

Travel Guide

Kyushu and Okinawa (Fukuoka, Oita, Saga, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Miyazaki, Kagoshima and Okinawa Prefectures)

Fukuoka Prefecture offers a host of sightseeing spots, including the Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine, Kushida Shrine, Sumiyoshi Shrine, boat tours down the Yanagawa River, Nokonoshima Island, the Mojiko Port Retro District, Uminonakamichi Seaside Park, Shiosainomichi Road, and Space World. The Hakata Dontaku Festival is also a highly popular event.

Oita Prefecture boasts the largest number of hot springs and the largest spring-water volume in Japan. It also offers such natural attractions as hot-spring hopping on the Beppu Hell Tour, the hot spring resort of Yufuin, Yabakei Gorge and its peculiar rock formations, and Harajiri Falls.

Saga Prefecture is famous for the Imari and Arita ceramics fairs. It is also home of the Ureshino and Takeo Hot Spring Resorts, the Yoshinogari Ruins dating from the Yayoi Period (3rd century BC ~ 3rd century AD), Nijinomatsubara Pine Forest, the mudflats in the Ariake Sea, Sagajo Castle, Karatsujo Castle and Yutoku Inarijinja Shrine, and hosts spectacular festivals such as the Karatsu Kunchi Festival and Asia's largest hot-air balloon festival.

Nagasaki Prefecture was the sole point of contact (Dejima Island) with foreign countries during the Edo Period, and retains its international atmosphere to this day. Some must-see destinations include Huis Ten Bosch resort (Danish influence), Sofukuji Temple(㉑) (Chinese influence), the Site of the 26 Christian Martyrs (official pilgrimage site designated by the Vatican), the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, and the natural environments of the Kujukushima Islands, Mount Unzen, and the Iki, Tsushima and Goto Islands.

Kumamoto Prefecture is well known for Kumamotojo Castle, which is one of the three great castles in Japan, Suizenji-koen Park, and Mount Aso-san (world's largest caldera). It offers many other sights of interest, including Kikuchi Valley, Yunoko Beach, boat riding down the Kumagawa River, the islands of Amakusa, Oe Cathedral Church(㉒), the Minamata Disease Municipal Museum, the stone-made Tsujunkyo Bridge, the terraced rice fields of Shiraito Plateau, and the views from the windows of the steam locomotive Hitoyoshi(㉓).

Miyazaki Prefecture, called the "home of myths and legends," offers scenic spots associated with Japanese myths and legends such as Takachiho(㉔), Ebino Highlands, Mt. Karakunidake, Misogi Lake, Miyazaki Jingu Shrine, and Aoshima Shrine. Other attractions worth visiting include the townscapes of Obi and Tonegawa, the numerous tombs at Saitobaru Burial Mounds, Nichinan Beach, and the Teruha suspension bridge across Ayakawa Valley.

Kagoshima Prefecture, symbolized by Sakurajima Island, boasts a rich natural environment that also includes Kirishima Island, Uwaba Highlands and the Airasan Joryo Mountains, as well as rich ancient historical culture. The Amami Oshima Islands are famous for their Oshima-tsumugi textiles, and Tanegashima Island and Yakushima Island, home to impressive Jomonsugi cedar trees, offer a purifying natural environment.

Okinawa Prefecture offers visitors a multifaceted experience, prompting them to not only enjoy fun-filled marine resort activities, but to also tour the main island of Okinawa, offering a prayer at the Cornerstone of Peace and Himeyuri Peace Museum, and tracing the history of the Ryukyu Kingdom at Shurijo Castle. Visits to Ishigakijima Island and other outlying islands also allow visitors to enjoy the sea and sky to the fullest.

たび 旅のしおり

九州・沖縄 (福岡県、大分県、佐賀県、長崎県、熊本県、宮崎県、鹿児島県、沖縄県)

福岡県: 太宰府天満宮や櫛田神社、住吉神社、柳川の川下り、能古島、門司港レトロ地区、海の中道海浜公園、潮騒のみち、スペースワールドなど多くの見所があります。博多どんたくなどの祭りも盛んです。

大分県: 温泉の源泉数、湧水量が日本一。別府の地獄めぐりや由布院の温泉の他、奇岩が連なる耶麻溪、原尻の滝など自然の景勝地も多くあります。

佐賀県: 伊万里と有田の陶器市が有名。嬉野温泉や武雄温泉、弥生時代 (BC3~AC3世紀) の吉野ヶ里遺跡、虹の松原、有明海の干潟、佐賀城や唐津城、祐徳稲荷神社の他、唐津くんちやアジア最大級のバルーンフェスタは壮観です。

長崎県: 江戸時代、唯一外国との窓口 (出島) となり、国際色豊か。ハウスデンプス (オランダ) や崇福寺 (中国)、日本二十六聖人殉教地 (バチカン指定公式巡礼地)、長崎原爆資料館の他、九十九島、雲仙、壱岐・対馬・五島の自然も見所です。

熊本県: 日本三名城の熊本城と、水前寺公園、阿蘇山 (世界最大級のカルデラ) で有名です。菊池溪谷、湯の児海岸、球磨川の川下り、あまくさしまつぼし、おおえんじじょう、みなまたびより、せきぞう、つうじゆんきょう、しらいと天草の島々と大江天主堂、水俣病資料館、石造の通潤橋と白糸台地の棚田、SL人吉で車窓も楽しめます。

宮崎県: 「神話と伝説のふるさと」宮崎県には、高千穂、えびの高原、韓国岳を始め、みそぎ池、宮崎神宮、青島神社などがあります。飲ひとねがわ、まちなみ、さいとぼるこあんぐん、おおこほん、にちなんかいがんで肥や戸根川の町並み、西都原古墳群など多くの古墳、日南海岸、綾川溪谷の照葉大吊橋などがあります。

鹿児島県: 桜島をシンボルとする鹿児島県は、霧島、上場高原、吾平山に上り、しぜん、こだい、れきしがんか、ゆた、おおしまつむぎ、ゆうめい山上陵の自然や古代の歴史文化が豊か。また、大島紬で有名なあまみおしま、じょうもんすぎ、みよなくしま、しぜん、こころあら奄美大島、縄文杉が見られる種子島や屋久島の自然は心洗われます。

沖縄県: 賑やかなマリニリゾート地、沖縄本島では、平和の礎、ひめゆり平和祈念資料館で平和を祈り、琉球王国時代の首里城で歴史をたどりましょう。石垣島などの島めぐりでさらに海と空を満喫できます。



①崇福寺



②大江天主堂



③SL人吉



④高千穂