

## **Miyajima Aquarium: Seto Inland Sea**

Miyajima is one of nearly 700 islands in the Seto Inland Sea, located close to land in Hiroshima Bay. The island has been considered a sacred place since ancient times and has always been sparsely populated. As a result, Miyajima is relatively unspoiled, making it a good example of what Japan's environment looked like prior to industrialization.

At Miyajima Aquarium, visitors can see detailed re-creations of the island's immediate surroundings as well as the broader ecosystems of the Seto Inland Sea and its relationship with the mainland. Each tank shows a different part of the sea, from the shoreline and the surface to the depths and the seabed.

The Seto Inland Sea supports more than 430 marine species. Many of the sea creatures on display at the aquarium are visible around Miyajima as well. For example, watching for the native finless porpoises is a popular pastime on the ferry to and from the island. Meanwhile, horseshoe crabs and pufferfish can sometimes be seen closer to the coast. The aquarium's largest tank, which visitors can walk under, contains creatures that casual swimmers are less likely to encounter, including stingrays and even some small reef sharks.