

Bicycles

Visitors quickly notice that cycling is essential to life in Onomichi (Hiroshima Prefecture), Imabari (Ehime Prefecture), and all the islands along the Shimanami Kaido expressway. Bicycles have been a major method of transport for local residents for generations, and for tourists there is no better way to savor the atmosphere of these laid-back seaside communities. Since the Shimanami Kaido expressway opened in 1999 the area has become a favorite spot for cyclists from Japan and the rest of the world thanks to its beautiful scenery, the number of bike paths, and the many fascinating local attractions. Cyclists riding the Shimanami Kaido will find cycle rental stations dotted all along the route, with roughly 140 designated Cycle Oasis rest stops.

In Onomichi, visitors see bicycles parked everywhere, on the *tosen* (ferries), inside hotels, and even outside shops and cafés. There are many bicycle rental shops, including the Giant store at Onomichi U2 and Onomichi Station, Red Bicycles Onomichi, and Better Bicycles.