Journey Through Japanese Literature
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Literature is not just about reading. It also provides a space for cultural interaction. You are invited to journey through ancient and modern Japanese stories with your favorite work in hand.

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Kabukiza Culture Museum in Saitama Prefecture, home to the Bookshelf Theater pictured on the cover and other exhibitions.
©Kabukiza Culture Museum
Cover photo by RK/@rkrkrk

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niponica is published in Japanese and six other languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) to introduce to the world the people and culture of Japan today. The title niponica is derived from “Nippon,” the Japanese word for Japan.

Special Feature

Learn About the World’s Oldest Full-Length Novel

Where The Tale of Genji Comes Alive

Ningyo Joruri Tales Told in Puppet Theater

The Murakami Haruki Experience

A Playful World of Picture Books

Visit Anime Locations in Real Life

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Learn About the World’s Oldest Full-Length Novel

A masterpiece of dynastic literature in a romantic full-length novel by the 11th-century lady-in-waiting Murasaki Shikibu—Explore the appeal of a work of classic literature still read today as a refined example of Japanese aesthetics.

Kyoto flourished as a political and cultural center, reaching its peak during the Heian period (794–1185). As aristocratic society took root, the uniquely elegant dynastic culture of Japan blossomed.

It was at the peak of this golden age, in the early 11th century, that the world’s oldest extant full-length novel, *The Tale of Genji (Genji Monogatari)*, was written by author and noblewoman Murasaki Shikibu. The story centers on the life of prince Hikaru Genji, depicting the peaks and valleys of his life as he falls in love with woman after woman, rising to power within noble circles, and finally living out his later years in disappointment.

The work comprises 54 volumes, featuring over 500 characters and spanning 70 years in this fictional world. Murasaki Shikibu elegantly captures the comings and goings of court life on a grand scale. The novel has captivated generations of readers and has been translated into some 40 languages, beginning with an English translation done by a British literary scholar.

*The Tale of Genji* has also inspired derivations of many kinds throughout the ages. The best known of these are *Genji-e* ("Genji Scene") paintings. There are so many paintings from the Heian period to the present day which attempt to reproduce the world of this novel that they form their own genre. The novel also profoundly influenced subsequent performing arts such as the incense and tea ceremonies, as well as noh and kabuki theatre, and even today it features as the subject of anime and manga. It is no exaggeration that *The Tale of Genji* pioneered the mixed genre arts at which Japan has excelled in recent years.

Those who have the chance to visit the spots in Kyoto and elsewhere associated with the story, or to see *Genji-e* paintings and other art in person, will enjoy envisioning the world that unfolds in *The Tale of Genji*. The novel is a wonderful guide for exploring the soul of Japanese culture by pondering a dynasty from more than 1,000 years ago.
Where The Tale of Genji Comes Alive

Most of The Tale of Genji story unfolds in Kyoto. Many locations closely associated with the novel still exist today, and the most important of these is the Kyoto Imperial Palace. This ancient imperial palace, where the emperors of Japan resided and held court before the capital was moved to Tokyo in the 19th century, is the birthplace of Hikaru Genji and the setting of many of the dramas that take place in the novel. Although the Kyoto Imperial Palace as it stands today has been reconstructed, the architecture faithfully follows the Heian period style to preserve the courtly atmosphere of that time. There is no better spot to experience the ambience of The Tale of Genji so directly.

The Aoi Matsuri (Hollyhock Festival), held in early May, is a quintessential Kyoto festival highlighted by a procession of over 500 people dressed in Heian period court costume through the city streets. Officially known as the Kamo Festival, it is believed to have begun over 1,400 years ago, and it features in the Aoi chapter of The Tale of Genji.

Founded in the 8th century in Otsu City, Shiga Prefecture, Ishiyama-dera Temple is where Murasaki Shikibu is said to have stayed while working out her ideas for The Tale of Genji. The Room of Genji, where she is said to have written the novel, is still part of the temple’s main hall to this day. The Ishiyama-dera and Murasaki Shikibu Exhibition, held each spring and autumn, displays materials related to The Tale of Genji.

This art museum in Nagoya City in Aichi Prefecture is home to the oldest extant Genji Monogatari Emaki (The Tale of Genji Illustrated Scroll), created in the first half of the 12th century. Handed down by the Owari Tokugawa family for generations, the original manuscripts are exhibited here each year in November, and there is also an exhibition of gorgeous wedding ceremony furnishings inspired by The Tale of Genji.

Immerse Yourself in a 3D Genji World

This museum, themed after The Tale of Genji, is located in Uji City in Kyoto Prefecture, the main setting of the novel’s latter chapters, which are commonly referred to as “Uji Jujo,” or the “Ten Chapters of Uji.” The unique museum offers visitors an opportunity to learn firsthand about the world of The Tale of Genji via exhibits detailing court life and clothing of the nobles during that period.
Ningyo Joruri
Tales Told in Puppet Theater

Alongside noh and kabuki, ningyo joruri puppet narratives are one of the three major traditional Japanese performing arts. Dating back to the Edo period (1603–1868), the art of using puppets in storytelling has been passed down to present day Japan.

In this type of puppet theater, a performer called the tayu narrates the story, while the shamisen three-stringed lute paints the scene in sound and the puppets vividly move in time. Ningyo joruri is a uniquely Japanese collaborative performing art in which three performers work in perfect unison to tell the story.

The origins of these puppet narratives lie with katarimono, a style of storytelling in which verses are set to music. Initially accompanied by the biwa (plucked lute) and the clapping of fans, this art form shifted to joruri narratives sung to music in the 16th century when the shamisen (three-stringed fretless lute) was introduced. Ningyo joruri then came into being in the 17th century in Osaka when joruri blended with the puppet theater. Though the idea of the puppet show may bring to mind children’s stories, ningyo joruri has always been entertainment for adults. Many of the stories are based on historical tales and incidents, or the love between parent and child, or affection between man and woman, as in the masterpiece Sonezaki Shinju (“The Love Suicides at Sonezaki;” written by Chikamatsu Monzaemon; first performed in 1703), which is still popular today.

Ningyo joruri eventually spread from its birthplace in Osaka to rural towns across Japan. These performances were a particular hit in Tokushima Prefecture in the Shikoku region of Japan, where scores of theater troupes were formed in the Edo period and outdoor theaters for public performances were built on shrine grounds. More than 20 puppet theaters are still in existence today, with almost daily performances still held today at the Awa Jurobei Yashiki Theater in Tokushima City.

The story most often performed at this theater is based on a local family feud, and poignantly depicts the love between parent and child. In one scene, as mother and child are reunited, the puppet’s shoulders tremble slightly and she gently lifts her hand to her face in a gesture so realistic that the puppet appears to be shedding actual tears. What makes this realistic depiction possible is a unique method, unmatched anywhere else in the world, in which three different people manipulate a single puppet. Each puppeteer operates a different part of the puppet—the head and right hand, the left hand, or the legs—to achieve smooth, human-like movements with richly detailed gestures and emotions. The intonation of the narration by the tayu and the lingering notes of the shamisen add even more nuance. The voices, sounds, and movements of the puppets come together to create an exquisite world of puppetry.

You can find ningyo joruri performances not only in Tokushima Prefecture, but all over Japan. The puppet theater spins nuanced tales of the rich inner lives of the people, making for an unparalleled experience.
The Murakami Haruki Experience

A library dedicated to the globally renowned novelist, Murakami Haruki, has opened in Tokyo. From the architecture and furniture to each book on the shelves, this intoxicating space is filled with the best of Murakami literary inspiration.

Over his 40-year career as a writer, Murakami Haruki has produced numerous masterpieces, including *A Wild Sheep Chase* (*Hitsuji o Meguru Boken*), *Norwegian Wood* (*Noru-wei no Mori*), and *1Q84*. His novels have been translated into more than 50 languages. Fans around the world are fascinated by his uniquely sophisticated yet easy to read narratives.

Dedicated to bringing Murakami’s work closer to readers, the Waseda International House of Literature (The Haruki Murakami Library) opened in October 2021 at Waseda University, his alma mater, in Tokyo. Passing through the arched entrance, visitors come face-to-face with “stairway bookshelves” stacked with books lining either side of an atrium. The architect, Kuma Kengo, sees Murakami’s works as “a tunnel connecting reality and unreality,” and has designed the space accordingly, to give the visitor a sense of moving into the world of Murakami.

Descending into the basement, Murakami’s study with desk and chair has been reproduced in great detail, down to the size of the shelves and even his favorite pencils. This replica of the environment where Murakami creates his works is an ideal spot to come for some inspiration.

The first floor of the library is filled with rare first editions and translations of Murakami’s works in many different languages. Reading nooks are scattered throughout, inviting the visitor to pick up any book that catches the eye and settle in to a comfy spot to read. There is also an audio room, another great place to sit down for a read.

A jazz aficionado, Murakami has spoken publicly many times about the influence this music has had on his writing. He even ran a jazz bar called “peter-cat” at one time. Sitting down to read a favorite Murakami novel with an album from the author’s own vinyl collection playing on the sound system makes for a truly special time.

The facilities also feature a student-run cafe and research lab for meetings and events. More than simply a Murakami archive, the library reflects the author’s intention to foster spaces for human connection. It offers a comfortable place for all kinds of people to immerse themselves in the atmosphere of Murakami’s world and enjoy some conversation about the fascination of literature.

I think stories are a universal language. And stories are also the essence of a novel. So, through novels, we should be able to converse with so many people around the world and understand each other. We planned the Waseda International House of Literature with the idea that it could be a center for this sort of thing. My hope is that a lot of people will feel free to use it.

Murakami Haruki
The people of Japan naturally love picture books. Not only children but adults, too, are fascinated by the depiction of unique themes in easily understood text and humorous pictures. Large cities in Japan abound with specialty shops offering a wide variety of products based on popular picture books. Delve into the colorful world of Japanese picture books loved by readers around the globe.

**Photos: Kurihara Osamu**

**Top left:** Shops specializing in picture books can be found throughout Tokyo, and some even offer cafe space, as well. Book House Cafe in Jimbocho (1, 2) boasts a collection of 10,000 books and a cafe with a ceiling painted with the sun and moon, while crayonhouse in Asakusa features lush greenery in front of the entrance (3).

**Above left:** Shinkuma’s Hotcakes tote bag and socks

**Right:** Masking tape and t-shirt with The Goldfish Got Away illustration

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**Guri and Guru (Guri to Guru)**

*Text and illustrations by Gomi Taro; published by Bronze Publishing Inc.*

The story of Guri and Guru, two wild mice, who make a sponge cake from a large egg they find in the forest. German edition pictured. Translated into 12 languages to date.

**Scribbles: A Really Giant Drawing and Coloring Book (Rakugaki Ehon Gomi Taro 50%)**

*Text and illustrations by Gomi Taro; published by Bronze Publishing Inc.*

A picture book for the reader to scribble in. Add whatever you wish to the illustrations and text. Spanish edition pictured. Translated into 17 languages to date.

**Polar Bear’s Underwear (Shirokuma no Pantsu)**

*Text and illustrations by tupera tupera; published by Bronze Publishing Inc.*

A white bear has lost his underwear and searches for it with the help of a mouse. The removable dust cover in the shape of red underwear is an amusing touch. Italian edition pictured. Translated into 11 languages to date.

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*Text and illustrations by Wakayama Ken; published by Koguma Publishing Co., Ltd.*

A little white bear tries his hand at making pancakes with his mother. Chinese edition pictured. Other languages include Korean.

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Anime fans are making the trek to destinations that appear in popular films and television series. If you pay a visit to one of these places, you may even find yourself in one of your favorite scenes.

**Hyouka**

*Miyagawa Asaichi Market Street (Takayama City, Gifu Prefecture)*

Produced in 2012, the mystery series *Hyouka* features a group of four high school students who solve mysteries that unfold around them. Set in Gifu Prefecture’s Takayama City, where the author of the original novel, Yonezawa Honobu was born, the series carefully depicts the atmosphere of the town and its traditional buildings in great detail. The photo shows the site of the morning market, Miyagawa Asaichi Market Street on the bank of Miyagawa River, which flows through the city center. © Yonezawa Honobu/KADOKAWA CORPORATION/Kamiyama Koko Kotenbu Alumni Association

**Chihayafuru**

*Omi Jingu Shrine (Otsu City, Shiga Prefecture)*

Airing in 2011, the television series centers on the world of karuta, traditional Japanese competitive card games. It follows a young protagonist, who aims to become the highest-ranking female karuta player, and explores her relationships and conflicts with friends. The detailed focus on such Japanese traditions as waka poems and kimono are part of the series’ appeal. The setting is Omi Jingu, a shrine dedicated to Emperor Tenji—an emperor deeply associated with karuta. The shrine still hosts karuta tournaments today. © Suetsugu Yuki/KODANSHA LTD/VAP/NTV

**Laid-Back Camp (Yurukyan)**

*Lake Motosuko (Minobu Town, Yamanashi Prefecture)*

Produced in 2018, the series is a gently unfolding depiction of a group of high school girls as they camp and go about their daily lives in Yamanashi Prefecture. The natural scenery and townscapes around Yamanashi Prefecture are depicted beautifully, and the story introduces all things camp-related, including camping etiquette and how to use the great. The Koan Campsite overlooking Mount Fuji and Lake Motosuko is pictured here. © Afro, HOUBUNSHA Co., Ltd. / Yagai Katsudo Circle Photo courtesy of Mt. Fuji Yamanashi Film Commission

**Anohana: The Flower We Saw That Day (Anohi Mita Hana no Namae o Bokutachi wa Mada Shiranai)**

*Old Chichibu Bridge (Chichibu City, Saitama Prefecture)*

The story of five former friends overcoming conflicts to reunite when the ghost of their childhood friend appears to them. The work is set in Chichibu City in Saitama Prefecture and features many of the city’s actual buildings and landscapes. The photo shows the old Chichibu Bridge, a city symbol that opened in 1931. © ANOHANA PROJECT
Animated Characters on the Streets of Japan

Across the country, manga, anime, and movie characters have leapt off the page and onto the street as symbols of the local communities that love them.

**Pokémon**
From video games to anime to trading cards, the unique and familiar characters from the ever-popular Pokémon series now appear on manhole covers across Japan. There is Greninja in Koka City, Shiga Prefecture, as well as Pikachu in Yokohama City, and many other Pokémon characters in cities throughout the country.

**Galaxy Express 999 (Ginga Tetsudo 999)**
The science fiction manga Galaxy Express 999 tells the story of two protagonists, a boy named Hoshino Tetsuro (right) and a mysterious lady Maetel (left), who travel through space in search of a mechanized body for the boy. Statues of the two stand outside of Kokura Station in Fukuoka Prefecture’s Kitakyushu, the birthplace of the author, Matsumoto Leiji.

**ONE PIECE**
Luffy, the ONE PIECE protagonist who strikes out on adventures with dreams of becoming the Pirate King, cheers for Kumamoto, the city hit by a massive earthquake in 2016. As part of the ONE PIECE Kanmatsuri Project, statues of many different characters appear throughout Kumamoto Prefecture, including this one of Luffy in Kumamoto City.

**Case Closed**
This manga series follows the sociable young detective Conan and his ad- ventures as he solves crimes and helps the talented soccer goalie Wakabayashi Genzo. A statue of Conan stands in Tokyo’s Katsushika, the hometown of the author, Takahashi Yoichi.

**Mobile Suit Gundam (Kido Senshi Gandamu)**
Mobile Suit Gundam is the story of Amuro, a young man with a mobile suit called Gundam, and his companions who grow through battles with their nemesis, Char. Visitors to Yokohama in Kanagawa Prefecture can, for a limited time, catch sight of a standing life-sized Gundam that moves. Scheduled for public viewing until March 31, 2023.

**Ultraman**
Ultraman, who came from the distant M78 universe to keep peace in the universe, is still on duty in Sukagawa, Fukushima Prefecture. The birthplace of the hero’s creator, Tsuburaya Eiji, is also home to the Eiji Tsuburaya Museum, which presents the director’s achievements and appeal.

**Godzilla**
Godzilla, an enormous monster that emerges from the sea to destroy cities, can be seen in Shinjuku, Tokyo. Godzilla’s head appears among a group of buildings, a powerful image of a monster seemingly still bent on destruction today.

**Doraemon**
This Fujiko F. Fujio masterpiece depicts the daily life of a cat-shaped robot from the 22nd century, Doraemon, and an elementary school boy named Nobita. The vacant lot from the series has been recreated in Fujiko’s hometown of Takaoka, Toyama Prefecture.

**Captain Tsubasa**
This manga series follows the soccer-loving Ozora Tsubasa and his adventures on the world stage with the talented soccer goalie Wakabayashi Genzo. A statue of Tsubasa stands in Tokyo’s Katsushika, the hometown of the author, Takahashi Yoichi.

**Tokyo**

**Fukuoka**

**Kumamoto**

**Kanagawa**

**Shiga**

**Tottori**

**Fukushima**

**Toyama**

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© Matsumoto Leiji/Leiji-sha

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© Oda Eiichiro/Shueisha Inc.

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© Aoyama Gosho/SHOGAKUKAN Inc.

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© TSUBURAYA PRODUCTIONS Co., Ltd.

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© Fujiko F. Fujio Production
Castella

A Baked Confection Born in a Port Town and Loved by a Literary Giant

Photos: Arai Akiko

Castella, a sponge-cake-like confection made with flour, eggs, and sugar, is baked in a square mold and generally sold in boxes, cut into about 3-cm wide slices for eating. Castella originated in Nagasaki Prefecture in Japan’s Kyushu region. Situated at the western tip of the country, Nagasaki opened as a trading port in the late 16th century and remained the only gateway for trade during the Tokugawa shogunate when foreign traffic and trade were restricted.

Although this delicate cake is said to have come from a confection introduced by Portuguese missionaries around the 16th century, there is actually no Portuguese sweet called “castella.” Some trace its origins to Portugal’s pão de ló, and others to bizcocho from Spain. Whatever the case, castella has been baked in Nagasaki since the 1620s, and from there it spread to the rest of Japan.

One literary figure closely associated with castella is Natsume Soseki (1867–1916), the author known as the father of modernism in Japanese literature. Born when Japan was beginning to move forward as a modern nation, Soseki’s works reflect the conflicts inherent to the rapid westernization of Japan. Apparently, Soseki had a real sweet tooth, and castella features in several of his novels. His masterpiece, *I Am a Cat (Wagahai wa Neko de Aru)*, features a humorous scene written from the cat’s point of view of a young guest who secretly gobbles up a slice of castella while the master of the house is away from the table.

Soseki even writes in his diary about receiving castella as a gift during a visit with a friend in Kyoto: “Peering up at the five-storied pagoda against the warm spring sky, Wandering with a heart, and a pocket, full of castella.” This diary entry conjures up a sweetly comical image of Soseki chattering his favorite treat as he walks the streets of the ancient capital, which is bound to bring a smile.

Nakagawa Yasuhide, the president of Bunmeido Sohonten, a confectionary shop with a long history in Nagasaki, says that the traditional cake did not taste the way it does today until the late 19th century, when sweet mizuame syrup was added to the ingredients. “Adding syrup makes the batter moist. Japanese people tend to dislike a dry texture. By adding mizuame, castella, a sweet that we adapted from Europe, became a Japanese confection,” he says. To ensure moistness, the batter is stirred several times, even during baking. This allows the cake to cook evenly and have a moister texture.

Still a common gift and souvenir in Japan today, castella has remained consistently popular despite the usual booms and busts in popularity that most sweets endure. Confections and literature imbued with historical crossroads never grow old and will continue to fascinate the people of Japan.
Matsuyama has long flourished as the home of Japan’s oldest and most famous hot springs, as well as a mecca for literature as the birthplace of haiku poet Masaoka Shiki. Here, words and thermal waters bubble to the surface, inviting the visitor to slow down and enjoy the moment.

Photos: Kurihara Osamu, PIXTA, photoslibrary

1. Dogo Onsen Honkan public bathhouse, said to be one of the models for the bathhouse in the Studio Ghibli animated film *Spirited Away* (Sen to Chihiro no Kamikakushi).

Exterior during the Dogo Onsen-Phoenix collaboration Dogo REBORN Project. Project has ended, and exterior has changed.

2. The Kaminoyu (spring of the gods) bath at Dogo Onsen Honkan. The ceramic tile mosaic on the wall features a pair of egrets.

(Photos: Matsuyama City)

3. San-Railway trams run through the city. Some are modeled after steam locomotives.

4. A statue of an egret on the roof of the Dogo Onsen Honkan. The bird has become a symbol of this hot spring, as legend has it that a wounded egret was healed by the hot spring waters here.

(Photos: Matsuyama City)

5. Botchan dango dumplings named for the Natsume Soseki novel Botchan, which is set in Matsuyama.
Located in Ehime Prefecture, Matsuyama is the largest city on the southwestern island of Shikoku. Thanks to the calm climate year-round, streetcars running slowly through the town center are an everyday sight in this quaint, peaceful city, which is laid out around Matsuyama Castle, constructed during the Edo period (1603–1868).

Any mention of Matsuyama must include Dogo Onsen, the signature hot spring of this city. Appearing in Japan’s oldest history book, *The Chronicles of Japan* (*Nihon Shoki*), and in The Tale of Genji (*Genji Monogatari*) written in the 11th century (see page 4), this hot spring has a very long history. Today, visitors still enjoy the famous Dogo Onsen Honkan public bathhouse along with other bathhouses and footbaths that dot the landscape.

Strolling through the city, haiku monuments (stone monuments carved with haiku poems) are also a common sight. This is because Matsuyama is called the haiku capital of Japan, given that this is the birthplace of Masaoka Shiki, a famous poet who created new trends in haiku in the Meiji period (1868–1912). Haiku is a standardized form of poetry originating in Japan, with 17 syllables in three lines of five, seven, and five syllables, respectively. Haiku makes generous use of *kigo* (words or phrases associated with a particular season). Haiku invites the reader to ponder the changing of the seasons and tune into the ephemeral emotions of the fleeting moment. One of the world’s shortest forms of poetry, haiku has found popularity among the younger generations as well, as a way to express one’s heart simply.

If reading haiku is interesting, composing one is even more fun. The rule of 17 syllables is the same in any language. Look around you and try to describe the scenery in words that evoke the season. Write your own haiku and place it in one of Matsuyama’s many haiku post boxes.

Submit haiku are reviewed by a selection committee, and winning prizes so definitely give it a try!

The Tsubaki Matsuri (Camellia Festival), held around February, is a tradition eagerly anticipated by locals for its delicious broth. The restaurant typically serves three noodle dishes with *mizutsudo* (fried tofu pouches stuffed with sushi rice), at left.

Tai-meshi cooked in an earthenware pot at the restaurant Aka.

If you like sweets, you may want to indulge in the famous *unshiu mikan* juices, in *Iyo*.

The restaurant serves up juice freshly squeezed from this local fruit known for its perfect balance of sweet and tart citrus flavor. Another signature dish is *Nabeyaki udon* (squeezed from this local fruit known for its perfect balance of sweet and tart citrus flavor. Another signature dish is *Nabeyaki udon*.

Shimonada Station on the JR Shikoku Yosan line stands on the Seto Inland Sea coast.

The Chronicles of Japan (*Nihon Shoki*), a history book, is one of the largest producers in Japan of *mikan*, famous for its perfect balance of sweet and tart citrus flavor. Another signature dish is *Nabeyaki udon*.

Savor the sights and flavors of a stroll around town, and commemorate that unforgettable moment in a haiku for an extra-special memory of your trip to Matsuyama.

**Map of Matsuyama Area**

- Dogo Onsen Honkan
- Matsuyama Castle
- Iyozu-hiko-no-Mikoto Shrine
- Kotori
- 10FACTORY
- Aka

• **Access**
From Kansai Airport, Matsuyama Airport is about 1.5 hours by air. From Matsuyama Airport, Matsuyama Station is about 15 minutes by bus.

• **Contact information**
The Official Website of Tourism Matsuyama https://ja.matsuyama-sightseeing.com/
Write in your journal or compose a letter to a friend with a truly special pen and ink. These days, when writing with digital devices has become the norm, more and more people are finding joy in writing letters by hand. Glass pens take these special moments to the next level.

A writing implement with a glass nib dipped in ink, this pen is more than merely a beautiful instrument. Gliding effortlessly over paper and retaining ink well, it is also eminently practical. Simply rinse the nib in water and wipe dry to easily switch between a variety of different colored inks to suit your mood or purpose. Watching the nib take on a vivid color as the grooves draw in the ink is yet another delight of using a glass pen.

The invention of this writing implement is attributed to a wind chime maker in Japan in the early 20th century. At first, only the nib was made of glass. Eventually, though, the body too became glass, and these pens became known as writing tools as beautiful as any work of art. Each pen is handcrafted by a master—no two are exactly the same shape or color. Find a special glass pen that catches your eye and is a joy to hold—you may have a companion for life.

Cooperation: Glass Studio Kasho