



CST# 2001110-40

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8-Day Japan Kyushu Circle Island Tour

Tour Code: JFF8

Fukkuoka, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Kagoshima, Miyazaki, Beppu, Yufuin

Departure Date: (2023) 1/13, 2/17, 3/17, 4/14, 5/19, 6/16

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- This newly designed tour with updated itinerary takes you to explore many popular attractions and cities around Kyushu Island. Most suitable for first-time Kyushu travelers!
- Admire stunning natural landscapes: Japan's most active volcano **Sakurajima**, extraordinary coastal rock formation **Devil's Washboard**, the spectacular gorge **Takachihokyo**, the nationally designated scenic spot **Umi Jigoku & Chinoike Jigoku** and the fairyland-like **Kinrin Lake**.
- Visit Senganen for the finest example of traditional Japanese landscape garden.
- Enjoy a close sight of the seven giant moai figures in Sun Messe, the world's only sanctioned replicas of the Easter Island originals.
- Stroll on the characteristic nostalgic streets – Josaien in Kumamoto and Yunotubo Street in Yufuin.
- Learn about the history of the disastrous atomic bombing during WWII and pray for world peace at Atomic Bomb Museum and Peace Park in Nagasaki.
- Explore the famous temples, Aoshima Shrine and Dazaifu Tenmangu, and learn about Japan's religion and cultural history.
- Shopping at AEON Mall and Canal City Hakata.
- Savor distinctive Japanese Kaiseki cuisines (traditional multi-course meal), Japanese beef shabu shabu, Yakniku...
- Accommodate at convenient 4-star upscale hotels.
- Experienced and professional bilingual tour leader offering attentive services.

TRANSFERS & ADMISSIONS INCLUDED:

- ❖ Ferry ride from Ariakekai to Kumamoto
- ❖ Kumamoto Castle
- ❖ Senganen
- ❖ Ferry ride at Sakurajima
- ❖ Sun Messe
- ❖ Umi Jigoku & Chinoike Jigoku

Itineraries:

1 Hometown Fukuoka, Kyushu

2 Fukuoka (Fukuoka Airport) – Free at Leisure

Hotel: Hotel New Otani Hakata or similar

Upon arrival, take shuttle bus to hotel and proceed to self-check-in. Enjoy some leisure time and adjust the time lag.

3 Fukuoka – Nagasaki - Peace Park – Atomic Bomb Museum – China Town – Ariakekai Kumamoto (B/D: Japanese Set Dinner)

Hotel: Crowne Plaza ANA Kumamoto New Sky or similar

Peace Park: A tranquil space that commemorates the atomic bombing of Nagasaki on August 9, 1945 during WWII, which destroyed significant portion of the city and killed tens of thousands of lives and promote the mission of world peace. Visitors will have the chance to see the broken roof tiles, bricks and pieces of glass remains from the explosion.

Atomic Bomb Museum: Exhibits the history of atomic bombing and its catastrophic consequences, the development of nuclear weapons and express the desire of peace. Next to the museum stands a memorial hall for the victims of the atomic bomb with a strikingly modern architecture.

4 Kumamoto – Josaien - Kumamoto Castle (admission incl.) - Kagoshima - Senganen (admission incl.) – AEON Mall (B/D: Japanese Set Dinner)

Hotel: Daiwa Roynet Hotel Kagoshima or similar

Josaien: Located right next to the Kumamoto Castle and with over 20 cafes and shops featuring the best local food, specialties and souvenirs, Josaien perfectly presents the appearance of ancient street and traditional vibes during Edo period.

Kumamoto Castle : A large and well-fortified castle completed in 1607. Together with Himeji Castle and Matsumoto Castle, they are called the three most famous castles in Japan. It has undergone several restoration works due to damage by repetitive vigorous earthquakes. While the iconic main tower “Tenshukaku” is a concrete reconstruction built in 1960, the ancillary buildings still remains its original wooden structure since Edo period. Recognised as an Important Cultural Property of Japan.

Senganen: Built in 1658 as the residence of the Shimazu family who ruled over this area, this stunning Japanese landscape garden represents the finest example of a feudal lord’s garden. Incorporating a breathtaking panoramic view of the active volcano Sakurajima and Kagoshima Bay, Senganen is always a must-visit attraction in Kagoshima! It houses a traditional tearoom, walking trail and handcrafts and souvenir shop. It was recognized as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site related to Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution in 2015.

5 Kagoshima – Arimura Lava Observatory – Sakurajima (Ferry ride) – Sun Messe (admission incl.) - Aoshima Shrine – Devil’s Washboard – Miyazaki (B/D: Yakiniku)

Hotel: Hotel JAL City Miyazaki or similar

Sakurajima: One of Japan's most active volcanoes and the symbol of Kagoshima. The volcano smokes constantly, and minor eruptions often take place several times per day. Located in the middle of Kagoshima Bay, Sakurajima is the area's most prominent geographic feature, with an elevation of 1117m and a circumference of about 50km. Massive lava flow from the vigorous eruption in 1914 connected this isolated island to the Osumi Peninsula in the east. The Arimura Lava Observatory offers an unobstructed view of Sakurajima's craters and the coastline, and you may even hear the sounds of lava boiling and explosion.

Sun Messe: A seaside park housing seven moai figures which are the world's only sanctioned replicas of the Easter Island originals. Each one represents a specific blessing: good health, love, leisure, marriage, money, business, and academic study. There is also a moai-themed museum, several gardens and trails and a souvenir shop.

Aoshima Shrine: A famous shrine for love and marriage. The ema wooden plaques hung up on the wish wall witness the wishes of many couples and prayers for love fortune and good marriage.

Devil's Washboard: Stretching 8kms along the Coast of Aoshima Island, this jagged bed of rock has straight ridges resulting from erosion since millions of years ago, giving it the appearance of an old-fashioned washboard. Designated as Natural Monument of Japan.

6 Miyazaki - Takachihokyo – Beppu, Oita – Umi Jigoku & Chinoike Jigoku (admission incl.) (B/D: Kaiseki cuisine)

Hotel: Hotel & Resorts Beppuwan or similar (*Enjoy a relaxing hot spring bath after dinner!*)

Takachihokyo: A narrow gorge cutting through the rock by Gokase River. The nearly sheer cliffs lining the gorge are made of slowly forming volcanic prismatic basalt columns. The 17-meter-high Minainotaki Waterfall cascading down to the river is truly impressive. While some visitors enjoy the sight on a rental boat, some prefer perspective from above on the paved trail running along the edge of the gorge.

Umi Jigoku & Chinoike Jigoku: The most famous steaming hot springs among the nine in Beppu Jigoku and are also nationally designated scenic spots. **Umi Jigoku** is the largest one and rich in iron sulfate giving it beautiful cobalt blue color. With its temperature as high as 98 degrees Celsius, some unique gourmet food like boiled eggs, sweet bun and pudding are steamed and served to visitors. **Chinoike Jigoku** is the oldest natural hot spring in Japan. Its rich iron oxide gives the spring water blood-red color. The ointment made from the clay extracted from Chinoike Jigoku, which is very effective in treating skin diseases, is a must-buy souvenir to most visitors.

7 Beppu – Yufuin – Yunotubo Street – Kinrin Lake - Fukuoka – Dazaifu Tenmangu – Canal City Hakata – Yatai Street (B/D: Japanese beef shabu shabu)

Hotel: Hotel New Otani Hakata or similar

Yunotubo Street: A lively commercial street running through the centre of the popular hot spring town of Yufuin presents interesting blend of modern shops and cafes with traditional Japanese low-rise building and vibes. Definitely the best place for seasonal rural scenery and shopping for local souvenirs!

Kinrin Lake: Naming so as the lake water shimmering in the sunset like fish scales, Kinrin Lake displays picturesque lake views with spectacular misty steam on the surface and distinctive seasonal sceneries against a backdrop of high mountains.

Dazaifu Tenmangu: Being dedicated to the spirit of Sugawara Michizane, an influential scholar and politician of the Heian Period, the shrine was built on his tomb and attracts many students to pray for good academic achievement especially during exam seasons.

Canal City Hakata: Calling itself a “city within the city”, Canal City Hakata is a large shopping and entertainment complex with an artificial canal running through. It boasts over 250 brand stores, wide variety of café & restaurants, an amusement arcade centre, a theatre, hotels, etc. In the evening, the free music fountain shows with 3D illusion light sculpture projection on the dynamic water screen and glass wall offer exceptional audio-visual enjoyment to every shopper.

Yatai Street: Yatai in Japanese means open-air food stalls. Yatai Street is one of the remarkable and busiest alleys in Kyushu with around 20 yatai offering the authentic local dishes like the famous Hakata Ramen, grilled chicken skewers (yakitori), hot pot (oden), octopus balls (takoyaki), etc. It is one of the must-visit attractions for tourists as well as a great social spot for locals.

8 **Fukuoka** **Hometown (B)**

After breakfast, transfer to airport for return flight to hometown.