

Visit Mie: what to do and see in the hidden gems

Mie is a prefecture lesser known to foreign tourists, yet it is a region that has much to offer for the nature lovers and slow-paced tourists , as [Comunicación Iberoamericana](#) recommends

Mie has retained a strong tradition of welcoming visitors. Below 5 experiences to enjoy the prefecture.

Ise and Matsusaka

The small town of Ise is best known as the home of the Ise Jingu shrine, a legendary Shinto shrine. While in town, take the opportunity to stroll through the small historic district of Oharai-machi and Okage-yokocho. In addition, Matsusaka is a charming city to be discovered on foot to stroll along the old streets and to discover a variety of craft shops. Take a break to taste the famous Matsuzaka beef, one of the best Japanese Wagyu. Then head to Matsusaka Castle and visit the Museum of Motoori Norinaga.

The coastal area

A 30-minute drive from Ise, discover a secluded spot in the middle of nature: Shirataki Daimyoin. Between the trees winds a stream fed by a waterfall, on either side of the bank small huts are installed that are used as sauna. The place still remains a secret, but is gaining in popularity, as it offers a complete experience to recharge your batteries away from the worries of everyday life.

Unique experiences

The prefecture has many culinary assets such as *katsuobushi*. This dried and smoked bonito fish is used in the preparation of dashi, a traditional broth with a unique taste that is a must in Japanese gastronomy. Visit the 100-year-old smoking workshop and learn more about it. Another unique experience in Mie is the making of pearl jewelry. In the pearl house in a small cove, the long process of breeding pearl oysters and harvesting pearls will be explained to you.

Tomoyama Park

This park offers several trails, a magical view of Ago Bay and the many uninhabited islands that dot the sea and, also, a variety of outdoor activity programs with an eco-tourism theme.

Excursions on islands

Watakanoshima, the heart-shaped island, is the ideal refuge for a weekend of disconnect. Enjoy the beach, picnics and afternoon sports or just pure relaxation. Much further north, explore Kamishima, a little jewel lost in the middle of the water that you will have to earn.
