

## Optional Tour for APMC 2014

### ■Matsushima Half Day

**Date & Time** : Thursday, 6.Nov, 2014, 13:00 – 17:00

**Price** : JPY7,000 per person

#### **Tour Description (Highlights)**

Matsushima, a small bay dotted with more than 260 islands beautifully covered with evergreens, is one of Japan's celebrated Three Views.

**Matsushima** : Matsushima, a small bay dotted with more than 260 islands beautifully covered with evergreens, is one of Japan's celebrated Three Views. Poems have been composed on Matsushima since olden days. "Matsushima is the most scenic place in Japan," wrote Matsuo Basho, the master haiku poet. "... Some islands soar, pointing to the heavens, while others crouch, creeping on the waves....The pines are deep green, and their branches and needles have been bent by exposure to the sea breeze....The landscape is enchanting, like an embellished beauty's face." Matsushima's fame as a place of rare beauty is enhanced by Zuigan-ji, a family temple of the Date, the lords of Sendai Domain.

**Zuigan-ji** : Zuiganji, situated on the shore of Matsushima Bay, is the Tohoku region's most famous Zen temple of the Rinzaï sect. The temple was originally built in 828 by Jikaku Daishi. However, the present building was constructed by Date Masamune in 1609. In contrast to the temple exterior, which expresses the tranquility of Zen Buddhism, the interior is brilliantly ornamented. This harmonious union of opposites is typical of Azuchi-Momoyama culture. The temple's Godaido hall sits on a rocky islet just off shore. In 1611 Sebastian Vizcaino, a Spanish envoy to Japan, described Zuiganji thus: "...It is of the most exquisite carving and craftsmanship. As the Escorial stands unequalled among the stone buildings of the world, so too does this temple among wooden buildings.

**Guide** : English-speaking guide service is included

**Meals** : Excluded

**Transportation** : Motor Coach

**Where to apply:** Travel Desk at Sendai International Center (2F)

**Application Deadline:** 17:00pm on 5.November