



*Japan Holidays*  
FEATURED TOUR

# KYUSHU EXPLORER TOUR

Duration of Tour: 6th April – 13th April 2018

From \$3250 per person



# TOUR DESCRIPTION

## Introduction:

### DURATION OF TOUR:

6th April ~ 13th April 2018

8 days 7 nights

\* Cherry blossom season

### PRICE:

From \$3250 per person

\* Subject to exchange rate

### INCLUSIONS:

- 7 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, 6 Dinners
- 7 Nights Accommodation Western & Japanese style
- Transfers, Tours & Entrances as per Itinerary
- Private Escort/Guide in Japan

### NON INCLUSIONS:

- International & Domestic Flights

### Features

Tour escort is a local Historian with unsurpassed knowledge of Kyushu Places visited and insights gained on this tour are all unique to Japan Holidays. Tour is perfectly suited for persons seeking to gain valuable knowledge of remote Japan Small group tour with personalized attention to detail Local cuisine and hospitality unique to country Japan Seasonally perfect time to visit Kyushu Enjoy Yokagura sacred dance ritual reenacting the legends.

## Highlights:

The dynamism that is Kyushu --- the southernmost major island of Japan. A series of volcanic ranges, including the world's largest active volcanic crater, Mount Aso, are located in Kyushu. Kyushu's strategic position near South Korea and China have allowed it to act as a focal point of cultural, religious, and artistic exchanges since the ancient Japanese world. The arrival of the Europeans to Kyushu also started during this time. In the later years, the Nagasaki port of Kyushu started receiving Western trade. Ill fate, however, met the island when, during World War II, on August 9th, 1945, Nagasaki was ravaged by the atomic bomb. So much to see and so much to experience in this small island.

- Direct exposure to this fascinating diverse island of Japan
- Feel the history in staying in Home of Heike samurai clan
- Soak in the natural hot springs that abound in the island
- Personalized tour with highly experienced Escort
- Enjoy local tastes and foods unique to Kyushu
- Experience the warmth and hospitality of the local people

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# ITINERARY

## Day 1 Friday: Tokyo

Arrive Narita International Airport. After clearing Customs transfer to hotel near the Narita Airport using Hotel shuttle.

Accommodation: Narita View Hotel



## Day 2 Saturday(B,L,D): Tokyo - Kumamoto

After an early Breakfast – Depart Narita on Jetstar flight to Kumamoto arriving at 10:15am approximately. Upon arrival, Ken Takenaga, will meet you and be your guide throughout the tour. Depart Aso Kumamoto Airport for Kumamoto City sightseeing. After dropping, the first stop will be Suizenji Japanese Garden. This is followed by a visit to Jyosai En Cultural Center to experience the history of Kumamoto. Lunch at sumptuous buffet restaurant “Ginnan”. After lunch, walk to the Kumamoto Castle to see damages caused by the earthquakes of April 16th and current recovery progress. Afterwards visit the Kumamoto Prefectural Traditional Craft Center to view various local traditional products. Recommended product here is Japanese kitchen Knives that are made by sword makers. Time to visit Tsuruya Department Store for shopping opportunity. Enjoy dinner at one of Kumamoto’s favourite restaurants.

Accommodation: Hotel Nikko Kumamoto

## Day 3 Sunday(B,L,D): Kumamoto - Miyazagi

After breakfast and depart for Yamato cho to view Tsujyun Kyo Stone Bridge, which was built in 1854 AD. After inspecting the water system, we will visit near by Seiwa Bunraku Theater to watch traditional puppet show which the local farmers have performed more than 100 years. Lunch at Seiwa Bunraku Theater. Depart Yamato Town for Takachiho Region where Japanese mythology tells the story that the Prince Ninigi, grandfather of the first emperor of Japan, Emperor Jimmu, came down from the sky in 660 BC. Mystic ancient shrines and gorge surround the Takachiho area. First visit Takachiho Gorge Takachiho, which was formed by columnar jointing. The Takachiho Gorge was designated as a National Scenic and Natural Monument in November 1934. We will check into Hotel Shikimi Tonight we will enjoy watching “Yokagura”, sacred dance rituals reenacting the legends.

Accommodation: Hotel Shikimi



# ITINERARY

## Day 4 Monday(B,L,D): Miyazagi - Kumamoto

After breakfast, we commence our journey to Gokanoshō – the Land of the Last Samurai. Gokanoshō is located in the centre of Kumamoto Prefecture and is often called the last secluded region in Kyushu. These villages are known as the “Home of the Heike fugitive legend” or the Hidden Samurai. Gokanoshō with its combination of waterfalls, mountains and dense forest offers an escape into a splendid piece of natural scenery never seen on regular sightseeing tours of Japan. On the way we will stop by the Sendan Totodo Waterfall and walk the suspension bridges. Stay Heike-so or Sakura-so with the local people and enjoy the generous hospitality of the mountain people that you will remember for the rest of your life. The food and local “moonshine” is superb. Stay overnight Heike-so Minshuku, Gokanoshō

Accommodation: Heike-so



## Day 5 Tuesday (B,L,D): Kumamoto

Say goodbye to Gokanoshō after a sumptuous Japanese breakfast and leave for Yatsushiro City where you will enjoy trying on Japanese Kimono and authentic tea ceremony at the Kinparo, which was built more than 100 years ago and designated as an important cultural asset of Japan. After lunch at the Kinparo, depart for Amakusa. Travelling by a private vehicle over the 5 scenic famous bridges, we will move to the Christian Museum and learn about the history of the Hidden Christians in Amakusa. Amakusa is well known for the “Hidden Christians” who secretly kept their faith for about 400 years. Check into Amakusa Santa Coming Hotel (Seaside Hotel formally) Tonight we will eat an amazing seafood dinner at the hotel.

Accommodation: Amakusa Santa Coming Hotel (Seaside Hotel formally)



## Day 6 Wednesday(B,L,D): Kumamoto - Nagasaki

Depart for the beautiful West Coast overlooking the East China Sea and travel through rice farms before stopping at a local ceramic pottery factory. Next we arrive at Sakitsu Cathedral built in the fishing village of Sakitsu and commands a gentle view of the Bay of Yokaku. This is followed by a visit to Oe Cathedral. Father Garnier built this Romanesque –style church from his private funds in 1933. After lunch at local restaurant, we will depart Amakusa on a vehicular ferry to Shimabara. First visit the ruin of Hara Castle, the battleground of the Christian rebellion in the year 1637. Visiting this site will provide an insight into how the rebellion forces were defeated in this famous last battle. From here the tour travels to inspect Mt. Fugen, which last erupted in 1995 and view the associated Volcanic museum. Then onto the Shimabara Castle where we will try traditional amour, and view the castle and sights from the top.

Accommodation: Iseya Ryokan (Traditional Japanese ryokan)



# ITINERARY

## Day 7 Thursday(B,L,D): Nagasaki

Today the tour travels to Nagasaki. Tour of Nagasaki City including the Nuclear Atomic Bomb Museum and Peace Park and Urakami Cathedral built by the persecuted Christians in 1914 and Dutch Village amongst other sites. In Nagasaki we make time to enjoy local chanpon noodles There is plenty of time to enjoy this port city and discover the Portuguese and Dutch influences. It is also a good city to explore shopping districts by utilizing local tram service.

Dinner will be at local restaurant nearby Hotel.

Accommodation: JR Kyushu Hotel Nagasaki



## Day 8 Friday(B): Nagasaki - Fukuoka

After Breakfast and checking out we depart Nagasaki for Fukuoka for our flight to Narita, Tokyo. Option is to also continue travels to other parts of Japan and consult Japan Holidays for more details on your itinerary.

***END OF TOUR***



## About Japan Holidays

Our team of travel specialists have expert knowledge on the country which is unsurpassed by many travel companies. They hold a strong bond with Japan having either lived there or visited many times. Having specialists proficient in the language will make you feel confident in the having your travel plans managed thoroughly. Japan Holidays is supported by an office in Japan staffed with local experts who are available to assist you in case of need whilst touring the country.

## Contact us

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