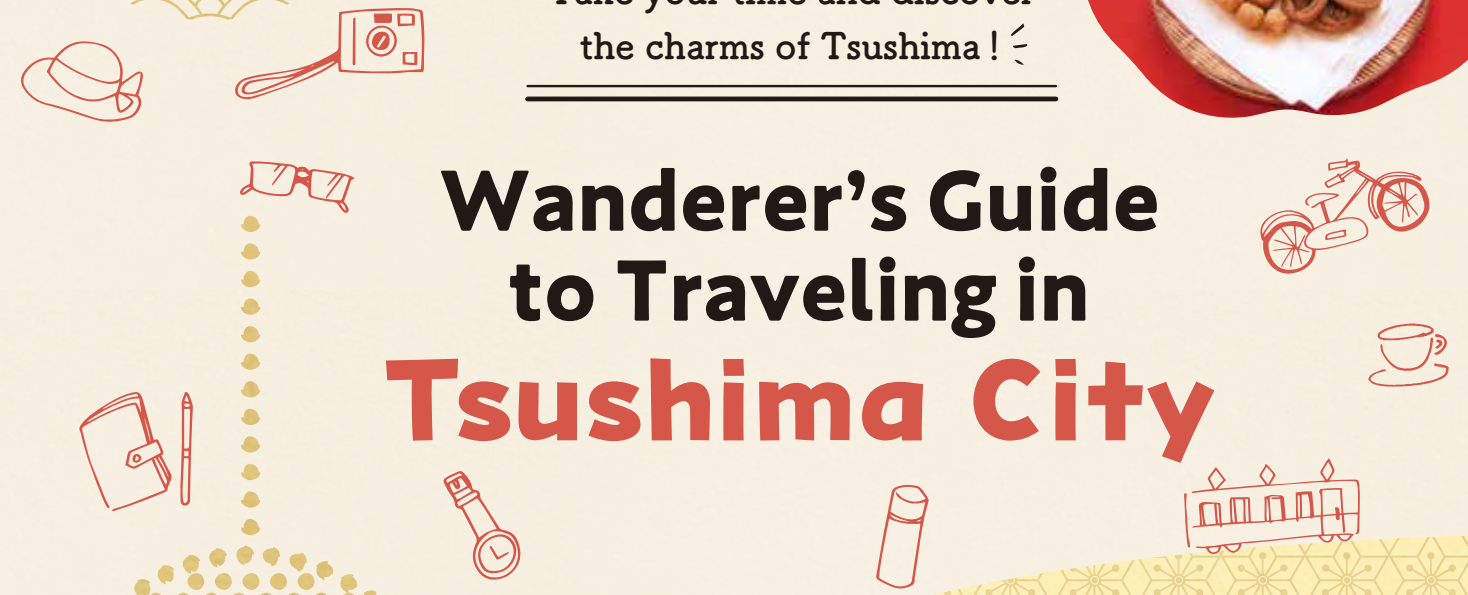




Take your time and discover the charms of Tsushima!

Wanderer's Guide to Traveling in Tsushima City



Follow the official Tsushima account on Instagram!
@tsushima_city1947



Follow us and become a Tsushima PR Supporter!
@tsushima_pr_ouendan



Watch The Video!

Tsushima PR Video



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Issued by: Tsushima City,
Aichi Prefecture

*The information in this brochure is current as of January 2025.
Please note that the information is subject to change.



You can encounter **history**, **culture**, and **nature** in **Tsushima**

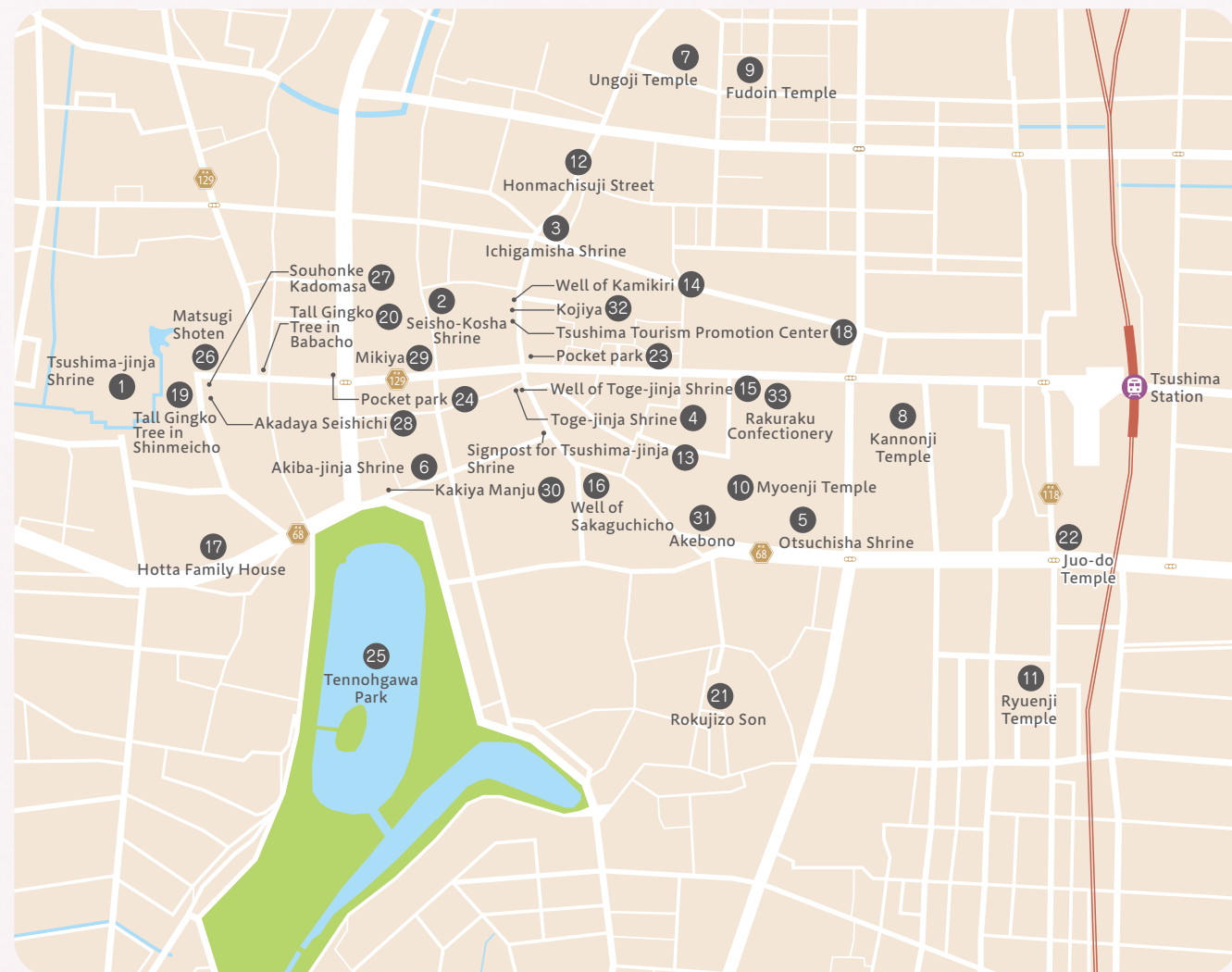
There are charms here only you can feel!

Tsushima City developed as a shrine town for Tsushima-jinja Shrine and port town on the Tennoh River, a tributary of the Kiso River.

It is a city where the history and culture of the past continue to live on, including Tsushima-jinja Shrine and the Owari Tsushima Tennoh Festival. Tsushima-jinja Shrine was founded in 540 AD and is the head shrine of the Tennoh faith, which has more than 3,000 shrines across the country. The Owari Tsushima Tennoh Festival is registered as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage. It is also known as a city with a rich historical connection to Oda Nobunaga, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, and many other military commanders who played active roles during the Warring States period.

Tsushima is rich in shrines, temples, tourist attractions, historic sites, parks, and other sightseeing spots and has many hidden charms.

Discover what appeals only to you while wandering around the city of Tsushima.



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Tsushima City Cultural Heritage Navigation App



Tsushima City Cultural Heritage Navigation always introduces four walking courses. Using the Stamp Book function, you can select any of the courses and acquire stamps by approaching spots on foot.



Download the app

Learn about the **History and Culture** of Tsushima



Head shrine of the more than 3,000 Tennen-sha Shrines
Tsushima-jinja Shrine

1 Founded in 540 AD, this is the head shrine of the more than 3,000 Tsushima-jinja Shrines found across Japan. It is revered as a Tennen-sha Shrine alongside Yasaka Jinja Shrine in Kyoto. It was the custom in the Edo period for people on pilgrimages to Ise to visit Tsushima as well, and those who only went to Ise-jingu Shrine were considered to have done just half the pilgrimage. Even today, the shrine is affectionately known as "Tsushima-san" and "Tennen-san," and about one million people per year visit there. The enshrined deity is Takehaya-Susanoo-no-Mikoto, who has been worshipped since ancient times as the god of protection from pestilence and misfortune. The shrine was formerly known as "Tsushima Gozu Tennen-sha Shrine."

Deeply associated with military commanders of the Warring States period

Shrine crest

The shrine crest of Tsushima-jinja Shrine is the "mokko" and is the same as the Oda family crest. It is said that Oda Nobunaga deeply venerated Tsushima-jinja Shrine.



Tower gate

The tower gate was donated by Toyotomi Hideyoshi. It is designated as an Important Cultural Property of Japan.



Main hall

The main hall was donated by Matsudaira Tadayoshi's wife, Masako, who prayed for the health of Tadayoshi, the fourth son of Tokugawa Ieyasu and lord of Kiyosu Castle. It is designated as an Important Cultural Property of Japan.



South gate

The south gate was donated by Toyotomi Hideyoshi's son, Hideyori. It is designated as a tangible cultural property of the prefecture.

Recommended!

Flowered Basins



The water basins near the south gate of Tsushima-jinja Shrine are decorated with colorful flowers on the 1st and 15th days each month. They are decorated by a shrine maiden.

Goshuin stamp for visits on the first day of a month



A goshuin stamp is distributed that is only available on the first day of the month. It has a seasonal design that changes every month.

There's plenty more! Shrines in the city

In addition to Tsushima-jinja Shrine, there are many other shrines in the city. Here are some of them.

God of business prosperity and rice plants

Ichigamisha Shrine 3



This shrine is one of the subsidiary shrines outside the grounds of Tsushima-jinja Shrine. It was founded in 1381. The main enshrined deity is Oichi-Hime-no-Mikoto, who is said to be a guardian deity of markets. The shrine brings prosperity to businesses and is still visited by many people even today.

Wish to have a baby

Otsuchisha Shrine 5



This is one of the subsidiary shrines outside the grounds of Tsushima-jinja Shrine. It was founded in 1903. Behind the grounds of the shrine, there is an unusual stone (phallus). According to legend, if a man and woman touch the stone and then pray after visiting the shrine together, they will have a baby.



Deeply associated with Kato Kiyomasa

Seisho-Kosha Shrine 2



This shrine was founded in 1885 to enshrine Kato Kiyomasa, a military commander in the Warring States period. He is said to have driven away thieves by wearing a mask of a demon in Tsushima, where he lived during his childhood.

Power to stop babies crying at night

Toge-jinja Shrine 4



The shrine is said to have been a place to pray to Tsushima-jinja Shrine from beyond the Tennen River before the river was dammed in 1785.

Located near Tenuhigawa Park

Akiba-jinja Shrine (Hashizume-cho) 6



There are three shrines on its grounds: Akiba-jinja Shrine, Kotohiragu Shrine, and Otsuchisha Shrine. The main enshrined deity is "Hino-Kagu-Tsuchi-no-Kami," the god of fire.

Temples deeply associated with Military Commanders

Tsushima City has the highest temple density in three prefectures (Aichi, Gifu, and Mie Prefectures) of the Tokai region, according to research by a Nagoya University of Foreign Studies student in 2018. Among the many temples in the city, there are those that are deeply associated with military commanders. Take a trip to visit them while unraveling the history of them.



Kannonji Temple ⑧
Associated with Oda Nobunaga

Since temple was under the immense protection of Oda Nobunaga as a temple of the Hakusan faith, it was one of the quarters for shrine priests of Tsushima-jinja Shrine.



Myoenji Temple ⑩
Associated with Kato Kiyomasa

This is the temple where Kato Kiyomasa practiced his writing and learned about Buddhism when he was a child. Myoenji Temple is known as the oldest temple school where military commanders studied in Aichi Prefecture.

Check!

In the city, there are many temples other than those introduced within these pages. For details, please see the Tsushima Walking Map. It is available at Meitetsu Tsushima Station as well as other locations.



Ungoji Temple ⑦
Associated with Hattori Koheita

This is the family temple of Hattori Koheita, who was a vassal of Oda Nobunaga and played an active role in the Battle of Okehazama. It has 500 rakan on its grounds.



Fudoin Temple ⑨
Associated with Oda Nobuhide

This temple was Shokakuin Temple, which was used by Oda Nobusada, the grandfather of Oda Nobunaga, and his son, Nobuhide, to host the poet Socho. It served as a guest house for the Oda family.



Ryuenji Temple ⑪
Associated with Hirano Nagayasu

This is a temple associated with Hirano Nagayasu, one of the Seven Spears of Shizugatake who served Tokugawa Ieyasu after the Battle of Sekigahara for three generations.

Historic sites of Tsushima

Honmachi Street (Kamikaido and Shimokaido routes) ⑫



Honmachi Street is also known as the Kamikaido and Shimokaido routes. It is an old, historic street with traditional townhouses still along it. The Kamikaido route went from Tsushima to Nagoya via Shobata, Kida, Jimokuji, and Shinkawa. The Shimokaido route went from Tsushima to Atsuta via Kamori, Manba, and Iwatsuka. The Shimokaido route branched off at a junction in Tsushima to go to Saya. The area around Honmachi Street is full of historical sights, the appearance of which has not changed since the Muromachi period, and a jumbled thicket of narrow lanes remains there. Lattice doors, storehouses, wells, and others traces of merchants' houses also remain. They make you feel like you have taken a trip back in time.



Signpost for Tsushima-jinja Shrine ⑬

This signpost is a large stone pillar on the northwest corner entering Hashizumecho from Honmachi Street. It was donated by a shrine parishioner when the Bisai Railway was opened in 1896. After the Nagoya Railroad acquired the Bisai Railway and established a station in Imaichibacho in 1914, visitors to Tsushima-jinja Shrine made their way to the shrine by going from Imaichibadori Street to Honmachi and following the signpost, which was engraved with "Left Approach to Tsushima-jinja Shrine."



Try to find them!

Three historical wells

Tsushima has an abundance of underground water from the Kiso River and is a land with plentiful well water. Wells are indicated on several street corners in old maps of Tsushima. These wells were used as communal wells for local residents during the Edo period. With the arrival of municipal waterworks, their existence had been forgotten, but old wells are now seen as valuable items. Three wells remain along Honmachi Street: one each at Kamikiri, Toge-jinja Shrine, and Sakaguchicho.



Well of Kamikiri ⑭



Well of Toge-jinja Shrine ⑮



Well of Sakaguchicho ⑯

Tourist attractions of Tsushima

Hotta Family House 17



Built in the mid-Edo period, it is an example of typical townhouse architecture that attests to Tsushima's prosperity, and has been designated as an Important Cultural Property of Japan. The residence consists of a main house and three storehouses. The roof features "udatsu" walls for preventing the spread of fires, and the spacious earthen floor of the entrance hall features a rare "kojin-kamado" oven. There is also a tea room, a unique aspect of matcha tea culture.



Tsushima Tourism Promotion Center 18



The Center was originally a two-story reinforced concrete bank building built in 1929. Its architecture is based on the Renaissance style. It is a tourism facility that conveys the charms of the city through the exhibition of panels and models for various festivals of Tsushima and the exhibition of local specialties. It is registered as a National Tangible Cultural Property.

"Matcha Tea Culture" that has taken root in Tsushima

The matcha tea culture that began in the Muromachi period took root in the merchant culture of the Edo period, and tea ceremonies were frequently held by the village headmen of Tsushima and their associates. Even today, this matcha tea culture survives in the machiya (traditional townhouses) of Tsushima. These houses have tea-ceremony rooms for hosting visitors, and some houses have multiple tea rooms. The custom of enjoying matcha tea as part of daily life continues to live on today, and exhibitions of tea rooms and tea ceremonies are held.



Tea room of Hotta Family House



Stone mills

Experience it yourself!

Matcha tea experience

A matcha tea experience is offered in the storehouse building on the premises of the Tsushima Tourism Promotion Center.

Days available Days the center is open

Duration About 30 minutes

Reservation Required (made by phone at least 3 days in advance)

Minimum number of participants Two

【Tsushima Tourism Promotion Center】

Open: 9:00 am-5:00 pm Closed: Monday (next weekday in the case of a public holiday)

Address: 1-52-1 Honmachi Tel: 0567-25-2701



There's plenty more! Recommended spots in Tsushima

Natural monuments

Ginkgo trees

There are two ginkgo trees in the city that are several hundred years old. One is in Shinmeicho, and the other is in Babacho. Both of them are among the biggest trees in Aichi Prefecture and are prefectural designated cultural properties (natural monuments).



Tall Ginkgo Tree 19 in Shinmeicho



Tall Ginkgo Tree 20 in Babacho



Rokujizo Son 21

A famous hexagonal Jizo-do enshrines six Jizo statues also can be found in Tsushima. This Jizo-do has an unusual six-sided lantern shape, and according to religious belief, when a thief broke into a house, the Jizo statues would turn into six priests and chase away the intruder, protecting the town.



Juo-do Temple 22

The Juo and a Jizo are enshrined here. The Juo are the ten judges of the afterlife, including Yamaraja, the king of Hell. It was believed that they would determine, through deliberation with Jizo, whether the departed went to Heaven or Hell.

Take a short break when you are tired!

Pocket parks

Use them as rest areas while strolling around town. There are two pocket parks. One of them introduces the Owari Tsushima Tennoh Festival, which is registered as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage, and the other introduces the floats and the Ishidorimatsuri Festival floats of the Owari Tsushima Autumn Festival.



Tennohdori Street 23



Ikesu Intersection 24

Feel the Nature of Tsushima



One of Japan's 100 Best Historical Parks Tenuhgawa Park

25

The park is a place to relax blessed with abundant nature in each of the four seasons. Opened in 1920, Tenuhgawa Park has been selected as "one of Japan's 100 Best Historical Parks." It extends around a pond that was created when the Tenuhg River was dammed. The Tenuhg River was a tributary of the Kiso River that flowed north-to-south through the city until the Edo period. In Tenuhgawa Park, visitors can enjoy flowers and festivals that change from one season to the next, with cherry blossoms and wisteria in spring, water lilies in early summer, and red spider lilies in autumn. In addition, it is the venue for the Owari Tsushima Wisteria Festival in April and the Owari Tsushima Tenuhg Festival in July, and the park is crowded with many people then.



A Wisteria Arbor

The magnificent wisteria arbor gets filled with 12 kinds of wisteria in full bloom, and their sweet aroma wafts through the air.



B Flower Garden

You can enjoy seasonal plants such as gazanias.



C Dr. Sugiura Kanematsu Monument

This monument is dedicated to Sugiura Kanematsu, who was a world-class medical scientist and authority on cancer research.



Cherry blossoms



Water lilies



Red spider lilies

Other Seasonal Flowers

Newly transformed

Tenuhgawa Park

In the last few years, an outdoor stage was newly built and a lawn square, jogging course, wisteria tunnel, fountain, and playground equipment square were established in Tenuhgawa Park.



In addition, the American coffee chain Starbucks opened a shop in the park. People of all ages, from children to adults, can spend time relaxing here.



D Statue of Kataoka Harukichi

This is the bronze statue of Kataoka Harukichi, who is known as the "father of woolen fabrics" and contributed to the development of the woolen fabrics industry in the Owari area (western Aichi Prefecture).



E Night light

This night light was made based on the image of a Makiwara float used in the Tenuhg Festival. It gently illuminates the park at night.



F Otabisho

This is the spot from which the gods view the festival on the day of the Owari Tsushima Tenuhg Festival.



G Statue of Yone Noguchi

This is the bronze statue of Yone Noguchi, a world-class poet from Tsushima and the father of Isamu Noguchi, a sculptor who engraved his name in the art history of the world.



H Kurumakodo

This is the place used for preparing the festival floats for the Owari Tsushima Tenuhg Festival. It is also known as "Matsurikodo," and Makiwara floats and Danjiri floats depart from this place on the day of the festival.

Enjoy the Festivals of Tsushima

Beautiful curtains of wisteria, a symbol of springtime in Tsushima

Owari Tsushima Wisteria Festival

From mid to late April

The Owari Tsushima Wisteria Festival, which takes place every year from mid to late April, has preserved traces of "the town of wisteria" and passed them down to the present. Tenuhgwawa Park has a magnificent 275 meters long wisteria arbor, and a sweet aroma wafts from its tufts of vividly resplendent flowers illuminated by sunlight. The wisteria blossoms cast beautiful reflections on the surface of the canal that flows beneath the arbor. It is lit up in the evening during the flower-viewing season, making the radiant, fairytale-like flowers look even more exceptional.



Special in the springtime nights



Illumination of the wisteria arbor
The charms of the vividly illuminated wisteria arbor are different from those during the daytime. Enjoy the world of wisteria that emerges at night.

A splendid festival held for about 600 years and reportedly attended by Oda Nobunaga

Owari Tsushima Tenuh Festival

Fourth Saturday of July and following Sunday

Counted among Japan's top three river festivals, the Owari Tsushima Tenuh Festival is said to be the most beautiful of Japan's many summer festivals. It boasts nearly 600 years of tradition as the festival of Tsushima-jinja Shrine, and records indicate that even Oda Nobunaga attended it. The Danjiri float event of the Owari Tsushima Tenuh Festival has been designated as a national Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property and has been registered on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List as one of the "Yama, Hoko, Yatai, float festivals."

The Tenuh Festival consists of numerous Shinto rituals other than the Evening and Morning Festivals.

Evening Festival

The Evening Festival begins when the paper lanterns of five Makiwara floats are lit up with candles. The appearance of the leisurely procession of the Makiwara floats, festooned with 365 lanterns (representing the days of the year) arranged in a hemispherical shape above the float and 12 lanterns (representing the number of months) on a tall pole in the middle, is a magnificent sight like something out of an ancient picture scroll.



Events other than the Evening and Morning Festivals

Day before Evening Festival

Chigo's procession



Morning before Evening Festival

Mikoshi procession



Day of Morning Festival

Return of Mikoshi



Day of Morning Festival

Chigo's musical performance



Morning Festival

Six Danjiri floats, the five floats from Tsushima and the Ichie float from Aisai at the front, make their appearance. The Makiwara floats are extensively redecorated after the Evening Festival and carry Noh dolls as they move around Maruike Pond. In addition, ten Hokomochi, unmarried men carrying cloth-covered pikes, dive into the water from the Ichie float at the front, swim to Otabisho, and then run to Tsushima-jinja Shrine to dedicate the pikes to the gods.

Extravagant and impressive autumn tradition

Owari Tsushima Autumn Festival

First Sunday of October and previous Saturday



Extravagant floats

Sixteen extravagant floats from four areas - Nanakiri, Mukaijima, Imaichiba, and Kamori - make their way through the city in lively fashion. One of the most eye-catching things about them is their karakuri dolls. Accompanied by Tsushima festival music, these moving figures fascinate onlookers by giving a realistic performance as they write words, fly through the air, and do other things.



How majestic! Kamori floats at the height of spring

This is a festival of Hotoshi-jinja Shrine and Okkan-jinja Shrine. It is considered to have started before 1755, and its majestic Kamori floats are surrounded by pink flowers.

Dynamic and powerful bonfire festival

Omito Festival

February 1 of the lunar calendar

Of the more than 90 festivals that take place throughout the year at Tsushima-jinja Shrine, the Omito Festival is the second-most important after the Tenuh Festival, and it is held on February 1 of the lunar calendar each year. It is known as a thrilling fire festival in which two large lit torches, one meter in diameter and ten meters in length, are carried all at once through the tower gate. Visitors compete to take home the burnt remnants of the torches, which are said to be effective for repelling insects and protecting against lightning in rice fields and for preventing toothaches if used as chopsticks.



Lively Ishidorimatsuri Festival floats

Participants parade through the streets with floats topped with huge tents, lively making sound by beating gongs and drums. Three of the floats - Hokubu, Chubu, and Nanbu - were introduced around 1915, and the Karasucho float was introduced in 1956. A powerful "Ishidorimatsuri Festival Float Competition" is held when the Hokubu, Chubu and Nanbu floats meet by the tower gate of Tsushima-jinja Shrine.



Kagura

The roofs of floats are decorated with carvings of dragons, lions, castles, and more, and there are big and small drums set on their rear side. On the day of the Autumn Festival, the sounds of drums played skillfully with sticks and those of Japanese flutes echo throughout the city.



Enjoy the Specialties of Tsushima

Here are specialties of Tsushima loved by many people and carefully passed down through many people's hands in the long history of Tsushima.

Lucky confection associated with Tsushima-jinja Shrine, passed down from ancient times

Akada and Kutsuwa

Akada is a simple confection made by kneading non-glutinous rice in hot water, forming the dough into balls, and then deep-frying them in oil. Tradition has it that Kobo Daishi prayed to dispel a plague in the Heian Period and offered it to Tsushima-jinja Shrine, and it is said that the plague was cured when it was given to visitors to the shrine.



Kutsuwa is a confection made by kneading non-glutinous rice and glutinous rice in hot water, steaming it, adding sugar and black sesame to it, and then deep-frying it in oil. It is shaped to resemble the grass ring used in the Chinowa-kuguri ritual held at Tsushima-jinja Shrine, and its name is said to come from its similarity to the bit (kutsuwa) for a horse.



Representative local dishes of the Tsushima area Morokozushi

Morokozushi is a sushi made by boiling moroko with soy sauce, sake, mirin, sugar, and ginger so it is sweet and salty and then pressing it onto rice. The moroko is a freshwater fish (Cyprinidae) that is about 5 centimeters long and is considered a high-grade fish among river fishes, as its catch has decreased in recent years. Morokozushi is a home-cooked dish served when relatives get together for the Tennen Festival, Autumn Festival, weddings, or memorial services, and the recipe and the seasoning for it vary depending on the family.

High-protein, low-calorie traditional food

Tsushima-fu

Tsushima-fu is fu (wheat gluten) made by cutting gluten, a kind of protein generated from wheat flour, into bite-sized pieces and boiling them in a special way. It has a unique chewy and elastic texture. It is high in protein and loved by many people as a precious source of easily digestible nutrients, and it is widely used as an ingredient for chicken sukiyaki, udon, and steamed egg custard.



Boasting of a history of more than 900 years Japanese drums

Japanese drums are Japanese instruments that are indispensable for Japanese life, especially for festivals and religious services. They have played an important role in life as they are used to repel evil spirits and enemies, as well as for alarms and signals. Tsushima's Japanese drums boast a history of more than 900 years and are so famous that orders are received from all over Japan.

Moderately hard lucky confection



Akada/Kutsuwa
540 yen

Matsugi Shoten 26

Address: 9 Babacho
Tel: 0567-26-2075
Open: 10:00 am-5:00 pm
Closed: Irregular holidays



Akada/Kutsuwa
540 yen

Souhonke Kadomasa 27

Address: 7 Babacho
Tel: 0567-26-2857
Open: 8:00 am-7:30 pm
Closed: The second and fourth Wednesdays



Akada/Kutsuwa
540 yen

Akadaya Seishichi 28

Address: 1 Negimachi
Tel: 0120-418-928
Open: 9:00 am-6:00 pm
Closed: Wednesday

Tsushima has many souvenirs

Delicious and pleasant

Cultivated by its historic towns!

Homemade rice flour and red bean paste!

Souvenirs of Tsushima



Mugwort Dumpling 150 yen

Mikiya 29

Address: 2-20 Tennenodori
Tel: 0567-26-2758
Open: 9:00 am-5:00 pm
Closed: Monday (next day in the case of a public holiday)

Preventing summer fatigue!
Effective for recovery!

Carefully Crafted Amazake Base 590 yen



Kojiya 32

Address: 1-57 Honmachi
Tel: 0567-26-8338
Open: 10:00 am-5:00 pm
Closed: Sunday, public holidays

Monaka inspired by Tennen Festival

Matsuri Monaka
140 yen

Kakiya Manju 30

Address: 2-16 Hashizumecho
Tel: 0567-26-2885
Open: 8:30 am-5:30 pm
Closed: Irregular holidays

Wisteria aroma reproduced!

Wisteria Ice Cream
250 yen

Akebono 31

Address: 3-36 Honmachi
Tel: 0567-26-2848
Open: 9:00 am-6:30 pm
Closed: Sunday



Tsushimaru Bread Manju 141 yen

Rakuraku Confectionery 33

Address: 5-46 Tennenodori
Tel: 0567-26-4412
Open: 8:30 am-7:00 pm
Closed: Wednesday

*Prices and shop information (business hours, closed days, etc.) are as of January 2025 and are subject to change in the future. *All prices include tax. *Shops may be temporarily closed on days other than those listed above.