

KUMAMOTO GUIDE BOOK

More to Love about Kumamoto!



With Mt. Aso and its enormous caldera and Amakusa and its 120 islands, Kumamoto is bursting at the seams with plenty of great outdoor activities. Here are a few of Kumamoto's most beautiful vistas, finest onsen, and tastiest dishes!



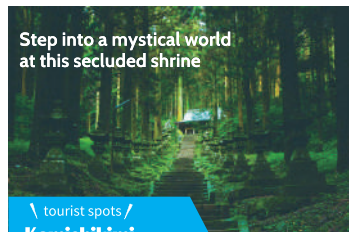
tourist spots / Kusasenri-ga-hama

The Kusasenri plateau offers spectacular views of the smoking Nakadake Crater as horses graze in the fields. Kusasenri can be enjoyed year-round, both in verdant green in summer and under ice and snow in winter.

AREA 01
Aso

Experience Aso

Take a nighttime horseback ride through a golf course as you gaze at the night sky. If you're lucky, you may see a shooting star!



Step into a mystical world at this secluded shrine

tourist spots / Kamishikimi Kumanoza Shrine



tourist spots / Nabegataki Falls

This waterfall is 20m wide and 10m tall. The breadth of the waterfall makes for great photos.



AREA 03
Anakusa

tourist spots / Kuroishi Shore



Dolphin Watching

The sea is beautiful at sunset as it turns a shining copper and the surrounding islands and ships returning to port fade into silhouettes.

Amakusa Experience

Dolphin watching tours take you to visit a pod of 200 dolphins living off the coast of Amakusa. The tours have an encounter rate of over 90% and offer a rare opportunity to see dolphins up close in the wild.



See the sights in a kimono!

Experience Kumamoto City

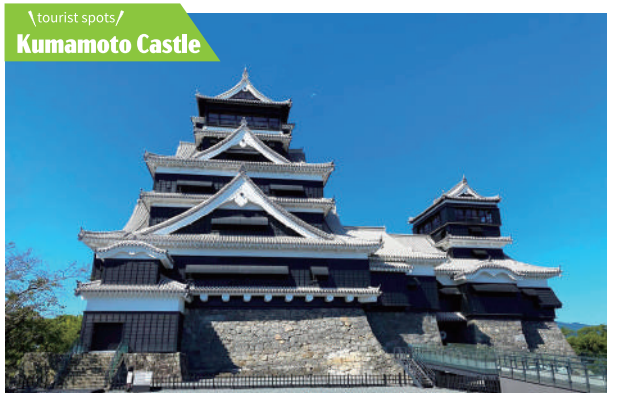
Kimono rentals let you dress up while strolling through town or visiting the castle. Pick your favorite and a kimono dresser will help you put it on. Men's and kid's kimonos are available, too!

AREA 02
Kumamoto City

Suizenji Jojuen Garden is a major historical and cultural site in Kumamoto and the carefully manicured grounds are centered around a picturesque pond.



tourist spots / Suizenji Jojuen Garden



tourist spots / Kumamoto Castle

One of the Three Great Castles of Japan, Kumamoto Castle was built in 1607 by Lord Kato Kiyomasa. The 800 cherry blossom trees around the castle draw thousands of visitors during spring cherry blossom season.



tourist spots / Torii at Kuratake Shrine

This shrine sits atop Mt. Kuratake and offers stunning views of the Amakusa archipelago.



tourist spots / Ushibuka Haiya Festival

This traditional festival features 5,000 dancers dressed in yukata as they sing the Haiya Bushi.



Go here for more info on Kumamoto!



Official Kumamoto Prefecture Tourism Website





tourist spots / **Kikuchi Gorge**

This natural valley forest spans 1,193 hectares. The thick greenery of the trees and the pure waters that wind through the forest make it the perfect place to spend a summer afternoon.



tourist spots / **Yamaga Lantern Festival**

One of Kumamoto's most famous events, this festival features 1,000 female performers who slowly dance through the streets with paper lanterns perched atop their heads.

tourist spots / **Kikuchi Castle**



This mountaintop castle was built in the late 7th century. Excavations have revealed the sites of 67 buildings within the castle boundaries.

Experience the North

Ride a kayak down an irrigation channel in this thrilling activity! The route is filled with tunnels and rapids and is tons of fun!



★Adventure★

Central

This shoreline is renowned throughout Japan. When low tide and sunset are just right, the result is simply breathtaking.



tourist spots / **Okoshiki Shore**

tourist spots / **Tsujunkyo**



Tsujunkyo, Japan's largest aqueduct, was built to supply water to a poorly irrigated plateau. It is now a National Important Cultural Property and water is released from the top of the span during the annual Hassaku Festival.



★Visit the Heart Bridge★

Experience Central

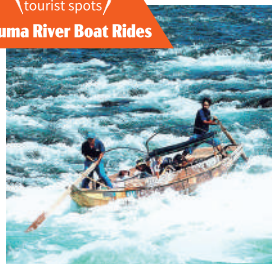
This bridge is a popular spot for couples because, when the sun hits it just right, its shadow makes a heart! The heart is only visible for 30 minutes each day in fall and winter and is a great place to visit with your special someone!

AREA 06

South

This thrilling activity takes you down the Kuma River—one of Japan's fastest rivers—on a wooden boat.

tourist spots / **Kuma River Boat Rides**



tourist spots / **Gokanoshō**



This secluded valley is popular for the colorful foliage that covers the mountains in the fall.

Experience the South

Dress up in a kimono and make your own matcha according to tea ceremony tradition. This activity includes delicious zenmai and bancha pudding as well.



★Matcha Tea Ceremony★



tourist spots / **Kumamon Port Yatsushiro**

This port was built to accommodate the world's largest ships and features 84 Kumamon statues, including a 6-meter-tall Big Kumamon.

Kumamoto Specialties

With both mountain and oceanside areas, Kumamoto is a leader in both agriculture and livestock. Each region features its own local dishes made with quality local ingredients.



Kumamoto Ramen

Strawberries

Bampiyo

Onsen Heaven!

About 80% of the prefecture has natural hot springs, including the world-class Kurokawa Onsen and beautifying Yamaga Onsen.



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