

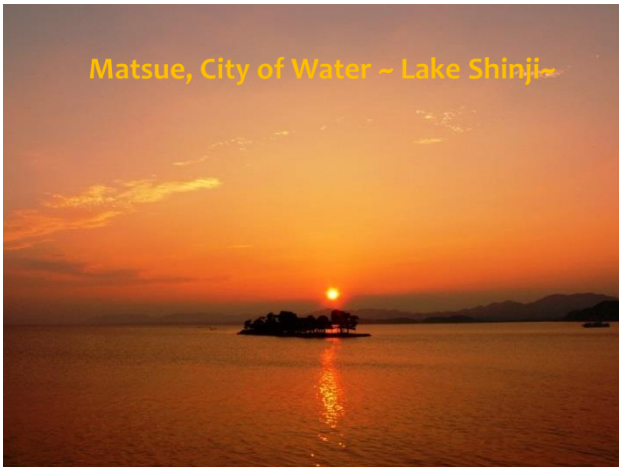
Social Event

Excursion and Banquet

The banquet will be held in Matsue Vogel Park following on an excursion in Nov. 3rd. afternoon.

Excursion : Matsue Castle, Izumo Grand Shrine and Shimane Museum of Ancient Izumo

Banquet : Matsue Vogel Park (Traditional Japanese performance art: Iwami Kagura)



Since arriving in Matsue, you have noticed the presence of water in this city. Matsue is known as the city of water. Matsue is located between the sea of Japan and two lakes. Especially, from central Matsue you can see Lake Shinji. It is the 7th largest lake in Japan. The sunset view is one of the best views in Matsue, and is known as one of the best sunset spots in Japan.

Surrounded by beautiful nature, Matsue was built as a castle town. Since 1611, the castle has been the symbol of the city. Around the castle, there are many historical buildings, and no high-rise buildings to spoil the view. So taking a walk in those areas, is like slipping through time.

Please refer the following Web page.

Matsue Castle: http://www.visit-matsue.com/discover/north_side.html#matsue_castle (ENGLISH)

http://www.matsue-tourism.or.jp/m_castle/ (JAPANESE)



There are many sight-seeing spots in Matsue city. For your excursion, we can offer many plans to enjoy. This is the most important historical buildings in Matsue. Matsue Castle, it was built 400 years ago, and is one of the few remaining original castles in Japan. You can tour the castle, and the view from the top lets you look out over the entire city.

Izumo Grand Shrine: <http://www.kankou-shimane.com/en/?p=4392> (ENGLISH)
<http://www.izumooyashiro.or.jp/> (JAPANESE)



The most popular tourist spot in Shimane Prefecture is Izumo Grand Shrine. This Shinto shrine is one of the oldest and biggest shrines in Japan, and the main shrine building is a national treasure. The rebuilding of the main shrine using the same building material, that is only carried out once every 60 years was recently completed, and the celebrations will continue until 2016.

Shimane Museum of Ancient Izumo: <http://www.izm.ed.jp/english/> (ENGLISH)
<http://www.izm.ed.jp/> (JAPANESE)



Bronze implements from the Kojindani site
(National treasures)



Bronze bells from the Kamo-Iwakura site
(Important cultural properties)

Matsue Vogel Park: <http://www.vogel.jp/English/index2.html> (ENGLISH)
<http://www.vogel.jp/> (JAPANESE)



Iwami Kagura: <http://iwami-kagura.com/> (ENGLISH)
<http://iwamikagura.jp/> (JAPANESE)



Traditional Kagura-Mai (Shinto dance)

Iwami Kagura is a local performing art in Iwami region, Shimane prefecture. Tradition says that it was established in 1500s, and it has been handed down for about 500 years. The performance which features gorgeous costumes and dynamic dance is related to Japanese myths.

(The additional fee to participate the banquet and excursion for student is JPY10,000.)