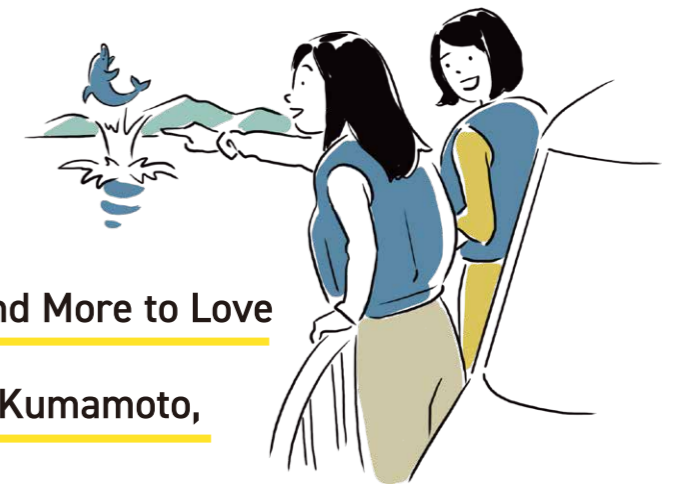


50 Things To Do In Kumamoto



Find More to Love

in Kumamoto,

Whether it's Your

1st or 101st Visit.



50 Great Things To Do
In The 5 Regions of Kumamoto Prefecture

Central / Aso / Amakusa / North / South



Getting Here

- By Air
 - Tokyo (Haneda Airport) → Aso Kumamoto Airport (approx. 1 hr. 40 min.)
 - Osaka (Itami Airport) → Aso Kumamoto Airport (approx. 1 hr. 5 min.)
 - Nagoya (Chubu International Airport) → Aso Kumamoto Airport (approx. 1 hr. 25 min.)
 - Nagoya (Komaki Airport) → Aso Kumamoto Airport (approx. 1 hr. 30 min.)
- Shinkansen
 - Tokyo Station → Kumamoto Station (approx. 5 hr. 40 min.)
 - Shin-Osaka Station → Kumamoto Station (approx. 3 hr.)
 - Nagoya Station → Kumamoto Station (approx. 4 hr. 5 min.)
 - Hiroshima Station → Kumamoto Station (approx. 1 hr. 40 min.)



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 Kumamoto Prefectural Tourism Federation Phone: 096-382-2660
 Kumamoto Prefectural Tourism Promotion Division Phone: 096-333-2315

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 Content may differ due to the effects of heavy rainfall of July 2020 and the Kumamoto Earthquakes. Please contact each facility directly for details.

Click here for the latest
tourist information:



Facebook



50 things to do in Kumamoto

1 Kumamoto Ramen: A Creamy Hybrid of Tonkotsu & Chicken Broth



Kumamoto Ramen is made from a base of creamy tonkotsu (pork bone) broth accented with stock made from chicken and vegetables. The addition of aromatic garlic chips and *mayu* (oil flavored with charred garlic) enhances the flavor of the soup into something truly sublime.



10 Things To Do in Central Kumamoto

Central Kumamoto is packed with amazing places like Kumamoto Castle, a symbol of Kumamoto's post-earthquake reconstruction. We've picked out 10 essential spots that cover everything from must-see sights to hidden gems!



2 See Historical Kumamoto & Learn About the Kumamoto Earthquakes

The Kumamoto Castle Museum features a variety of entertaining exhibits, including a virtual tour of the castle as it was hundreds of years ago and a 360° projection-mapped model of the castle showing how it was damaged in the earthquakes.



Kumamoto Castle Museum Wakuwakuza (at Sakuranobaba Josaien)
Address: 1-1-1 Ninomaru, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto City
Phone: 096-288-5600



3 Check Out the Restored Castle Keep

Considered one of Japan's Three Great Castles, Kumamoto Castle is in the midst of post-earthquake repairs. The interior of the keeps was completely renovated and opened to the public in June 2021. Now is your only chance to see both the high-tech and traditional techniques going into restoring the castle to its former glory.

Kumamoto Castle
Address: 1-1 Honmaru, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto City
096-223-5011 (Kumamoto Castle Operation Center)



4 Stroll Through History at a Picturesque Garden

Suizenji Jojuen Garden is a traditional garden constructed centuries ago by multiple generations of the ruling Hosokawa family. The garden is designated as a National Site of Scenic Beauty and a National Historic Site. The man-made hills and pine trees make for a relaxing place for a stroll.

Suizenji Jojuen Garden
Address: 8-1 Suizenji Koen, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto City
Phone: 096-383-0074



5 See Kumamon Live On Stage!

This is Kumamon's base of operations when he's not exploring the world. Take a look at Kumamon's office and check out exclusive Kumamon merch. Visit the website to see when Kumamon's next performance is scheduled.



Kumamon Square
Address: Tetoria Kumamoto Bldg. 1F, 8-2 Tetorihoncho, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto City
Phone: 096-327-9066



©2010熊本県くまモン



7 Soar Through the Air Over a Mountain Lake

This outdoor adventure park utilizes the natural topography and lakeside forest at the Midorikawa Dam Lake to offer fun and easy activities for kids plus more challenging adventures for grown ups, like an exhilarating zip line ride across the lake.



Forest Adventure Misato
Address: 3083-1 Uneno, Misato, Shimomashiki County
Phone: 080-8387-3310



9 Become Enchanted by the Setting Sun and Undulating Sands

This scenic spot was selected as one of Japan's Top 100 Sunsets. The way the colors of the setting sun reflect off the gentle curves of the sand at low tide is truly breathtaking. The best time of year to experience this beautiful feat of nature is February to April.

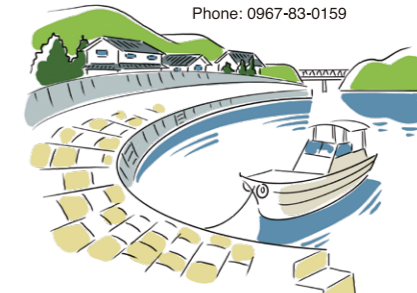
Okoshiki Beach
Address: Shimooda, Uto
Phone: 0964-22-1111 (Commerce, Industry, and Tourism Section, Economy Department, Uto City)



6 Purify Body and Soul at a Spiritual Oasis

Surrounded by massive trees dating back to antiquity, this arcadian shrine to the old gods emanates divine spirit. As one of the oldest and most revered shrines in Japan, people visit from around the country to offer up their prayers.

Heitate Jingu Shrine
Address: 712 Ono, Yamato, Kamimashiki County
Phone: 0967-83-0159



8 Visit a Bygone Era of Japan at a World Heritage Site

Designed by Dutch hydraulic engineer Anthonie Rouwenhorst Mulder, Misumi West Port opened in 1887. The 756-meter-long stonework wharf, drainage channels, and relocated/reconstructed buildings have been preserved as valuable cultural assets and offer a look into the unique history of this area.



Misumi West Port
Address: Nishiko, Misumi, Uki
Phone: 0964-53-0010 (Misumi Station Tourist Information Center)

10 Witness Over a Dozen Life-Sized Dinosaurs!

This museum boasts Kyushu's largest number of dinosaur skeletons on display. The main hall features 19 complete skeletons of dinosaurs from all over the world. Visitors can observe researchers performing archaeological work and can even try their hand at cleaning off a fossil!

Mifune Dinosaur Museum
Address: 995-6 Mifune, Kamimashiki County
Phone: 096-282-4051



50 things to do in Kumamoto

1 Dig into a Bowl Piled High with Akaushi Wagyu Beef!



These bowls consist of akaushi wagyu beef cooked to a perfect medium-rare atop a bed of rice. Akaushi wagyu is lean and flavorful, and each local restaurant offers their beef bowls with unique and delicious sauces.



10 Things To Do in Aso

Take a relaxing trip to Aso to enjoy the dramatic spectacle of nature. Here are 10 spots that offer everything from delicious food to spectacular views, no matter if this is your first visit to Aso or you've come here more times than you can count.



2 Relax in Onsen Located Inside an Actual Caldera

Uchinomaki Onsen is a hot spring town inside the massive Aso Caldera that has 7 public baths and around 20 ryokan and hotels. Uchinomaki is a popular place for tourists to base their travels in Aso and the hot springs are renowned for their beautifying effects.

Uchinomaki Onsen
Address: 781 Ozato, Aso City
Phone: 0967-32-3330
(Aso Onsen Tourism Ryokan Association)



4 See an Active Volcano Up Close!

Ride a horse across the wide fields of Kusasenri as Nakadake Crater belches smoke in the distance. If access restrictions are lifted when Nakadake is less active, visitors can go all the way up to the rim of the crater.

Kusasenri
Address: Kusasenrigahama, Aso City
Nakadake Crater
Address: Kurokawa, Aso City
Phone: 0967-34-1600
(Aso Information Center)



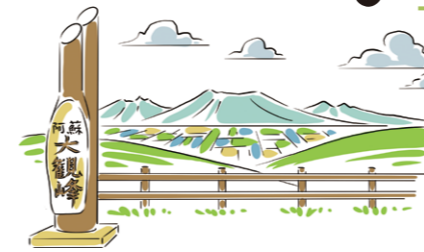
3 A Waterfall Like a Curtain of Water

The waters that fall over the wide Nabegataki Falls flow like a beautiful fluid curtain. Visitors can see the falls up close and even go behind them. Online reservations and admission is required when entering the park.

Nabegataki Park
Address: Kurobuchi, Oguni, Aso-gun
0967-46-2113 (Commerce, Industry and Tourism Section, Information Division, Oguni Town Hall)



5 Enjoy a 360° Panoramic View of Aso!



Daikanbo is a lookout point on the edge of the Aso Caldera that offers the best views in Aso. Daikanbo offers views of all five peaks of Aso which, when viewed from Daikanbo, resemble a reclining Buddha.

Daikanbo
Address: Yamada, Aso City
Phone: 0967-32-3856 (Daikanbo Shop)



7 Bathe in Japan's Finest Onsen



Kurokawa Onsen is a famous hot spring village with an Onsen Pass that lets you enter up to three different onsen. Waita Onsen has six hot spring baths and is famous for its open-24-hours coin-operated outdoor baths!

Kurokawa Onsen Ryokan Association
Address: 6594-3 Manganji Kurokawa, Minami-Oguni, Aso County
Phone: 0967-44-0076



Waita Onsen Association Office
Address: 2816 Takenoyu, Nishizato, Oguni, Aso County
Phone: 0967-46-5750



8 Snap Atmospheric Photos at a Mystical Shrine

The approach to this shrine is lined with 97 moss-covered stone lanterns. Rays of sunlight penetrate the canopy of trees to illuminate the solemn shrine grounds. Behind the shrine is Ugeto Rock, a part of the caldera wall with a huge hole punched through it. It supposedly brings luck in competition and tests.

Kamishikimi Kumanoza Shrine
Address: 2619 Kamishikimi, Takamori, Aso County
Phone: 0967-62-2913 (Takamori Policy Promotion Section)



9 View Aso City from Above at Sorafune Pier

Sorafune Pier is a lookout point located on Mt. Tago, a 653-meter-high mountain in Uchinomaki Onsen Village. The Sorafune Pier juts out from the mountainside to offer unparalleled aerial views of the Aso Valley. The road to the pier is narrow, so walking to the pier is recommended (it takes about 20 minutes).

Mt. Tago Observation Deck
Address: Nishikozono, Aso City
Phone: 0967-22-3174 (Aso City Tourism Division, Economy Section)



10 Witness Aso's Post-Earthquake Recovery



Aso Shrine is under reconstruction following the Kumamoto Earthquakes. The new worship hall made of local wood was unveiled in 2021. The shrine features innumerable small details implemented by skilled craftsmen. Restoration work on the tower gate, an National Important Cultural Property, is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2023.

Aso Shrine
Address: 3083-1 Miyaji, Ichinomiya, Aso City
Phone: 0967-22-0064



6 Refresh Yourself at a Cool Natural Spring

This is the source of the Shirakawa River that flows through the center of Kumamoto City. Around 60 tons of water flow out of the spring each minute, which helped earn this spring its spot among Japan's Top 100 Springs. Stop by neighboring Shirakawa Yoshimi Shrine dedicated to a water god to purify your soul.

Shirakawa Fountainhead
Address: 2040 Shirakawa, Minamiaso, Aso County
Phone 0967-67-1112
(Minamiaso Industry and Tourism Section)



50 things to do in Kumamoto

1 A Rice Bowl Buried in Fresh Seafood



Surrounded by the sea, Amakusa has a thriving fishing industry and is famous for its great seafood. A *kaisendon* (rice topped with sashimi) bowl is a great way to enjoy a variety of Amakusa seafood all at once! Each restaurant offers their own unique mix of seafood and seasonings.



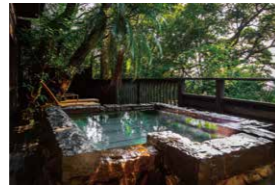
10 Things To Do in Amakusa

Encounter the beauty of Japan among the islands of exotic Amakusa. Amakusa occupies the western tip of Kyushu and is set to impress with countless mountain and ocean vistas. It is also home to a number of historical Christian sites named to the World Heritage list.



2 Get Great Skin at Shimoda Onsen

Shimoda Onsen was designated as a National Hot Spring Resort by the Minister of the Environment in April 1963. The cleansing sodium hydrocarbonate springs and the moisturizing chloride springs combine to make your skin feel beautiful.



Shimoda Onsen Ryokan Association
Address: 1310-3 Shimoda Kita, Amakusa-machi, Amakusa City
Phone: 0969-42-3239



3 Worship at a Church Tucked Away in a Peaceful Port Town

This church is part of the Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region World Heritage Site. The interior of the massive Gothic style church is floored with tatami mats, a style that is rare even in Japan. Advance reservations are required to visit.



Sakitsu Church
Address: 539 Sakitsu, Kawaaura-machi, Amakusa City
Phone: 0969-78-6000 (Sakitsu Community Guidance Center)

This was the earliest church built in Amakusa after the lifting of the ban on Christianity. The current building was erected in 1933 by a missionary named Father Garnier in cooperation with local worshippers. The stately figure of the church atop a hill is the symbol of Christianity in Amakusa.

Oe Church
Address: 1782 Oe, Amakusa-machi, Amakusa City
Phone: 0969-22-2243
(Amakusa Takarajima Tourism Association)



5 Look Out Over the Wide Amakusa Seas from a Torii in the Sky

Kuratake, the highest peak in the Amakusa Islands (682 meters above sea level), has been revered as a spiritual mountain for centuries. Kuratake Shrine was erected atop the mountain to pray for safety when fishing and offers panoramic views of the spectacular Amakusa scenery.



Kuratake Shrine
Address: Tanasoko, Kuratake-machi, Amakusa City
Phone: 0969-64-3111 (Community Building Section, Kuratake Branch Office, Amakusa City)



6 Take a Short Boat Ride to Cat Island!

Yushima is an island where about 200 cats enjoy the slow island life. There are five ferries each day to Yushima from Ebitto Port. The island also features a few historical spots related to the Shimabara-Amakusa Rebellion.

Yushima
Address: Yushima, Oyano-machi, Kamiamakusa
Phone: 0964-26-5512
(Kamiamakusa Tourism and Hospitality Division)



7 Take Home a Souvenir of Amakusa Porcelain

Amakusa ceramics are a nationally designated traditional craft. For centuries, high quality pottery stone from Amakusa's western coast has been used to craft porcelain throughout Japan. A wide variety of brilliantly white, sturdy Amakusa porcelain await your perusal.

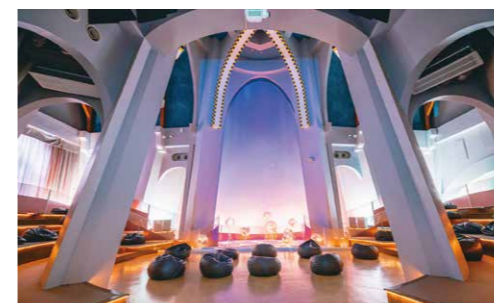
Amakusa Ceramics



8 Meet the Dolphins at a Newly Renovated Aquarium!

Western Japan's only floating aquarium and pearl specialty store are now open after extensive renovations. This facility features a cafe, restaurants, and a shop offering jewelry made with Amakusa pearls. Visitors can also meet and interact with real dolphins!

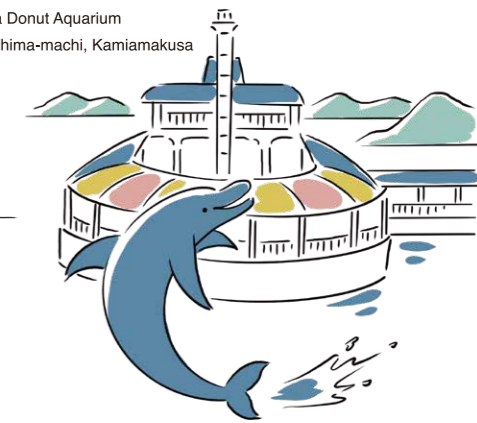
Amakusa Pearl Garden & Sea Donut Aquarium
Address: 6225-8 Aizu, Matsushima-machi, Kamiamakusa
Phone: 0969-56-1155



9 Learn About the Life of the Legendary Youth Amakusa Shiro

The story of the Shimabara-Amakusa Rebellion centered around a 16-year-old named Amakusa Shiro. The Amakusa Shiro Museum provides background to the revolt, explains more about Amakusa Shiro, and explores the public sentiments at the time.

Amakusa Shiro Museum
Address: 977-1 Naka, Oyano-machi, Kamiamakusa
Phone: 0964-56-5311



10 Rendezvous with a Pod of Dolphins!

A pod of around 200 wild southern bottlenose dolphins inhabit the area around Futae, Itsuwa-machi, Amakusa City. Dolphin tours are available year-round and have very high encounter rates. Tour boats allow visitors to observe the dolphins at very close distances.

Dolphin Watching
Address: 4689-20 Futae, Itsuwa-machi, Amakusa City
Phone: 0969-33-1600 (Amakusa Dolphin Center Roadside Station)
Address: 6215-22, Aizu, Matsushima-machi, Kamiamakusa City
Phone: 0969-56-2458 (Sea Cruise)
(Tickets available at Mio Camino Amakusa)



50 things to do in Kumamoto

1 Enjoy a Glass of Wine and a Vineyard View



Taste a variety of wines made using grapes grown in the local Kikuka region. The winery also features kiln-baked cuisine and oven-fired pizza made with local ingredients.

Kikuka Winery
Address: 559-2 Aira, Kikuka-machi, Yamaga
Phone: 0968-41-8166



10 Things To Do in Northern Kumamoto

Visitors to the north of Kumamoto can enjoy great food and the beautiful outdoors centered around the Japan Heritage-designated Kikuchi River Basin. It's also where you'll find Japanese tradition, deep history, and a scenic landscape that changes drastically with the seasons.

2 Enrich Your Skin in Silky Spring Water

For centuries, Hirayama Onsen has been known for its healing abilities and water properties that help soften tough skin. Your skin will stay moisturized after bathing, lending it a warm glow and healthy shine.

Hirayama Onsen Tourism Association
Address: 5346-1 Hirayama, Yamaga
Phone: 0968-44-0522



4 The Brick Buildings that Spurred Japan's Modernization

This is one of the entrances to the Miike Coal Mine where high quality coal was mined in the 19th and 20th centuries. The mine was recognized as a World Heritage Site in 2015 as one of the Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal.

Manda Coal Pit Station
Address: 200-2 Haramanda, Arao
Phone: 0968-57-9155



3 Stand on a Stage in Use for Over a Century

A National Important Cultural Property built in 1910, Yachiyoza Theater is still used as a performance space for a variety of arts, including kabuki. Tours of the historical stage and backstage areas are available on days when there are no performances.

Yachiyoza
Address: 1499 Yamaga, Yamaga City
Phone: 0968-44-4004



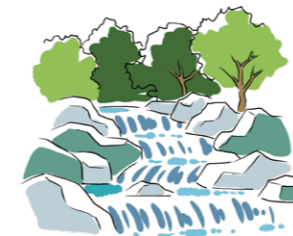
5 Row Your Way to Secret Waterfalls

Go for a spin on Hanjaku Lake at Ryumon Dam on a kayak or SUP and get some exercise in the great outdoors. A little bit of paddling can take you to scenic spots unreachable from shore.

Hanjaku Lake (Ryumon Dam) Kayak & SUP
Phone: 096-221-9869 (Go Nature) SUP only available from July to September



7 Heal in the Natural Beauty of the Seasons



Kikuchi Gorge was carved into the earth by the pure spring waters that originate in Aso. With lively greenery in the spring, cool running water in the summer, colorful foliage in the fall, and picturesque frost in the winter, Kikuchi Gorge has something to enjoy year-round.



Kikuchi Gorge
Address: Hara, Kikuchi
Phone: 0968-27-0210 (Admission Office), 0968-25-7223 (Kikuchi City Commerce, Industry, and Tourism Division)



9 Read As Much Manga As You Like!

This manga museum houses approximately 40,000 volumes dating back to the 1960s. There is an area featuring works by Kumamoto authors, the museum holds frequent manga workshops, and you can read as much manga as you want in the reading room.

Koshi Manga Museum
Address: 1661-271, Miyoshi, Koshi
Phone: 096-273-6766



6 Walk Along the Streets Once Traversed by the Nobility

The Buzen Kaido flourished as the main street of Yamaga in the 17th to 19th centuries. The neighborhood is full of charm and is where you'll find Yachiyoza Theater, can try the Yamaga Lantern dance, or participate in a paper lantern crafting workshop.

Buzen Kaido



8 Rejuvenate Body and Mind at Historic Hot Springs

Legend has it that 1,300 years ago a wounded egret visited Tamana Onsen to heal itself. The clear, slightly alkaline waters work wonders on arthritis and nerve pain and are enjoyed by bathers of all ages.

Tamana Onsen Tourist Hotel Association
Address: 565 Ryuganji, Tamana
Phone: 0968-74-2961



10 Visit a Venerated Temple to Have Your Wish Granted

This is a Shingon Ritsu Buddhist temple that worships the Great Bodhisattva Koen. The temple features a five-story pagoda and one of the world's largest temple bells. Visitors can join the monks in ringing the bell at a ceremony held daily at 11:50.

Okunoin Temple at Rengein Tanjoji
Address: 1512-77 Tsujii, Tamana City
Phone: 0968-74-3533



50 things to do in Kumamoto

1 Taste the History of Unagi Cuisine



Cuisine centered on fish caught in the pure waters of the Kuma River is a staple of Hitoyoshi. Hitoyoshi *unagi* (freshwater eel) is very famous, with each shop having their own unique grilling styles and secret sauces.



10 Things To Do in Southern Kumamoto

Southern Kumamoto Prefecture is bursting with scenic beauty as far as the eye can see. Southern Kumamoto is where you'll find great activities like traditional river boating and sea fishing, plus a shrine registered as a National Treasure.



2 Take a Dip in an Onsen Visited by Local Nobility

Many onsen in Hitoyoshi lie along the Kuma River, one of the three fastest flowing rivers in Japan. There are around 60 excellent springs that are popular with all ages and have soothing waters that will leave your skin feeling soft and rejuvenated.

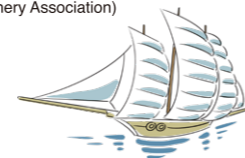
Hitoyoshi Onsen
Address: 326-1 Nakaaoi-machi, Hitoyoshi City (inside JR Hitoyoshi Station)
Phone: 0966-22-2411 (Hitoyoshi Tourist Information Center)



4 Hop Aboard a Lady of the Sea!

The billowing white sails of these *utasebune* boats against the bright blue sky are reminiscent of ladies in white dresses blowing in the wind. Visitors can ride and go fishing on these *utasebune* that catch fish by using wind power to drag nets through the water.

Kanko Utase Boats
Address: 2963-5 Hakariishi, Ashikita, Ashikita County
0966-82-2066 (Ashikita Fishery Association)



5 Experience the National Treasures of Hitoyoshi-Kuma

This shrine was built in 806. The main hall, corridor, hall of offerings, hall of worship, and tower gate were designated as National Treasures in 2008. Ninety percent of the nationally and prefecturally designated shrines and temples in Kumamoto are in Hitoyoshi-Kuma, and Aoi Aso Shrine is one of the most famous.

Aoi Aso Shrine
Address: 118, Kamiaoi-machi, Hitoyoshi City
Phone: 0966-22-2274



7 Discover the Natural Beauty of this Secluded Region

This Gokanoshō Valley is surrounded by mountains ranging from 1,300 to 1,700 meters tall. Known as the hidden refuge of the Taira family, this region is popular during the fall season for the diverse colors of its foliage. Be sure to check out the waterfalls and the suspension foot bridge, too!

Gokanoshō
Address: Gokanoshō, Izumi-machi, Yatsushiro (Momiki, Nitao, Haki, Kureko, Shiibaru)
Phone: 0965-67-2111 (Yatsushiro Regional Development Division, Izumi Branch Office)



9 Looking Back on the Final Days of the War in the Pacific

This museum stands on the site of a naval air base built in the Hitoyoshi Valley and houses number of valuable exhibits and relics, including a full-size replica of a Yokosuka K5Y aircraft and an underground torpedo workshop.

Nishiki Secret Base Museum
Address: 2-107 Kinoue Nishi, Nishiki, Kuma County
Phone: 0966-28-8080



6 Meet More Kumamon Than You Can Count!

This port was built for international cruise ships to dock at Yatsushiro Port. The park is Kumamon-themed and features a 6-meter-tall Big Kumamon, a Kumamon Choir consisting of 54 Kumamon, and much more.

Kumamon Port Yatsushiro
Address: 1-25 Shinminato-machi, Yatsushiro
Phone: 096-333-2515 (Port and Harbor Division, River and Harbor Bureau, Department of Public Works, Kumamoto Prefecture)



8 Relax in a Park That All Ages Can Enjoy

This park covers a vast area of 41.4 hectares and features a playground, sports facilities, a rose garden, and more. The Minamata Roadside Station reopened after renovations in April 2022. The heart-shaped monument on the west side of the park is a popular destination.

Eco Park Minamata
Address: 1-231-12 Shiomi-cho, Minamata
Phone: 0966-62-7501



10 Focus Your Mind Through Meditation

This is the 32nd station of the Japan Heritage Sagara 33 Statues of Kannon. The temple is an Obaku Buddhist temple and houses six Kannon statues designated as Cultural Properties in its Kannon Hall.

Shingu Zenji Temple
Address: 1670 Nishi, Nishiki, Kuma County
Phone: 0966-38-0251

