

Technical Visit Program (Provisional Plan)

This technical visit introduces participants to the natural environment, cultural heritage, and traditional industries of the Shimane–Okuizumo region. The program combines ecological learning, cultural landscape observation, and exposure to traditional ironmaking technology unique to Japan.

1. Lake Shinji Nature Museum “Gobius” (Approx. 1 hour)

The Lake Shinji Nature Museum, known as “Gobius,” is an interactive aquarium established by Shimane Prefecture to promote understanding of local ecosystems. Through exhibits of aquatic species inhabiting nearby environments, participants can learn about the ecological characteristics of Lake Shinji and Nakaumi, which were designated as Ramsar wetlands in 2005. The visit highlights regional efforts toward wetland conservation and environmental management.

2. Kamedake Onsen Gyokuhō Sansō — Lunch (Approx. 1 hour)

Participants will enjoy a seasonal lunch featuring regional specialties such as Nita rice and Shimane Wagyu beef. This provides an opportunity to experience local food culture shaped by the region’s natural resources.

3. Nittoho Tataro Ironmaking Facility (Torikami Plant) (Approx. 1 hour)

This facility is the only remaining site in Japan producing *tamahagane*, the traditional steel used in Japanese swordmaking. Operated by the Society for Preservation of Japanese Art Swords with support from the Agency for Cultural Affairs, the plant preserves centuries-old tataro ironmaking techniques. The visit offers insight into traditional resource use, metallurgy, and cultural heritage preservation.

4. Ōhara Shinden Rice Terraces (Approx. 30 minutes)

Designated as one of Japan’s “Top 100 Rice Terraces,” this landscape represents a historical agricultural system shaped by local communities. It is also part of the nationally recognized Important Cultural Landscape associated with tataro iron production and traditional land use. Participants will observe how agriculture and cultural heritage are integrated within the regional environment.

Itinerary (Tentative)

Departure: Matsue area → Gobius → Lunch → Tataro Ironmaking Facility → Rice Terraces
→ Transfer to Izumo Airport / JR Matsue Station / Yonago Airport