

Maizuru

A Town Where the Sea Breeze and Red Bricks Meet

Welcome to Maizuru!

Among the coastal cities on the Sea of Japan, Maizuru, blessed with a close proximity to the sea, started flourishing early and is a city of interest with a long history. Hundred year old red brick warehouses, the view from the top of Mt. Gorogadake (selected No.1 among the best 100 scenic sites in the Kinki region), a garden of fifty thousand hydrangeas, and fresh seafood such as torigai (saltwater clam) and crab are awaiting you.



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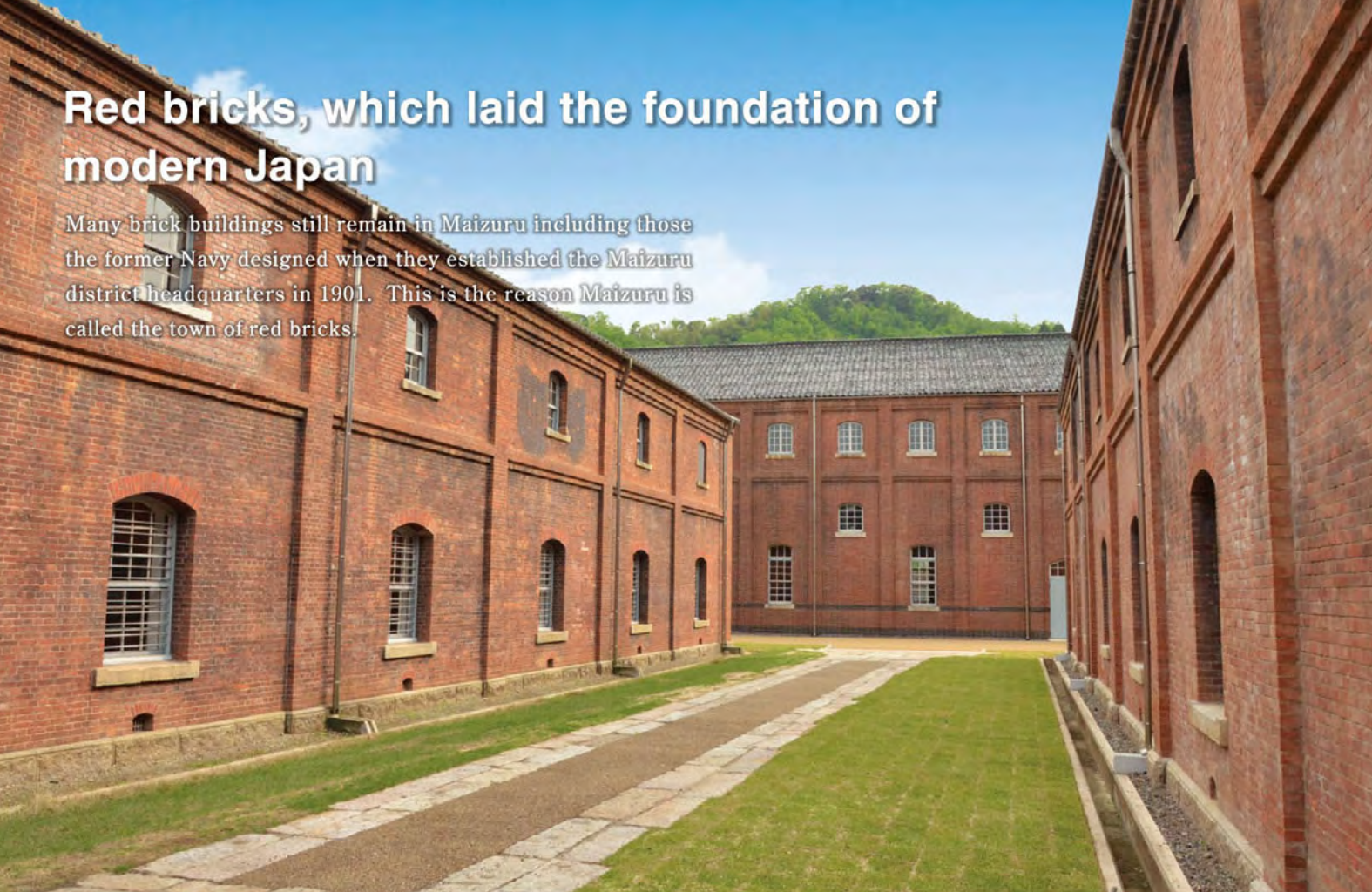
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Maizuru City & Maizuru Tourist Association

Red bricks, which laid the foundation of modern Japan

Many brick buildings still remain in Maizuru including those the former Navy designed when they established the Maizuru district headquarters in 1901. This is the reason Maizuru is called the town of red bricks.



Port opened for exchange A base for networking between countries and people

In contrast with its famous red bricks, another symbolic color of Maizuru is the beautiful blue of the sea and sky.

Maizuru Harbor has been experiencing many changes to date. In 2011 it was designated as one of the major ports of the coast of the Sea of Japan, and recently cruise ships such as the 'Asuka II' have been making port here. There are also many beautiful scenic spots, particularly the bay area, such as the romantic bayside view, and scenery from observation decks.



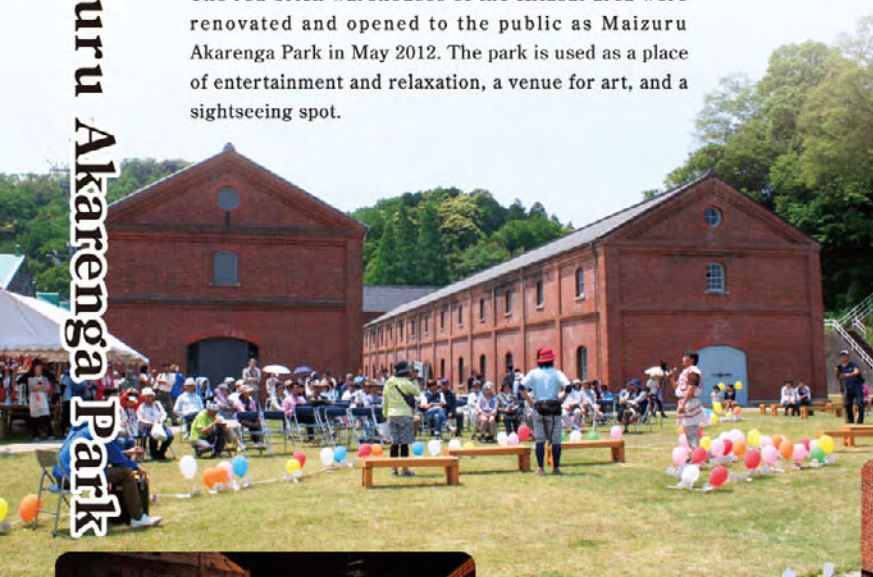
HISTORICAL RED

ROMANTIC BLUE

Maizuru Akarenga Park

The grand opening of Maizuru Akarenga (Red Brick) Park

The red brick warehouses of the Kitasui area were renovated and opened to the public as Maizuru Akarenga Park in May 2012. The park is used as a place of entertainment and relaxation, a venue for art, and a sightseeing spot.



Illuminated red brick warehouses

Illumination art event,
highlighting the winter of Maizuru

The illumination art event held at the red brick warehouses. The warehouses are illuminated by fantastic lights.



World Brick Museum

One of the oldest existing steel-framed brick buildings in Japan

This building was originally built for storing torpedoes and is one of the few existing steel-framed buildings. It is designated as a national important cultural property. The building showcases both the history of bricks and a variety of bricks from around the world.



Maizuru City Commemoration Hall

A former Navy warehouse
renovated as a space for
art and exhibitions

One of the warehouses designated as a national important cultural property. It was built as the arsenal of the former Navy in 1902, but now, having exhibition spaces, a hall, and a café, it is a place of gathering.



Maizuru Crane Bridge

One of the largest cable-stayed bridges this side of Japan, the bridge is reminiscent of two cranes flying down to the sea

This is one of the largest cable-stayed bridges on the coast of the Sea of Japan. This bridge is 735 meters long across the Maizuru Bay and 95 meters high above the surface of the water. Its figure represents two cranes. At night, the illuminated bridge creates an air of fantasy.

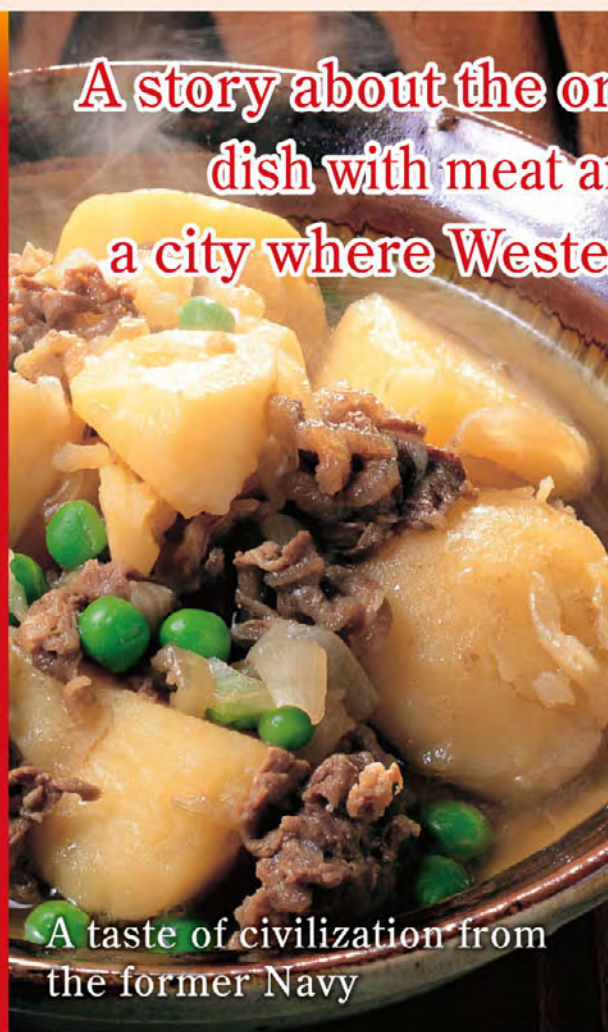
A splendid panoramic view, selected No.1 among the best 100 scenic sites in the Kinki region

On the top of Mt. Gorogadake, which is 301 meters above sea level, there is the 50 meter-high "Sky Tower". From the observation deck you can see a panoramic view of Maizuru Bay and the city. The magnificent view has been selected as the best of the 100 Great Sights of Kinki (Kansai) around Maizuru.



Goro Sky Tower

A story about the origin of nikujaga (a simmered dish with meat and potatoes) told in Maizuru, a city where Western dishes quickly took root.



A taste of civilization from the former Navy

General Heihachiro Tohgo, the first general of the Maizuru District Headquarters of the former Navy, is said to have created the original recipe of nikujaga by modifying the beef stew he had eaten when he studied in Portsmouth, U.K. Since then, nikujaga has become popular in Japan as a nutritious dish with a homemade taste. Delicious nikujaga based on the original recipe is available in Maizuru.

◎ Navy curry and rice

In the former Navy, curry and rice were served every weekend to keep a sense of the days of the week during long trips at sea. This tradition is carried on by the Maritime Self Defence Forces. They have curry and rice for lunch every Friday.



◎ Tango torigai (saltwater clam)

Tango torigai, carefully nurtured in Maizuru Bay, are not only large, but also have an excellent texture and sweet flavor.

◎ Iwagaki (oyster)

Often called the milk of the sea, oysters have a rich taste with a high nutritional value.



◎ Maizuru Iwagaki-Don and Kaki-Don

Maizuru iwagaki-don and kaki-don (oyster rice bowls) made with plenty of Maizuru Bay's nutrient rich oysters.



Maizuru handles 70 percent of seafood products in the Kyoto Prefecture and is Kyoto's No.1 fishing town.

◎ Maizuru Kamaboko

Maizuru's original method produces a delicate taste and soft yet chewy texture. It is a registered local brand.



City of Sea, Fish, and Kamaboko

◎ Maizuru Crab

There are good fishing grounds for "branded crabs" off the Tango Peninsula. The superior male snow crabs caught there, "Maizuru crabs" are called the "King of Winter Delicacies" because of their good figures and luxurious taste. You can also enjoy the unique taste of the less-known "Koppe-gani", or female snow crabs with eggs.

Registered regional collective trademark: No.2010-59027
Green tags stating "Kyoto" and the ship's name are attached to crabs caught by the fishing boats of Maizuru port.



A promotional character for Maizuru crabs, "Choki-maru"





Maizuru has magnificent nature, a fascinating history, and a precious cultural heritage. Here are some spots and events of interest.



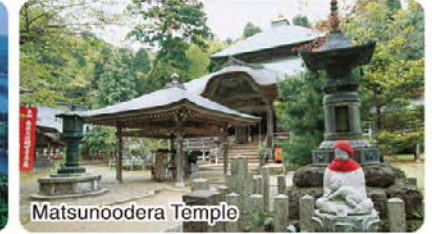
Repatriation Memorial Park



Pier of Repatriation



Goro Sky Tower



Matsunoodera Temple



Weeping Cherry Trees at Yoshida



Taneji Temple



Maizuru Akarenga (Red Brick) Park



Anju-hime's Grave

⑦ Maizuru Fururu Farm

This is a family oriented leisure farm abundantly blessed with nature. Surrounded by rich green woods, the recreational facility offers a farm restaurant, bread baking classes, and lodging cottages.

60 Sezaki, Maizuru / 0773-68-0233 / 9:00-17:00 / Closed: Every Tuesday / Admission free



① Ojoya Uenoke

This is a Japanese thatch-roofed folk house built in the late Edo Period (1603-1868). You can buy rice flour breads, experience soba-making, taste country cooking, and enjoy "Kuraten" exhibitions at an old warehouse.



285 Saihouji, Maizuru / 0773-83-1300 / 10:00-16:00 (Country cooking lunch: 11:00-14:00/by appointment only) / Closed: Every Wednesday / Admission free / Approx 20 min taxi ride from Nishi-Maizuru Sta.

② Michi-no-Eki (Roadside Station) Maizuru Tore Tore Center

You can enjoy shopping for fresh seafood caught in the Port of Maizuru, such as Maizuru crabs, rock oysters, and torigai. There are seafood restaurants in the center, and you can also have seafood sent to all over Japan.



905 Shimokita, Maizuru / 0773-75-6125 / Hours: 9:00-18:00 / Closed: Every Wednesday (If Wednesday is a holiday, the center opens on the holiday. It opens every day of the week from the late July to the middle of August and during the month of December.) / Approx 10 min bus ride on Oe route of Kyoto Kotsu from Nishi-Maizuru Sta. to "Maizuru Port Tore Tore Center" bus stop.

③ Tanabe Castle

Famous as the battlefield where Hosokawa Yusai, lord of Tanabe Castle, fought with a large army led by Ishida Mitsunari during the preliminary stages of the Battle of Sekigahara (1600).



15-22, Minami Tanabe, Maizuru / 0773-76-7211 (Tanabe Castle Museum) / Admission free / Hours: 9:00-17:00 / Closed: Every Monday and the next day of a national holiday (If Monday is a national holiday, two days later, Wednesday is closed too.)

④ Kongoin Temple

This temple is said to have been founded by Prince Takaoka at the beginning of the Heian period (794-1192). It is famous for the three-storied pagoda, selected as a national important cultural property, as well as its beautiful scenes of each of the four seasons such as autumn leaves and snowscape.



595 Kahara, Maizuru / 0773-62-1180 / Hours: 9:00-16:00 / Entrance fee: 200 yen, admission for the treasury: 500 yen / Appointment is necessary to see the treasury. / Approx 12 min bus ride on Takahama route of Kyoto Kotsu from Higashi-Maizuru Sta. to "Kahara" bus stop, and approx 10 min walk

⑤ "Toto-no-Ie" at Ryugu-hama Beach

A recreational spot and a dining place of delicious seafood. A base of exchange with local fishermen. You can enjoy barbecues and dragnet fishing with the local people. You can also visit the nearby Kanmuri Island for bird watching.



Ryugu-hama Beach, Obase, Maizuru / Approx. 35 min from Higashi-Maizuru JR station by bus; Closed: Tuesday

⑥ Maizuru Shinkai Park / El Mar Maizuru

This coastal park is located at the mouth of Maizuru Bay, where you can spend leisure time fishing, looking out over ships in the bay, etc. You can also enjoy a planetarium show at the ship-shaped PR hall "El Mar Maizuru" and the "black hash and rice" at the restaurant M's Deli.



Chitose, Maizuru / El Mar Maizuru: 0773-68-1090, 9:30-17:30 / M's Deli: 0773-68-1663, 10:00-21:00 / Closed: Every Wednesday (If Wednesday is a national holiday, the following Thursday.) / Admission free

Enjoy seasonal poetry and the colors of the town.

Maizuru Seasonal Event Calendar

April

Maizuru Azalea Festival (late April - early May)

The Azalea Festival is held at Higashi-Maizuru Park. You can see twenty-five thousand azaleas, the city flower, in full bloom.



June

Hydrangea Exhibition at Maizuru Shizen-Bunka-En (late June - early July)

Fifty thousand hydrangeas of fifty varieties in bloom.



July

Beach Opening (early July)

With the coming of summer, Kanzaki, Ryugu-hama, and Nohara beaches are opened for swimming.



August

Shourai-bune (Spirit Ship) at Obase, Maizuru (August 15)

An event to see off the spirits of ancestors in the sea. A prefecture-registered cultural property.



Yoshihara no Mandoro (Fire Festival) (August 16)

A mandoro lantern made of bamboo standing 18 meters tall with a maximum width of 5 meters is lit and people pray for safety in fishing.



October

Maizuru Fish Festival (the first Sunday of October)

An event of various seafood from Maizuru.



Akarenga Art and Craft Festa (mid October)

An event held at Akarenga Park. Food stands serve local products. Artworks and crafts are exhibited.

March

Camellia Exhibition at Maizuru Shizen-Bunka-En (Natural Culture Park) (mid March - mid April)

Thirty thousand camellias of one thousand five hundred varieties collected from all over the world are exhibited here.



May

Hotokemai (Buddha Dance) (May 8)

A traditional event handed down from the Edo period held at Matsunoodera Temple.



Tanabe Castle Festival (mid May) A warrior procession parades the streets. Traditional performing arts are staged on geiyatai (floats).



Age-Taimatsu (Torch-Hoisting Ritual) at Joya (August 14)

Small torches are thrown into a larger, 16 meter high torch. This is a traditional event handed down from over 400 years ago.

November

Yoshiwara no Tachifuri (Traditional Sword Practice Demonstration) (November 3)

Performing arts dedicated to Asashiro Shrine held once every four years.



Illuminated Akarenga Park



Spring

Cherry Blossoms at Tanabe Castle

Hosokawa Yusai was besieged in Tanabe Castle and fought against the army of Ishida Mitsunari during the preliminary stages of the Battle of Sekigahara. He is said to have had versatile abilities.



Summer

Minato Maizuru 'Chatta' Matsuri (late July)

A summer festival named after a word in Maizuru dialect meaning "have done".



Autumn

Autumn Leaves at Kongoin Temple

Kongoin is famous for its autumn leaves and snow scenery as well as its three-storied pagoda, recognized as a national important cultural property.



Winter

Winter Scenery of Maizuru Bay

The panoramic view, selected No.1 among the best 100 scenic sites in the Kinki region, is magnificent. Maizuru Bay and the city can be seen from the observation deck.

Access to Maizuru

