

A Photo Essay: Kyushu, Heaven on Earth

Amazing Kyushu



by G. Maeda for Kyutech SEIC students, 18 December 2018

Kyushu is written as 九州。 It means nine provinces. I guess there were nine of them at one time. Today, only the following [this page and the next two pages] exist on our island:



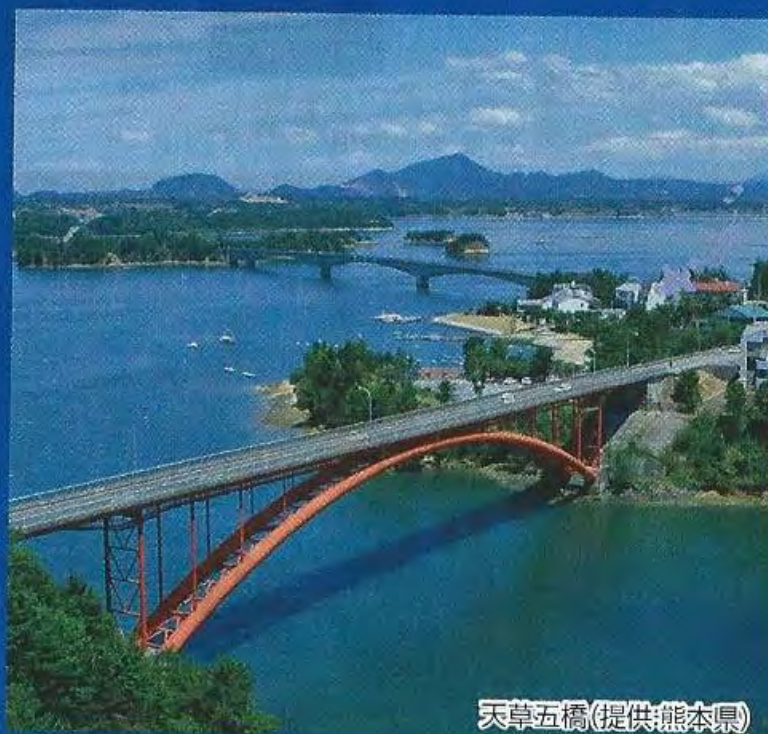
さが
佐賀

SAGA



くまもと
熊本

KUMAMOTO



なが さき
長崎 NAGASAKI



みや さき
宮崎 MIYAZAKI



か ご しま
鹿児島 KAGO SHIMA



Amazing Kyushu

Wikipedia on Kyushu:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kyushu>

This gives you the basic facts about Kyushu



The best parts of Kyushu are not in the two big cities [which are Fukuoka City and Kitakyushu City]. These two cities are good for living, but not for visiting because there is not much to see. I have lived in Fukuoka since 1992 – so I know what I am talking about.

The best parts of Kyushu are in the prefectures of:

- A) Oita** [e.g., Beppu or Yufuin]
- B) Kumamoto** [e.g., Mount Aso or Amakusa]
- C) Saga** [e.g., the balloon festival]
- D) Nagasaki** [e.g., the harbor of Nagasaki City]
- E) Miyazaki** [e.g., fine beaches]
- F) Kagoshima** [e.g., Sakurajima or Ibusuki]

Amazing Kyushu

A very economical way to see Kyushu is with this rail pass but it has two tight conditions for purchase

The screenshot shows the website for the JR Kyushu Rail Pass. The main heading is "JR Kyushu Rail Pass(All, North, South)". Below this, there are four tabs: "Types & Prices", "Conditions of use", "Seat reservations", and "In Regard to Refund". The "Conditions of use" tab is selected, showing the "Eligibility for use" section. The text states: "Non-Japanese citizens who are visiting Japan for the purpose of sightseeing and traveling on a short-stay visa." Below this, there are two numbered conditions:

- 1 You must hold a passport issued by a country other than Japan.
- 2 You must reside outside Japan and are visiting Japan on a short-stay visa(*).

Those who satisfy conditions 1 and 2 above.

*When entering Japan, please receive proof of "short-stay" with a stamp or seal on your passport. If you are using an automated gate when entering Japan, please offer to the airport staff and receive a certificate from your passport with a stamp or seal.

There is an image of a green sign with a white circle and a person sitting in a chair, labeled "みどりの窓口" (Midori no Madoguchi).

The website also features a navigation menu on the left with options like "JR Kyushu Rail Pass (All, North, South)", "JR Kyushu Rail Pass (Fukuoka Wide)", "JR Kyushu Rail Pass User Benefits", "JR Kyushu Trains", "JR Kyushu Route Map / Timetable", "Ticket Types / Train Seating", "Kyushu Travel Information", and "FAQs".

<http://www.jrkyushu.co.jp/english/railpass/railpass.html>

One good guide for Kyushu:

<https://www.japan-guide.com/list/e1108.html>

japan-guide.com


Destinations

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Kyushu





Nine-minute video on how to use an onsen in Japan
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bgM-OpImRec>

Amazing Kyushu

温泉 おんせん

Regardless of where you are from (Africa, Latin America, etc.), one thing you should try at least one time in Japan is onsen, or “hot spring bath”. You will never find a Japanese person who dislikes onsen. Most foreigners enjoy onsen. Not 100 percent. But it exceeds 90 percent. And the only way to find out if you like it or not is to try it once. So please try it once. Most likely, you do not have onsen in your own country.

岩に囲まれたダイナミックな大浴槽〔露天風呂〕



天然温泉 岩風呂



天然温泉 壺湯・寝転び湯



檜炭酸風呂

①小倉駅ルート



- ・小倉駅 → 西小倉駅 → コロナワールド → 小倉駅 のルートで巡回します
- ・各駅間の運行時間は「約10分」となります(道路状況により前後します)
- ※コロナワールド → 小倉駅 間は「約25分」となります

②戸畑駅ルート TOBATA STATION



- ・戸畑駅 → コロナワールド → 戸畑駅 のルートで巡回します
- ・各駅間の運行時間は「約25分」となります(道路状況により前後します)

<http://www.korona.co.jp/index.asp>



A popular onsen around here is Korona. It provides free shuttle service from Kokura Station, Nishi Kokura Station, and Tobata Station.

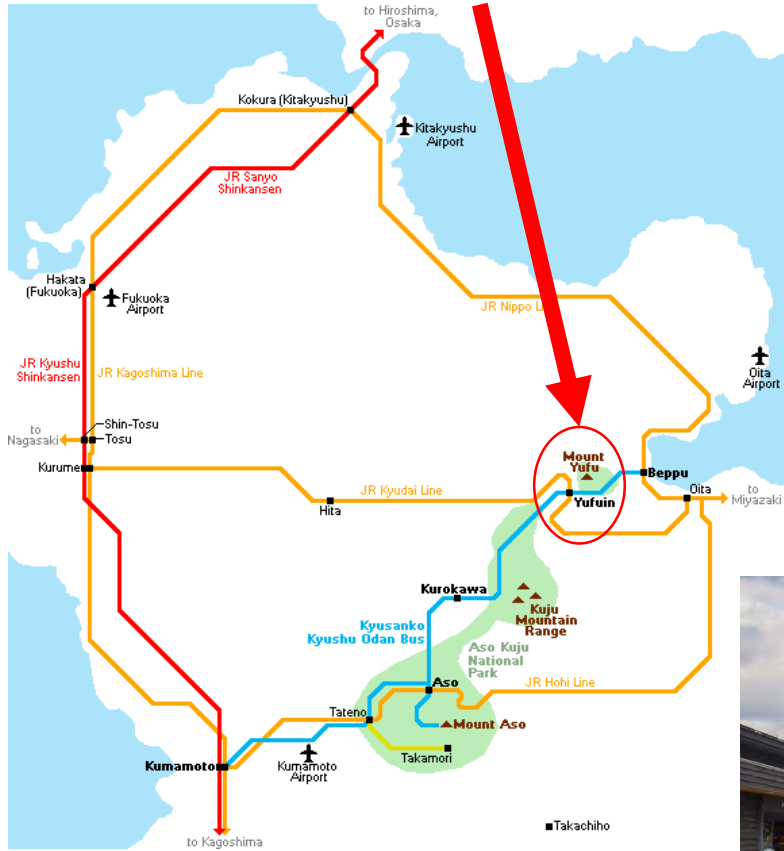


A very famous onsen region in Japan is **Beppu**, in nearby Oita Prefecture

Beppu is easy to get from Kokura by bus or JR – you should definitely check it out one time during your stay at Kyutech

Near Beppu is Yufuin (湯布院), which also has its Kyushu charms . . .

Amazing Kyushu



旬菜 鄙屋(はなの舞)

圖11時30分~13時30分L.O

困木曜

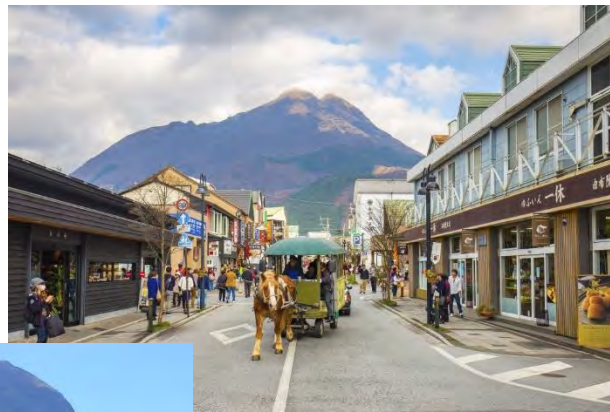
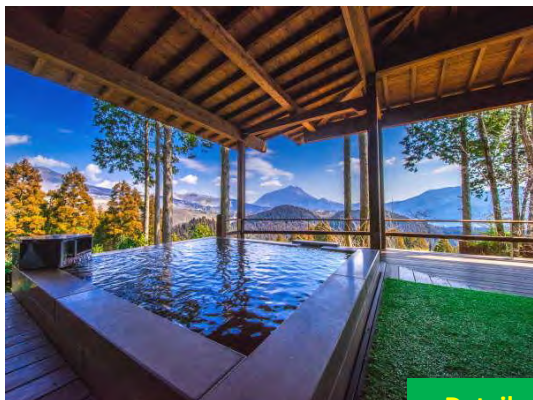
フリーダイヤル0120-068701

☎0977(84)5700

大分県由布市湯布院町大字川上2755-2
由布院駅から湯の坪街道、中央児童公園
の手前を右に曲がり、由布見橋を渡る。
徒歩約15分。

「旬菜 鄙屋」の牛箱弁当

BEEF BOX BENTO

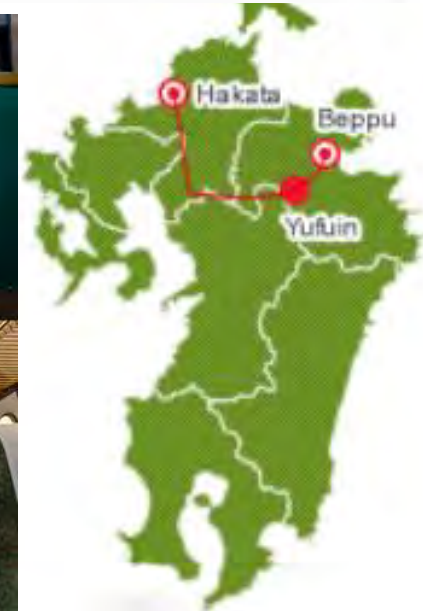
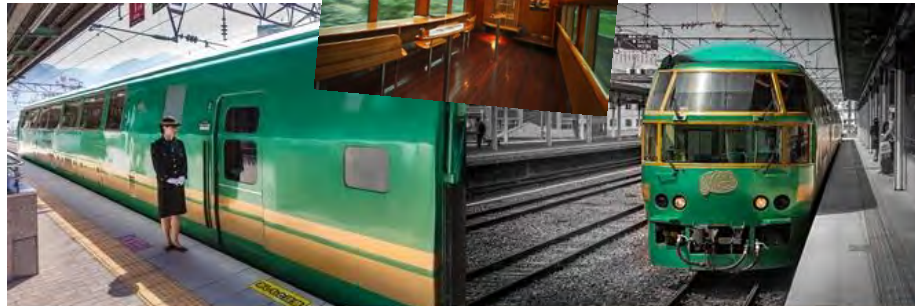


Details of this train are on the next page



There is a sightseeing diesel train that runs from Hakata to Yufuin called “Yufuin no Mori” – Forests of Yufuin ゆふいんの森

Special bentos are sold in the train



JR's website for this train service:

https://www.jrkyushu.co.jp/english/train/yufuin_no_mori.html

JR KYUSHU TRAINS

極上の列車旅

特急 ゆふいんの森

体験記「休日は観光列車に乗って」掲載中!

Another “must do” in Kyushu is trying ramen



Taiho Ramen:

<https://soraneews24.com/2016/01/14/three-reasons-why-should-you-definitely-visit-taiho-ramen-in-fukuoka-prefecture/>

This 90-min. documentary is worth seeing some time:

<http://www.ramenheads.com/>

**Three reasons why
you should visit
Taiho Ramen in
Fukuoka Prefecture**

see the link below

Amazing Kyushu

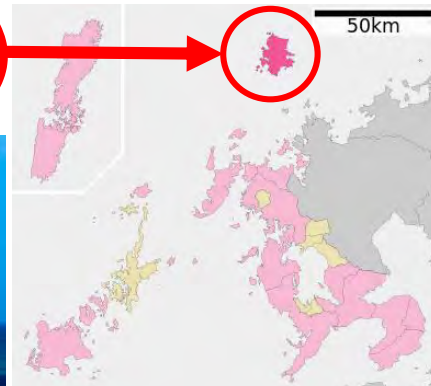


**Make a
chance to
visit
Nagasaki –
it has a
beautiful
harbor**

Amazing Kyushu

Historic and *romantic* Nagasaki

Nagasaki Prefecture has divine 壱岐島 (Iki-no-shima)

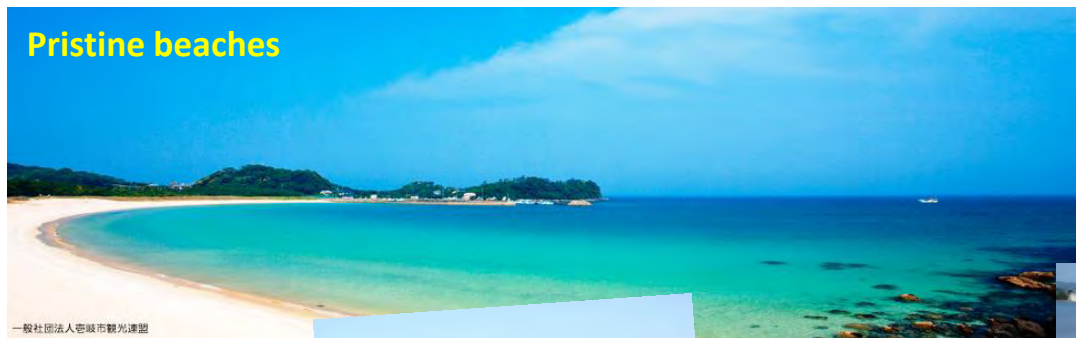


An heavenly island:

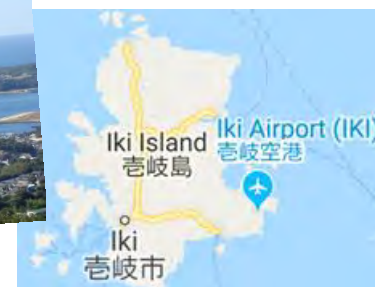
Iki Island is a relatively big island of 17 kilometers of north-south and 14 kilometers of east-west to the north of Kyushu in the Sea of Japan. Beautiful beaches and shorelines, delicious seafood and famous Iki Beef, many sites, sea sports, very simple islanders, all these make the island the heaven alike. It is crowded in the summer sea bathing season, but visitors have a relaxing time in other seasons. Because access to it is convenient despite that it is a remote island, it is recommended that visitors forget all about everyday vulgarity and spend time here. It is worth staying here more than one day. The town is formed by the main three ports.

FROM:

<http://veryjapanese.jp/kyushu/iki-island/>



Takenotsuji



Horahogejizo
(six statues of Buddha)

Iki Island: the stones and stories that keep paradise from floating away; by Edan Corkill

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/life/2014/06/07/travel/iki-island-stones-stories-keep-paradise-floating-away/#.XAy76fZuJjo>

How to get to Iki Island

From the Hakata Ferry Terminal, Fukuoka, you can take one of two ferries to either Iki Island's Gonoura Port or Ashibe Port. There's the Kyushu Yusen Jet Foil, which takes 1 hour and 10 minutes, and costs ¥4,040 one way. Or, there's the Kyushu Yusen Ferry, which takes 2 hours and 25 minutes, costing ¥2,800." [9 Dec. 2018]

The preceding text is from <https://travel.gaijinpot.com/iki-island/>



Iki beer



Saruiwa, Monkey Rock



Tatsunoshima

Nagasaki is home to Nagasaki Champon

Champon (ちゃんぽん Chanpon), also known as Chanpon, is a noodle dish that is a regional cuisine of Nagasaki, Japan. There are different versions in Japan, Korea and China. The dish was inspired by the cuisine of China. Champon is made by frying pork, seafood and vegetables with lard; a soup made with chicken and pig bones is then added. Ramen noodles made especially for champon are added and then boiled. Unlike other ramen dishes, only one pan is needed as the noodles are boiled in the soup. Depending on the season and the situation, the ingredients differ. Hence the taste and style may depend on the location and time of year.

Although Nagasaki Champon is the most well-known rendition, there are other variations found in Japan. Ankake no Champon is a soy-sauce based variant found in Tottori, Shimane Prefectures, as well as the city of Amagasaki in Hyōgo Prefecture. In the city of Akita, a version with miso broth is served, with the soup filling to the bowl almost to the point of overflowing.

In Okinawa, Champon is a rice dish where assorted vegetables, thinly-sliced meat (pork, luncheon meat or corned beef hash) and scrambled egg are fried and served on top of rice.

Champon from Okinawa is a rice dish served with assorted vegetables and scrambled egg. The Korean Jjamppong is a similar noodle dish with a spicy seafood broth.

-- from Wikipedia



It is more delicious than it looks

Sakurajima in Kagoshima is well worth a visit, too.

<https://www.japanvisitor.com/japan-city-guides/sakurajima-guide>

- ◆ one of the world's most active volcanoes
- ◆ located in Kagoshima Bay, between Osumi and Satsuma Peninsula, 10 km east of Kagoshima City, Kyushu
- ◆ famous throughout Japan for its springtime half-marathons
- ◆ first recorded eruption in 708
- ◆ known for its fruit and daikon radish production
- ◆ population 7,000
- ◆ 600m above sea level
- ◆ means 'Cherry Blossom Island' in Japanese
- ◆ called an island, but no longer a real one

Amazing Kyushu

If you're going to Kagoshima...

Sakurajima is a nice place to spend a few hours if you are planning a trip to Kagoshima. This active volcano has a great history and some interesting places to explore.

The town of Sakurajima is also known for its daikon radish, which is the largest in the world, and its mandarin, the smallest in the world.

There is an omiyage (gift) shop where you can purchase an assortment of products made from these two famous crops. Sweet potatoes and biwa (loquat) are also specialties of Sakurajima.

The first recorded eruption of Sakurajima was in 708 and the volcano has been in almost constant activity since then. One of the most interesting facts about Sakurajima is that it was itself an island until 1914, when lava flows from a large eruption that year spread and hardened, connecting the island to Osumi Peninsula.

Since 1955, the volcano has erupted 100-200 times a year. In 1994, there were 126 eruptions and on May 23, 1995 an explosive eruption sent ash 8,200 feet above the summit crater. In 2013 another major eruption occurred sending ash up to 5,000 meters and coating nearby Kagoshima.

Ash falls up to 143 times per year, depositing an average of 100mm annually. People can be seen walking around the town, or sometimes even in Kagoshima City, with umbrellas to protect their clothes and skin from falling ash.

The population of Sakurajima is aging and decreasing, with most adults engaged in either agriculture or fishing. There is no high school on the island and students must make the short ferry ride to Kagoshima. Various concrete shelters dot the island in case of the need to evacuate the island at short notice.



If you go all the way down to Kagoshima, then try 砂むし (suna mushi) – **being buried alive** – it feels great

This area is called Ibusuki
(指宿)→



Amazing Kyushu



Two-minute video on suna mishi
<http://kagoshima-trip.jp/en/25/>



(5) Myoken-ura



Amakusa is also a cool place to visit in Kyushu

Around the end of the year, JR runs special tourist trains from Hakata Station 博多駅 to Amakusa 天草.

At the right is an ad that appeared in Yomiuri on 8 December 2018.

From JR website:

Limited Express A-TRAIN

Named after a famous jazz tune, this is a train for adult travelers that like to reflect back on the good old days.

The theme behind this train was "the Southern European culture prevalent in Amakusa in 16th century." Interior is constructed using dark tone woods and stained glass and will give you a feeling as if you are in a movie scene.

人気の観光列車にご乗車!大好評につきご予約はお早めに!

インターネット24時間受付中!!
89104 日帰り 検索
緊急イモオン目録

コース番号・媒体番号
75701-203

特急「A列車で行こう」天草海の幸満喫 日帰り

特急「A列車で行こう」の魅力

特急「A列車で行こう」

天草渚亭で食す

A-TRAIN-BAR

旅行代金(大人おひとり様)

9,990円

全出発日 催行確定

博多(7:30) = 基山PA(8:00) =
【4号車利用(注)】○リソラテラス天草 = ★天草渚亭(温泉入浴料込み) = JR三角駅 → (オシャレなレトロ列車、▲特急「A列車で行こう」にご乗車) → JR熊本駅 = ☆フードバル熊本(ワイン工場見学・試飲) = ☆フルーツの里田原坂 = 基山PA(18:00頃) = 博多(18:30頃着) 昼

博多(8:00) = 基山PA(8:30) =
【6号車利用(注)】☆フルーツの里田原坂 = ☆フードバル熊本(ワイン工場見学・試飲) = ★天草渚亭(温泉入浴料込み) = ○リソラテラス天草 → (オシャレなレトロ列車、▲特急「A列車で行こう」にご乗車) → JR熊本駅 = 基山PA(18:30頃) = 博多(18:30頃着) 昼

※上記代金は消費税込みの代金です。 ※○印は催行確定日

出発日(2018年) 12月 25(火)・26(水) お申し込みはお早めに!



The A-Train



<https://www.jrkyushu.co.jp/english/train/atrain.html>

YOMIURI, 2018.12.8



2018.10.31 [wed] – 11.04 [sun]
2018 Saga International Balloon Fiesta

**Saga is famous for its
annual balloon festival**

Amazing Kyushu



19 July 2018 - Yutoku Inari
Shrine in Kashima City

The guide to Shiiba Dam in Miyazaki Prefecture:

<https://www.nippon.com/en/guide-to-japan/vi004001/>

“The dam stands 110 meters high at its tallest point and spans 341 meters. Hyūga Shiiba Lake, the reservoir behind the dam, has a capacity of 92 million cubic meters. Designed with safety in mind, there are spillways, shaped like ski jumps, on either end of the dam, to be used in the event of flooding.

These are designed to cause the streams of floodwaters to collide in midair, dispersing the force of their flow.”

“Construction of the dam took more than five years and involved some 5 million laborers. Of these, 105 workers died in the course of the work. The Statue of the Three Goddesses was erected nearby as a memorial to their sacrifice. The novelist Yoshikawa Eiji gave the reservoir its Hyūga Shiiba name. With beautiful views year-round, the site, also included in a list of Japan’s 100 best reservoirs, is popular with tourists.”



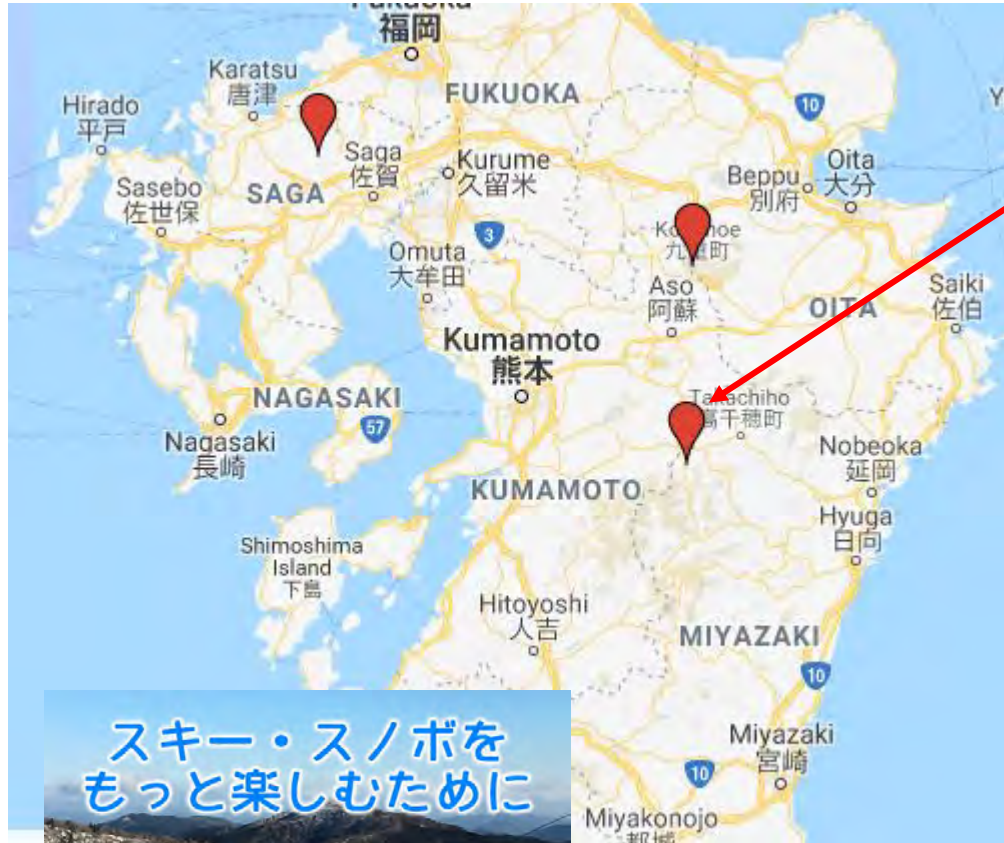
Kami Shiiba Dam of Miyazaki Prefecture



I have not been here, but I want to see it some day. My father worked as a laborer on it to pay for college costs. - G. Maeda.

Amazing Kyushu

There is skiing in Kyushu



Gokase Highland →

Gokase Highland is in the northern part of Miyazaki Ken. This ski spot is the most southern one in Japan.

Their website:

<http://www.gokase.co.jp/ski/>



Amazing Kyushu



The guide to skiing in Kyushu:

<https://www.fukuoka-now.com/en/kyushu-ski-snowboard-mini-guide/>

The signature dish of Miyazaki is *chicken nanban* (チキン南蛮)



How to make it:

<https://norecipes.com/chicken-nanban>

I was born in a small town called Nobeoka on the southern island of Kyushu, Japan. Nobeoka isn't known for much, but their virtually unknown claim to fame is a small diner not far from Nobeoka station, that invented Chicken Nanban (チキン南蛮). Through some miracle (or because the dish is so damn good), this humble dish managed to work its way from my hometown into Japanese restaurants across the world.

The irony is, like many famous Japanese dishes, Chicken Nanban has foreign roots. According to the creator, it was inspired by a dish called Nanbanzuke, which is made with fried fish and onions soaked in a sweet vinegar sauce.

If you're thinking that this sounds a lot like escabeche, you'd be right. The Portuguese brought Peixe Frito de Escabeche to Japan in the mid 17th century along with other fried dishes such as Peixinhos Da Horta (better known as Tempura). The term "nanban" was originally used to refer to these European traders and missionaries, so nanbanzuke simply means "soaked European-style"

-- from the web link at the left

Kyushu is also 焼酎 しょうちゅう (shou chuu) country



Cormorant fishing (*ukai*) at Mikumagawa River in Oita Prefecture



“Ukai (cormorant fishing) is a traditional technique of catching river fish with the help of cormorants. Three rivers in Japan are said to be preserving this old custom - Nagara River in Gifu, Hiji River in Ehime and Mikuma River in Oita.” - *from the link below.*

For more details on ukai, see <https://matcha-jp.com/en/4436>



Yaki soba at Mikuma Han Ten

Besides rail, another fun way to travel in Japan is to use an inter-island ferry

-- many connections to and from Kyushu

Osaka to Beppu Sunflower Ferry



Osaka-Kobe-Beppu

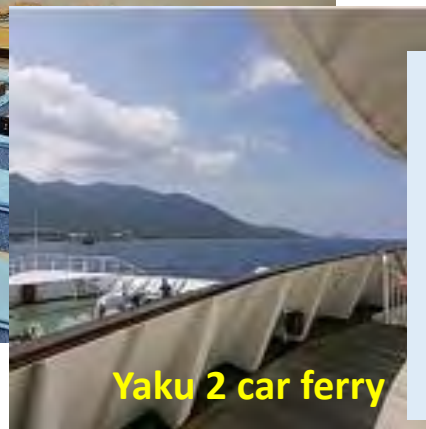
This overnight ferry, the *Sunflower*, is ideal if you wish to take your car from the Kansai region of Osaka, Kobe or Kyoto to explore Kyushu. The journey takes approximately 12 hours.

Osaka	Beppu (for Oita)
19:05 (Sun-Thurs)	06:55
19:55 (Fri-Sat)	07:45

Beppu	Osaka
18:45 (Sun-Thurs)	06:35
19:35 (Fri-Sat)	07:35



2nd class dormitory on board of an overnight ferry – from the link below



Yaku 2 car ferry

The **Yaku 2 car ferry** leaves every morning from Kagoshima New Port to Miyaura Port on **Yakushima** (see the next page). It returns to Kagoshima in the afternoon. The one way sailing takes four hours and costs 4,900 yen.

- ▶ **Shin Nihonkai Ferry**
Maizuru - Otaru
Tsuruga - Tomakomai
Tsuruga - Niigata - Akita - Tomakomai
Niigata - Otaru
- ▶ **MOL Ferry**
Oarai - Tomakomai
- ▶ **Taiheiyo Ferry**
Nagoya - Sendai - Tomakomai
- ▶ **Ocean Tokyu Ferry**
Tokyo - Tokushima - Kitakyushu
- ▶ **Meimon Taiyo Ferry**
Osaka - Kitakyushu
- ▶ **Hankyu Ferry**
Osaka - Kitakyushu
Kobe - Kitakyushu
- ▶ **Ferry Sunflower**
Osaka - Beppu
Kobe - Oita
Osaka - Shibushi
- ▶ **Miyazaki Car Ferry**
Kobe - Miyazaki
- ▶ **A Line**
Kagoshima - Naha

Getting there is half of the fun

The Japan Ferry Pass 21 offers 6 journeys on 14 routes over 21 days for 21,000 yen.



The English guide to ferries in Japan:

<https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2355.html>

WHY YOU SHOULD USE HANKYU FERRY FOR YOUR TRIP IN JAPAN

(3.5 minute long video)

<https://youtu.be/w7usf8T9eSE>

Yakushima



Yakushima (屋久島) is a subtropical island off the southern coast of Kyushu and part of Kagoshima Prefecture. It is covered by an extensive cedar forest that contains some of Japan's oldest living trees. Trees more than 1000 years old are affectionately called yakusugi (a combination of Yakushima and sugi, the Japanese word for cedar), the most ancient of which may be over 7000 years old.

The island's cedar forests were logged extensively in the past, particularly during the Edo Period for the production of cedar shingles. Today the forests have well recovered from past logging and are a national park, while some areas were declared a Natural World Heritage Site in 1993. Most tourists come to the island to hike through the forests and see the ancient cedar trees.

As a subtropical island with nearly 2000 meter high mountains, Yakushima attracts a lot of rainfall around the year, with a local saying claiming that it rains "35 days a month". While that may be an exaggeration, there is some rain almost on a daily basis, especially in the mountainous interior, although the rain can also be light and limited to short periods of time. In higher elevations the precipitation falls as snow during the winter months.

From:
<https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e4650.html>



**THE
END**

**So, after all of
these slides,
what do you think?**

**Explore Kyushu.
It is better than it looks.**