



A painting of the daimyo procession of the Tsuyama clan displayed on the wall of the entrance corridor.

## Bito Tsuyama-an Bettei

A renovated townhouse available to rent in Tsuyama, a city with an Edo-period townscape.

The area around Tsuyama City in Okayama can trace its history back more than 1,300 years. It flourished as a post station for people traveling to and from Izumo Province (present-day Shimane Prefecture) and Yamato Province (present-day Nara Prefecture). When Tsuyama Castle was built in 1603, a castle town grew around it. Even now, in addition to the castle ruins, a large number of shrines, temples, samurai residences, and townhouses still exist in the area.

Bito Tsuyama-an Bettei is a luxury renovated townhouse for rent that stands on Izumo Kaido, a street lined with historic buildings. When you enter the building through the noren curtain, the corridor wall is adorned with a stunning six-meter-long painting of the procession of the Tsuyama clan. The first floor is a modern space featuring walls decorated with Yokonowashi, a famous Japanese paper produced in Tsuyama, a crimson artwork by the sculptor Kiyoyuki Kikutake, and an expansive wooden deck. The kitchen is equipped with a refrigerator and various cooking utensils, while the bathroom features a jetted tub, a mist sauna, and a full-body shower system. The second floor consists of tastefully designed Japanese-style rooms which retain the building's original alcoves and windows. The townhouse can sleep up to eight people.

The former Mimasaka Province, which was controlled by Tsuyama Domain, was established in 713. Kyoto was established as the capital of Japan in 794. Mimasaka Province was therefore established before Kyoto. Famous people from the area include Honen, the founder of Jodo Buddhism, and Miyamoto Musashi; notable contemporaries include Koshi Inaba of the rock band B'z, and Masashi Kishimoto, creator of the ninja manga NARUTO.



1. The living room is tastefully decorated with carefully selected furnishings, featuring red artwork, Yokono washi paper on the walls, and Persian Gabbeh rugs. 2. "Bito" means "beautiful city." The name "Bito" and its logo were designed by Matudaira Yoshiko, a descendant of the Mito Tokugawa family. 3. A Japanese-style room on the second floor; its arched ceiling is created using the "mukuri-tenjo" architectural technique. 4. A bedroom. 5. The walls and wood deck were made using Japanese cypress grown in Tsuyama; the wall is decorated with a depiction of Tsuyama Castle.

The Tsuyama clan were relatives of the Tokugawa clan, and the domain therefore fell under the protection of the Tokugawa shogunate. When Matthew Perry, admiral of the U.S. fleet came to Japan to demand an end to its isolationist foreign policy, it was Mitsukuri Genpo of Tsuyama Domain who acted as interpreter. Udagawa Yoan, another employee of Tsuyama Domain, translated various Western medical and science texts into Japanese. He devised numerous kanji terms for Western ideas, such as "coffee," "hydrogen," "gas," and "spleen." The Tsuyama Domain was a region well-versed in Western languages and academic disciplines, producing many individuals who laid the foundations for Japan's modernization. The inaugural presidents of the University of Tokyo, Kyoto University, and Waseda University all hailed from Tsuyama.

With its extant Edo townscapes, Tsuyama city is a historic region that not well known even among Japanese people. Visitors to the Tsuyama city are invited to make a reservation at Bito Tsuyama-an Bettei.

### Bito Tsuyama-an Bettei

+81-868-20-1781 \*Phone connect to "Bito Tsuyama-an Honkan"  
76-2 Nishishin-machi, Tsuyama City, OKAYAMA Pref.  
Room rate: From ¥75,000/ 2 persons per night, no meal  
\*From 3 persons, additional charge ¥10,000/ 1 person, up to 8 persons  
Official site: <https://bitotsuyama.com/bettei>  
\*There is also a special plan to guide you through the history of Tsuyama

### Bito Tsuyama-an Honkan

+81-868-20-1781 \*Phone number is common  
8-1 Nakano-cho, Tsuyama City. \*About 300m from the Bettei  
Official site: <https://www.bitotsuyama.com>



Bito Tsuyama-an Bettei



Bito Tsuyama-an Honkan



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