Cultivating Minds through Literature

City of Literature
OKAYAMA

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Member of
the Creative Cities Network

10th February, 2026 Masaaki Nagareo

Cultural Promotion Devision, Okayama City

1. Location & Venue

2. ”8 Facts” of Okayama as City of Literature

3. “8 Initiatives” of Okayama as City of Literature

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Profile of Okayama City

- Area: 789 ㎢
- Population: 712,940
- 10 Universities and 3 Junior Colleges with 30,000 students

Okayama is located between Osaka and Hiroshima.

1,700 municipalities in Japan

20 Government-Designated cities
(over 500K population group)
Sapporo (Media arts), Hamamatsu (Music), Nagoya(Design), Kyoto, Osaka, Kobe(Design), Okayama(Literature), Hiroshima, Fukuoka and 12 more cities

62 Core cities
(over 200K population group)
Asahikawa (Design), Yamagata(Movie), Kanazawa(Craft & Folkarts), Otsu, Kurashiki, Takamatsu and 57 more cities

Other Cities
Tsuruoka, Usuki (Food), Echizen, Tanba-sasayama (Crafts & Folkarts)

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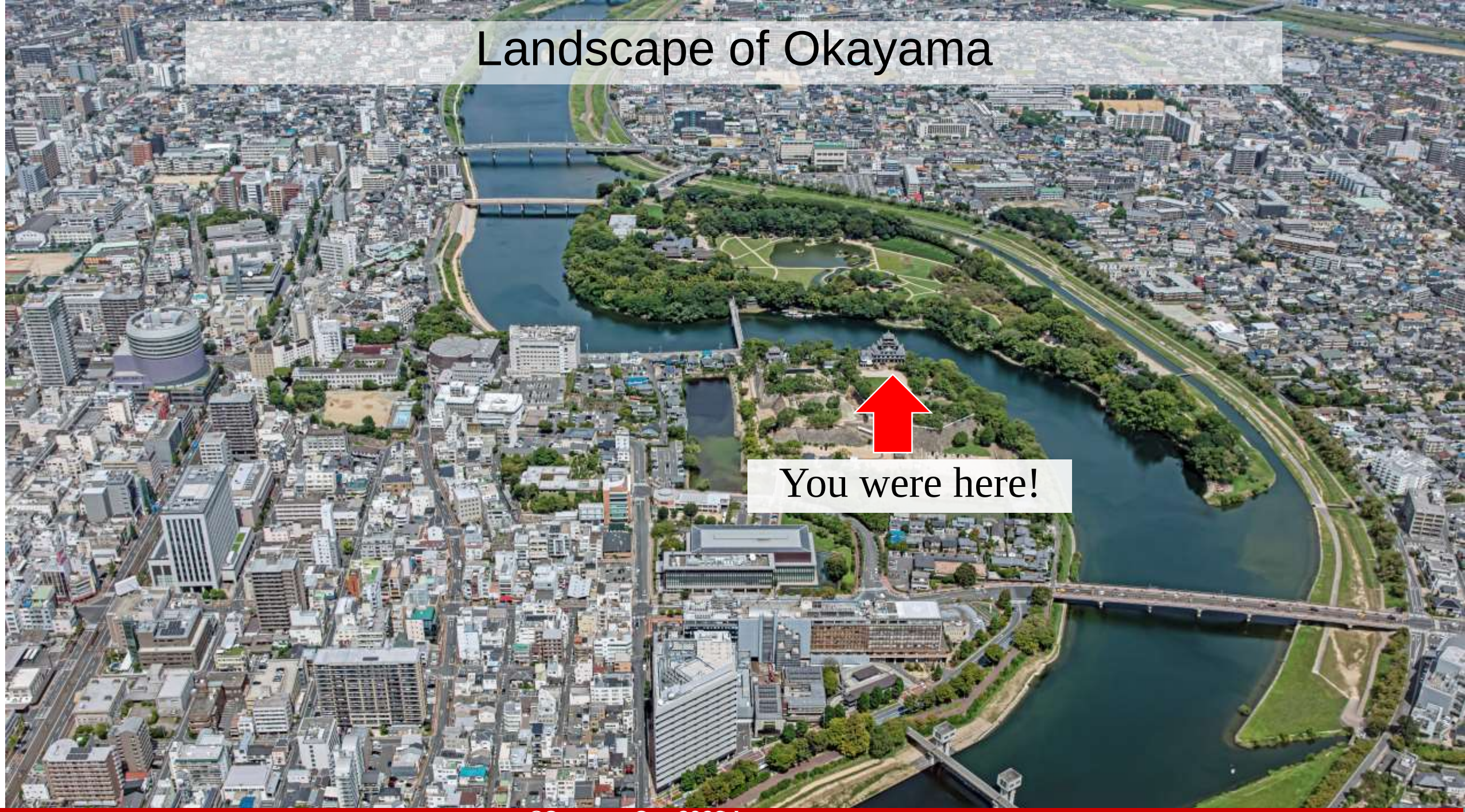
Landscape of Okayama



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Okayama Castle & Asahi River

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Okayama Convention Center

◀ Main Hall

Okayama Convention Center is located in front of Okayama Station. 2 halls and 9 conference rooms are efficient for the conference. The facilities of the rooms equipped with and audio/visual system, streaming equipment and free Wi-Fi connection for participants.

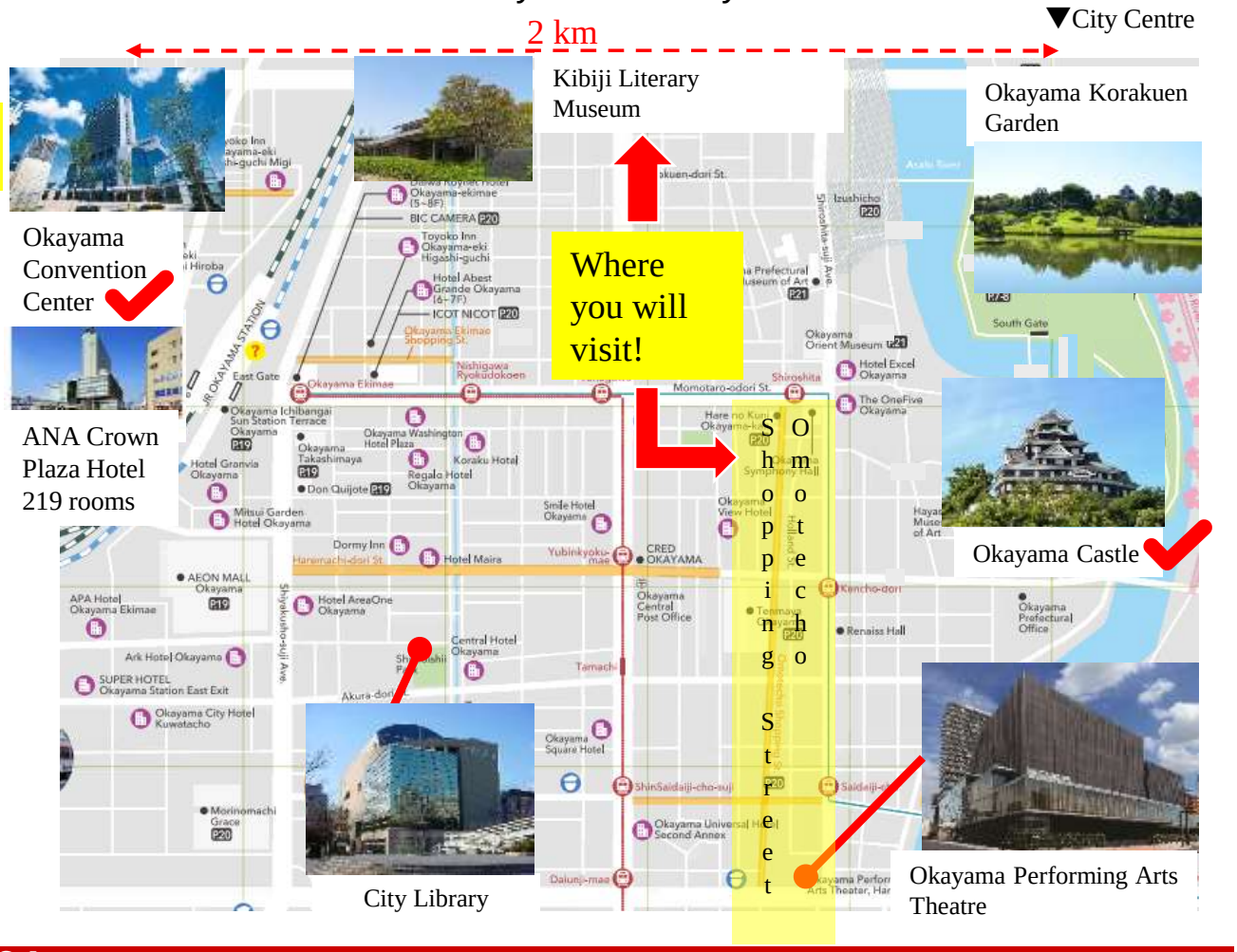
◀ Conference Room

Rooms	Capacity
Convention Hall	432
Event Hall	378
Conference Rooms	30-80 each

Location & Accommodation

It takes only 30 minutes from Okayama Airport to downtown by bus. It is just 5 minutes walk from Okayama Station to the conference venue.

Okayama is a compact city with concentrated urban functions. The conference venue is within walking distance from your accommodation, and excursions can be smoothly accessed by tram or bus.



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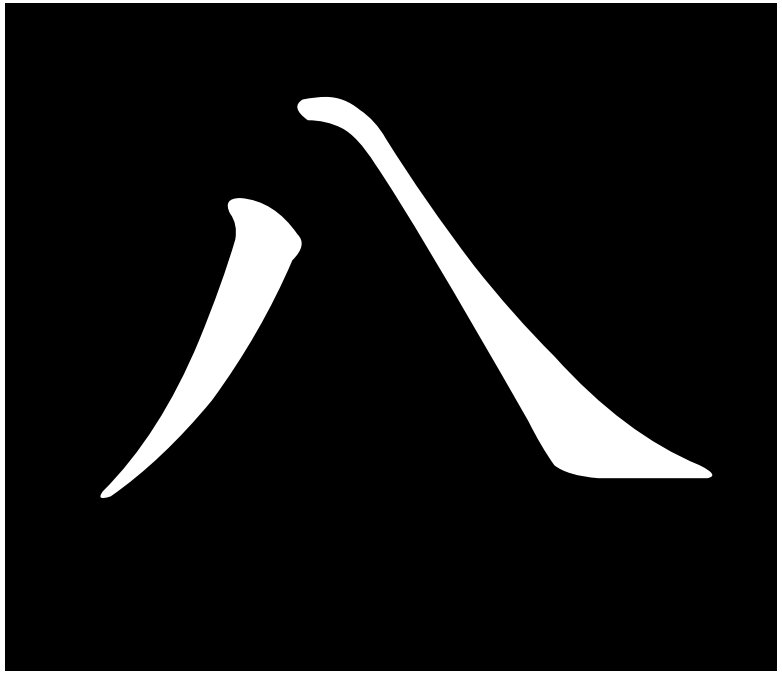
Meaning of “8” in Japanese

8 = Eight = 八 = はち = Hachi



- The shape of eight in Kanji, Japanese unique character, is the symbol of expanding.
- This character makes us feel widening something, growing good fortune, happiness and prosperity.
- Eight is a lucky number for Japanese.

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“8 Facts” of Okayama

1. Hometown of the most famous folktale in Japan

2. Okayama area appeared in a book in 8th Century

3. 30,000+ books in a Library in 18th Century

4. Okayama City Library was first built with a Donation

5. 40 years history of Okayama City Literary Award

6. 125 Librarians at all the Public Schools

7. Active Libraries

8. Okayama related Authors

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1. Hometown of Momotaro, the most famous folktale in Japan

Story of “Momotaro”
“Momotaro,” or ”Peach Boy,” is a famous Japanese folktale.
An old woman found a giant peach floating down the river, and when she and her husband cut it open, a baby boy jumped out.
They named him Momotaro and raised him with love.
As he grew into a strong young man, he decided to travel to Onigashima (Demon Island) to defeat the ogres who had been terrorizing the land.
On his journey, Momotaro met a dog, a monkey, and a pheasant.
He shared millet dumplings with them, and they agreed to join him as loyal companions. Together, they sailed to the Damon Island, fought the ogres, and won.
The ogres surrendered and handed over their stolen treasures.
Momotaro returned home triumphantly with his animal friends, bringing peace and prosperity back to his village. And they lived happily ever after…

Okayama is said to be the hometown of story of Momotaro.

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2. Okayama area appeared in a book in the 8th Century

Okayama, once known as Kojima in Kibi, appeared in “the Manyoshu”, Japan's oldest anthology of poems compiled in the 8th century.

<Manyo-shu>
- Complied in 8th century
- It contains 4,500 poems.
- Including poems by people of all ranks, from emperors to commoners

3. A merchant built a private library with 30,000+books in the 18th Century

A merchant built a private library named “Keigi-dou,” with more than 30,000 books in 18th Century

Some of the books have been designated as national treasures.

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4. Okayama City Library was first built with a Donation

Okayama City Library was built in 1916 with a donation by a businessman Mr. Yuizaburo Yamamoto.

5. 40 years history of Okayama City Literary Award

Tsubota Joji, who was born in Okayama , was one of Japan's leading authors of children's literature in the 1930s.

Okayama City has been hosting The Tsubota Joji Literary Award to honor professional writers for 40 years .
Along with this literary award, “The Okayama Citizens’ Fairly Tale Award” has been hosted for amateur adults and children.

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6. 125 Librarians at all the public schools

125 Librarians in
125 public elementary & junior high schools in Okayama City

7. Active Libraries

Number of Book rent
122 million per year
- Okayama Prefectural Library

Number of Book rent
320 million per year
- Okayama City Library

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8. Okayama related Authors

Many authors have emerged from Okayama, reside in Okayama, or have ties to Okayama.

Ogawa Yoko

Muranaka Rie

▼

Case Presentation A (Event Hall)

Okazaki Hayato

▼

Case Presentation B (406)

Tenkawa Eight

Tsubota Joji

and more...

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