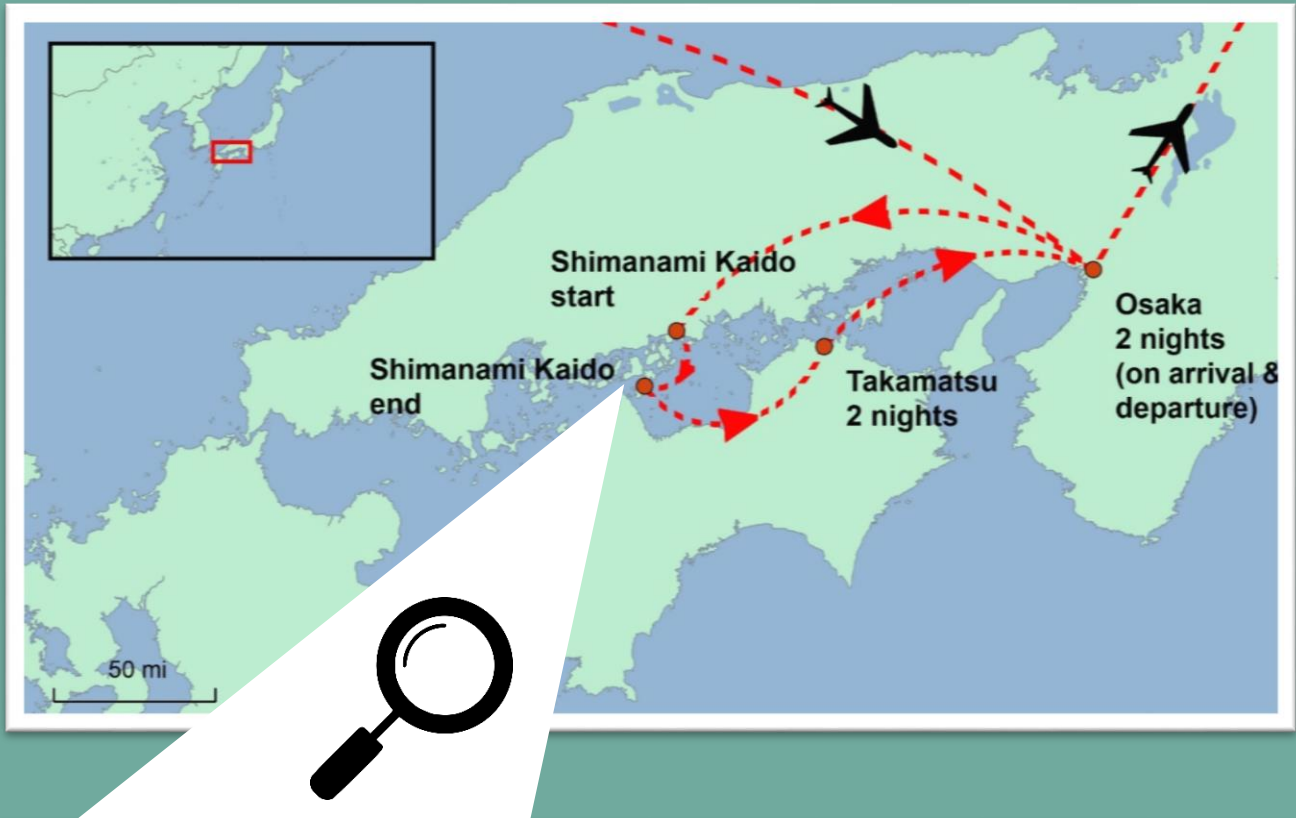




## Cycling The Inland Sea

*The Shimanami Kaido is a 70-kilometre-long road that connects Japan's main island of Honshu to the island of Shikoku passing the beautiful islands of the Seto Inland Sea. As the route is perfectly marked by a blue line and easy to follow, this tour is ideal for cyclists of all levels. However, you can also enjoy this tour by car. Begin your independent journey in Osaka, the second-largest city of Japan, where you will arrive by plane. Then head to Onomichi City before cycling the six small islands of Mukaishima, Innoshima, Ikuchijima, Omishima, Hakatajima and Oshima. Before heading back to Osaka for your flight back, explore Takamatsu, a port city in Shikoku overlooking the Seto Inland Sea.*

# Cycling Tour Maps



# Cycling The Inland Sea Independent Tour

## The Itinerary

### Day 1: Arrival in Japan, Meet & Greet at Kansai International Airport (Osaka)

Welcome to Japan! Our friendly Meet & Greet service representative will be waiting in the Arrivals lobby and holding a sign with your name on. The Meet & Greet will direct you to the Haruka Express train or Airport Limousine Bus bound for Osaka. Check in to your clean and comfortable hotel in Osaka for your first night in Japan.

### Day 2: Osaka to Onomichi

After breakfast take the train from Osaka to Onomichi. The train journey will be approx. 4 hours. Onomichi is a charming town located along the Seto Inland Sea in the Hiroshima Prefecture. Upon arrival check in to your accommodation for one night.

### Day 3: Shimanami Kaido – Mukaishima, Innoshima

*Onomichi to Mukaishima 8 KM*  
*Mukaishima to Innoshima 12 KM*

After breakfast, pick up your bicycle and start your cycling adventure. From Onomichi you can reach the first island in the Shimanami Kaido, Mukaishima, by ferry. Hop off on this island where the Shimanami Kaido starts. After cycling around this island, carry on to the next one, Innoshima. The two islands are connected by the Innoshima Bridge, a suspension bridge of 770 meters, completed in 1983.

Whilst in Innoshima, you might want to hike Mt Shiratake whose summit offers a magnificent view of the Inland Sea. Another attraction of this mountain are the 700

carved Buddhist statues. If you visit this island during Summer, you can also relax and sunbathe at the Shimanami Beach.

Check in to your Guesthouse for one night.

### Day 4: Shimanami Kaido – Ikuchijima to Omishima

*Innoshima to Ikuchijima 12 KM*  
*Ikuchijima to Omishima 16 KM*

After breakfast, it's time to cycle again. Today head on to Ikuchijima Island. This island has different attractions to visit. To name a few, Kosan-ji and Choseikaku Villa are sights not to be missed. Kosan-ji is one of the main sights located in the main town. This Buddhist Temple complex was founded in 1935 and took more than 30 years to complete.

Choseikaku Villa was built in 1929 and it was designed by Kanemoto Kozo, a businessman from Osaka. The main building is constructed in traditional Japanese style.

Your next island is Omishima. Ikuchijima and Omishima are connected by a lovely cable-stayed bridge called Tatara Bridge. Omishima Island is home to a variety of art museums and sights to visit. One of the main attractions is the Oyamazumi Shrine. Inside its museum, you will find a collection of samurai armour and weapons. Another attraction is the Omishima Art Museum whose collection includes many Japanese Nihonga, Japanese style paintings. On the south of the island, you will find Tokoro Art Museum, a contemporary art museum located on a steep slope offering breathtaking views of the island.

Check in to your Guesthouse for one night.

### Day 5: Shimanami Kaido - Hakatajima & Oshima

*Omishima to Hakatajima 16 KM*  
*Hakatajima to Oshima 8 KM*

Today head to Hakatajima, the smallest island on the Shimanami Kaido. However, with a few steep climbs, it is worth to go around this island with your bike. If you happen to visit during the cherry blossom season, we do recommend you do not miss Mt Hirakiyama and its wonderful cherry trees! Through the Hakata Bridge you will end up to your final destination for today, Oshima island, the end of the Shimanami Kaido. In Oshima Island we do recommend you visit the Kirosoan Observatory Park, which offers wonderful views of the Seto Inland Sea.

Check in for one night in a Guesthouse.

### Day 6: Oshima to Takamatsu via Imabari (Shikoku Island)

After breakfast head to Imabari on the Shikoku Island where the Shimanami Kaido route ends. Here you can drop off your bicycle and explore Imabari. Imabari is



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famous for Japanese towels and the Imari Towel museum is dedicated to this long-standing industry. Later today

transfer by Express Train to Takamatsu where you will stay 2 nights in a centrally located hotel. Whilst in Takamatsu we suggest a visit to Shikoku Mura, an open-air museum situated near Takamatsu. Here you will find many preserved traditional buildings relocated from all over Shikoku Island.

#### Day 7: Takamatsu

Take a stroll in the beautiful Ritsurin Park, a landscape garden built for the lords of the region in feudal times. Now listed as a Japanese National Treasure, the gardens also include a Folk Craft Museum, restaurant and three Tea Houses, where visitors can enjoy a tea ceremony. The ruins of Takamatsu's Castle, in Tamamo Park, and the Yakuri-ji and Yashima-ji temples are also worth seeing. Sample the local delicacy, sanuki udon noodles, in one of the city's numerous restaurants.

#### Day 8: Takamatsu to Osaka

Enjoy your morning at leisure in Takamatsu. In the afternoon, depart Shikoku and travel back to Osaka. Spend the evening enjoying the lively Dotonbori district famous for shopping, eating and entertainment.

#### Day 9: Depart Japan

Transfer from your hotel to Kansai International Airport by Express Train or Airport Limousine Bus.

## Price Includes:

- 5 nights' accommodation in centrally located hotels in Osaka, Onomichi, and Takamatsu on a bed and breakfast basis
- 3 night's accommodation in a traditional Japanese *minshuku* or *Guesthouses* on a bed and breakfast basis in the Shimanami Kaido route.
- Train tickets from Osaka to Onomichi, Imabari to Takamatsu, and Takamatsu to Osaka
- Aluminium Road Bicycle with pick up in Onomichi and drop off at Imabari
- Meet & Greet service on arrival at Kansai International Airport (Osaka)
- Transfers by Express train from and to Kansai International Airport (Osaka) to central Osaka
- Detailed Japan Journeys Information Pack including detailed train schedules, maps, & brochures
- Personalised Japan Journeys App to help manage your documents
- All Japanese sales taxes and service charge
- Full financial protection via Japan Journeys' membership of the Travel Trust Association through which your monies are held in a Trust Account until you return home (under Membership No. U3078)

## Not Included In Price:

- International airfare
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Entrance fees to sights not mentioned in the itinerary
- Same-day luggage delivery service on the Shimanami Kaido route. (approx. 2,000 JPY per transfer)
- Taxi, subway and tramway fees
- Insurance

### LAND-ONLY PRICE:

**from £1,695.00**

**per person on a Twin room-based accommodation.**

**from £2,095.00**

**per person on a Single room-based accommodation**

All price estimates are based on current rates of exchange and are subject to availability. To make a booking, a deposit of **£250.00 per person or 10% of the total price (whichever is greater)** is required. The balance of the price of the trip must be made 12 weeks prior to departure.

### **Your bags during the cycling tour:**

As you will be cycling from Onomichi to Imbari, you might want to take advantage of the convenient same-day luggage delivery service: your luggage will be collected from your accommodation in the morning and will be delivered to your next accommodation by 7 pm. You can also send your bags from Osaka to Onomichi and Oshima to Osaka for your longer journeys. We will advise you on how to do this in full in your Detailed Itinerary.

### **Your bicycle:**

You can pick up your bicycle in Onomichi and drop it off at Imabari. We offer different types of bicycles for beginners to advance cyclists. For example, Aluminium Road Bikes are recommended for people who are on their first road bike; The Carbon Road Bikes are recommended for people who prefer a combination of high-performance and an ultra-lightweight bike.

A helmet will be provided if you do not have yours.



Aluminium Road Bike



Carbon Road Bike

### **Your meals:**

Breakfast is offered at your accommodation and is included in the below price. Some Guesthouses in the Shimanami Kaido route offer Japanese dinner. Please enquire about dinner if you are interested and we can add this to your stay. For your lunch you can either have a packed bento that can be ordered in some Guesthouses, or you can enjoy one of the many cafés where you can eat around the islands. We can advise you on places to eat in full in your Detailed Itinerary.



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## HOW OUR INDEPENDENT TOURS WORK

Enjoy independent travel but not the hassle of planning? One of our Independent Tours could be just the ticket. Carefully put together by our team of specialists, our excellent collection of sample itineraries are designed to inform and inspire your next Japan adventure. Every one of our Independent Tours is fully tailor made for you, ensuring your trip is everything you want it to be.

It's quite straight forward to travel independently in Japan. We will provide just the right amount of support and logistical planning to make you feel comfortable in a very foreign land. These itineraries are available for any departure date (with a few exclusions which coinciding with Japanese National Holidays and some weekends). We'll do all the work for you and provide you with an information pack to make your trip run smoothly. You can also add guided tours as indicated and if you do want your own personal guide we can arrange this too.

## WHAT NEXT?

If you're interested in this itinerary, please let us know the following and we will get back to you with a quote:

- Your proposed dates of travel
- Your preferred grade of accommodation (e.g. 3\*, 4\*, or 5\*)
- Your preferred room type (e.g. Double, Twin or Singles)
- How many adults and children this is for (and the age of the children at the time of travel)

## NOT FROM THE UK?

Don't worry! We deal with countless passengers from outside of the UK. You just need to let us know the information above (and you can arrange your own flights to Japan).

To find out more, call one of our specialists now on **+44 (0)208 064 2771**.

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