

JCCA 2018 in Sendai

Excursion Program – Matsushima Islands

Located in northeast of Japan in Miyagi Prefecture, Matsushima Islands have been known as one of the most scenic spots of Japan. Easily accessible from Sendai City by train (30 minutes ride) Matsushima Bay and its 260 islands are an iconic destination included in the top three superb panoramic views countrywide. Rich in pine trees the Matsushima scenery differs according to the season, which makes it an attractive place to visit all year long. The most common way of sightseeing this area is through cruise tours.



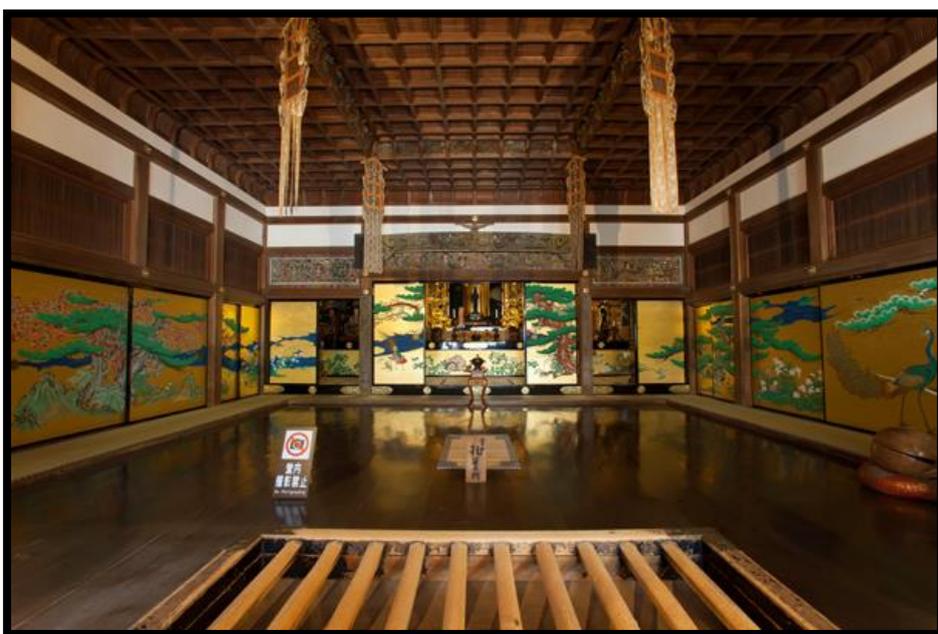
The panorama view on Matsushima islands

12:50 Departure from Sendai International Center by bus

13:50-14:20 Zuiganji Temple

Besides its breathtaking landscapes Matsushima is also famous for several historical sites such as Zen Buddhist temple Zuiganji whose main hall built in 1609 is recognized as a national treasure and represents the Japanese architecture of 17th century. The temple itself was originally completed in 828 by a Buddhist priest and scholar Jikaku Daishi during the Heian period. Initially it was opened as a

Tendai sect temple. However, during the Kamakura period the temple changed into Zen and established close relations with the samurai class. Zuiganji tour usually includes visits to meditation caves, Zen kitchen Kuri, Mausoleum Otamaya and Zuiganji Art Museum.



Zuiganji Main Hall

14:25-14:40 Godaido Temple

Another highlight of Matsushima islands is Godaido Temple Hall built in 807 on the waterfront location near today's Matsushima-Kaigan JR station. The building we see nowadays is the result of reconstruction by influential feudal landlord Date Masumune in 1604. Inside the temple there are 5 Buddha of wisdom statues which are displayed to the public once every 33 years. The red wooden bridge before the hall entrance is a perfect sample of characteristic and very photogenic architecture of this area. In addition to historical and aesthetic values, visitors may also enjoy overlooking the whole Matsushima Bay from the temple. Just like Zuiganji, Godaido escaped any destruction during the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, so that you may savor the genuine atmosphere of the property.



Godaido bridge

15:00 Arriving at Matsushima Port

15:00-16:00 Matsushima Islands cruise

A round-trip excursion from Matsushima to other beautiful spots; Cruise takes you to major islands, including Nioujima on an approximately 50-minute cruise.

16:00-16:50 Souvenir shopping at Matsushima Bussankan

18:00 Return to Sendai International Center by bus