no-kuramoto who received the will of Ichikishimahime-no-Mikoto, had built a temporary palace for the goddesses until the Itsukushima Shrine was built. It is said that the design of the Shinto emblem of the Itsukushima Shrine was inspired by the crack seen on the huge rock used for the foundation of the shrine building.



World Cultural Heritage Site  
Itsukushima Shrine



Hamagou



Hakusenshiomaneki



## Culture and History

Miyajima is an island located in the eastern part of the Seto Inland Sea, 2 km off the coast of Ohno City, Hiroshima. Miyajima is recognized as one of three major tourist spots in Japan. Itsukushima Shrine and Mount Misen are known for the legend of Kukai, the grand master who propagated Buddhist teaching, as well as splendid arts, crafts and architectures from the Heian Period to the Edo Period (8-19th centuries). Numerous national treasures and national important cultural properties in Miyajima Island constitute an important part of national cultural heritage.

In 1996, Itsukushima Shrine was listed as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site. In July 2012, Miyajima Island (Itsukushima) was also designated as a Ramsar Site since the brackish tidal marshes on the island provide an ideal habitat for endangered and endemic “Miyajima dragonflies”. Miyajima is the only site in the world where this subspecies has been recorded.

## Koshiboso-ura Beach



Koshiboso-ura beach was formed by sand brought from rivers running through Mt. Koshiboso (226.4 m) and its mountain ranges. These rivers flow into the Itsukushima Strait, where Koshiboso-ura is located. The influence of the receding tide is strong in the river mouth, and the tide pushes the river water toward the southwest. On the other hand, the rivers flowing into Koshiboso-ura are not affected by receding tides and make a curve to the east. It is considered that an islet (27.3 m) formed in the eastern part of the bay works as a shield and reduces the receding energy transmission. This 50 m wide beach stretches 85 m from east to west.

## Aonori-ura Beach



With a length of 3 km, the Aonori River drains in Miyajima Town and empties into Aonori-ura Beach. Downstream the river is surrounded by Mt. Aonori (282.28 m) in the west and Mt. Rouzu (191.3 m) in the east. The river flows slightly toward the southeast in this area. Because of the development of a sandbar, an outlet of the river is formed at the south side of the mountains. The total length of the sandbar is about 113 m, and the width of the sandbar around the Aonori-ura Shrine (the fourth shrine of the pilgrimage) is about 65 m.

The valley behind Aonori-ura is comparatively small, and it is considered that the sand beach was formed by the coastal current.

At the southwestern side of the Aonori Coast, there is a rock with traces of wave erosion. An overhang of the rock is about 1.5 m. As the total height of the rock is about 3 m from the riverbed, it is considered that the sea level was higher in the past.

Source: Source: “Miyajima Book,” Hatsukaichi City Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Third Edition, 2014

**Contact: Hiroden Chugoku Shimibun**

**Travel Co., LTd. Shinichi Sugihara**

**E-mail: info@topic-tour.co.jp**



本社 / 〒730-0021 広島市中区胡町3番19号 (中国ビル)