

Guide book of learning experiences in **Kumamoto** prefecture



**Seeing is
believing**



Learning Experiences in Kumamoto

Kumamoto boasts wonderful natural scenery including the Volcano of Mt. Aso, the Amakusa Sea and the Kuma mountains and rivers. There is also the Yachiyo-za Kabuki Theater, a historical building designated as a National Cultural Heritage Site. The Minamata environmental study helps residents apply the experience of victims of Minamata Disease to the environment and is the best choice for the educational tours. We offer various experiential learning programs including the themes of nature, living, crafts, environment, history, culture, leisure and sports. Communicate with local residents and find out new ways to enjoy an eco-friendly lifestyle.

ASO Course

- **1st Day**
 Kumamoto Airport
 ↓ 60 minutes
 Aso Volcanic Crater
 ↓
 Aso Volcano Museum
 ↓ 40 minutes
 Hotel or Homestay
- **2nd Day**
 Hotel or Homestay
 ↓
 Aso Outdoor Experience
 ↓ 60 minutes
 Seiwa Bunraku Puppet Theater
 ↓ 30 minutes
 Tsujunkyo Bridge
 ↓ 90 minutes
 Hotel
- **3rd Day**
 Hotel
 ↓ 60 minutes
 Kumamoto Castle - Honmaru Goten Palace
 ↓ 20 minutes
 Suizenji Jojuen Garden
 ↓ 40 minutes
 Kumamoto Airport



Central Prefecture course

- **1st Day**
 Kumamoto Airport
 ↓ 30 minutes
 Kumamoto City (Lunch)
 ↓ 10 minutes
 Suizenji Jojuen Garden
 ↓ 20 minutes
 Kumamoto Castle/ Honmaru Goten Palace
 ↓
 Hotel
- **2nd Day**
 Hotel
 ↓ 40 minutes
 Mifune Dinosaur Museum
 ↓ 45 minutes
 Tsujunkyo Bridge
 ↓ 125 minutes
 Hitoyoshi
 ↓
 Hotel
- **3rd Day**
 Hotel
 ↓ 20 minutes
 Craft Park Ishino Koen
 ↓ 30 minutes
 Kuma River Rafting
 ↓ 90 minutes
 Kumamoto Airport



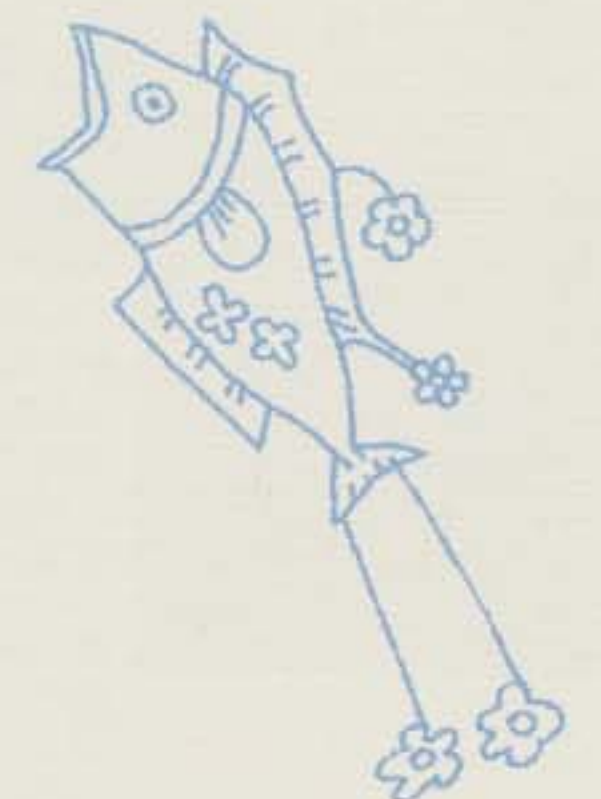
Northern Prefecture Course

- **1st Day**
 Fukuoka Airport
 ↓ 30 minutes
 Dazaifu (Lunch)
 ↓ 75 minutes
 Yamaga
 ↓ 5 minutes
 Yachiyoza Theater
 ↓
 Hotel
- **2nd Day**
 Hotel
 ↓ 30 minutes
 Tabaruzaka
 ↓ 20 minutes
 Kumamoto Castle
 ↓
 Kumamoto City (Lunch)
 ↓ 50 minutes
 Kikuchi Keifuen National Sanatorium
 ↓
 Hotel
- **3rd Day**
 Hotel
 ↓ 60 minutes
 Greenland or Manda Pit
 ↓
 Arao - Nankan (Lunch)
 ↓ 90 minutes
 Fukuoka Airport



Southern Prefecture Course

- **1st Day**
 Fukuoka Airport
 ↓ 180 minutes
 Minamata
 ↓
 Minamata Environmental Learning
 ↓
 Hotel
- **2nd Day**
 Hotel
 ↓
 Listening to Minamata Program
 ↓
 Fukuda Farm (Lunch)
 ↓
 Minamata Port
 ↓ 30 minutes
 Goshoura Port, Amakusa
 ↓
 Goshoura Experiential Learning
 ↓
 Homestay
- **3rd Day**
 Homestay
 ↓
 Goshoura Port
 ↓ 30 minutes
 Yatsushiro Port
 ↓ 90 minutes
 Greenland or Manda Pit
 ↓ 90 minutes
 Fukuoka Airport





Environmental Education

Knowledge of the environment is an important component of environmental protection. Various educational programs in Minamata will help students to understand the importance of the relationship between nature and the community, as well as the global environment.



Social interaction with Congenital Minamata Disease Patients

At Hotto House, a collaborative workspace, you can enjoy making crafts like bookmarks and coasters while interacting with congenital Minamata Disease patients. Learn more about Minamata Disease and people living with disabilities.

- 1-2 hrs. ● 15-100 persons
- ¥2,415 (minimum 15 persons)



Recycling Factory Visit

There are various recycling factories in Eco-town, an environmentally friendly industrial park. Factories like a bottle recycling factory and a home appliance recycling factory are available for observation and you can learn more about the cyclical use of resources and think about our lifestyle.

- 1-2hrs. ● 40 persons
- ¥525 per person, one corporation at a time (¥5,250 uniform up to 10 persons)



Learning about Reuse

The Fukuda Farm is a Spanish style tourist farm. Reused materials that would normally be discarded can be found all over the farm. The farm also provides ideas for using reused materials in your everyday life.

- 1-2hrs. ● 40 persons
- ¥2,100 (minimum 10 persons)



Minamata Disease Museum

Information and resources are available about Minamata Disease. You can learn about background information about the period of its outbreak, the response of its victims and about cultural objects such as fishing equipment. Staff is available to assist you.

- 1 hr. ● 80 persons ● Adult ¥525, High school students ¥480, Elementary and Junior high school students ¥315
- ※Group of over 20 ¥105 discount
- Minamata Disease Center Soshisha/Minamata
- TEL: 0966-63-5800 FAX: 0966-63-5808
- http://www.soshisha.org E-mail: info@soshisha.org



Garbage Classification

Minamata city presently has 22 categories for household garbage. Minamata citizens practice "garbage becoming resources when it is classified and recycled," and they work to reduce waste. The waste is sold at better prices as "Minamata brand waste." Schools and households in Minamata also practice their own version of Environmental ISO, which is a management system for the environment. Learn different environment-friendly techniques from locals, born from the local experience with Minamata Disease.

- 2 hrs. ● 10-20 persons
- ¥2,060 (minimum 10 persons)

● Minamata Educational Tour Planning
TEL: 0966-68-9450 FAX: 0966-63-5909
http://www.mkplan.org E-mail: info@mkplan.org



Forestry Experience

You can experience forestry work such as trimming undergrowth or thinning trees, with the guidance of local farmers.

- 1.5 hrs. ● 20-30 persons
- ¥1,680
- Aso Green Stock/Aso
- TEL: 0967-35-1110
- FAX: 0967-35-1151
- http://www.aso.ne.jp/~green-s
- E-mail: green-s@aso.ne.jp



Kyushu Electric Power Co. Inc. Reihoku Power Plant

How is electricity generated? What are the environmental measures in place at the power plant? Find the answers here.

- 1-2hrs. ● 100 persons
- Free Admission
- Amakusa Treasure Islands Tourist Association/Amakusa
- TEL: 0969-22-2243
- FAX: 0969-22-2390
- http://www.t-island.jp



Shirakawa Waku Waku Land

This facility will help you learn about the history of the flooding of the Shirakawa River, which flows through the middle of Kumamoto city, and about disaster prevention. You can also enjoy learning about the environment of the rivers nearby the Shirakawa River. Local bus: 3 min walk from Kokaibashi stop

- 9:00-18:00 (Nov.-Mar. Closes at 17:00)
- Closed: Mondays
- Free Admission
- Shirakawa Waku Waku Land/Kumamoto
- TEL: 096-346-5454 FAX: 096-346-5411
- http://www.wakuwaku-land.com
- E-mail: wakuwaku@wakuwaku-land.com



Historical Sites of Early Christianity

Amakusa was the island home of hidden Christians in the historical past. The area still has religious places of worship. Enjoy the Romanesque buildings and stand under the Madonna's gaze while taking in the beautiful ocean.

- Contact for further information
- Amakusa Treasure Islands Tourist Association/Amakusa
- TEL: 0969-22-2243
- FAX: 0969-22-2390
- http://www.t-island.jp

Kamitori Shopping Arcade/ Shimotori Shopping Arcade

The Kamitori shopping arcade is modeled after the Paris Orsay Art Museum. Shimotori conveniently intersects with the trolley line. It is the busiest downtown street in Kumamoto Prefecture. Kumamoto-city trolley. Get off at Torichosuji stop/Kumamoto



Blacksmith Experience

Hito-yoshi is famous for its locally produced knives. Traditional blacksmiths produce blades and knives used for cooking and farming. Learn and enjoy observing traditional methods of tool making.

- 1 day ● 3 persons
- Student rate ¥1,500-
- Hito-yoshi Craft Park Ishino Koen/Hito-yoshi
- TEL: 0966-22-6700 FAX: 0966-22-6700
- http://www.d5.dion.ne.jp/~steps/ishinopark.htm



History/Culture

We are who we are as a result of hundreds of millions of years of history. The abilities to imagine and analyze are the keys to unlocking our ancestral wisdom. Local history and traditional culture stimulate your intellectual curiosity. Learn about people's efforts to preserve a tranquil way of life.



The Yachiyoza Kabuki Theater

The Yachiyoza Theater is a unique kabuki theater which features both the Japanese architectural style and a western structure. See delicate designs and amenities passed down from the Edo Period. Stop by to experience the Edo Period for yourself.

- 1 hr.
- Up to 700 persons
- Theater and Yume-kogura Museum Adult ¥520 (group rate ¥420)
- Elementary and junior high school students ¥260 (group rate ¥210)
- Yamaga City Board of Education Culture Division/Yamaga
- TEL: 0968-43-1691
- FAX: 0968-41-7110
- http://www.yachiyoza.com
- E-mail: yachiyoza@yachiyoza.com

Kumamoto Modern Literature Museum

Exhibits of famous and popular authors can be found here. In particular, the life stories of authors associated with Kumamoto, such as Natsume



Soseki, Koizumi Yakumo, Tokutomi Soho, and Roka are worth getting to know. There is also an exhibition of living Kumamoto-born authors.

- 9:30-17:00 (Closed: Mondays, public holidays and last day of every month)
- Number unlimited
- Free admission
- Kumamoto-city trolley: 5 min walk from Kumamoto-city gymnasium
- Kumamoto Modern Literature Museum/Kumamoto
- TEL: 096-384-5000 FAX: 096-385-2983
- http://www.library.pref.kumamoto.jp
- E-mail: toshokan@pref.kumamoto.lg.jp



Replica Fossil Making

This learning program will teach you about fossils and geology. Learn about the earth and the history of life.

- 1.5-2 hrs. ● 100 persons ● ¥100
- Mifune Dinosaur Museum/Mifune
- TEL: 096-282-4051
- FAX: 096-282-4157
- http://www.mifunemuseum.jp/
- E-mail: info@mifunemuseum.jp



Newspaper Museum

This museum exhibits the role played by newspapers in the past, the progress of printing technology, and more. Learn about changes of the newspaper throughout time.

- Kumamoto city trolley: 15min walk from Takabashi stop
- Kumamoto city bus: 2min walk from Kumanichi Yoyasu Center
- 1 hr (9:30-16:30) Closed: Sundays and public holidays
- 80 persons ● Free admission ● Newspaper Museum/Kumamoto
- TEL: 096-361-3071 FAX: 096-363-7854
- http://kumanichi.com/museum/museum.html



Kumamoto City Museum

The museum features exhibits of natural history, science and engineering, cultural science, and a huge replica of a Stegodon. There are displays of marine creatures and plants that live in the Ariake Sea. There is also a planetarium annex.

- 9:00-16:30 (Closed: Mondays and public holidays)
- High school students and above ¥300
- Elementary and junior high school students ¥100
- Kumamoto-city trolley: 5 min from Danyama-machi or Sugidomo stop
- Kumamoto City Museum/Kumamoto
- TEL: 096-324-3500 FAX: 096-351-4257
- http://webkoukai-server.kumamoto-kmm.ed.jp/web/index.shtml
- E-mail: hakubutsukan@city.kumamoto.lg.jp



Kumamoto Castle

The Kumamoto Castle was built in 1601 by the famous Lord Kato Kiyomasa. It took 7 years to complete. The beauty of curving stone walls and outstanding architectural techniques should not be missed.

- 8:30-17:30 (Nov.-Mar. Closes at 16:30)
- Number unlimited
- High school student and above ¥500
- Elementary and junior high school students ¥200
- *Group over 30 persons 20% discount
- Kumamoto-city trolley: 10 min walk from Kumamoto Castle stop
- Kumamoto Castle General Office/Kumamoto
- TEL: 096-352-5900 FAX: 096-351-2954
- http://www.manyou-kumamoto.jp/castle/
- E-mail: kumamotojou@city.kumamoto.lg.jp



Experience Ancient Times

You can learn the wisdom and skills of ancient peoples through 'traditional accessory making' or 'fire making.'

- 1-2 hrs. Closed: Mondays
- 160 persons
- Fire making: ¥100/1 set, ancient accessory making ¥200/person
- Kumamoto Prefectural Ancient Burial Mound Museum/Yamaga
- TEL: 0968-36-2151
- FAX: 0968-36-2120
- http://www.kofunkan.pref.kumamoto.jp/



Seiwa Bunraku Puppet Play

"Bunraku" is a form of traditional Japanese puppet theater. Seiwa Bunraku has been performed for 150 years as a form of rural village entertainment. Play with the puppets and meet local people.

- 30-40 min. ● 15 - 200 persons
- Elementary and junior high school students ¥260
- Seiwa Bunraku Puppet Theatre/Kamimashiki
- TEL: 0967-82-3001
- FAX: 0967-82-3002
- http://www.town.yamato.kumamoto.jp/bunrakunosato/
- E-mail: ymt-bunraku@town.yamato.kumamoto.jp



Living

Daily-life wisdom is passed down from generation to generation. Learn the wisdom of the farmers and fishermen and how to co-exist with nature through agriculture and fishing.

Shampooing & Brushing a Cow

5 to 6 persons take turns shampooing a cow. You can also enjoy brushing a cow.
 ● 20-50 min.
 ● 5-50 persons
 ● ¥300



● Aso Milk Dairy Farm/Aso
 TEL: 096-292-2100
 FAX: 096-292-2107
<http://aso-milk.jp/>
 E-mail: milk-info@aso-milk.jp

Bottle-feeding a Calf

Experience bottle-feeding a calf in a cattle shed. You will certainly enjoy the adorable calves.
 ● 10-20 min.
 ● A few persons ● ¥300

Listening to a Cow's Heart Beat

Feel the life of animals for yourself by listening to a cow's heart beat with a stethoscope. There are also smaller animals available like goats and sheep.
 ● 10-30 min. ● 5-50 persons ● ¥200

Life and Health

"Medicine, food, and agriculture" are all related, but modern society often forgets how important life is. Listen to a lecture and experience organic farming hands-on.
 ● 2 hrs. ● 150 persons
 ● ¥1,200 per person, ¥1,000 for lunch
 ● Kikuchi Yojoen/Kikuchi
 TEL: 0968-38-2820 FAX: 0968-38-5899
<http://www.yojoen.or.jp/>



Agriculture

Making Charcoal

Charcoal can be made from driftwood collected during beach cleaning. The charcoal is allowed to sink into the sea as a cleansing agent. It is a small step in the grand project of cleaning the ocean.
 ● 3 hrs. ● 5-20 persons
 ● Contact for more information
 ● Amakusa Treasure Islands Tourist Association/Amakusa
 TEL: 0969-22-2243
 FAX: 0969-22-2390
<http://www.t-island.jp/>
 E-mail: info@t-island.jp



Making Bamboo Charcoal

Split bamboo into the right size for charcoal and put it in a hand made drum kiln to make bamboo charcoal. Learn about efficient ways of using of charcoal and its positive effects. Charcoal has many positive effects and can be used in many ways. (Aso Yutatto Mura)

● 2 hrs.
 ● 20-30 persons
 ● ¥1,680
 ● Aso Green Stock/Aso
 TEL: 0967-35-1110
 FAX: 0967-35-1151
<http://www.aso.ne.jp/~green-s/>
 E-mail: green-s@aso.ne.jp



Studying Bears and their Way of Life

Feed a big bear yourself, closely observing its unique eating style, etc. Enjoy a great opportunity to learn about animals that is available only here.
 ● 30 min.
 ● 5-30 persons
 ● ¥800 (not including admission fee)
 ● Cuddly Dominion/Aso
 TEL: 0967-34-2020
 FAX: 0967-34-0846
<http://www.cuddly.co.jp/>
 E-mail: ochi@cuddly.co.jp



Mowing Grasslands (Only during autumn)

The grasslands of Aso are maintained by periodic burning and mowing, a practice that has been carried on for more than 1,000 years.
 ● 3 hrs.
 ● 50 persons
 ● Elementary and junior high school students ¥1,575
 High school students ¥2,100
 ● Aso Green Stock/Aso
 TEL: 0967-35-1110
 FAX: 0967-35-1151
<http://www.aso.ne.jp/~green-s/>
 E-mail: green-s@aso.ne.jp

Fishing



Yatsushiro Boating

See the traditional fishing methods and eat the fish caught on an uninhabited island. Appreciate "the richness and value of nature" and learn to be more concerned about environmental issues.
 ● 3.5 hrs. ● 200 persons
 ● ¥30,000 per boat (up to 5 persons), for over 6 persons add ¥5,000/person
 ● Yatsushiro Tourism and Product Information Bureau/Yatsushiro
 TEL: 0965-35-6627 FAX: 0965-32-8944



Beach Seining

Work together and drag a seine (net) which has been set up from the beach. Catch fish with your own hands.
 ● 1-2 hrs.
 ● 40-100 persons
 ● Contact for more information
 ● Amakusa Treasure Islands Tourist Association
 TEL: 0969-22-2243 FAX: 0969-22-2390
<http://www.t-island.jp/>
 E-mail: info@t-island.jp

Utase Boat Fishing

An Utase Boat is a traditional wooden boat for dragnet fishing. Only wind is used to operate the boat and drag the nets. The fish are prepared and served on board. On rainy days, fish cooking classes are available.
 ● 3 hrs. ● 200 persons
 ● ¥42,000 per boat (12 persons)
 ● Minamata Educational Tour Planning
 TEL: 0966-68-9450 FAX: 0966-63-5909
<http://www.mkplan.org> E-mail: info@mkplan.org



Tontoko Fishing

This trawling method has been passed down since the pre-war period and was named after the sound of hitting the side of a boat. See how the fish are caught.
 ● 2 hrs. ● 5-35 persons ● Contact for more information
 ● Amakusa Treasure Islands Tourist Association
 TEL: 0969-22-2243 FAX: 0969-22-2390
<http://www.t-island.jp/>



Dietary Education

Making Blackberry Jam

You can make blackberry jam with instruction by a blackberry farmer. (Aso Yutatto Mura)
 ● 1-2 hrs.
 ● 20-40 persons
 ● ¥1,680



● Aso Green Stock/Aso
 TEL: 0967-35-1110
 FAX: 0967-35-1151
<http://www.aso.ne.jp/~green-s/>
 E-mail: green-s@aso.ne.jp

Split Firewood and Make Japanese Sweets

Split firewood and make a fire in a cooking stove to make tea. Then make Japanese sweets, ichigo daifuku, using strawberries which were picked that same morning. (Aso Yutatto Mura)
 ● 1-2 hrs.
 ● 20-40 persons
 ● ¥1,680



Make Japanese Pickles

Learn about the history of takana, a kind of green leafy vegetable, which is the specialty of Aso. Make takanazuke, Japanese pickles, then make "onigiri" rice balls including your takanazuke. (Aso Yutatto Mura)
 ● 1-2 hrs.
 ● 20-30 persons
 ● ¥1,680

Making Butter

Experience touching and milking a cow. Make fresh butter out of Aso milk.
 ● 30-50 min.
 ● 10-100 persons
 ● ¥600-¥800
 ● Aso Milk Dairy Farm/Aso
 TEL: 096-292-2100
 FAX: 096-292-2107
<http://aso-milk.jp/>
 E-mail: milk-info@aso-milk.jp

Tofu Making Experience

Do you know how tofu is made? You can make tofu and taste your freshly made tofu.
 ● 1 hr.
 ● 2-40 persons
 ● ¥1,500
 ● Aso Agrisquare Hanaasobi/Aso
 TEL: 0967-23-6262
 FAX: 0967-23-6263
<http://www.aso.ne.jp/~hanaasob/>



Cleaning Fish

As you learn how fish come to be on your table, learn how to clean fish with guidance from community residents.
 ● 1 hr.
 ● 10-25 persons
 ● Contact for more information
 ● Amakusa Treasure Islands Tourist Association/Amakusa
 TEL: 0969-22-2243
 FAX: 0969-22-2390
<http://www.t-island.jp/>



Nature

Nature teaches us the importance of having a curious and playful spirit. Enjoy nature with the support of an instructor. Communicating with the instructors is also a valuable experience to help you learn and think about nature.

Outdoor Activities



Fossil Excavation

In Goshoura, fossils can be found in various places. Here it is possible to unearth prehistoric remains that date back a hundred million years. At the Goshoura Cretaceous Museum, ammonite fossils and fossilized teeth of large carnivorous dinosaurs are on display.
● 2 hrs.
● 10-100 persons
● ¥200
● Amakusa Treasure Islands Tourist Association/Amakusa
TEL: 0969-22-2243
FAX: 0969-22-2390
http://www.t-island.jp/
E-mail: info@t-island.jp

Tanibito (Valley Folk) Tourism

Many valley folks, called 'tanibito' in Japanese, live in Aso. They have a deep knowledge of the severe environment of Aso and local culture. Enjoy a walk with a 'tanibito' and learn more about Aso.
● 2-3 hrs. ● 150 persons
● ¥1,500 (insurance included)
● Aso Tanibito Ecomuseum/Aso
TEL: 0967-64-8200 FAX: 0967-64-8200
http://www.tanibito.com/indexja.html
E-mail: office@tanibito.com



The Aso Volcano Field Museum

The volcano of Mt. Aso has formed its own biological ecosystem over time. The people's lives and their culture have also been influenced by the natural environment of Aso. Stroll around the Aso mountain peaks and in the Aso caldera.
● 2.5-3hrs. (Time varies on request)
● Attendance unlimited ● Elementary school students ¥1,200
Junior high school students ¥1,400 High school students ¥1,600
*Group discount available
● NPO Aso Museum/Aso
TEL: 0967-34-2111 http://npo-aso.museum/
E-mail: info-amus@npo-aso.museum

Aso Volcano Experiential Activities

The exhibits and lectures at the Volcano Museum teach you about the Aso Volcano. You will gain a deeper understanding about nature by going into the fields to experience it.
● 2.5-3hrs. ● 300 persons
● Trekking + Admission
Elementary school students ¥1,200
Junior high school students ¥1,400
High school students ¥1,600
● Aso Volcano Museum/Aso
TEL: 0967-34-2111 FAX: 0967-34-2115
http://www.asomuse.jp/
E-mail: info@asomuse.jp

Experience the Nature of Aso

Enjoy being embraced by the magnificent mountains of Aso, feeling the winds and sensing the greatness of nature. Go trekking and do outdoor activities in Aso filled with thrill and excitement.
● 2.5-3 hrs.
● 30-200 persons
● ¥2,100
● Institute for Outdoor Activity and Environmental Education IOE/Aso
TEL: 096-387-6922
FAX: 096-387-6922
http://ioe-j.com/
E-mail: info@ioe-j.com



Kumamoto City Zoological and Botanical Gardens

The 'Golden Monkey', a symbol of goodwill between China and Japan, has already given birth to its third child. Enjoy a day filled with interaction with animals and also discover various species of plants. Kumamoto-city trolley: Get off in front of the Kumamoto City Zoological and Botanical Gardens, 10 min walk
● 9:00-17:00 (Closed: Mondays)
● Attendance unlimited
● Elementary school and Junior high school students ¥100 High school students and above ¥300
● Kumamoto City Zoological and Botanical Gardens/Kumamoto
TEL: 096-368-4416 FAX: 096-365-5671
http://www.ezooko.jp/



Limestone Cave Expedition

Kyusendo, a limestone cave, was slowly formed over a period of more than three hundred million years. Its length is about 4800 m. During the course, which requires helmets and boots, you are sure to be surprised by the many different pieces of limestone artwork.
● 1 hr. ● 50 persons ● Contact further information
● Kuma Village Forestry Cooperative/Kuma
TEL: 0966-34-0211 FAX: 0966-34-0100
http://www.kyusendo.jp/
E-mail: info@kyusendo.jp



Observe a Rock Beach

Many different species of aquatic life reside in the waters of Minamata. Here, by merely turning over rocks at the beach, you can find an assortment of living things such as seashells, sea cucumbers and crabs. Find and touch the different sea creatures here.
● 1-6 hrs
● 20 persons
● Contact for more information
● Minamata Educational Tour Planning/Minamata
TEL: 0966-68-9450
FAX: 0966-63-5909
http://www.mkplan.org/
E-mail: info@mkplan.org



Observation of the Fiddler Crab

Nagaurajima in Amakusa is the biggest colony of fiddler crabs in Japan. These crabs are designated as a vulnerable species. Male fiddler crabs wave their enlarged claws to attract females. Observe the fiddler crab and learn more about their lives.
● 1.5 hrs. ● 25-100 persons
● Contact for more information
● Amakusa Treasure Islands Tourist Association/Amakusa
TEL: 0969-22-2243 FAX: 0969-22-2390
http://www.t-island.jp/

Star Watching

Aso looks like a large crater. The Luna Astronomical Observatory is in the middle of this crater and is the location of this adventurous window to the universe. Here you will hear a variety of stories about the stars. Enjoy the planetarium on rainy days.
● 1 hr. ● 40 persons ● Elementary school students ¥500
Junior High school students and above ¥1,000
Group discount available ● Minami Aso Luna Observatory
TEL: 0967-62-3006 FAX: 0967-62-2079
http://www.via.co.jp/luna/ E-mail: luna@via.co.jp



Dolphin Watching

Fishermen and wild dolphins co-exist in harmony in the ocean around Amakusa. Enjoy a moving moment while meeting with dolphins. You will be fascinated by how dolphins live in their natural habitat.
● 1-1.5 hrs. ● 40-300 persons
● Contact for more information
● Amakusa Treasure Islands Tourist Association/Amakusa
TEL: 0969-22-2243 FAX: 0969-22-2390
http://www.t-island.jp/



Craftwork Experience

We are surrounded by creative works of art in our daily life without even realizing it. Doing crafts is one way to express yourself while learning about your own sense of style.

Pottery



Ceramic Arts

You can learn about the different aspects of ceramic arts. Our friendly artists are available to assist you.
● 1 hr.
● Painting 100 persons, Rokuro, potter's wheel 2 persons
● Small cup ¥800, mug ¥1,000, wheel ¥2,000
Note: Shipping fee required
● Hitoyoshi Craft Park Ishino Koen/Hitoyoshi
TEL: 0966-22-6700
FAX: 0966-22-6700



Ceramic Arts

Experience the pleasures of making your own ceramic piece of art. Create your own signature piece as you spin the potter's wheel.
● 2 hrs. ● 60 persons ● ¥1,500/person
15 persons and above ¥1,200/person
Note: shipping fee required
● Anzu-no Oka (Apricot Hill), Traditional Arts and Craft Hall/Yamaga
TEL: 0968-48-3050 FAX: 0968-48-3050
http://densyou-kougeikan.hp.infoseek.co.jp/
E-mail: oshibana@kikuka-flowerbank.co.jp

Pressed Flowers

Flowers are a gift from nature that color the seasons. Experience using pressed flowers to make things such as postcards, bookmarks and key rings.
● 30 min. ● 30 persons ● ¥315-¥630
● Anzu-no Oka (Apricot Hill), Oshibana-kan (Pressed Flowers Hall)/Yamaga
TEL: 0968-48-3960
FAX: 0968-48-3784
http://www.kikuka-flowerbank.co.jp/
E-mail: oshibana@kikuka-flowerbank.co.jp



Craftwork



Painting on Kijiuma Toys and Floral Box

It is said that the remaining Heike clan made kijiuma, a colorful bird-shaped toy and hanateboko, a floral box in remembrance of Kyoto. Try painting these traditional toys of Hitoyoshi.
● 1 hr. ● 50 persons
● Kijiuma ¥1,000-, Floral box ¥1,100-
● Hitoyoshi Craft Park Ishino Koen/Hitoyoshi
TEL: 0966-22-6700 FAX: 0966-22-6700
http://www.d5.dion.ne.jp/~steps/isinopark.htm



Azulejo Tile Painting

Azulejo is blue painted tiles originating in Portugal. Draw memories of your school trip or school life on a tile.
● 1-2 hrs.
● 5-50 persons
● Contact the facility, Takahama-Yaki Ueda Juho Pottery/Amakusa
● Amakusa Treasure Islands Tourist Association/Amakusa
TEL: 0969-22-2243 FAX: 0969-22-2390
http://www.t-island.jp/



Ceramic Painting

Amakusa is one of the most famous areas in Japan for the production of "kaolin" pottery stones. You can draw your own pictures or letters on Amakusa Ceramics.
● 0.5-1 hr. ● 50 persons
● Contact the facility
● Amakusa Treasure Islands Tourist Association/Amakusa
TEL: 0969-22-2243 FAX: 0969-22-2390
http://www.t-island.jp/



Corn Dolls

Make a traditional country style doll with husks of corn. You will learn that agricultural produce can be used in many expected ways while enjoying the act of creation.
● 1-2 hrs. ● 20-40 persons ● ¥1,680
● Aso Green Stock/Aso
TEL: 0967-35-1110 FAX: 0967-35-1151
http://www.aso.ne.jp/~green-s/
E-mail: green-s@aso.ne.jp



Recreational Sports

Enjoy nature and stretch out in a field after observation and studying. New experiences in the sea, the river or the sky will help you make new friends other than your school friends, and are useful for creating a healthy class environment. Most importantly, sharing good experiences in a group leaves precious memories.



Rafting

In the rapids of Kuma River, you will have unimaginable thrills. You can enjoy exhilaration as you raft between the oddly-shaped rocks. Training is provided before the actual rafting session for safety's sake. Please contact us for further information.

- 1.5-3 hrs.
- 60 persons
- Contact the facility
- Hitoyoshi-City Tourism Development Division/Hitoyoshi
- TEL: 0966-22-2111



Downstream Boating

Experience the thrills of going down one of the three fastest flowing streams in Japan in a boat steered with only a pole. You will enjoy both gracefulness and thrills. Please contact us for further information.

- 1.5 hrs.
- 300 persons
- Contact the facility
- Kumagawa-kudari Co., Ltd./Kuma
- TEL: 0966-22-5555
- FAX: 0966-24-8174
- http://www.kumagawa.co.jp/

Ocean River



Dragon Boat

Dragon boat racing is a Chinese cultural influence that can still be seen in Amakusa. It is said to be the oldest form of paddle boat competition in the world. You can take part in race against other members of the class.

- 1.5 hrs.
- 10-160 persons (in Matsushima), 21-200 persons (in Reihoku)
- Contact the facility
- Amakusa Treasure Islands Tourist Association/Amakusa
- TEL: 0969-22-2243
- FAX: 0969-22-2390
- http://www.t-island.jp/



Tenma Boating

A tenma-sen is a small boat rowed with a fish-tail oar that was commonly used as a plaything by children. You can enjoy rowing a tenma-sen out to sea.

- 30 min.
- 4-16 persons
- Contact the facility
- Amakusa Treasure Islands Tourist Association/Amakusa
- TEL: 0969-22-2243
- FAX: 0969-22-2390
- http://www.t-island.jp/



Canoeing on a Lake

Enjoy canoeing at the Ichifusa Dam in the upper stream of the Kuma River. This is the best place for beginners to learn canoeing as its waters are very still. While canoeing you can also enjoy the beautiful scenery and serenity that surrounds you.

- 1 hr.
- 30 persons
- Contact the facility
- Amenbo-kan/Kuma
- TEL: 0966-49-6011
- FAX: 0966-49-6012
- http://www.mizukamiichifusa.com/amenbo-kan/amenbo-kan_index.html
- E-mail: genryu@mizukami-mura.com



Sea Kayak

Paddle a sea kayak and come in close contact with nature. You will learn teamwork as two or more people work together.

- 2 hrs.
- 2-36 persons
- Contact the facility
- Amakusa Treasure Islands Tourist Association/Amakusa
- TEL: 0969-22-2243
- FAX: 0969-22-2390
- http://www.t-island.jp/

Sky



Hot Air Balloon

Heating the air with a burner, the hot air balloon is able to ascend to a height of 40m. Experience a bird's eye view of Aso and steer the hot air balloon.

- 5 min.
- 15-200 persons
- ¥1,050-



Paragliding

Experience the sensation of literally walking in the air as you soar high above Aso. Our instructors will teach you how to paraglide safely.

- 2 hrs.
- 10-80 persons (use ground), 10-20 persons (use hill)
- ¥3,150

Sport Kite

Ride the wind on a sport kite, and fully enjoy the sky of Aso. Even beginners can try without fear with help from our instructors.

- 1 hr. or 2 hrs.
- 10-50 persons
- ¥1,575/60min
- ¥3,150/120min

- Aso Nature Land/Aso
- TEL: 0967-32-4196 FAX: 0967-32-0727
- http://www.aso.ne.jp/~natureland/
- E-mail: natureland@aso.ne.jp

Human Rights Study



Learn about Discrimination and Human Rights

Learn about the history of discrimination against sufferers of Hansen's Disease through social interaction with residents of the Kikuchi Keifuen and observe the institution to deepen your knowledge of Hansen's Disease.

- 2-3 hrs.
- 150 persons
- Contact for details
- Residents' Association of Kikuchi Keifuen National Sanatorium/Kikuchi
- TEL: 096-248-5342

It is more important than ever to make an effort to see and experience what is only visible from the perspective of a "victim". Selfish Misunderstandings can be the starting point to thinking in about our society. Listening to the words of people who have suffered and struggled can nurture mutual respect and viewpoints on social issues.



Interaction Lecture

The Minamata Disease Municipal Museum is situated high on a hill and offers a view of Minamata bay. There is an exchange corner where you can learn more about the disease from the victims themselves.

- 1 hr.
- 250 persons
- Free Admission
- Municipal Minamata Disease Museum/Minamata
- TEL: 0966-62-2621 FAX: 0966-62-2271
- http://www7.ocn.ne.jp/~mimuseum/
- E-mail: mimuseum@eos.ocn.ne.jp

Minamata Guide

Knowledgeable guides will teach you about Minamata Disease, environmental issues and the community.

- Tours are available by bus or car as requested.
- Contact the facility
- Minamata Educational Tour Planning
- Kumamoto International Convention Bureau
- TEL: 0966-68-9450
- FAX: 0966-63-5909
- http://www.mkplan.org
- E-mail: info@mkplan.org



Local Guide

Volunteer Tour Guides

Volunteer tour guides expose visitors to the rich nature, history and culture represented by Kumamoto Castle and Suizenji Koen (park), a traditional Japanese garden. (Visitor's only need to pay for the transportation costs of the guide.)

- Contact the facility
- Kumamoto International Convention Bureau
- TEL: 096-359-1788
- FAX: 096-359-8520
- http://www.kumamoto-icb.or.jp/
- E-mail: kumaconn@orange.ocn.ne.jp

Walking Tours of Hitoyoshi

Hitoyoshi flourished as a castle town of the Sagara Clan. Kumagawa, a broad clear river, flows through the town. You can sense the history within the town which is sometimes called "Little Kyoto." Guides are available on request.

- 1 hr.
- Contact the facility
- Hitoyoshi Tour Guide Association
- TEL: 0966-22-3101
- FAX: 0966-24-6509
- http://www.hitoyoshi-hikari.com/wakaayu/index.html
- E-mail: kamikawa@hitoyoshi-cci.or.jp

Greenland

There are over 70 attractions at Greenland, the largest number of attractions in Japan, an animal park, many events, as well as thrill rides to attract you. Come here to let loose and have a great time.

- 9:30-17:30 (Dec.-Feb. 10:00-16:00)
- Attendance Unlimited
- Contact the facility
- Greenland Resort/Arao
- TEL: 0968-66-1122
- FAX: 0968-66-0450
- http://www.greenland.co.jp/
- E-mail: info@greenland.co.jp



Disc Golf

Disc golf is an American-born sport, where golfers throw flying discs into iron baskets that function as golf holes.

- 1 hr./2 hrs.
- 10-45 persons
- ¥1,575/60min
- ¥3,150/120min

- Aso Nature Land
- TEL: 0967-32-4196 FAX: 0967-32-0727
- http://www.aso.ne.jp/~natureland/
- E-mail: natureland@aso.ne.jp

Mountain Bike Experience

Pedal a mountain bike through the fields of Aso and on forest paths. Feel the exhilaration of riding a bike in an expansive natural setting.

- 1 hr./2 hrs.
- 10-45 persons
- ¥1,575/60min
- ¥3,150/120min

Horse Riding Experience

Ride a horse in the grassy fields of Aso. You can learn how to handle a horse and immerse yourself in nature at the same time. There are many courses to choose from.

- 10 min.-
- Negotiable
- ¥1,575-
- El Patio Ranch/Aso
- TEL: 0967-22-3861 FAX: 0967-22-3171
- http://epr-r.com/



Kumamoto Experience



Yamaga Municipal Museum
Here you will find exhibits on both the history and ethnic culture of the Kikuchi River area.

Chibusan Tumulus Tomb
This decorative ancient burial mound has been designated as a national historical site. Adjoining the Obusan Tumulus Tomb is a great ancient burial mound of the late tumulus period.

Kumamoto Prefectural Museum of Decorative Ancient Burial Mounds

Osaru no Sato (Monkey village), Monkey Theater
See monkeys perform on stilts, do loop tricks, a comedy show, and more. Don't miss the exquisite performance by the monkeys and their trainers.

Ultraman Land
This theme park features the complete Ultraman family of popular heroic characters.



Mitsui Green Land

Tabaru-zaka (Tabaru-slope) Park
This battlefield saw the heaviest fighting in the Seinannoeki (Kyushu civil war). Here you will find displays of pictures and weapons from that era.

Ariake Sea

Amakusa Five Bridges
The Uto Peninsula and Amakusa Islands are connected by five unique bridges which were completed in 1966.

Kumamoto Port
A place where you can see rare mud flat creatures such as mudskippers (mutsugoro) up close.

Yamaga Lantern Folk Arts Museum

Yachiyo Theater

Somon

Anzu-no Oka (Apricot Hill)

Kikuchi Gorge

Kikuchi Yojoen

Keifuen

Aso Agri-square

El Patio Ranch

Aso Nature Land

Yutatto Mura

Cuddly Dominion

Aso Medicinal Herb Garden

Aso Volcano Museum

Southern Aso Luna Astronomical Observatory

Aso Milk Farm



Seiwa Bunraku Mura (Japanese Traditional Puppet Play Village)

Kumamoto Castle

Mifune Dinosaur Museum

Toyo Village Stonemason Museum

Kumamoto Prefecture has the most stone bridges in Japan. The museum offers displays about stonemasons in Higo (Kumamoto) and techniques of erecting stone bridges.

Tsujun Bridge

The biggest arch-type water line bridge in Japan, it is a great work by a stonemason in Higo (Kumamoto) made in 1854.

Gokanoshō

Martyrdom Park
The Amakusa Christian Museum displays information about hidden Christians and a Christian cemetery is situated on a hill looking down on downtown Hondo city.

Misumi West Port
Designed by Dutch hydraulics engineer Rouwenhorst Mulder in 1884, this port is said to be one of the three greatest ports of the Meiji period.

Dolphin Watching

Amakusa Dolphin World
You can enjoy the dolphin or sea lion shows. You can also touch the dolphins.

Reihoku Thermal Power Plant

Takahamayaki Ueda Jyuhou-gama

Amakusa Beach Nature School

Oe Church
A Romanesque church built in 1932 by Father Garnier.

Sakitsu Church
A church built in 1934 in the Gothic style.

Ushibuka Marine Park
You won't believe your eyes when you see tropical fish swimming amongst the corral in Kyushu. The marine park operates a Glass Boat

Dragon Boat

Sakata Pearls

Goshoura Cretaceous Museum

Utase Boat Fishing

Tontoko Fishing

Rental Boat

Forest Museum
This museum displays information about the nature and forests of the Kuma River area. The Edison Museum here also displays electric cars and phonograph etc.

Kyusendo Cave

Downstream Boating

Rafting

Ishino Craft Park



- Minamata Disease Municipal Museum
- Minamata Disease Center Soshisha
- Minamata Educational Tour Planning

- Japan Railways lines
- Kyushu Shinkansen Lines
- Hisatsu Orange Lines

Kumamoto Prefectural Academic Excursion Promotion and Advisory Board

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<http://www.kuma-kyoryo.jp/>