



izumi  
inaka  
taiken 

*Life Nurturing and Learning Trip*

# **Izumi Rural Life Experience**

Izumi City Association of Vitality and Renewal



# Cranes come! Also children! Izumi - Everyone's favorite city-

## Messages from the program organizers

Throwing oneself into a new experience and learning about new things is an invaluable experience for children. And the deep experience gained from it will give children spiritual enrichment, help them grow and acquire the so called "The power for living" in their life.

The Shiranui Sea area hands-on learning program helps foster children's 'living ability'.

The farmstay programs of Izumi City and programs associated with Minamata disease in Minamata City have taken in many children so far as they are a unique and original hands-on educational tool which cannot be found anywhere else.

We, the program organizers, hope that children can obtain the "power for living" throughout these programs and that the experiences they have become a great memory that will last a lifetime.



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# Night Stay in Izumi!!

~A memorial experience: living on a farm~

In Izumi City with extended flat land, many farmers such as dairy farmers in the mountain area and orange farmers on the plains accept children for farmstays. Currently, 75 families in five districts, including Noda, Takaono, Izumi, Komenotsu, and Okawauchi, are registered in the farm stay accommodation listings, and offer a 2-hour farming and food growing experience.

We hear a lot of pleasant comments from children who have joined this farmstay program and have enjoyed the warm hospitality of the local people through their agriculture and forestry learning experience, and by trying their own hand at making meals and sweets.

## Izumi Farmstay Guide Map

Yatsushiro Sa (Shiranui Sea)

**Izumi City**

**Kumamoto Prefecture**

**Minamata City**

**Akune City**

**Izumi District** 15 families

**Komenotsu District** 16 families

**Takaono District** 14 families

**Noda District** 15 families

**Okawauchi District** 15 families

Messages from the members of the Izumi Farmstay Program

\*Beneath the portrait illustrations on the map is stated the number of listings of farmstay accommodation and typical crops in the districts.

**By Yoshihiro Fukui**  
This is a production area for bamboo shoots, and is famous for its Nodago historic road, called the Bukemon Street, which stretches out for about 1 kilometer. It also provides scenic views of traditional gates and stone walls of Samurai mansions. It allows you to experience farming and strolling around the historic road.

**By Kiyoko Takesaki**  
The Takaono (Ohnohara) district is one of the most active plant growing areas in Izumi City. Its carefully grown plants are nationally known and mainly delivered to the western Japan region. The area allows you to learn about looking after the plants and seedlings and the history of plants growing in Izumi City.

**By Takako Wada**  
Rice and vegetable farming by making use of the extended Izumi plain is actively practiced in this area. Rice paddies as far as you can see are a true view of the countryside. In addition to farming, you can also experience feeding the calves.

**By Miyoko Enoki**  
This district is a famous production area for oranges in the city. It grows a great variety of oranges and cultivation takes place throughout the year. You can experience harvesting oranges and the management of fruit trees.

**By Yachiyo Tanaka**  
Situated in the mountain area, the Okawauchi district actively grows green tea and livestock. One of the charms of the area is that you can see the beautiful starlit sky as if it is falling down on you. Not only is there rice and dairy farming, but you can also experience starlit sky viewing at night.

# Izumi - The Village of Cranes and the Old Samurai Mansions -

## Hands-on Learning Program

Come visit the vast Izumi Plain. Here you can stay at a farm house and learn about life on a farm. Ice cream and pizza making at Cosmos-Kan, which is located in the mountains, has become quite popular recently as a good educational example on food and nutrition.

■ Inquiries on the Hands-on Learning Program  
\* Minamata Educational Tour Planning (a non-profit organization)  
TEL 0966-68-9450

### Ice Cream Making with Izumi-produced Milk

This is held in Okawauchi, the town of dairy farms. You can learn about milk and try making ice cream with fresh milk and other selected ingredients. Nothing is comparable to the taste of ice cream that you hand-make yourself.



- ① Cosmos-kan ② The Okawauchi District ③ Groups of up to 25
- ④ About 2 hours ⑤ New Year's

### Stone Oven Baked Pizza Making

Try pizza making with an authentic stone oven which was made by the people of Okawa. Children can learn the process right from kneading and forming the crust to putting on toppings. Fresh from the oven, hand-made pizza tastes just superb!



- ① Cosmos-kan ② The Okawauchi District ③ Groups of up to 30
- ④ About 2 hours ⑤ New Year's

### Baumkuchen Making with Green Bamboo

Bamboo is used as a spit when baking a special "Bamboo-kuchen." With fresh butter and eggs, you can try dough forming and all the other processes in its production. Baking a delicious cake with a partner brings to children a precious feeling of accomplishment.



- ① Cosmos-kan ② The Okawauchi District ③ Groups of up to 30
- ④ About 2 hours ⑤ New Year's

### Bird Watching

This is held in the Izumi district, which is known as a landing zone for cranes. As many as 280 kinds of birds have been observed in this area, which equals two third of all the birds in Japan. This is definitely one of the best spots in Japan for bird-watching.

- ① Crane Park ② The Izumi District ③ Groups of up to 60 ④ About 2 hours
- ⑤ Business Hours: 9:00~17:00
- Closed: April through October - Mondays
- November through March-No days of closing during this season



The sight of cranes dancing in vast Izumi Plain that stretches right in front of your eyes is just magnificent. You can also feel the beat of history in the area with many old samurai mansions (designated as an important traditional building reservation area), which counts as one of Japan's largest in scale. Children can feel the greatness of nature seeing the cranes landing. They can also feel the simple but truly vigorous samurai culture of the Shimazu Clan at the old samurai mansions. These sightseeing resources make a perfect educational tour.

### [Spots for Studying Cranes]

It is said that cranes started to land in the Arasaki area of Izumi City, since around 1695, which was 10 years after the Shimazu Clan started the reclamation. The cranes are thought to come each year from Siberia, flying down southward through China, Korea, Iki, the Nagasaki Peninsula, the Yatsushiro Sea to finally arrive here in Izumi.

There are 7 kinds of cranes coming to this area. In the peak period from mid-October to late-March, more than 12,000 cranes pass the winter in this area. The sight of cranes dancing around in the sky is magnificent. It was selected as one of the "Best 100 landscapes with sound to be passed down to the next generation" by the Ministry of Environment in 1996.



● White-naped Crane ● Demoiselle Crane

### ● Crane Observation Center

This crane observation facility is open from November 1st to the 4th Sunday of March every year and attracts many tourists. You can take a close look at the cranes from the observatory with a 360 degree view. Here you can also learn about the lives of cranes with a special panel and video.



- Opening Period: November 1st~4th Sunday of March (no closing day within the period)
- Business Hours: 9:00~17:00
- Entrance Charge (group discount applied to groups of more than 30)  
Elementary & junior high school students 50 yen / Adults 150 yen
- Parking space with a capacity for 200 cars and 20 large-sized buses available

## Nature and History Learning Program

### ● Izumi City Crane Museum (Crane Park Izumi)

This park symbolizes Izumi City, the village of cranes, and provides you a precious chance to get close to nature. You can learn about cranes and the nature of Izumi in detail with material and movies on display there. Here you can also get a chance to engage in various activities related to nature preservation.



- Business Hours: 9:00~17:00 (admission until 16:30)
- Closed: April through October - Mondays (If Monday is a public holiday, the following day the museum will be closed.)
- November through March - (No days closing during the period)
- Entrance Charge (group discount applied to groups of more than 20)  
Elementary & junior high school students 80 yen  
High school & College students 160 yen / Adults 250 yen

### [Spots Where You Can Learn About the Old Samurai Mansions]

In the Edo period, the Shimazu Clan divided its domain into Uchijo and Tojo (inward area and outward area) in terms of military defense and governance. The Izumi Fumoto area was one of the largest among 120 Tojo areas of the Shimazu Clan. In the central part of the area, there are three samurai mansions that are now open to the public. Okariyamon, which is the old gate of the provisional residence of the land steward, is now the front gate of Izumi Elementary School. You can stroll around the area and enjoy the stately presence of 400 year old mansions with stone walls. The traditional building reservation area of Izumi Fumoto has been designated as an important reservation area by the government. It has gained more attention as a precious historical heritage which conveys the life and culture of samurais in the Edo period.

### ● The Takemiya Residence

The Takemiya family moved here in the Tensho period (1573-93) and assumed important posts in the Izumi government. The mansion is located closest to the Okariya, the provisional residence of the land steward which was the center of the area. The present buildings are said to have been built before the Meiji period.

- Opening Hours: 9:00~17:00
- Open all year / No entrance charge



### ● The Graves of the Sasshu Shimazu Family

Shimazu Mochihisa, the younger brother of Tadakuni, the 9th lord of the Shimazu Clan, lived in Kamegajo Castle in Izumi and claimed the family name of Sasshu. The grave yard of the Sasshu family, who dominated the vast area of Izumi for as long as 140 years starting in the Muromachi period, is now located in Kamitakagi, Kamegasaki. Lords from the first lord Mochihisa to the 7th lord Tadatoki rest in peace here with their families.



### ● The Takezoe Residence

The Takezoe family belonged to the clan of Sagara, the lord of Tama Castle in Hitoyoshi, and they assumed important posts in the Izumi government from 1637. The old buildings, now open to the public, are said to have been constructed at least in the early Meiji period or before.

- Opening Hours: 9:00~17:00
- Open all year / No entrance charge



### ● Nodago Historic Street

Here you can see a long array of the old gates of samurai mansions and the stone walls along about 1 kilometer of street, which are old traces of the Tojo district of the Shimazu Clan from the early Edo period. The successive lords of the clan used this street as the Sankinkotai route (regular mandatory tour road to Edo).



● Most programs, with some exceptions, carry a charge. Prior application may be necessary for some programs. Please inquire for details.



Minamata disease was caused by methyl mercury released into Minamata Bay and other bodies of water by the Chisso Corporation's Minamata Plant. Although the pollution was halted in 1968, residents along the Shiranui Sea continue to seek compensation for -and indeed recognition of- the plight of the disease's victims. Today, citizens play a leading role in city planning initiatives that address the issue of Minamata disease head-on, for example through efforts to build new partnerships between victims and citizens(moyai-naoshi)\* and programs to communicate the lessons of Minamata disease to others.

\* The word "moyai" means to connect two separate ships and to work together. Minamata citizens call it "moyai-naoshi" that in order to restore a cooperative relationship among people, between nature and human beings, all the citizens must work together in developing a better community through interaction with the victims of Minamata disease.

### Listening to Minamata - The Interview Program -

In this program, you visit the houses and work places of various people who have lived in Minamata and who were involved with Minamata disease. You will have a chance to listen to the Minamata disease patients, the patient's families, those who were engaged in the fishing industry, people who were afraid to speak about the home town, and a journalist who pursued the problem of the disease. Exchanging with these people in a small group, you will begin to know the multiple aspects of the disease and have a precious chance to consider your own life and your involvement with society.

- ① Storytellers' houses and public facilities
- ② The Minamata area ③ Small groups of up to 10
- ④ 1.5 - 2 hours ⑤ New Year's
- ⑥ Minamata Educational Tour Planning (a non-profit organization) TEL0966-68-9450



### Meet Victims of Fetal Minamata Disease

Hotto House is an adult daycare center for victims of fetal Minamata disease. Don't just visit to learn about Minamata disease and the handicaps it causes -enjoy socializing with members there.



**Visiting Hotto House** - a program for groups of 50 or less -

You can learn about Minamata disease and the welfare provided as well as enjoy exchanging friendship with the people of the facility through collaboration in making bookmarks with pressed flowers and singing songs.

- ① Social welfare corporation Sakaenomori, Hotto House
- ② Hama-machi, Minamata City ③ Groups of up to 50
- ④ 2 hours ⑤ Saturdays, Sundays, Holidays, New Year's
- ⑥ Minamata Educational Tour Planning (a non-profit organization) TEL0966-68-9450

**Getting to know the activities of Hotto House**

- a program for groups of more than 50 -

In this program, you will have chance to listen to the members and know about the activities of Hotto House. A performance by the members and a song exchange are optional parts of the program.

- ① Minamata Disease Information Center Auditorium
- ② Myojin-cho, Minamata ③ Groups of 51 up to 200 ④ 1-2 hours
- ⑤ Saturdays, Sundays, New Year's ⑥ Minamata Educational Tour Planning (a non-profit organization) TEL0966-68-9450

### Minamata Disease Museum

#### Visit the Minamata Disease Museum

This facility was built to deepen visitor's understanding of the history and current state of Minamata disease, and to communicate the lessons of the disease to future generations. Video presentations, timeline displays, pictures, and other media provide an easy-to-understand explanation of the nature of the disease. Additionally, storytellers from the families of victims offer an invaluable opportunity for visitors to experience the disease through firsthand accounts.

A: Museum Tour / B: Lecture

- ① Minamata Disease Museum (B: Held at Information Center Auditorium if a group is over 100 people)
- ② Myojin-cho, Minamata City ③ A: No particular limit / B: Groups of 10 up to 250
- ④ A: 9:00~17:00 (Admission until 16:30) B: 1 hour / Starting Times: 9:30~, 11:00~, 13:30~, 15:00~
- ⑤ Mondays (if Monday is a public holiday, the following day the museum will be closed.), New Year's
- ⑥ Minamata Disease Museum TEL 0966-62-2621
- ※ For program B, a reservation is necessary at least 15 days prior to visit.



### National Minamata Disease Information Center

#### Visit the National Minamata Disease Information Center

Here you can learn about Minamata disease from a medical perspective, such as the relationship between mercury and people. The program includes a tour inside the facility and a test of the mercury level in your hair.

※ The test result will be given to you at a later date.



- ① National Minamata Disease Information Center
- ② Myojin-cho, Minamata City ③ No particular limit
- ④ 9:00~17:00 (Admission until 16:30)
- ⑤ Mondays (if Monday is a public holiday, the following day the center will be closed.)
- ⑥ National Minamata Disease Information Center TEL0966-69-2400



Having experienced the destructive power of Minamata disease, Minamata City's commitment to becoming a model environmental city is evident in the way citizens sort glass bottles (six categories) and recyclables (22 categories) for collection. The city is working to achieve environmental ISO 14001 certification at elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as for residences and preschools, and is building Eco Town Minamata, a collection of corporations striving to recycle and reuse resources. The city was certified as an "Eco Model City" in 2008 for these environmental conscious efforts.

You can gain a new understanding of environment-centric community planning by visiting Minamata City, the site of Minamata disease and learning about initiatives being undertaken by partnerships of citizens, government, and business.

### ECO Town Tour Program

There are numerous Eco Towns throughout Japan working to implement a sophisticated vision of environmentally friendly town planning. Although Minamata's Eco Town is small in scale, citizens serve as "Eco Town guides" to show visitors around the development's factories, and the program is gaining attention for its focus on citizen participation. They provide the following six tour programs.

#### Eco Town Tour Program

- ① Factories A-F ② Hamamatsu-cho, Minamata City (F is in Tsukiura) ③ Groups of up to 40 (per program) ④ 40 minutes / 9:30~15:15
- ⑤ Saturdays, Sundays, Holidays, New Year's ⑥ Minamata Educational Tour Planning (a non-profit organization) TEL0966-68-9450

#### A Visit a Factory Where Empty Bottles Are Reborn

Minamata Sales Office (Ecobo Minamata), Tanaka Shoten Co., Ltd.



#### B Visit a Plant Where Recycled Asphalt is Reborn

Minamata Ascon Co., Ltd.



#### C Visit a Household Appliance Recycling Plant

Act-B Recycling Co., Ltd.



#### D Visit a Waste Oil Recycling Plant

Minamata Energy Workshop, Kiraku Kougyou Co., Ltd.



#### E Food Waste Recycling Plant

Environmental Technology Center



#### F Visit a Plant That Transforms Raw Sewage into Fertilizer

Enterprise RBS Co., Ltd.



### Learning Programs at Kumamoto Prefecture Environmental Center

Kumamoto Prefecture Environmental Center allows visitors to learn about the environment through lectures by environmental professionals upon request. They provide the following hands-on programs A-C.

#### Queries on Programs A-C

Contact Kumamoto Prefecture Environmental Center  
Address: 55-1, Myojin-cho, Minamata City, Kumamoto  
TEL: 0966-62-2000 • FAX: 0966-62-1212

#### A Kumamoto Prefecture Environmental Center



Gain an accurate understanding and knowledge about environmental problems at facilities including the Ecology House, where visitors learn about garbage and water quality issues; Information Plaza, which features environmental material on subjects such as the Earth and natural conservation; and a Learning Room for group learning.

- ① Kumamoto Prefecture Environmental Center
- ② Myojin-cho, Minamata City ③ Groups of up to 200
- ④ Opening Hours: 9:00-17:00 (Admission until 16:30)
- ⑤ Mondays (if Monday is a public holiday, the following day the center will be closed.), New Year's

#### B Learn About the Aquatic Environment by Studying Aquatic Life



Visitors wade into river shoals and use nets to catch river insects. By separating the numerous insects into small containers by species, they can classify the aquatic environment at the location being investigated into five grades ranging from agreeable to unpleasant.

#### C Learn About Pollution in Rivers

Visitors sample river water and seawater to conduct a simple experiment whereby they investigate the water's color, odor, pH level, COD (chemical oxygen demand), and transparency. The results of this experiment can be used to evaluate the cleanliness of the water using five grades, providing an opportunity to consider why the extent of pollution varies from river to river.

- ① Minamata River, Yude River ② The Minamata area
- ③ Groups of 10 up to 50 ④ 2 hours ⑤ Mondays
- (If Monday is a public holiday, the following day tours will not operate.), New Year's



### Other Learning Programs

Other programs related to learning about the environment are the following four programs A-D.



#### A Visit the Minamata Municipal Environmental Clean Center

They are learning programs organized by Minamata Municipal Environmental Clean Center. Visitors learn about sorting of garbage into 22 categories in Minamata City (B), while experiencing how the citizens of Minamata actually sort their garbage (A).

- ① Minamata Municipal Environmental Clean Center
- ② Tsukiji, Minamata City ③ Groups of up to 20
- ④ A: 1.5 hours / B: 1 hour ⑤ Saturdays, Sundays, Holidays, New Year's
- ⑥ Minamata Municipal Environmental Clean Center : TEL 0966-62-4101



#### B Think About Resources Focused on Garbage Sorting and Collection

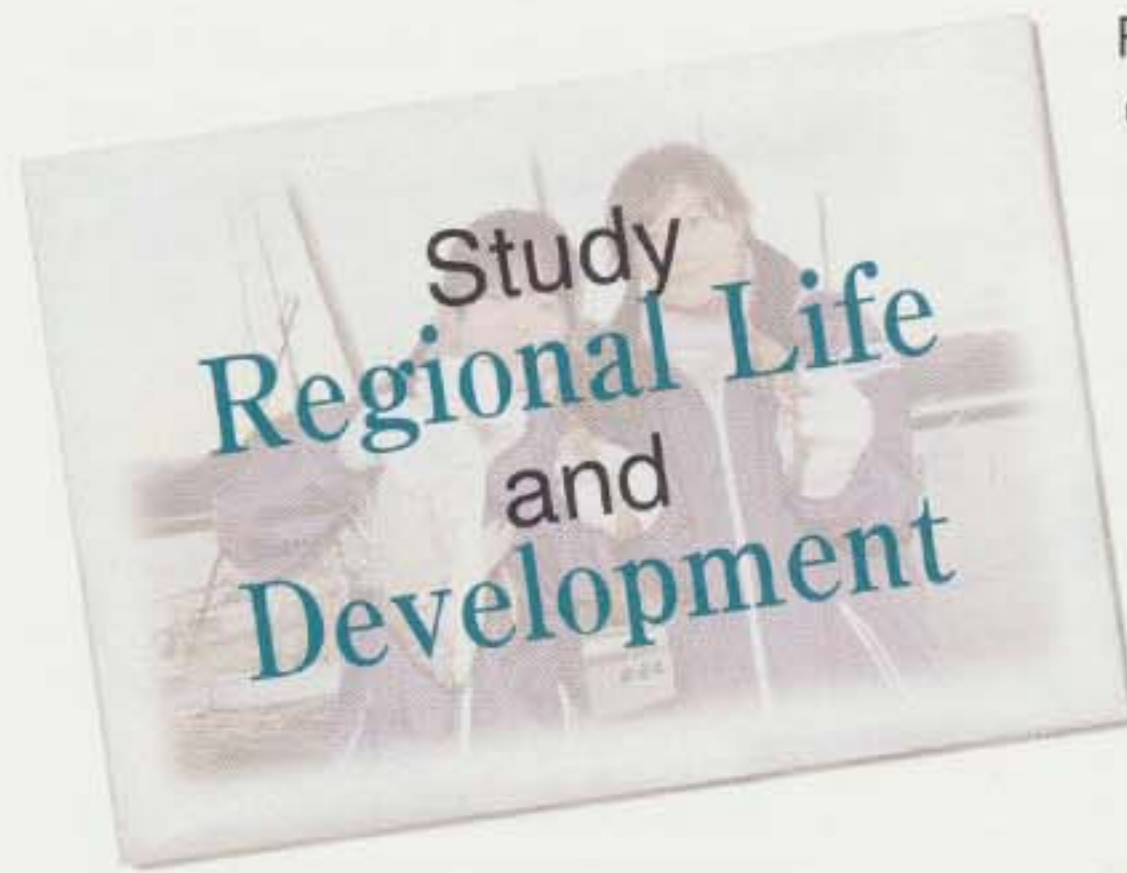


A learning program organized by Yu-no-Ko Spanish Village Fukuda Farm. Visitors search for objects being reused around a farm. Learn how, with a little inspiration and creativity, anything can become a marvelous resource -including railroad ties being used in a completely new way, foot-operated sewing machines and wooden telephone poles.

- ① Yu-no-Ko Spanish Village Fukuda Farm
- ② Yu-no-Ko Daichi, Minamata City
- ③ Groups of up to 20 ④ 1.5 hours
- ⑤ New Year's
- ⑥ Minamata Educational Tour Planning (a non-profit organization) TEL0966-68-9450

Residents currently sort 22 types of recyclables for collection at about 300 stations located throughout the city. On this outing, visitors listen to a talk about the city's initiatives for sorting and collecting recyclables.

- ①-② 1-26 Ward
- ③ Groups of up to 20
- ④ 30 minutes to 1 hour
- Hours vary by each ward
- ⑤ Fridays, Saturdays and New Year's
- ⑥ Minamata Educational Tour Planning (a non-profit organization) TEL0966-68-9450



Facing towards a calm Shiranui Sea, the Minamata and Ashikita area contains many mountain villages along the Kyushu Mountains, developing a living area with different kinds of industries such as agriculture, fishery and forestry. The population decrease, resulting in a declining birth-rate and an aging society in the regional areas, has become a serious issue throughout the nation, and the Minamata and Ashikita area is no exception. To tackle the problem, the area is working to practice a regional development program by utilizing the sources found in the area (people, life, scenery, history and culture) based on the theme, "An environmentally friendly town."

### Onboard a Shiranui Sightseeing Sailing Ship

- ① Hakariishi Port ② Ashikita-machi
- ③ Groups of up to 200 (Maximum 12 persons per boat)
- ④ 3 hours ⑤ December through April, New Year's
- ⑥ Minamata Educational Tour Planning (a non-profit organization) TEL0966-68-9450



The Shiranui Sea's distinctive sailing ships use the wind and the tides to fish, providing a quiet, ecological experience that lets visitors feel the wind in their hair. Visitors experience raising the sails and nets, fishing for cutlass fish, and eating aboard ship. They learn about the symbiosis between human beings and the sea through exchanges with fishermen.

### Hands-on Programs in the Villages in the Minamata and Ashikita Area

In the mountain areas in Minamata City and Ashikita town, residents serve as instructors to show visitors around the village, local crafts and cuisine and teach the wisdom of life and other things. They organize all sorts of programs that help children nurture a rich spirit.



#### A Explore the Village Life Museum

The Kagumeishi district in the mountain area of Minamata City, portrays the whole area as a Museum. Residents serve as attendants to guide visitors around the village. Children learn about the wisdom of a good life in the area, such as caring for water and how to make a field raising dozens of crops.

- ①-② The Kagumeishi District, Minamata City
- ③ Groups of up to 40 ④ 2 hours
- ⑤ New Year's



#### B Try Making Bamboo Ramp Shades

Children make a fancy lamp shade using locally grown bamboo. Although using a knife and doing fine work are hard things to do, such experiences add greatly to their joy when all the work is done.

- ① Kagumeishi Exchange Center (② The Kagumeishi District, Minamata City) / Okawa Community Center (② The Okawa District, Minamata City) / Midori-no-Sato, Furuishi Exchange Center (② The Furuishi District, Ashikita-machi) ③ Groups of up to 10 (The Kagumeishi and Okawa Districts) / Groups of up to 40 (The Furuishi Districts) ④ 2 hours ⑤ New Year's



#### Make Tofu Using Local Soybeans

Children make tofu with local grandmas who can make tofu from soybeans. They learn that the ability of making tofu is also developed from much experience that the people have gained during their everyday life.

- ① Kugino Furusato Center Airinkan
- ② The Kugino District, Minamata City
- ③ Groups of up to 10
- ④ 2 hours ⑤ New Year's



#### Experience Buckwheat Noodle Making

Children try their hand at planting and harvesting buckwheat seeds, and experience buckwheat noodle making. Self made buckwheat noodles will give them a special, delightful taste.

- ① Kugino Furusato Center Airinkan
- ② The Kugino District, Minamata City
- ③ Groups of up to 10
- ④ 2 hours ⑤ New Year's



#### Try Making Konjac Food in the Mountain Area

Children make konjac from the roots of locally grown konjac. Enjoy the taste of natural konjac and learn about food culture in the mountain area.

- ① Kugino Furusato Center Airinkan
- ② The Kugino District, Minamata City
- ③ Groups of up to 10
- ④ 2 hours ⑤ New Year's



#### Learn About the Relationship Between Water and Human Life from the Perspective of Rice Paddies

Extended rice paddies on piles of stones can be found on the flanks of the mountains in the Kugino area, which is surrounded with legions of mountains. Why not learn more about water technology and the close relationship between water and human life while walking around the paddies? They are designated as one of the 100 best rice paddies in Japan.

- ①-② The Kugino and Samukawa District, Minamata City
- ③ Groups of up to 10 ④ 2 hours
- ⑤ New Year's

- Queries on the Programs A-D
- ※Minamata Educational Tour Planning (a non-profit organization) TEL0966-68-9450
- ※The Minamata Promotion Office, City Planning Department TEL0966-61-1606

#### D Try Making Omanju -steamed buns- in the Mountain Area



#### C Try Making Rural Cuisine

Mothers in the local community teach how to cook vegetables and preservative food in a traditional manner which has been passed down to them. Omanju -steamed buns- made with seasonal, local ingredients including citrus (yuzu) and Japanese mugwort (yomogi), has been made for special occasions and welcoming guests. Children learn about local "food" which is closely linked to rural life.

- ① Kagumeishi Exchange Center (②The Kagumeishi District, Minamata City) / Okawa Community Center (②The Okawa District, Minamata City) / Koshikoba Community Center (②The Koshikoba District, Minamata City) / The Ohno District, Ashikita-machi (② Ohno Structure Improvement Center) ③ Groups of up to 20 ④ 2 hours ⑤ New Year's

### Hands-on Programs in the Okawa District in Minamata City

Residents in Minamata's Okawa district, serve as instructors holding lessons on local craft making.



#### A Focusing on Bamboo Crafts

Reusable bamboo baskets are a useful tool that visitors can see the wisdom in the mountain area. Not only collecting and cutting bamboos, children also experience making flower baskets, hot pot coasters, chopsticks and lamp shades. They also learn about "the commitment to making craft" through exchanges with bamboo craftsmen.

- ① Okawa Community Center
- ② The Okawa District, Minamata City
- ③ Groups of up to 20 ④ 2 hours
- ⑤ New Year's



#### B Try Making Waraji Sandals

Listening to the life story of instructors, saying that children in former days made their own sandals to go to school, and the history of local industries such as rice growing, children learn how to make waraji sandals.

- ① Okawa Community Center
- ② The Okawa District, Minamata City
- ③ Groups of up to 20 ④ 2 hours
- ⑤ New Year's



#### C Make a Fancy Basket

Mountains in the Okawa district contain an abundance of materials for making daily goods with such materials as bamboo and kudzu plants. Children learn how to make a basket using these materials. They also learn the way of using it, for instance, carrying the basket on one's back or using it as a container for preserving food.

- ① Okawa Community Center
- ② The Okawa District, Minamata City
- ③ Groups of up to 10 ④ 2 hours
- ⑤ New Year's



#### D Walk on a Disused Track in the Mountains

An old national railroad track from the Yamano Line still remains in the area. Visitors explore the site of the loop and ascend a steep slope and a railroad bridge with the local guides. Learn about the life of residents while enjoying nature at the mountain.

- ①-② The Okawa District, Minamata City
- ③ Groups of up to 40 ④ 2 hours
- ⑤ New Year's

### Recommended Programs for Learning About the Way of Life in Minamata

There are things that you cannot experience anywhere else but in Minamata, and that's why you can have a close encounter with skilled craftsmen and producers. Children learn about working and the products and the residents' love for the town through interaction with craftsman while making crafts.



#### A Experience Sandblasting with "Re-glass"

"Re-glass" is a craft done by reusing wine bottles and other glass containers. The program allows you to experience sandblasting and fusing, which is a type of manufacturing process for making photo frames and pendant tops. You can also visit a "Re-glass" workshop utilizing an electric kiln.

- ① Bin-no-Kaze, Re-glass Workshop
- ② Hisatsu Orange Railway Minamata Station
- ③ Groups of up to 20 ④ 2 hours
- ⑤ Irregular, New Year's



Takafumi Nagano

#### B Thinking About Our Environment While Focusing on Soap

While listening to lecturer Takafumi Nagano's love for soap, visitors experience how recycled soap is made as they learn about the effects of our daily lives on the environment as well as the dangers of chemical substances.

- ① Eco-net Minamata ② Fukuro, Minamata City
- ③ Groups of up to 20 ④ 2 hours ⑤ New Year's



Rimiko Oya



#### C Make Chikuwa and See the Pride of "Made in Minamata"

Kimura-san has long been creating products that proudly bear Minamata's name. Children see what's it's like to make chikuwa, a kind of fish paste cake, while listening to Kimura-san's love for his hometown. And nothing beats taking a big bite out of a freshly grilled chikuwa that you have made yourself!

- ① Kimura Kamaboko (Seafood processed product) Shop
- ② Sakurai-cho, Minamata City ③ Groups of up to 20
- ④ 2 hours / Afternoon only ⑤ New Year's



Kazuo Kimura



#### D Try Harvesting Oranges and Making Jelly

Visitors harvest oranges and make juice and jelly. They can enjoy the blessings of the land by tasting fresh oranges grown on a farm which has a gentle ocean breeze.

- ① Yu-no-Ko Spanish Village Fukuda Farm
- ② Sakurai-cho, Minamata City ③ Groups of up to 20
- ④ 2.5 hours / October through January only
- ⑤ February through September (non-harvest period)



Rieko Fukuda

## Nature Experience in Amakusa and Nagashima

A vast wilderness and ways of life on an island that has been passed down through generations can be found in the Amakusa and Nagashima area. The area, known as one of the best scenic spots, allows visitors to have an encounter with nature and to experience nature activities.



### Dolphin Watching

The legions of wild dolphins welcome children. They sometimes jump spectacularly out of the water and come up close to the boat to entertain children. Children are excited to see the friendly dolphins, as well as learning about the lifestyle of dolphins through the story telling from the boatman. Dolphin watching trips are organized at two sites.

- ① Off the coast of Tsuui Island, Itsuwa-machi
- ② Leaving from Matsushima-machi
- Off the coast of Tsuui Island, Itsuwa-machi
- ② Leaving from Futae Port
- ③ Groups of 40 up to 350
- ④ 1-2.15 hours (Depends on the weather and desired courses) Operate all year
- ⑤ Operate all year
- ⑥ Amakusa Treasure Island Tourist Association TEL0969-22-2243



### Excavate Fossils at Goshoura Town

After a lecture on fossil excavation at Goshoura cretaceous museum on the fossil island, visitors try their hand at excavating fossils at an excavation site near the museum. If they are lucky, they may find a valuable fossil. Basically, fossils found can be taken home, but in some cases if they are valuable, they cannot be taken home.

- ① Goshoura Cretaceous Museum, Hanaokayama
- ② The east area of Amakusa (Amakusa City)
- ③ Groups of 10 up to 80
- ④ About 2 hours
- ⑤ Cretaceous Museum: Mondays (If Monday is a public holiday, the museum will open.)
- ⑥ Amakusa Treasure Island Tourist Association TEL0969-22-2243



### Peron Boat Ride

Visitors go boating on a traditional Peron boat on the beautiful blue ocean. As they learn about the history of the boat and how to row, they themselves try rowing in rhythm to the sound of a Chinese gong and drums. This experience teaches them the importance of cooperation in order to row the boat faster. Boating is organized at two sites.

- ① Aitsu, Matsushima-machi
- ② April through November
- ④ Groups of 10 up to 160
- ③ 1.5 hours
- ⑤ Operate all year, but tours may be canceled depending on the weather conditions.
- ⑥ Amakusa Treasure Island Tourist Association TEL0969-22-2243
- ① Tomioka, Reihoku-machi
- ② April through October
- ④ Groups of 21 up to 200



## -2 Days 1 Night Educational Tour Model Course in the Shiranui Sea Area-

### [Course A] (Minamata Disease Learning and Izumi Farm Stay Course)

[Day 1]	[Day 2]
Learn About Minamata Disease (in Minamata City) 3pm-4:30pm ■ Field work around the Eco park * Visit the Minamata Disease Museum * Visit the Environmental Clean Center	Farm Stay (in Izumi City) 7:30am- ■ Breakfast, Take a stroll
4:40pm Leave Minamata City	9am-11am ■ Farm experience * Farming, making ice cream, pizza and more
5:10pm-5:30pm ■ Welcome Party Place: Crane Park / Meet with host families	11:30am-12pm ■ Goodbye Party Place: Crane Park * Send-off by host families
5:40pm- ■ Making dinner Cook dinner with a host family	12pm- ■ Lunch at a hotel or restaurant in Izumi City
	1pm Leave Izumi City

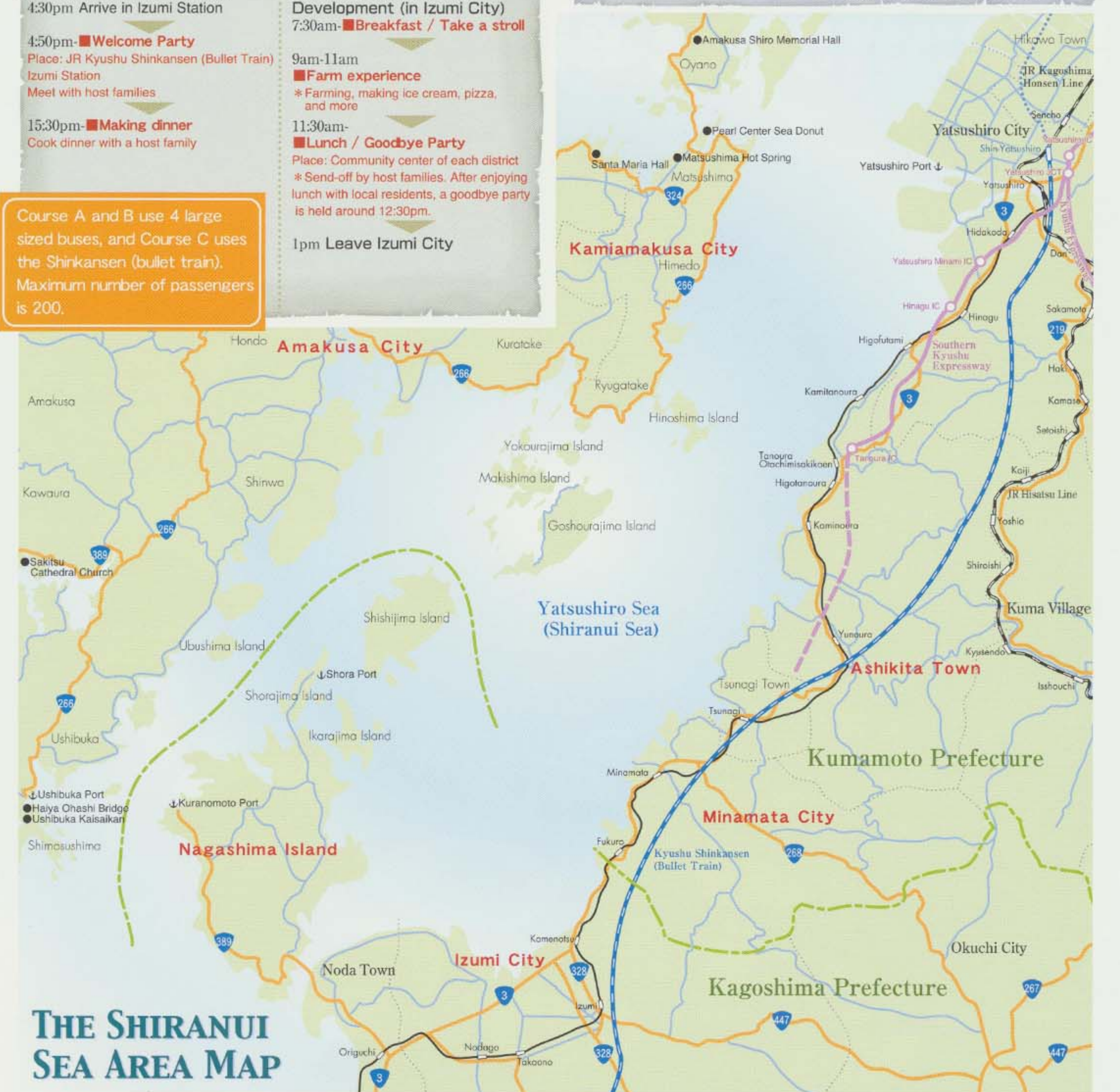
### [Course B] (Izumi Farm Stay and Minamata Disease Learning Course)

[Day 1]	[Day 2]
Farm Stay (in Izumi City) 12pm- Arrive in Izumi City → Lunch at a hotel or restaurant in Izumi City	Farm Stay (in Izumi City) 7:30am- ■ Breakfast / Take a stroll
1pm- ■ Team A: Visit the Crane Park ■ Team B: Visit the Satsuma Clan Samurai Mansions * Visitors are separated into two teams and transferred by bus * Guided tours	9am- ■ Goodbye Party Place: Crane Park * Send-off by host families
3pm ■ Welcome Party Place: Crane Park / Meet with host families	9:30am Leave Izumi City
3:30pm- ■ Farm experience * Farming, making ice cream, pizza, and more	10am- ■ Field work around the Eco Park * Visit the Minamata Disease Museum * Visit the Kumamoto Prefecture Environmental Center
5:30pm- ■ Making dinner Cook dinner with a host family	12:30pm- ■ Lunch Place: Yu-no-Ko Spanish Village Fukuda Farm or Nanri Restaurant * You will be given a letter of appreciation by the Minamata city if you use your own chopsticks and water bottles.
	13:30pm- ■ Listening to Minamata -The Interview Program- * You will hear stories from all different people including victims of Minamata disease and their families, public administration officials and local residents. A small group of 10 visits a storyteller's home and work office.
	3:30pm Leave Minamata City

### [Course C] (Izumi Farm Stay Course)

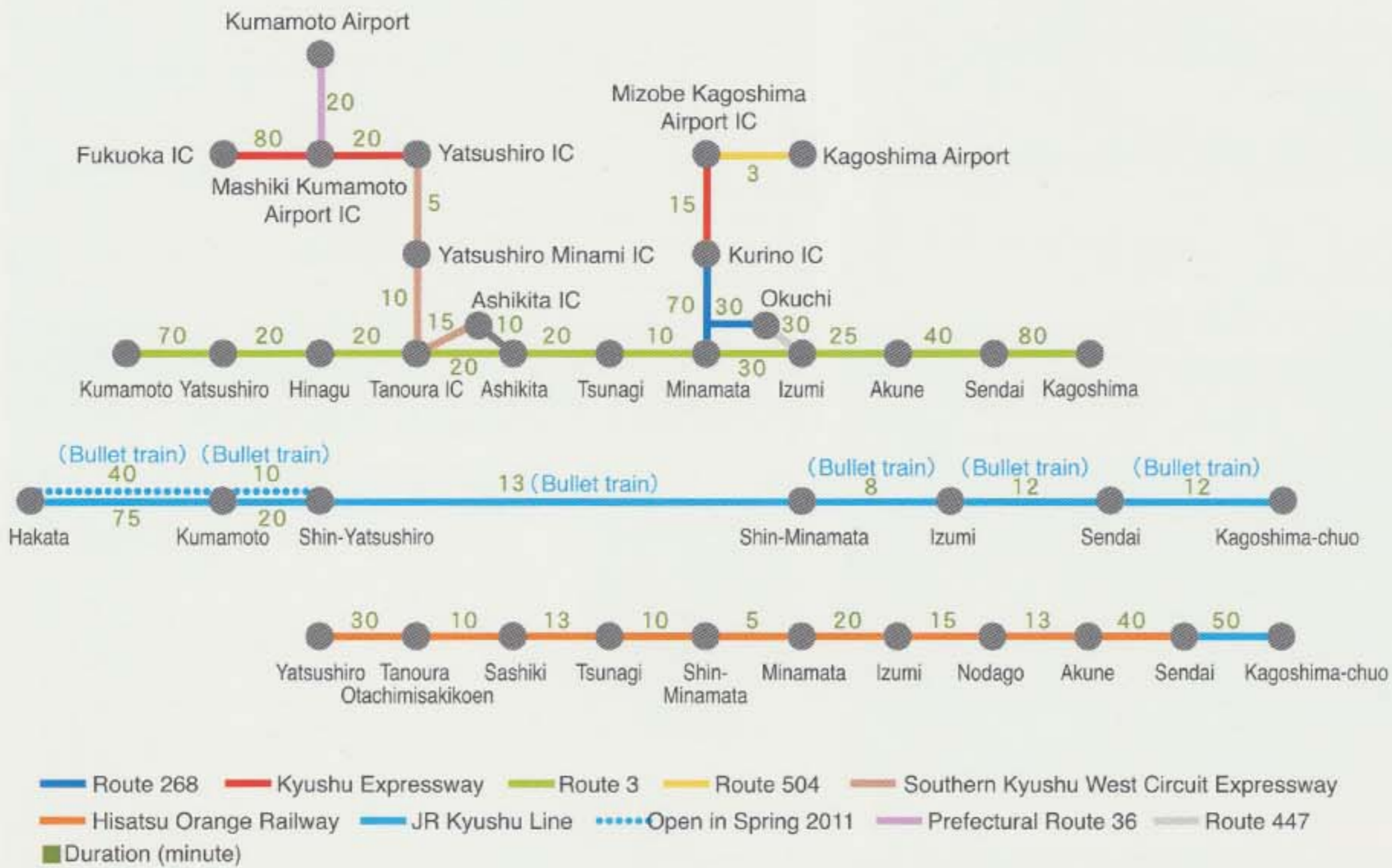
[Day 1]	[Day 2]
Farm Stay (in Izumi City) 4:30pm Arrive in Izumi Station	Study Regional Life and Development (in Izumi City) 7:30am- ■ Breakfast / Take a stroll
4:50pm- ■ Welcome Party Place: JR Kyushu Shinkansen (Bullet Train) Izumi Station Meet with host families	9am-11am ■ Farm experience * Farming, making ice cream, pizza, and more
15:30pm- ■ Making dinner Cook dinner with a host family	11:30am- ■ Lunch / Goodbye Party Place: Community center of each district * Send-off by host families. After enjoying lunch with local residents, a goodbye party is held around 12:30pm.
	1pm Leave Izumi City

Course A and B use 4 large sized buses, and Course C uses the Shinkansen (bullet train). Maximum number of passengers is 200.



● Most programs, with some exceptions, carry a charge. Prior application may be necessary for some programs. Please inquire for details.

# A C C E S S



◎Travel time will be shortened by the full opening of the Kyushu Shinkansen (bullet train) in Spring 2011 and more efficient, faster travel will be possible. The Shinkansen (bullet train) line connecting Shin-Osaka, Kumamoto and Kagoshima-chuo Stations is slated to open in 2011. Use this information as a reference for making school trip plans.

Shin-Osaka	(Current) 3 hrs. 36 min.	Kumamoto	70 min.	Kagoshima-chuo
	(After full-opening) Approx. 3 hrs.		55 min.	

※Please note that the travel time stated above may be different from the actual travel.

Inquiries on the hands-on learning program in Izumi City and the Shiranui Sea area  
**Mimamata Educational Tour Planning (a non-profit organization)**

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©This brochure is issued to complement the publication of information specific to the Revitalization of the Regional Economy 2009 project; Visitor Attraction and Exchange Project in the Shiranui Sea Area.

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