



FEATURED TOUR

AUTUMN COLOURS TOUR OF KYUSHU

Duration of Tour: 6th November- 13th November 2020

From. \$6300.00 per person Twin Share



TOUR DESCRIPTION

Introduction:

DURATION OF TOUR:

6th ~ 13th November 2020

8 days 7 nights

PRICE:

From ... per person, twin share

Single Supplement ...

* 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

Escorted by a local Historian with unsurpassed knowledge of Kyushu. Places visited and insights gained on this tour are all unique to Japan Holidays. This tour is perfectly suited for persons seeking to gain valuable knowledge of remote Japan. A small group tour with personalized attention to detail. Experience local cuisine and hospitality unique to countryside Japan. Seasonally a perfect time to visit Kyushu. Enjoy Yokagura, a 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
- Be immersed in history in staying in Home of Heike samurai clan
- Soak in the natural hot springs that abound in the island
- Personalised tour with highly experienced Escort
- Enjoy local tastes and foods unique to Kyushu
- Experience the warmth and hospitality of the local people

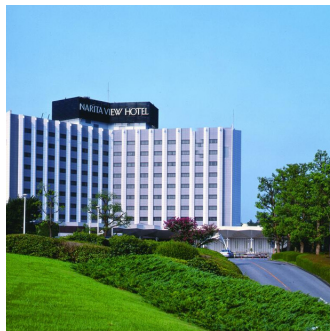


ITINERARY

Day 1 Friday : Tokyo **6th November 2020**

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

Accommodation: Narita View Hotel (or similar)



Day 2 Saturday: Tokyo - Kumamoto **7th November 2020**

After an early Breakfast – Depart Narita on a flight to Kumamoto. Upon arrival, Ken Takenaga, will meet you and be your guide throughout the tour. Kumamoto City sightseeing will include Suizenji Japanese Garden and a Jyosai En Cultural Center to experience the history of Kumamoto, prior to a sumptuous buffet lunch at restaurant "Ginnan". We walk to Kumamoto Castle to see damages caused by the earthquakes of April 2016 and the current recovery progress. Afterwards, visit the Kumamoto Prefectural Traditional Craft Center to view various local products. The recommended product here are Japanese kitchen Knives that are made by sword makers. We also visit Tsuruya Department Store for a shopping opportunity. Enjoy dinner at one of Kumamoto's favourite restaurants.

Accommodation: Hotel Nikko Kumamoto

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3 Sunday: Kumamoto **8th November 2020**

Today you will see first-hand why Kumamoto is referred to as The Land of Fire and Water. Enjoy a spectacular 360 degree view of the Aso Valley and the Five Mountains of Aso, which resemble a sleeping Buddha. Lunch is a treat unique to the Aso region, chargrilled, tender Higo steak. We end the day on a battleground of man-made turmoil and destruction at the site of Japan's last civil war.

Accommodation: Hotel Nikko Kumamoto

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



ITINERARY

Day 4 Monday: Gokanosho 9th November 2020

The Land of the Last Samurai, Gokanosho 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. Gokanosho, 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 at Heike-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.

Accommodation: Heike-so (traditional minshuku inn)
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 5 Tuesday: Amakusa 10th November 2020

Say goodbye to Gokanosho after a sumptuous Japanese breakfast and leave for Amakusa, enjoying a scenic drive over five picturesque bridges strung out like a strand of pearls. Indulge yourself in exquisite pearls at the family-run Honda Pearl Centre. Afterwards, we move to the Christian Museum to learn about the history of the "Hidden Christians" of Amakusa, who secretly kept their faith for about 400 years. Drive past small towns and rice paddies overlooking the East China Sea to Jyoho pottery factory, visit Sakitsu Church and commands a gentle view of the Bay of Yokaku. Afterwards we visit the Romanesque-style Oe Cathedral built by Father Garnier from his private funds in 1933.

Accommodation: Amakusa Santa Coming Hotel
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 Wednesday: Unzen 11th November 2020

An exciting day of castles, conflict and *kaiseki*, we begin with a vehicular ferry from Amakusa to Shimabara to see the ruins of Hara Castle, the battleground of the Christian rebellion in the year 1637. This visit 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 we take a look at the associated Volcanic museum. Then onto the Shimabara Castle where we will try traditional *onsen* at the hotel before feasting at a multi-course meal, whilst lounging in a comfortable *yukata* at this traditional style *ryokan* accommodation.

Accommodation: Iseya Yokan Obama
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



ITINERARY

Day 7 Thursday: Nagasaki **12th November 2020**

Our final day of sight-seeing takes us to Nagasaki, a city steeped in tragedy, but now resolved to ensure a lasting legacy of peace. The Nuclear Atomic Bomb Museum and Peace Park is a quiet, contemplative park that will resonate with your conscience long afterwards. We will also visit the Urakami Cathedral built by the persecuted Christians in 1914 and a Dutch Village amongst other sites. While 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 utilising local tram service. Dinner will be at local restaurant nearby the hotel.

Accommodation: Hotel JAL City Nagasaki
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 8 Friday: Nagasaki - Tokyo **13th November 2020**

After Breakfast and checking out of the hotel, we depart for our flight from Nagasaki to Haneda, Tokyo. A bus transfer to Narita will be arranged for passengers departing Japan from Narita Airport. Should you wish to extend your stay to explore other parts of this wonderful country, please consult with Japan Holidays.

END OF TOUR

Your Guide - Mr Ken Takenaga

Ken's unique background makes him an exceptional guide ideally-suited for English-speaking tourists in Japan. Born in Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture, on the island of Kyushu in southern Japan, Ken moved to the USA as a teenager. He was immersed in American culture and language, which he combines with his deep understanding of Japan's colourful history in a way few tour guides accomplish.

Ken's passion for and profound knowledge of southern Japan's history and key historical sites plus his fluency in English make him the perfect guide for English-speaking tourists here. He is a rare combination of military precision, comprehensive knowledge, and genuine connection, qualities invaluable as a tour guide for both large groups or smaller custom tours. Ken has more than a decade of experience guiding groups.

Japan Holidays



About Adelaide Japan Desk

Adelaide Japan Desk is South Australia's leading specialist in travel to Japan. Our company has been providing personalised travel services for travellers to Japan for over 20 years.

Our travel experts will assist you in ensuring your visit delivers the best experience you can imagine.

Contact us and benefit from our expert knowledge and experience. We look forward to assisting you with your travel arrangements.



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