Akashi Tourist Guidebook

Explore Akashi

Food, Strails, History, and Time, Highlights of Akashi's Attractions
Enjoy Strolling around Akashi, “The Town of Time”

There are many sightseeing spots in Akashi within walking distance. The keywords to enjoy the most of Akashi area are “FOOD, The STRAIT, HISTORY, and TIME.”

Akashi-yaki (Tamago-yaki)

“Akashi-yaki” is the signature dish of Akashi, and said to be the original “Takoyaki (Tako-balls).” Soft dough balls containing diced delicious Akashi-dako octopus served with a bowl of dipping soup. There are as many as 70 Akashi-yaki shops in Akashi City. Akashi-yaki is popularly called “Tamago-yaki.”

Akashi-dako (Akashi Octopus)

Octopus caught in the Akashi-kaikyo strait is called “Akashi-dako (Akashi octopus)” and is famous nationwide. The fast moving currents at Akashi-kaikyo strait make short and stout tentacles that taste delicious. Please enjoy the taste of “Akashi-dako” as “Sashimi (raw slices)” and “Tempura (deep fried fritter)” as well as other specialties of “Akashi-dako” such as dried octopus, octopus rice, and octopus crackers.

Uo-no-tana Street Market

This street market has a rich 400-year old history being the pantry for Akashi. Approximately 100 shops sell seafood such as boiled fish, pastes, souvenirs, as well as seafood. The famous “Akashi-dai (Akashi sea bream)” and “Akashi-dako (Akashi octopus)” can be purchased from the day-time fish auction. It is known locally as “Uo-no-tana”.

Yaki-anago (Grilled Sea Eel)

Plump and delicious sea eel caught in the Akashi-kaikyo strait is one of three specialties of Akashi, along with sea bream and octopus. Grilled sea eel with salty-sweet sauce is especially famous and known as “Yaki-anago (grilled sea eel).” Variations of sauces and cooking methods are characterized by each shop. You can enjoy the delicate differences in taste. “Yaki-anago” is a very popular souvenir of Akashi.

Town of Food

The Secrets of Akashi Sea Food

Akashi City faces the Seto-nai-kai inland sea, and is full of nature. Especially, Akashi-kaikyo strait is an excellent fishing ground because of its nutrient-rich sea water. Great tasting fish that has firm flesh matures in the fast moving currents of the Akashi-kaikyo strait. The day-time fish auction system called “Hiruami” enables fish shops and restaurants to purchase the freshest fish caught in the morning, ready for the midday’s trade. Please enjoy the food culture in Akashi that is provided by nature and its people.

Akashi-dai (Akashi Sea Bream)

Maturing in the fast moving currents and nutrient-rich sea water of the Akashi-kaikyo strait, the firm fleshed “Akashi-dai (Akashi sea bream)” has been ranked as a first-class sea bream in Japan. Origins of whole charcoal-grilled Akashi-dai called “Sugata-yaki” said to be the tribute to the Shogun during the Edo period. Today, “Sugata-yaki” is still the chosen gift for a happy event.
Akashi-kaiykyo Bridge

The bridge spanning the Akashi-kaiykyo strait is the world's longest suspension bridge and has a total length of 3,911 meters. The main towers have an impressive height of 330 meters from the sea level. It is a must see lit up at night. The view from the city side provides a panoramic scene of the strait, the sky and the bridge.

Okura-kaigan Seaside Park and Okura-kaigan Beach

Okura-kaigan seaside park is a large, open park that faces the Akashi-kaiykyo bridge and Awaji-shima Island. Visitors can enjoy not only walking but also variety of activities. BBQ facilities and grounds for frisbee and golf are available for use. Okura-kaigan beach is opening in the summer, a well-known bathing spot.

Akashi Port and Old Lighthouse

This light house's official name is “Kyu Hakozaki Torodo (old Hakozaki stone lantern house).” It was built in 1857, and is the oldest stone lighthouse in Japan. This is a precious historical heritage site which is loved by citizens, and is used as a filming location for a TV drama.

Jenova Line Mini-cruise

The Awaji Jenova Line is the high-speed craft between Akashi and Awaji-shima island. The 40 minutes round trip from Akashi Port to Waya Port in Awaji-shima island is a great way to enjoy a mini cruise of the area.

Hama-no Sampomichi Photo Shooting Spot

- **Sunset Mirage** (Daruma sunset)
  A beautiful sunset can be enjoyed anywhere in Akashi. For the best "Sunset Mirage" photos, it is recommended to photograph the sunset at Eigashima Beach in the western part of Akashi. You can see the big round sunset mirage from October through to March in the right conditions.

- **Mural Paintings**
  Along the coastal path of "Hama-no Sampomichi," a mural is painted of the legends of Akashi and its history.

- **Marine Activities**
  Many people enjoy marine sports at Hayashisaki Matsue Beach. People enjoy activities such as paddle boarding as show in this picture.

- **Akashi-kaiykyo Bridge**
  The coastal path of "Hama-no Sampomichi" is an ideal location which to photograph the entrance Akashi-kaiykyo bridge.

Harima Cycling Road

This is a 35km cycle-path connecting Akashi and Himeji. This cycle-path includes the "Hama-no Sampomichi" and with its smooth and flat route, it’s a nice way to enjoy a day’s cycling.
Town of History

Akashi Castle / Akashi Park

The castle is one of 100 major castles in Japan with 400-year-old history, which was built by Ogasawara Tadamune. The castle turrets, “Tatsumi yagura (turret)” and “Hitajisuru yagura”, have been classified as an “important cultural properties.” Either of which is open to the public on Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays alternating every other month in spring and autumn. A georama of the old Akashi, as depicted in the middle Edo period, is on exhibition in the yagura. Akashi Park, which includes the castle and the garden, is selected as one of the Japan’s top 100 urban parks. Visitors can enjoy and relax in the spacious grounds.

Nakasaki Auditorium (Nakasaki Kokaiko)

Nakasaki-Kokaiko (public hall) is a multi-purpose hall that was constructed in 1911. Natsume Soseki gave a lecture there when it was first opened. It was constructed in accordance with the architectural styles of the Nara and Kamakura eras and utilizes a wooden truss structure. The hall is classified as a "Registered tangible cultural property".

Ruins of Funage Castle / Funage-nishi Park

Funage Castle together with the castle town was built in 1585 by Takayama Ukon. The atlatl in the park provides a description of Takayama himself and a map comparing the past and present area. It shows what Funage Town would have looked like.

Akashi City Museum of Culture (Bunka Hakubutsukan)

The museum provides information of Akashi’s history and culture. The permanent exhibitions are divided into eight themes, e.g., Akashi Elephant’s skeleton model as well as historical materials concerning Akashi Primitive Man, Akashi Castle, Akashi’s fishing industry. Seasonal exhibitions are also held.

Lords of the Province

Akashi Castle is also known as Kusunoki, which was named by the sixth lord Matsudaira Nakaoyama who was said to have constructed the mile stones and the canal in the castle town as well as the windbreak forest along the coast.

мотрю в будущее

Zenrakuji Temple (Kakoin Temple, Enjuin Temple)

Zenrakuji Temple is generally referred to as Kakoin/Enjuin, and is one of the historically significant temples in the city. It was first founded by Hodo Sennin in 645 and contains a memorial tower of Taihaku Kiyomori in Kakoin. The dry landscape garden in Enjuin is said to have been designed by Miyamoto Musashi himself.

Let’s Try New Experiences

Experience dressing up in "Junihitoe (court lady’s clothing)" or Japanese armor and helmet free of charge, admission fee required. The service is available three times a month. Reservations are necessary.

Locations Related to The Tale of Genji

The Tale of Genji is the world’s oldest love saga, written by Murasaki Shikibu. One volume called “Akashiko no Maki (Chapter of Akashi)” is related to a stage of Akashi. Some of the shrines, temples, and historic sites that appear in the story still remain in here today. Fill your thoughts with the love story driven by Hikaru Genji, and then visit the actual locations.

Muryokoji Temple and Tsutarno Hosomichi (Path of Ivy)

Muryokoji Temple is said to have been the mansion described in the story where Hikaru Genji enjoys viewing the moon. Let you imagine the path that Hikaru Genji walked to the Okaibee Mansion where lady Akashi lives.
Town of Time

Plenty of Sites Related to Time

The Japan standard time meridian (135° east longitude) passes through Akashi City. For this reason, we call Akashi the "Town of Time". You can learn about time at the Akashi Municipal Planetarium (Ten-mon Kagaku-kan), which is a symbol of Akashi located on the meridian line. In the city, there are many meridian markers and sundials. While walking around “Toki-no Michi (the road of time)” and the city, you’ll find many spots which make you feel the romance of time.

Town of Time Hiking Route

1. Akashi Park
2. Akashi City Museum of Culture (Bunka Hakubutsukan)
3. Uenomaru-kyoukai Church
4. Honshoji Temple
5. Stone Signs Indicating "Toki-no Michi (Road of Time)"
6. Geshoji Temple
7. Kakinomoto-jinja Shrine
8. Dragonfly Signpost
9. Akashi Municipal Planetarium (Ten-mon Kagaku-kan)

Glasshouses

Akashi Municipal Planetarium (Ten-mon Kagaku-kan)
The Akashi Municipal Planetarium is located on the meridian (135° east longitude), it's a science museum where you can learn about time and space. The building is classified as a "Preserved tangible cultural property". The clock tower shows Japan standard time and it's a symbol of Akashi City. The planetarium in the museum is the oldest one still in use.

Akashi Park

1. Akashi Park

2. Akashi City Museum of Culture (Bunka Hakubutsukan)

3. Uenomaru-kyoukai Church

Kawabe Tokiichi and S.E. Cooper, missionaries, started their missionary work in 1907. There is a sundial mounted on the front wall of the church.

4. Honshoji Temple

It’s said that Honshoji temple was originally built in Funage more than 400 years ago and then moved here. There is a Japanese city landscape garden designed by Miyamoto Musashi.

5. Stone Signs Indicating "Toki-no Michi (Road of Time)"

There are 12 stone marks engraved with the Zodiac signs along "Toki-no Michi". You can find them while walking around "Toki-no Michi"

6. Geshoji Temple

The temple gate was built originally as a Yakui-mon gate for Fushimi-jo castle in Kyoto by Toyotomi Hideyoshi. Later, it was moved to Akashi Castle and named "Kita-mon gate", and in the early Meiji period when the castle was demolished, the gate's use was discontinued and it was moved again to here. Sitting and retired emperors at the time offered "tanka poem" or "tanka (sumber, song)" and some of them are designated as cultural properties of Japan and Akashi City.

7. Kakinomoto-jinja Shrine

Kakinomoto-jinja shrine is dedicated to Kakinomoto Hitomaro who was a master poet. Locals affectionately call the shrine "Hitomaru-san". Prayers seeking protection from fire, success and reputation in studies and business, as well as safe childbirth, and finding a good partner are hoped to be answered here. In the garden surrounding the shrine, there is a biography of Hitomaro and many monuments inscribed with Hitomaro’s tanka poems.

8. Dragonfly Signpost

This is a signpost that marks Japan standard time meridian (135° east longitude). On top, it has a dragonfly that used to be called "Aku", which originated from an ancient word referring to Japan "Akitusuhma". It’s well-known that the signpost inspired the poet and writer Matsuo Bashō to have an interest in nature when he saw it as a child.

9. Akashi Municipal Planetarium (Ten-mon Kagaku-kan)