



**RCBJSF-IWRF 2016**  
June 22, Matsue, Japan

## About today's Excursion

During the Edo period, Matsue flourished as a castle town of the Matsue clan. The traditional culture preserves in the everyday life of the citizens even today. You can feel the classical atmosphere of this city while having a stroll.

We will go on a excursion to the central part of Matsue city. It includes a Castle Moat Exploring Boat Tour-“Horikawa Yuransen”, and a visit to Matsue Castle with English speaking guide.

After the visit tour is finished, you have free time. You can visit to the Matsue History Museum & Holan-enya Memorial Hall near by Castle or explore the Shiomi-nawate street, where lines of samurai residences stood.

If you want to buy Japanese souvenir, how about making a short visit to “Shimane Prefectural Products and Tourist Center”. You can find lots of local specialties here.

The Excursion fee includes the boat ticket and the visit tour to Matsue Castle, Commuting expenses.

### Attention

The Castle was built 400 years ago. so there is no lift inside.  
If you climb up to top story of the Castle tower, you should move up and down steep stairways.  
Please wear comfortable clothes on the day.



## The best way to enjoy Matsue! Horikawa Yuransen

**Horikawa sightseeing boat tour- Horikawa Yuransen** is an hour journey which goes along the castle moat of the National Treasure Matsue Castle. A small boat takes passengers around Matsue Castle and through the city's canals.

## 1 Matsue Castle

Completed in 1611 and one of only 12 remaining original castles nationwide.

On July 8, 2015, Matsue Castle was newly designated as the National Treasure (*KOKUHO* in Japanese) of Japan. The wooden castle tower was constructed in four sections with five floors. If you enter the castle tower and climb up to top story, landscape for 360 degrees can be enjoyed.

## 2 Matsue History Museum & Horan-enya Memorial Hall

**Matsue History Museum** stands on the remain of the house of chief retainer of Matsue clan. You can see the part of it. Castle town diorama and the exhibitions help you image history of this town and people's life style at that time.

Admission fee: ¥510 (International Discount 50%→¥250).

Person, who show the boat ticket or Matsue Castle ticket: ¥410

Please note that admission to the Horan-enya Memorial Hall is free if you purchase a ticket to the History Museum.

Foreign language audio-guides are available for free.

There is a tea room inside the pavilion, where a “wagashi (Japanese traditional confectionery)” master craftsman is making elaborate and beautiful wagashis. You can enjoy excellent wagashi, that has just been made, with “matcha” (green tea) taking in the great view of Matsue Castle through the Japanese garden.

**Horan-enya** is the unique festival of Jozan Inari Jinja(shrine), that is located in one corner of the Castle precinct. It is called one of the three biggest Shinto rituals involving ships in Japan and is held once a 12 years. Horan-enya Memorial Hall shows what Horan-enya Festival is, how it is held.

**Shimaneken Bussan Kankoukan**  
(Shimane Prefectural products and tourist Center)

**“Shimane Prefectural products and tourist Center”** is located across from the “Ootemae parking space” – our meeting place . They have a large assortment of local specialties and you can get closer to almost of all the handcraft workings of Shimane. You must find something good for the souvenirs.



## Shiomi Nawate Street

**Shiomi Nawate** is a 500m long street running along the castle moat, that is lined with traditional Japanese houses on one side and majestic pine trees on the other. A finely preserved samurai residence (*buke yashiki*), open to public viewing, is located at the half-way point of this street. There, you can see what life for a middle-class samurai in the Edo period was like.

Shiomi Nawate also has a soba restaurant (**Yakumo-an**) and other souvenir shops, as well as the **Tanabe Museum**, which is famous for its collection of painting and writings, pottery and tasteful tea-things related to the tea ceremony. containing many artefacts relating to the tea ceremony. **The former residence of Lafcadio Hearn and his memorial museum** are also located there.

MEMO

[illegible]

# Today's Schedule

<b>Bus NO.1 &amp; NO.2</b>	
13:30	Start on our excursion!
13:45	Arrive at the boarding pier of “Horikawa sightseeing boat”. Divide the members into small groups.
14:00 15:30	Horikawa Castle Moats Sightseeing Boat Tour : “Horikawa Yuransen”
15:30 15:50	Move to Ootemae (Main entrance of Matsue Castle) by bus.
16:00 17:30	Explore Matsue Castle with English speaking guide Free time
17:30	Move to the venue for the banquet: “Yuushien garden”.

<b>Bus NO.3</b>	
13:30	Start on our excursion!
13:45	Arrive at Ootemae (Main entrance of Matsue Castle) .
14:00 16:00	Explore Matsue Castle with English speaking guide. Free time
16:10 16:20	Arrive at he boarding pier of “Horikawa sightseeing boat”. Divide the members into small groups.
16:30 17:30	Horikawa Castle Moats Sightseeing Boat Tour : “Horikawa Yuransen”
17:30	Move to the venue for the banquet : “Yuushien garden”.