

# Castle town, Chofu

Chofu is a historic castle town once ruled by the Chofu Mori clan during the Edo period. Earthen walls that at times can still be seen throughout the narrow alleys. With historic temples and charming cafes that preserve a traditional atmosphere, the area is ideal for a relaxed and leisurely stroll.

**National Treasure, Kozanji Temple**  
10 min. bus ride from Shimonomeseki Station to Joamachi Chofu and 10 min. walk  
Founded in 1327, Kozanji is a historic Buddhist temple. Its Main Hall, built in the Zen architectural style, is designated as a National Treasure and is considered the oldest example of this style in Japan. The temple is also well known as a cherry blossom and autumn foliage spot.

**Chofu Mori Residence**  
18 min. bus ride from Shimonomeseki Station to Joamachi Chofu and 10 min. walk  
This historic residence was built in 1903 by Motokuni Mori, the fifth hereditary lord of the Chofu Mori family, and was once stayed by Emperor Meiji. Visitors can enjoy a traditional Japanese garden and experience matcha tea with vending machines. The residence is also well known as a cherry blossom and autumn foliage spot. Admission: 210 yen for adults, 100 yen for university students, free for high schoolers 18 (except for special exhibits). Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (last entry: 4:30 p.m.). Closed: Mondays (open on public holidays), the year-end and New Year holidays.

**Chofu Garden**  
The traditional Japanese garden with a central pond stands on the former residence site of a senior member of the Chofu Mori family. It features a stone building and a veranda, offering a peaceful atmosphere. The garden is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (last entry: 4:30 p.m.). Admission: 210 yen for adults, 100 yen for university students, free for high schoolers 18. Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (last entry: 4:30 p.m.). Closed: Mondays (open on public holidays) and the year-end and New Year holidays.

**Shimonomeseki City Museum of History**  
13 min. bus ride from Shimonomeseki Station to Joamachi Chofu and 10 min. walk  
This museum offers an introduction to the history and culture of Shimonomeseki. Its collection focuses on artifacts of the Chofu Mori family and historical materials from the Edo period to the Meiji Restoration, offering visitors a deeper understanding of the region's significance in Japanese history. Admission for the permanent exhibition: Adults: 210 yen, students: 100 yen. Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (last entry: 4:30 p.m.). Closed: Mondays (open on public holidays) and the following day, the year-end and New Year holidays.

**Boat Race Shimonomeseki**  
13 min. walk from Chofu Station  
Operated by Shimonomeseki City, this public motorboat racing venue offers thrilling races, where boats speed across the water accompanied by the powerful roar of their engines. With bets starting from just 100 yen, even first-time visitors can easily enjoy the excitement. **CRUISE Shimonomeseki (Boat Race Ticket Shop)** is located 4-minute walk from Shimonomeseki Station.

**Chofu Garden**  
Shun Yuh-seen Lotus

**Shimonomeseki Motorboat Race**

# The food of Shimonomeseki

**Karato Market**  
Located by the Kammon Strait, this lively fish market is visited not only by professionals from the food service industry but also by the general public. On Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays, food stalls offering sashimi, seafood bowls, and deep-fried dishes prepopped with fresh seafood line the market, creating a vibrant and festive atmosphere.

**Fugu (blowfish, pufferfish)**  
Shimonomeseki boasts the largest volume of blowfish handling in Japan. Throughout the city, visitors can enjoy a wide variety of fugu dishes all year round, including sashimi, hotpot, kara-age (deep-fried fugu), sushi, soups, rice porridge, rice topped with fugu, and warm sake flavored with grilled fugu fins.

**Tonchan Nabe**  
Tonchan Nabe is a local specialty that originated in Shimonomeseki. Pork chilled and vegetables are simmered in a rich miso-based broth, and it is also delicious when finished with rice or udon noodles at the end.

**Soft serve ice cream**  
At tourist facilities and roadside stations around the city, you can enjoy a wide variety of soft-serve ice cream flavors, including pear, strawberry, wakame seaweed, tomato, and even sea urchin.

**A treasure-trove of seafood**  
Surrounded by the sea on three sides, Shimonomeseki is a city blessed with rich fishing grounds and busy ports, making it one of Japan's leading centers for fresh seafood.

**Kawara soba**  
Kawara soba is a local specialty that originated in the Kawara area of Shimonomeseki and can be enjoyed throughout the Kamamori Onoda district. Green tea soba noodles, beef, egg ribbons, and green onions are grilled on a heated rock and topped with a warm, savory broth before eating.

## Tsunoshima Island

Tsunoshima is a stunning island known for its cobalt-blue sea and white sandy beaches. The sunsets and the star-filled night skies are also breathtaking. The area is part of the Kita-Nagato Koigan Quasi-National Park, The Tsunoshima Ohashi Bridge, which connects the mainland to the island, is 1780 meters long and has been famous as a filming location for movies and commercials since its opening in 2000. (Access to Tsunoshima Ohashi Bridge)  
About a 70-minute drive from Shimonomeseki I.C. (expressway entrance 70th), or a 30-minute bus ride from JR Takabe Station to "Hotel Nishi-Nagato Resort Iguchi" and a 3-minute walk.

**Events & Festivals**

**5 May Shimonoseki Strait Festival**  
Held annually from May 2 to 4, the festival reenacts a variety of historical events associated with the Kammon Straits and the Genpei War of 1185. Highlights include the High-Ranking Ladies (Jōkyō) Pilgrimage Procession, a featured event of the Genpei (Former Emperor Antoku) Festival, as well as the Maritime Parade and the Warrior Procession.

**Tour de Shimonomeseki**  
A cycling event that takes riders along scenic coastal roads and through mountainous routes, offering a rewarding way to experience Shimonomeseki's natural beauty.

**Toyota Firefly Festival**  
When: Early June  
Where: Kammon, Toyota-cho Area  
Held in early summer, when fireflies are at their most beautiful, in Toyota town, visitors can enjoy a magical firefly-viewing experience aboard the specially arranged Firefly Boat, where tens of thousands of Genji fireflies from the Koyogawa River, designated a National Natural Monument, illuminate the night in a breathtaking display.

**8 August The Strait Fireworks**  
When: August 13  
Where: Along the Kammon Straits coastline  
One of the largest fireworks festivals in western Japan, featuring about 18,000 fireworks launched from both Shimonomeseki and Mojiko, lighting up the night sky over the strait in a spectacular display.

**Shimonoseki Bakan Festival**  
When: Saturday & Sunday in late August  
Where: From Shimonomeseki Station to Karato area  
A major summer festival that fills the city with excitement through lively performances and bustling night markets. On the final day, the festival reaches its peak with the Heike Odori, a traditional dance joined by thousands of participants.

**10 October Toyoura Cosmos Festival**  
When: Early to mid-October  
Where: Retsush Park, Toyoura  
This autumn festival takes place amid a breathtaking field of one million cosmos flowers in full bloom, accompanied by a wide range of seasonal events.

**11 November Shimonoseki Kaiyō Marathon**  
A highly popular marathon event in Japan, where runners can enjoy breathtaking views of the blue sea as they race along the scenic course.

## Events & Festivals

# SHIMONOSEKI SIGHTSEEING GUIDE

Welcome to Shimonomeseki



The information provided is current as of March, 2026.  
TEL: 083-231-1853  
FAX: 083-231-3477

## Shimonomeseki City Tourism Policy Division

**Location and Access**

- Fukuoka Int'l Airport: 160 km (Shinkansen 1h 10m)
- Hiroshima: 70 min (Shinkansen)
- Osaka / Tokyo: 2h 30m (Shinkansen)
- Shimonoseki: 12 min (Shinkansen)
- Shimonoseki Port: 10 min (Walk)
- Kampan Ferry: 10 min (Walk)
- Shimonoseki Port: 13 min (Local Bus)
- Kokuryu: 35 min (Bus)
- Kiyanari Airport: 16 min (Shinkansen)
- Fukuoka Int'l Airport: 160 km (Shinkansen 1h 10m)

# Around Shimonoseki Station

As the center of Shimonoseki City, this area is home to key seaside landmarks such as the Shimonoseki Port International Terminal - a maritime gateway -, Kaiyū Yume Tower, and large shopping complexes. Visitors can enjoy both sightseeing and shopping in a short amount of time.

**A Green Mall**  
 12 min. walk from Shimonoseki Station  
 This area is filled with Korean food shops and restaurants and is known locally as "Little Busan." You can try Tonkatsu Nabe, a hearty hot pot that originated in Shimonoseki.

**B Seamall Shimonoseki**  
 1 min. walk from Shimonoseki Station  
 A vibrant shopping center with approximately 130 stores offering fashion, daily goods, books, food, and dining options. The mall is conveniently located next to Daimaru Department Store and a movie theater, making it ideal for shopping and leisure.

**C Hinode Onsen (Hot Spring)**  
 10 min. walk from Shimonoseki Station  
 The only natural hot spring located near Shimonoseki Station. The bath is believed to help relieve fatigue, stiff shoulders, sensitivity to cold, lower back pain, and joint pain.  
 Admission: Adults 300 yen, school age and over 480 yen, Children (elementary school to 17 years) 170 yen, Preschool children: 90 yen  
 Hours: 10:30 am - 10:30 pm  
 Closed: Mondays

**D Shimonoseki Port International Terminal**  
 17 min. walk from Shimonoseki Station  
 Serving as the gateway to Shimonoseki, an international port city, this terminal operates an international ferry route to Busan Metropolitan City, Korea. The terminal is directly connected to Shimonoseki Station via a pedestrian walkway on the second floor.

**E Ganryujima Island**  
 10 min. boat ride from Karato Pier  
 This island is famous as the site of the legendary 1612 duel between Miyamoto Musashi and Sasaki Kojirō, two of Japan's most renowned swordsmen.  
 Located in the middle of the Kannon Straits, the island offers close-up views of the Kannon Bridge and ships passing through the strait. The Book of Five Rings, "Gorin-no-shō," written by Miyamoto Musashi, is now translated into English and is known around the world.  
 Kumpu Ferry (to Busan)

# Karato Area

With the Kannon Strait stretching out before you, this area is filled with the atmosphere of a historic port town. Attractions from both past and present - such as a vibrant fish market, a mesmerizing aquarium, nostalgic retro buildings, and historic shrines loved by the locals - are all gathered here. Also, Mojiiko Retro District in Kitakyushu City can be reached by boat in just five minutes.

**F Former British Consulate in Shimonoseki**  
 7 min. bus ride from Shimonoseki Station to Karato, right in front  
 Built in 1908, this is the oldest surviving consulate building in Japan. Inside, visitors can see original furnishings such as desks and chairs once used by British consuls. A cafe is also available on site. The building is designated as an Important Cultural Property of Japan.  
 Admission: Free  
 Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
 Closed: Tuesdays (except public holidays), the year-end and New Year holidays

**G Haikarai Yokkocho**  
 10 min. bus ride from Shimonoseki Station to Kōkyōkan Mae and 2 min. walk  
 This scenic amusement park features a large Ferris wheel (approximately 60 meters high), offering panoramic views of the Kannon Strait. In addition to the Ferris wheel, visitors can enjoy 14 different attractions, making it a popular spot for families and groups.  
 Admission: Free (rides require separate fees)  
 Hours: Vary by season

**H Kameyama-hachinangū Shrine, Fugū (blowfish) statue**  
 10 min. bus ride from Shimonoseki Station to Karato and 3 min. walk  
 This shrine has been founded in 653 and is well known for its world's largest bronze statue of Fugū (blowfish).  
 Admission: Free  
 Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
 Closed: Tuesdays (except public holidays), the year-end and New Year holidays

**I Kaiyū Yume Tower**  
 7 min. walk from Shimonoseki Station  
 This tower features an observation deck at a height of 143 meters, making it one of the tallest towers in western Japan. The panorama view of the Kannon Strait is truly spectacular, and the tower is officially recognized as a "Sacred Place for Locals."  
 Admission: Adults 750 yen, Elementary & Junior High School Students 350 yen  
 Hours: 9:30 am - 9:30 pm, last admission 9:00 pm  
 Closed: The 4th Saturday of January

**The Genpei War**  
 In 1185, the Kannon Strait became the stage for the Genpei War, a conflict that dramatically changed the course of Japanese history. At that time, fierce battles were fought across Japan between the two great powerful clans, the Heike-ken and the Genji (Minamoto). The final battle took place here at Dan-no-ura in present-day Shimonoseki. The Genji clan emerged victorious. The celebrated sea-side poet Emperor Antoku, who was only eight years old, he drowned himself at the sea, held in the arms of his grandmother, Ni-no-Anna. According to legend, she told the young emperor, "There is a palace beneath the sea so well..."  
 This tragic story is also introduced in "Heidi the Kidnaper," a work by British-oven writer, Liza Foltz Horn.

**Monument of St. Xavier's Landing**  
 This monument commemorates the landing of St. Francis Xavier, the missionary who first brought Christianity to Japan, at Shimonoseki.  
 Admission: Free  
 Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
 Closed: Open year-round

**Shimonoseki City Aquarium "Kaikyū-kan"**  
 7 min. bus ride from Shimonoseki Station to Kōkyōkan Mae and 3 min. walk  
 Enjoy lively shopping centers on fresh seafood, an experience unique to Shimonoseki. The rooftop features a grassy park, where visitors can relax while watching ships pass through the work-famous Kannon Strait.  
 Admission: Adults 2,000 yen / Elementary & Junior High School Students 1,200 yen / Children ages 3 and over 500 yen  
 Hours: 9:30 am - 5:30 pm, last admission 5:00 pm  
 Closed: Open year-round

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**Kamon Shrine**  
 8 min. bus ride from Shimonoseki Station to Kame-pingū Mae  
 This shrine is dedicated to Emperor Antoku, who lost his life in 1185 during the Genpei War, a decisive conflict that divided Japan. The shrine's striking vermilion gate, Sakuramon Gate, inspired by the Dragon Palace from Japanese legend, is registered as a Tangible Cultural Property of Japan.  
 Admission: Free  
 Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
 Closed: Open year-round

**Former Akita Co., Ltd. Building**  
 7 min. bus ride from Shimonoseki Station to Karato and 3 min. walk  
 Built in 1913, this historic building once served as both the office and residence of the Akita Company. A unique highlight is the Japanese garden and tea ceremony room located on the rooftop.  
 Admission: Free  
 Hours: 10:30 am - 4:00 pm  
 Closed: Tuesdays and Wednesdays (open on public holidays but closed the following day), the year-end and New Year holidays

**Kamon Wharf**  
 7 min. bus ride from Shimonoseki Station to Karato and 3 min. walk  
 This waterfront park offers close-up views of the Kannon Bridge, which connects Honshu and Kyushu, as well as ships navigating the Kannon Strait. The surrounding area was also the site of the Battle of Dan-no-ura (1185), a pivotal event in Japanese history.  
 Admission: Free  
 Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
 Closed: Open year-round

**Shimonoseki Nabecho Post Office**  
 7 min. bus ride from Shimonoseki Station to Karato and 3 min. walk  
 Built in 1900, this building is recognized as the oldest post office still in operation in Japan, and also the oldest existing western style building in Shimonoseki.  
 Admission: Free  
 Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
 Closed: Open year-round

**Mimososogawa Park**  
 11 min. bus ride from Shimonoseki Station to Mimososogawa  
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 Admission: Free  
 Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
 Closed: Open year-round

**Sino-Japanese War Peace Treaty Memorial Hall**  
 7 min. bus ride from Shimonoseki Station to Akama-pingū Mae and 2 min. walk  
 This memorial hall exhibits documents and artifacts used during the Sino-Japanese Peace Conference held in 1895, which marked the end of the First Sino-Japanese War. The building itself is a Registered Tangible Cultural Property of Japan.  
 Admission: Free  
 Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
 Closed: Open year-round

**Shimonoseki Port International Terminal**  
 17 min. walk from Shimonoseki Station  
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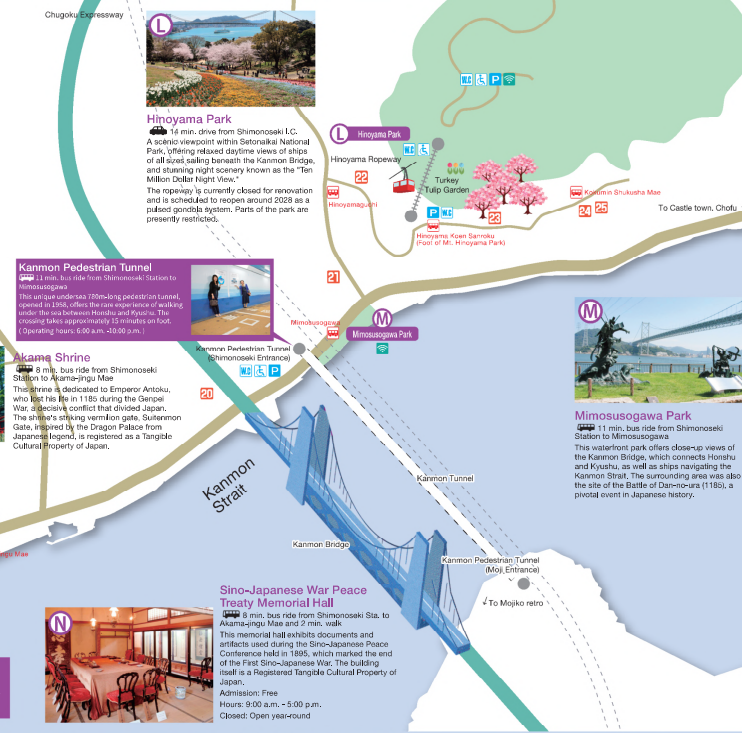
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**H Accommodations** Shimonoseki Accommodation Association 083-222-0766

1 Ryokan Sumire	Tel. +81-83-222-3191
2 Prince Hotel Shimonoseki	Tel. +81-83-232-2301
3 KOKO STAY Shimonoseki	Tel. +81-83-235-2111
4 Shimonoseki Station Hotel	Tel. +81-83-231-2225
5 VIA INN Shimonoseki	Tel. +81-83-222-6111
6 Shimonoseki Eki Nishi Washington Hotel Plaza	Tel. +81-83-281-0410
7 Smile Hotel Shimonoseki	Tel. +81-83-233-0111
8 Green Hotel Shimonoseki	Tel. +81-83-231-1007
9 Dormy INN Premium Shimonoseki	Tel. +81-83-223-5489
10 Super Hotel Premier Shimonoseki	Tel. +81-83-229-9000
11 Toyoko INN Shimonoseki Kaiyū-yume-tower Mae	Tel. +81-03-229-1045
12 Yufuku Ryokan	Tel. +81-83-231-0029
13 Plaza Hotel Shimonoseki	Tel. +81-83-233-3333
14 Sky Heart Hotel Shimonoseki	Tel. +81-83-232-0001

**Karato Area**

15 Karato Central Hotel	Tel. +81-83-231-5235
16 Shimonoseki Grand Hotel	Tel. +81-83-231-5000
17 Ryokan Shunpanno	Tel. +81-83-223-7181
18 Shimonoseki Osakaya Hotel	Tel. +81-83-242-9818
19 Hoshino Resorts RISONARE Shimonoseki	Tel. +81-50-3134-8098
20 Ryokan Hatagoya Danoura PA Branch	Tel. +81-83-222-8888
21 Ryokan Mimososogawa-bekkan	Tel. +81-83-222-3357
22 Ryokan Genpelo	Tel. +81-83-235-8888
23 Shimonoseki Hinoyama Youth Hostel	Tel. +81-83-222-3753
24 National Hostel Kaiyū View Shimonoseki	Tel. +81-83-279-0117
25 Manjūso	Tel. +81-83-222-1126
26 GLAMPDOME SHIMONOSEKI	Web Reservation

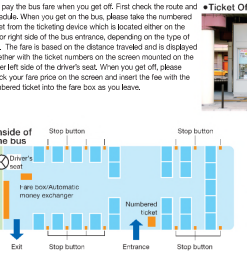
**Castle town, Chofu**

27 Hotel Kaze-no-umi	Tel. +81-83-241-1180
28 Ryokan Kogushiya	Tel. +81-83-245-0051

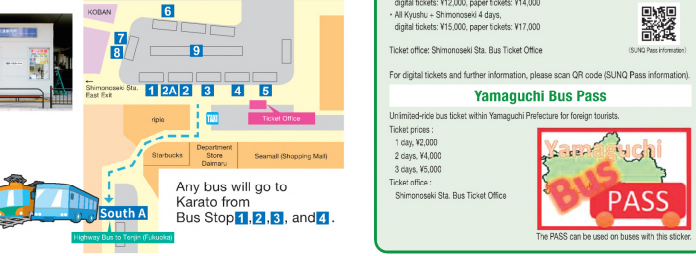
## How to get on a train (JR Shinkansen, local line)



## How to get on a bus



## Shimonoseki Station Bus Terminal



## Discount Bus Ticket

**Senden 1-day Pass**  
 Unlimited rides available on all local bus routes in Shimonoseki for a designated one-day or for 24 hours. (except for the expressway bus bound for Fukuoka)

Designated one-day ticket (both paper tickets and digital tickets available).  
 Ticket price: Adults 1,200 yen, Children 600 yen  
 Ticket office: Shimonoseki Sta. Tourist Information Center  
 Shin-Shimonoseki Sta. Tourist Information Center  
 Shimonoseki Sta. Bus Ticket Office

A 24-hour ticket (digital tickets only).  
 Ticket price: Adults 1,300 yen, Children 700 yen

For further information, please scan QR code (Senden 1 Day Pass information), and also for purchasing digital tickets, please scan QR code (digital tickets purchase).

**SUNQ Pass**  
 SUNQ Pass holders can take unlimited rides on most of the expressway / local buses and some boats in both Kyushu and Shimonoseki within the designated period.

Ticket Prices:  
 • Northern Kyushu + Shimonoseki 3 days: digital tickets: ¥10,000, paper tickets: ¥12,000  
 • All Kyushu + Shimonoseki 3 days: digital tickets: ¥12,000, paper tickets: ¥14,000  
 • All Kyushu + Shimonoseki 4 days: digital tickets: ¥15,000, paper tickets: ¥17,000  
 Ticket office: Shimonoseki Sta. Bus Ticket Office

For digital tickets and further information, please scan QR code (SUNQ Pass information).

**Yamaguchi Bus Pass**  
 Unlimited-ride bus ticket within Yamaguchi Prefecture for foreign tourists.

Ticket prices:  
 1 day, ¥2,000  
 2 days, ¥4,000  
 3 days, ¥6,000  
 Ticket office: Shimonoseki Sta. Bus Ticket Office

**Bus Pass**  
 The PASS can be used on buses with this sticker.