KYUSHU
Be inspired to explore the wondrous side of Japan!
Nature & Scenery

Kyushu is blessed with an abundance and variety of natural features to attract visitors through every season. For example, magnificent snow-capped mountains, natural hot springs surrounded by fresh green forests and beautiful beaches where we can enjoy marine sports in summer.

Hiraodai is one of the most well-known karst plateaus in Japan, and offers fascinating views of limestone and underground caverns.

The Hydrangea Festival is held here in June, when the beauty of the falls is enhanced by 40,000 hydrangea flowers.

The mountains are beautifully adorned with pink Miyama Karahana flowers during the early summer, and vivid red and yellow trees in the autumn.

Kikuchi Valley, surrounded by beautiful seasonal natural features, has many well designed walking trails suitable for all ages.

Takachiho Gorge (Miyazaki):
The cliffs here, formed through the erosion of lava, rise to a height of 80–100 meters, and display a magnificent seasonal beauty with fresh greenery in the early summer and brightly colored leaves in the autumn. The Manai Falls, that flow into the Gokase river, are illuminated in the summer months to create a mystical backgroung. Visitors can enjoy taking a rowing boat out on the river to view this spectacular scenery from the water.

Sakurajima (Kagoshima):
Sakurajima, an island located only 4 km from Kagoshima City, is an active volcano with an altitude of 1,117 m., it is the symbol of Kagoshima. Although it is still very active, visitors can cross to it by ferry and enjoy a lava walk and a closer look at the volcano, still regularly spewing smoke.
Culture & History

The origins of many Japanese mythological stories can be traced to Kyushu. Yet, despite treasuring its numerous homegrown traditions, Kyushu has always tried to take on new things as a gateway to international cultures. By embracing this diversity, it has managed to forge its own unique culture and history.

Arita Ware (Saga):
Arita Ware is the oldest porcelain ware in Japan, dating back to the 17th century. In the mid 17th century during the Edo Period, it began to be exported to Europe from Imari Port and soon attracted the interest of European royalty and the aristocracy. Arita Ware is still popular in the present day due to its pure white surface and opulent decoration, and is enjoyed in a variety of cases, from artwork to daily nihonware.

Usuki Stone Buddhas (Oita):
These stone Buddhas are thought to date back to the 13th century. The large statues carved from the rocks of the Usuki mountain range are treasured as works of Japanese art. They are located in Usuki, Oita Prefecture.

Hashima Island (Nagasaki):
Hashima Island, also known as Gunkanjima (Battleship Island), once prospered from coal mining and gained worldwide attention as a model for a setting in the 007 movie Skyfall.
Seasonal Events

Kyushu is really a place for festival lovers, with a plethora of events to pique the interest, including traditional festivals and lively events for the passionate Kyushu people. There are also dozens of places to enjoy seasonal flowers, such as cherry blossoms and cosmos.

The Kirishima Mountain Range has over 20 volcanoes, including the highest peak on Mt. Karakuni, and a number of crater lakes, including Osumi-crater Lake. It was designated as a Japan Geo Park in 2010.

Carp streamers are strategically placed on the downstream side of the Kami Bridge, Kaze River, and swim effortlessly in the sky. This traditional symbol of the growth of children is set up annually between late March and early May.

These double-layered falls are 40 meters wide with a drop of 20 meters. In summer, some people enjoy playing on the natural water slide on the gently sloping rocks.

Horikiri Pass, an excellent vantage point for surveying the beautiful coastline, is further enhanced by the sight of pink wisteria, which blooms from mid-October to mid-November.

Fruit Picking *The time may vary depending on farmers.

Nagasaki Lantern Festival (Nagasaki):
In this festival, held from late January to early February, the town is decorated with approximately 15,000 lanterns and large illuminated objects.

Asa Fire Festival (Kumamoto):
This fire festival, including a series of fire-themed events, is held from mid-February to May to pray for good harvests.

Tenryo Hina Doll Festival (Oita):
Traditional hina dolls are displayed at various spots around the city, including former nobles' residences and museums, from mid-February to March.

Hakata Gion Yamakasa Festival (Fukuoka):
Two of the special features of this festival are the lavishly decorated floats and the spectacular “Okyanu” race on the final day. Held from the 1st to the 15th of July.

Hyuga Hyottoko Summer Festival (Miyazaki):
Dancers wearing conical masks parade around in a lively festive atmosphere during this joyful event. Held on the first Saturday in August.

Ohara Festival (Kagoshima):
Over 20,000 dancers take part in this festival. It is held on the second and the third of November every year.

*The data indicates monthly average temperature and average precipitation in each prefecture in Kyushu (based on the data for January - December 2011, provided by the Japan Meteorological Agency)
Cuisine

As Kyushu is blessed with an abundance of natural produce from both the ocean and mountains, it can offer distinctive local tastes with fresh ingredients. It also has a variety of unique dishes, influenced and developed through contact with other countries.

Sasebo Burger (Nagasaki):
A hamburger based on a U.S. Navy recipe adjusted to suit the Japanese palate.

Yobaku Squid (Saga):
Yobaku is well known for its fresh squid, but there are actually different species according to the season. Kusudake, the preparation of sushi made from live squid, is a great way to eat and enjoy fresh squid. Squid is also extremely tasty when cooked, such as in tempura dishes.

Shippoku Cuisine (Nagasaki):
This is the ultimate Nagasaki cuisine with origins dating back over 400 years, from China. It was further developed to become a Nagasaki original with additions of Portuguese, Dutch and Japanese styles. In this dining experience, you receive an array of dishes laid out on a round table, including soup, sushi, Nagasaki-style tempura, braised pork and other seasonal specialties.

Dago Soup (Kumamoto):
Dago Soup is one of the areas that can boast an original Dago Soup, which is traditional local cuisine of the Kyushu Region. This soup typically contains thickly sliced pork and root vegetables, such as burdock, carrots and turnips, as well as flat dumplings made from kneaded flour. The soup is seasoned with miso and has been long cherished by the locals for its simple yet sublime taste.

Shichijo Melon (Kumamoto):
Shichijo Melon is cultivated under strict quality control, in Mother Nature, nourished by the river waters that flow from the outer rim of volcanic Mt. Aso. The sweetness level of this extraordinary fruit is qualified by refractometer.

Satekuma (Kagoshima):
Satekuma, meaning Pole Bear, is Kagoshima’s original shaved ice dessert with fruits like banana and cherry piled on top and covered with condom milk.

Sasebo Ramen (Fukuoka):
This pork soup and thin noodle combination is popular all over Japan. You can taste the authentic Hakata Ramen at popular restaurants and street stalls.

Amatsu Strawberries (Fukuoka):
The Amatsu Strawberries is a variety produced in Fukuoka. Large and red on the outside and perfectly sweet and tart inside, Amatsu is popular both in Japanese and Asian markets.

Sekino Mackarel, Sekino-Mackerel (Oita):
Mackerel caught in the rough waters of Sagano are well known all over Japan. They are caught using a traditional fishing method (caught individually by fishing rod) and taken to market under strict conditions to maintain their freshness and superior taste.

Steamed Dishes from “Hell” (Oita):
Beppu is known for its hot springs with “hell” like features. Fresh vegetables and seafood cooked using hot spring steam acquire a profound taste due to the flavors found in hot spring water.

Miyazaki Beef (Miyazaki):
Miyazaki Prefecture is one of the top black beef producers in Japan. The brand name “Miyazaki Beef” is given only to selected meat that meets strict criteria, including tenderness, taste, and color. Its rich and profound taste has garnered it a high reputation both in Japan and overseas.
Hot Springs

Kyushu has the largest number of hot springs and produces the most spring water in Japan. Visitors can relax their mind and body in the hot springs and by walking around the hot spring towns in a yukata or kimono.

In terms of numbers of hot springs and output of thermal water, Beppu proudly ranks first in Japan. A wide range of different spring water types and natural settings make for highly individualized bathing experiences.

Yamaga Onsen has a Kirei Spa salon where visitors can rent a kimono. Wearing a kimono and strolling through the old streets of Yamaga Town will create a wonderful holiday memory.

One of the most unique hot spring experiences in the world, visitors lie on the beach wearing a simple, light cotton kimono and are then buried under hot spring warmed sand.

At 100m long, this park is home to one of the longest foot spas in Japan. The hot spring water source is 1,000m underground. Here you can relax and enjoy the gorgeous view of Kitakami Bay and Sakurajima.
More About Kyushu

More about Nature & Scenery

Akita is a collection of the islands surrounded by beautiful deep blue sea, and is popular for the drive along its breathtaking coastline and dolphin watching tours. There is a great variety of seafood to offer here, and it is also famous for its history of Japanese Christianity. The "Akita Prefecture" is the 12th prefecture of World Route 2: for further information regarding Akita.

Nature column

Aso/Mt. Naka

The huge caldera is 24km across from south to north and 18km across east to west. The steaming crater is 4km in circumference. Inside the caldera, there are five craters: Mt. Naka, Mt. Takas, Mt. Naka, Mt. Ebi, and Mt. Kusama. Mt. Naka remains active and currently gives off white smoke. Mt. Naka, is 660m in diameter, 100m deep and 4km in circumference. The sight of this active giant crater makes you realize the magnificence of Aso. Visitors cannot get close to the crater during periods of eruption.

More about Culture & History

This shrine is very popular as it contains the gods of music. For this reason, it draws large crowds of people during the annual examination season. The grounds here offer a variety of seasonal favorites, including 6,000 plum trees.

Culture column

Churches Aim for World Heritage Registration

During the 15th and 16th centuries, Kyushu was Japan’s gateway to the world and Christianity was introduced. For 250 years the religion was suppressed during shogunate control. The religion was canceled and then miraculously recovered through missionary work unseen before in the world. 13 locations are registered on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List. These include the Oura Church in Nagasaki, Hara Castle Ruins which is the site of the uprising by Christians, and Sakitsu Village in Amakusa.

Attraction

This theme park is modeled on the streets of the Netherlands. The flowers of each season are delightful and there are events and performances throughout the year.

Shopping

Terunobu Store is the largest shopping arcade in Southern Kyushu. The name “Terunobu” or “Hall of auspiciousness” is derived from the name of an obscure bushidō bushi who lived during the 9th century. This arcade includes local farm products, souvenir shops and boutiques.
Access

International Flights to (from) Kyushu

Southeast Asia
- Singapore → Fukuoka
- Bangkok → Fukuoka
- Kuala Lumpur → Fukuoka
- Ho Chi Minh → Fukuoka
- Jakarta → Fukuoka

Japan
- Tokyo → Fukuoka
- Osaka → Fukuoka
- Nagoya → Fukuoka
- Okayama → Fukuoka

Europe
- London → Fukuoka

Australia
- Sydney → Fukuoka

TOKYO, OSAKA, NAGOYA → KYUSHU

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