

Shiogama Shrine

A shrine associated with the Date family with a history of over 1200 years, having been worshipped at since ancient times.

This is the guardian of Tohoku and the most important Oshu shrine with a history of over 1200 years, having been worshipped at since ancient times in order to pray to the gods for successful fishing, safety on the sea, and safe childbirth. The honden and haiden have been designated important national cultural assets. The Shiwahiko Shrine, also on the same land of Ichimoriyama, has a different appearance. The main building is vividly colored, with black lacquer on the honden and red lacquer on the haiden. You can see the islands in Matsushima Bay from the grounds.



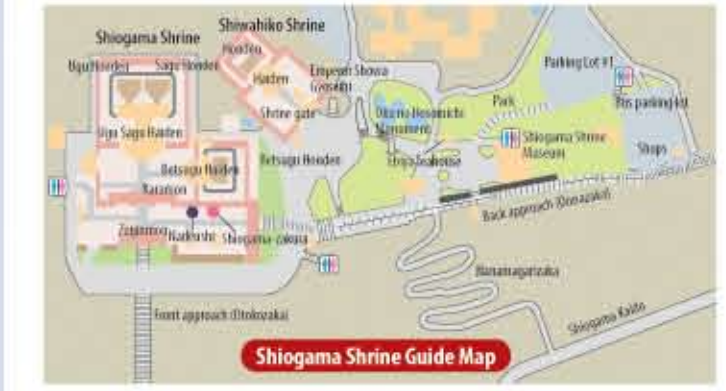
Shiogama Shrine [MAP B-3]
 1-1 Ichimoriyama, Shiogama-shi ☎ 022-367-1611
 ● Grounds 5:00 to 20:00 ♪ No entrance fee



Shiwahiko Shrine
 The Shiwahiko Shrine grounds are 1,000 years old. They are a nationally designated natural monument. The shrine is a beautiful and colorful shrine with a blossoms when the cherry blossoms change into leaves. This site is also during the cherry blossom viewing.

Shiogama Shrine Museum
 The Shiogama Shrine has about 5000 artifacts on display, including treasures that are part of its storied history. The portable shrines carried during festivals and many cultural assets can be seen here, including articles celebrated for salt-making and fishing, which have deep associations with the environment.

♫ Adults 200 yen / middle and high school students 150 yen / Elementary school students 80 yen (discounts for groups of over 20)
 ● Apr to Sep 8:30 to 17:00 / Feb, Mar, Oct, and Nov 8:30 to 16:30 / Jan and Dec 8:30 to 16:00
 ♪ No holidays



Urato Islands

The Urato Islands are made up of 4 islands and 5 different sections, all located in Matsushima Bay. The scenic spots full of history and legend, the wide variety of flora and fauna, and the views from the observation decks all make for hiking courses with incredible diversity.

♫ Inquiries
 Shiogama City Urato Islands General Development Center
 ☎ 022-369-2240 ☎ 022-369-2435
<http://www.city.shiogama.miyagi.jp/html/kouururato>

Marine Gate Shiogama (Sightseeing boat docks)

Offering sightseeing boats from Shiogama to Matsushima and a regular ferry to the Urato Islands. The building also houses a souvenir shop and restaurants. [MAP J-2] ♫

♫ Inquiries
 Shiogama Port Development (Corp.)
 1-4-1 Minatomachi, Shiogama City
 ☎ 022-361-1500 ☎ 022-361-1471
 9:00 to 18:00
 (Food mall is open from 11:00 to 22:00)
 ♪ No holidays
<http://www.shiogama.co.jp/>

Strolling around town

Stroll through the venerable Monzen-machi settlement to get a sense of the history of Shiogama Shrine and the time-honored traditions found here.

Shiogama has prospered as the "Monzen-machi" (temple town) of Shiogama Shrine since ancient times. Historical trips start from Hon-Shiogama Station. Proceed down the historical road currently known as "Rekishino Michi" (Reishi no Michi) extending along the Shiogama Kaido, with many tanka inscriptions and other interesting items of artwork along the way, to the **Tanrokuen**, an old confectionery shop built 300 years ago. What you will find here is a confectionery called Shiogama that is representative of the Shiogama area, which has the fresh scent of shiso (green perilla). Walking further down the street of old shops, you come to the Shiogama Shrine. There are three shrine approaches. The back approach is called **Onnazaka**, which features a gently sloping stone path to the Shiogama Shrine Museum. Near the top at the left hand side of the back approach is the historical former **Kameitei residence**. This building has incorporated both traditional Japanese and Western styles, and is one of the sights to see. The second approach, called **Nanamagarizaka**, is the oldest approach and is named for its seven curves. The front approach is called **Otokozaka** and contains 202 stone steps on a steep slope, which passes through the large stone torii. This approach is the formal one used when visitors come to offer prayers. Walk up the approach, and visit the Shiogama Shrine and its over 1200 years of history.

The famous confection Shiogama
 2 [MAP E-3]

Abekano Sake Brewery
 3-9 Nishimachi, Shiogama-shi
 ☎ 022-362-0251 ● 8:30 to 17:30
 ♪ Sundays, holidays, and the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month
 Ogiwara distillery
 3-12 Nishimachi, Shiogama-shi
 ☎ 022-362-0453 ● 9:00 to 18:00
 ♪ Unscheduled holidays
 Saura
 2-19 Motomachi, Shiogama-shi
 ☎ 022-362-4165 ● 8:30 to 17:30
 ♪ Weekends and holidays
 (only for open specialties depending on the season)

Okama Shrine & Moshioji Ritual
 This subordinate shrine to the Shiogama Shrine honors Shiohachiro no Kami, the god who introduced the method of manufacturing salt by boiling seawater. The Ninoko no Shikona, the namesake of Shiogama, are enshrined here. The 3-day Moshioji ritual performed here every year from July 4 to 6 is done to carry on the tradition of the ancient salt-making process. Salt made by boiling seawater is offered in a host of the shrine and distributed to the public.

Tanrokuen
 3-12 Miyamachi, Shiogama-shi ☎ 022-362-0978
 ● 8:30 to 18:30 ♪ No holidays
 Kaisho no Yakata, Former Kameitei residence
 3-5 Miyamachi, Shiogama-shi ☎ 022-364-0686
 ♪ Free admission
 ● 10:00 to 16:00 (to 15:30 in the winter)
 ♪ Days closed: Wednesdays and Thursdays

♫ Address ☎ Telephone ☎ Fax ☎ Hours ☎ Holidays ♪ Fee

Enjoy the Flavors of the Port City of Shiogama

Shiogama Moshio (seaweed salt)

As its name suggests, salt-making has been taking place in Shiogama since long ago. Seaweed salt is made from the clean ocean water off the coast of Shiogama, and is manufactured in the time-honored way. The salt has a mild taste. Cookies and raw caramel made with seaweed salt are also well-loved.

Raw salt caramel
 ● Blair Mangiare, 1st Floor, Marine Gate Shiogama
 ☎ 022-361-3050 ● 9:00 to 18:00

Shiogama Moshio (seaweed salt)
 ● Ganbare Shiogama Limited, 2-15-9 Minatomachi, Shiogama-shi
 ☎ 022-367-6539



Shiogama sushi

As one of the country's major ports, the well-known Shiogama unloads fresh seafood in every season. There are also many sushi shops with unique flavors and competition in their technique. Relish the flavor of Shiogama sushi made with Sasanishiki rice from Miyagi and the bounty of the sea off Sanriku.

Miyagi Sushi Kaido Shiogama Regional Promotional Council ☎ 022-364-1124

Sanriku Shiogama Higashimono

Sanriku Shiogama Higashimono is the brand name given to the bigeye tuna caught in the open waters east of Sanriku from the beginning of autumn until the winter, and which clear the strict standards for freshness, color, fat content, flavor, and so on. It can also be eaten in the sushi shops in town.

Shiogama City Marine Development Council Secretariat (in the Marine Division of the Shiogama City Department of Industry) ☎ 022-364-2222



The Matsushima Islands

One of the Three Views of Japan, Matsushima was awarded 3 stars in the Michelin Green Guide Japan. The over 260 large and small islands in Matsushima Bay were originally part of a hilly region that became submerged in the sea, leaving just the tall areas remaining as islands. The boulders have eroded over the years, creating the scene that is visible today. The beautiful landscape filled with many geographical features, such as the curvaceous hillsides surrounding the islands, the sandy shores, and the wetlands, are very representative of Japan. The green color of the akamatsu and kurumatsu pine trees that symbolize Matsushima between the blue of the sea and the blue of the sky further enhance the scenery for visitors. The shallow bay is filled with shelves for cultivating seaweed and oysters, creating a harmony between a scene of human endeavors and the natural landscape. Matsushima's beautiful landscape can be viewed from the look-out sites like Saigyō Modoshi no Matsu Park, which offers a panoramic view of Matsushima Bay, and the sightseeing boats that provide the chance to view the scenery from the water. These boats that tour the islands provide the thrill of seeing Matsushima up close. During the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, the islands in Matsushima Bay acted as a breakwater, reducing the damage caused by the tsunami to Matsushima. Please be sure to enjoy Matsushima's special scenic beauty, which has attracted visitors throughout the ages.

Meoto-jima
 Comprised of two islands, Meoto-jima is described as follows: "Although separated into east and west, they share a single heart". The rock face that has been shaped over many years can be seen up close.

Nio-jima
 This is one of the distinctive islands of Matsushima Bay. Its shape resembles the face and torso of a Nio to guardians of the Buddha, which is how it got its name.

Komoto-jima
 On this island, the white tuff rocks and green akamatsu pine trees on the peak create a lovely contrast with each other. The "Chome-ana" that small boats could pass through was destroyed in the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami.

Zaimoku-jima
 The rock face of this island has a striped pattern due to its multiple layers of geological strata giving it an appearance of stacked lumber. Zaimoku-jima used to have a stone gate and was a place of scenic beauty representative of Matsushima Bay, but this part of the island was destroyed in 1962, transforming it into its current shape.

Sagami-jima
 Sagami-jima is named because it looks like a girl's head in flight. Found amongst the other boulders, and began islands scattered about, this island will be found to be seen up close as well.

Futago-jima
 These islands are a pair found side by side like good friends. The round island is called Kame-jima because it resembles a turtle, while the elongated island is called Kujira-jima because it looks like a whale.

Sengan-jima
 The pleasing shape of this island left a deep impression on Date Manamune, who once said he would give 1,000 yen to anyone who could transport the island to his castle. This legendary island is not to be missed!

Kabuto-jima
 Kabuto-jima is so named because it looks like the shape of a kabuto (helmet), worn during samurai battles long ago.

Yoro-jima
 This small island has a unique shape that looks like the crest of a wave. Its name is derived from the character for wave (yori), called kabata.

Matsushima Bay Sightseeing Boats
 Sightseeing boats are recommended for enjoying the scenery of Shiogama and Matsushima on Matsushima Bay.
 ● Regularly-scheduled Matsushima Bay circuit tour
 ● Matsushima Islands Sightseeing Boat Company Association ☎ 022-354-2233
 ● Regularly-scheduled tours from Shiogama to Matsushima Bay
 ● Marubun Matsushima Kisen ☎ 022-365-3611 ● New Matsushima Kankosen ☎ 022-365-0997
 ● Regularly-scheduled tours from Shiogama to the Urato Islands
 ● Shiogama Shiei Kisen ☎ 022-361-7710