

Excursion to Matsuzaki Town

By

TOKAI BUS



Where is Matsuzaki?

Matsuzaki is located on the southwest coast in Izu peninsula, facing Suruga Bay on the Pacific Ocean.

Warm climate, period buildings, variety of hot springs dotted around, fresh sea foods, and breathtaking view make this town so impressive.

Because there still is no railway connection to this town, Matsuzaki is filled with unchanged picturesque places with calm and laid-back atmosphere.

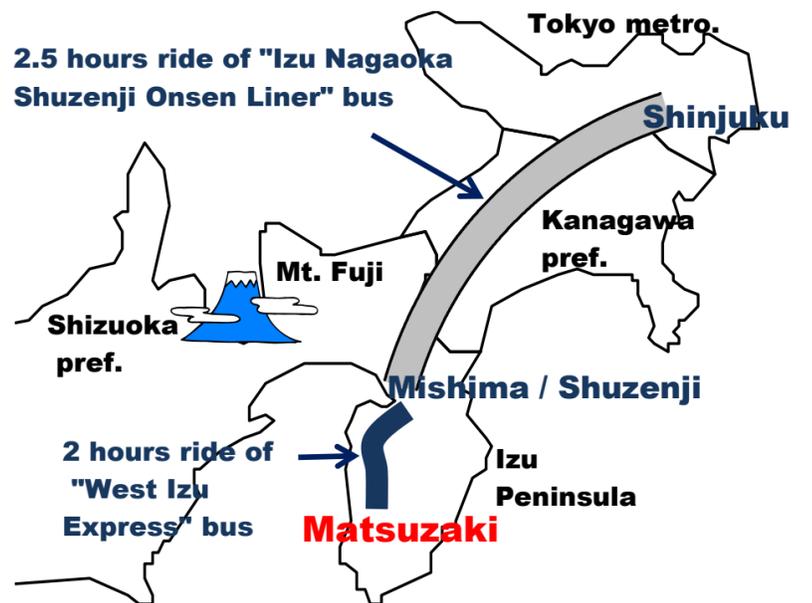
The only one public transportation is "Tokai Bus" until nowadays. They connect Matsuzaki and Shimoda, Shuzenji, or Mishima.

The easiest access is "West Izu Express bus" (西伊豆特急バス / Nishi Izu Tokkyu Bus) from Mishima.

This exp. bus leaves Mishima bus terminal (just beside JR Mishima sta. south gate) on 12:15, 13:15, and 14:15 for Matsuzaki ED, plus 10:15 on Saturday and holidays.

The fee one way is 2,470 JPY. No reservation in advance nor additional (exp.) fee is required. Approx. time to Matsuzaki is two hours in the usual traffic situation.

Returning bus starts Matsuzaki on 7:10, 9:30, and 10:30 ED, plus 14:35 on Saturday and holidays. Other local buses from/to Shuzenji or Shimoda are operated every 30 minutes to one hour. If you're a budget traveller and have no JR pass, to take our "Izu Nagaoka Shuzenji Onsen Liner" bus from Shinjuku to Shuzenji, then transfer there to local bus for Matsuzaki is a choice.



"Izu Nagaoka Shuzenji Onsen (Hot spring) Liner" bus (伊豆長岡・修善寺温泉ライナー, "IL")

IL links Shinjuku and Shuzenji ED for 2,570 JPY only. Reservation in English, Chinese or Korean is possible through "Japan Bus Lines" website.

(Alternative website is "Japan Bus Online", that allows English only.)

In case the bus is not booked out, you can purchase a ticket directly from the bus driver just prior to departure.

Timetable of IL

Shinjuku	Start	9:15	17:05
Shuzenji sta.	Arrive	11:45	20:03

Shuzenji sta.	Start	9:25	15:25
Shinjuku	Arrive	12:45	18:15

From the same place IL arrives, local buses leave for Matsuzaki every 30 to 60 minutes at Shuzenji sta. bus terminal, where you can buy DISCOUNTED round ticket to Matsuzaki if you show IL ticket.

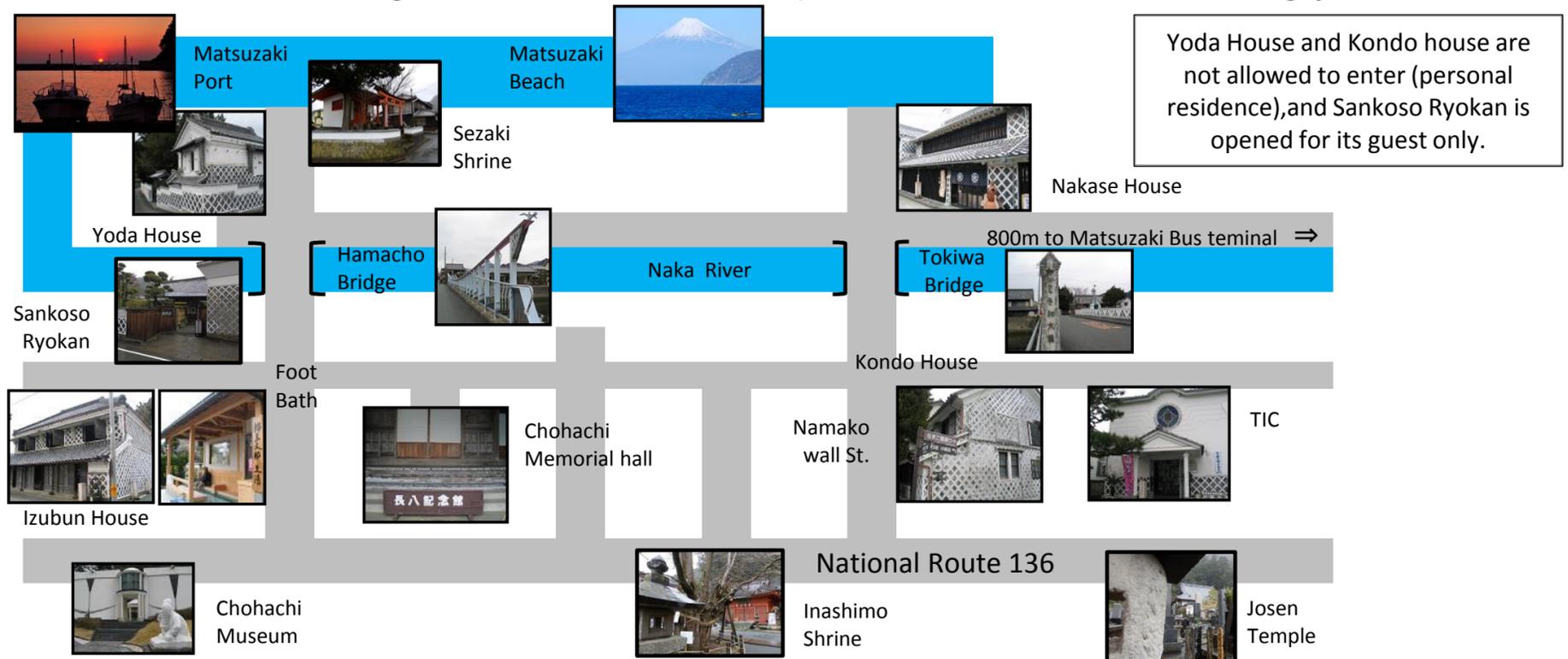


Busstop in Shinjuku



Matsuzaki and its attractive suburbs map.

Half a day is enough to walk around the center of Matsuzaki, but this old port town has lots of historic buildings, some of which are opened for free or astonishingly moderate fee.

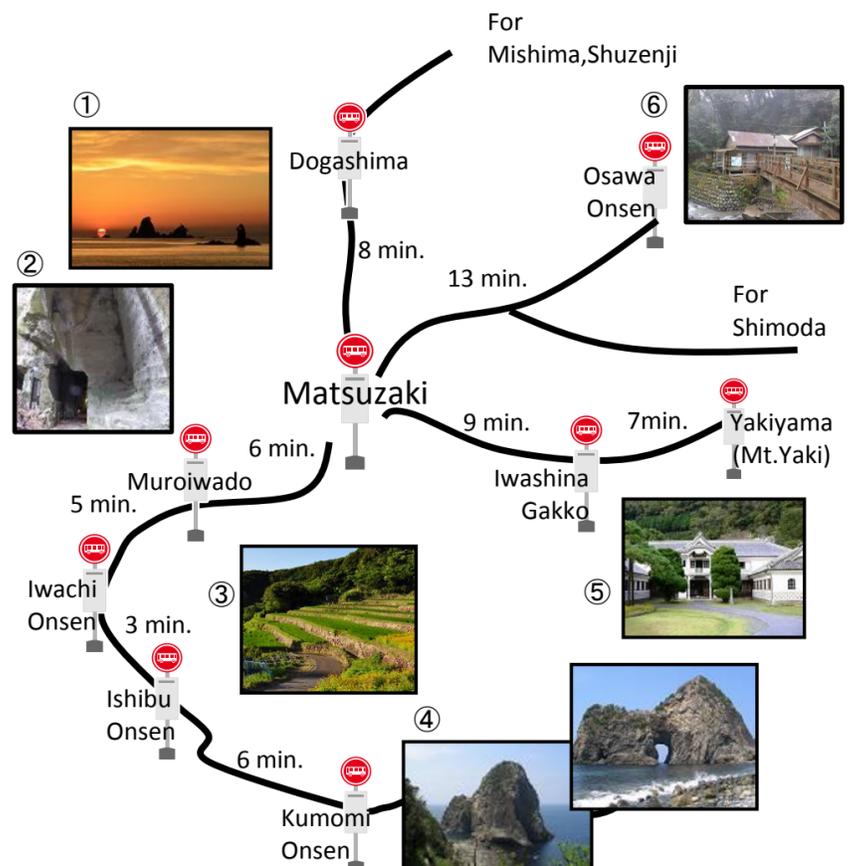


"Tokai bus" connects Matsuzaki to its attractive suburbs.

- ① Beautiful sunset seen from cliffs.
- ② Muroiwado (室岩洞) is well preserved quarry from the Edo period. Busstop is "Muroiwado(室岩洞)"
- ③ Ishibu (石部) rice terrace. Busstop is "Ishibu Onsen (石部温泉)"
- ④ Senganmon.(千貫門) Busstop is "Kumomi Onsen(雲見温泉)"
- ⑤ Iwashina Gakko (岩科学学校),the 1st elementary school in Izu area. Busstop is "Jubun(重文)Iwashina Gakko"
- ⑥ Rustic open air public onsen is available at Osawa. Busstop is "Roten-buro(露天風呂)"

"Onsen" means "Hot spring". As the number of busstops that include the letter "Onsen" indicates, this area is blessed with large volumes of hot springs.

Each onsen village has several Minshuku (Japanese style inn).



How to use "Tokai bus"(local lines)

Using local buses in Japan may be intimidating to foreign tourists but worth a try. To share some time with local people in the same vehicle and exchange a few words may spice up your trip.



- ① Enter and exit the bus through the front door.
- ② Pick up a number-printed ticket from the vending machine next to the driver even if you board from the first stop or are a freepass holder.
- ③ The fare of Tokai Bus is not flat. Check it on the display above the windshield.
- ④ The coin changer does not accept high value banknote. To bring small change with you in advance is recommended.
- ⑤ Press the button after the announcement of the stop to signal the driver that you wish to get off at the next.
- ⑥ Drop the fee with number-printed ticket into the clear receptacle. If you have a freepass and the stop is in the valid area, please show the pass to the driver.