

## Cruise Area

# SETOUCHI

(Seto Inland Sea)



### Contact us

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## Characteristics

### 1 Beautiful island vistas

Many small and large islands are interwoven with the quiet sea to form a constantly changing scene that bestows an extraordinary sense of healing as one forgets the everyday strife of city life.

### 2 Port town history and culture

Setouchi has well-developed port towns all along its shores and is a thriving maritime route for transmitting continental Japanese culture. The port towns evoke memories of earlier times, and are sites of tremendous historical and cultural value. All visitors also enjoy the rich food culture of this region.

### 3 Main Sightseeing Locations

Alongside the plentiful bounties of nature, Setouchi feature the Atomic Bomb Dome in Hiroshima, the Itsukushima Shrine, the Himeji Castle, the government-managed Yawata Steel Works, and many other places of historical and cultural importance. 'Setouchi Triennale 2019' scheduled for April 2019 has attracted worldwide attention, and the area is becoming increasingly popular as an art and culture hub.

### 4 Fulfilling tourism activities

Setouchi allows a visitor to appreciate a range of Japanese cultural experiences from some of the best hot springs, sake breweries, and dining establishments offering fresh local food. Setouchi is connected by a network of numerous cruise ships, and tourists can enjoy outdoor activities such as sea kayaking, cycling, and other pursuits in the natural surroundings of the island.



Major ports in Setouchi

*The Seto Inland Sea extends 450 kilometers from east to west and is nestled between the islands of Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu in central western Japan. Approximately 700 islands, large and small, are woven together by the quiet sea to create a place of singular beauty that has prospered as a traffic hub since times immemorial.*

*Setouchi offers bountiful resources for tourism, and the area was recently featured as number 7 of "52 Places to Go in 2019." in the New York Times.*



### Beautiful Island Scenery



Seto Ohashi Bridge



Small and Large Islands

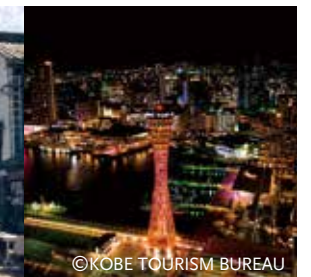
### Port Town History and Culture



Karato Market



Tomonoura



Harborland

### Main Sites (World Heritage Sites)



Atomic Bomb Dome



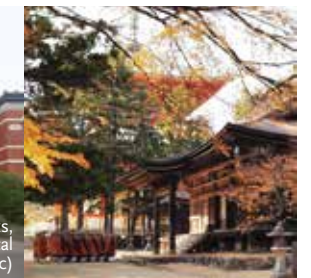
Itsukushima Shrine



Himeji Castle



Yawata Works



Koyasan

### Fulfilling Tourism Activities



Shimanami Kaido Cycling



Kankakei Ropeway



Awa-Odori Festival



Beppu Hot Spring



Ohkunoshima(Rabbit Island)

### Setouchi Cruises

With its many airports, Setouchi is an ideal location for flights and cruises. Geographically blessed, it offers easy access to the Kansai and Kyushu areas via the bullet train or other rail lines. There are 296 ports in Setouchi, and individuals can choose from a range of cruising options of on ships of varied sizes. A network of cruise ships with many types of cruise plans connect around 110 islands in the region, amply meeting the diverse needs of a broad array of customers.

### Recent Topics of Interest around Setouchi Cruises

In recent years, global demand for cruises has increased, and cruises in Setouchi are no exception. Its ports of call have increased 2.1 times over the past five years: from 2014 to 2018. At ports of call, locals greet guests with their well-known warm hospitality. The "Setouchi Islands" were ranked seventh in a January 2019 New York Times article entitled "52 Places to Go in 2019."

### Setouchi Cruise Promotion Council

This group was formed in June 2018 in cooperation with coastal municipalities to create unique cruises that leverage the attractiveness of Setouchi, with the aim of making the region a global cruising and tourist destination. The national government (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport Chugoku Regional Development Bureau) serves as the secretariat for this promotion council.

