

A Millennium Odyssey Discover Toyonokuni in Kyushu, Japan



Toyonokuni Millennium
Heritage Tourism Zone

General Incorporated Association
Toyonokuni Millenium Heritage Tourizm Zone

Office Address : 11-8 Kyomachi, Beppu-city, Oita prefecture, 874-0926, Japan

TEL : +81-977-85-8511 FAX : +81-977-85-8516

<http://www.millennium-roman.jp>



千年ロマン時空の旅

訪日外国人旅行者周遊促進事業



Toyonokuni
Millennium
Heritage
Tourism
Zone

Another history of Japan unveils memories of millennium

"Toyonokuni Millennium Heritage Tourism Zone" in Oita Prefecture's Kunisaki Peninsula, where the history of more than a thousand years condensed. Here, there is "another Japanese history" that can not be seen in Tokyo, Kyoto, Nara, which was inherited from the Age of God to the Modern times. Toward each era, you can experience the mind and spirit that Japanese have nurtured. The journey in this area can connect with the hearts of the predecessors who cherished history and culture.

Experience
inherited history



神
undiscovered
JAPAN
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Age of Gods

Meet the culture of Japanese prayers in sacred places where ancient prayers are heard.



古
undiscovered
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Ancient times

Style of Japanese unique faith
"Syncretism of Shinto and Buddhism"
Visit the site of its origin.



中
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Middle ages

Thanks to the blessings of nature
and inherited Millennium Unchanged
landscape.



近
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Early Modern times

Discover Bushido in the Edo period
in three different castle towns.



近
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Modern times

Experience the lifestyle and culture
of modern times when Japan
suddenly changed.



Island and Shrine of gods Ancient prayers

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Age of Gods

History of Usa Jingu Shrine

First built in the eighth century, Usa Jingu (known as Usa Hachiman until the late 1800s) was originally part of a religious complex that contained both Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples. The complex was controlled by the Buddhist temple Mirokuji. It was the head of a sprawling religious community centered around the worship of the deity Hachiman in the Kunisaki Peninsula. The modern shrine is located on the same mountain as the first shrine dedicated to Hachiman, one of the most widely revered deities (kami) in Japan. In fact, up until the religious separation laws passed by the Meiji government in the latter half of the nineteenth century, the location of modern-day Usa Jingu was a place of syncretic religious worship. The Mirokuji-Usa Jingu complex also was the center of political power in what is now Oita Prefecture. Originally the head of thousands of religious sites across Japan, it lost its political power in the Kamakura period when political control moved from Kyushu to the main island of Honshu. Usa Jingu's 1,300-year history illustrates the complicated relationship between Shinto and Buddhism in Japan.

While Shinto is an animistic religion and native to Japan, Buddhism was brought to the country early in the sixth century CE. At the time, Buddhist teachings were combined with the native traditions that became known as Shinto. One of the forms of this syncretism was shugendo. As shugendo became widespread in northern Kyushu and connected to places like Usa Jingu, shrine-temples also spread throughout the area, where they filled a role similar to that of today's schools. They were spaces of combined religious practice, and that combination was also expressed in their architecture. For example, many of these sites had both Shinto torii gates and Buddhist mon gates. This combined practice came to an end in the mid-nineteenth century when Buddhism and Shinto were forced to separate by the government. The shrine-temple complex was broken apart and became known as Usa Jingu. The religious rites practiced here became exclusively Shinto until the post-war period.

At the height of their power, the leaders of the Mirokuji-Usa Jingu complex were the rulers of the entire surrounding region. They controlled dozens of satellite shrines and affiliated temples perched atop the mountain ridges and along the coastline of the Kunisaki Peninsula.

Mount Omotosan, whose 647-meter-high peak lies directly south of Usa Jingu, is believed to be the dwelling place of the local Shinto deities (kami). It was the site of the first ever shrine to Hachiman, which eventually became Usa Jingu. By the eighth century CE, mountain monks known as yamabushi worshipped and conducted Shinto-Buddhist rituals on the mountain. Today, you can still find a trail dotted with religious markers and holy sites leading from Usa Jingu to the top of Mount Omoto which was likely made by the yamabushi. A small shrine, Omoto Yasaka Jinja, sits at the summit and still hosts various rituals and ceremonies.



Mt.Omoto



Torii at Okumiya of Omoto shrine

Prayer to the water Komo Shrine



Shinmon



Misumi pond



Kannonzaki Sennindo-Himeshima Village



Milky white obsidian



Hyoshimizu

The freshwater spring of Hyoshimizu is one of Himeshima's seven wonders. This natural spring is said to have been found by the Korean princess herself. Wanting to wash her mouth, she prayed and clapped her hands together, and water began to bubble up from the ground. Hyoshimizu's water has been used for bathing for centuries. The water is naturally carbonated and rich in iron, and flows out of the ground at approximately 25°C. The nearby bathhouse contains two baths filled with Hyoshimizu spring water, one of which is heated to around 40°C.



Full view of Himeshima

The Sennindo overlooks Kannonzaki cape on the northwest side of Himeshima. Perched above the ocean on a cliff covered in the island's unique grey obsidian, this little building is another one of Himeshima's seven wonders. An island legend claims that one thousand people were able to hide here to avoid paying taxes to the local lord. The small building overlooks a volcanic crater with a secluded beach at its base. A pair of ospreys nest on a ledge on the cliff face. Though once mined for their obsidian, the cliffs have now been declared a Natural Monument and are protected from such activities.

Creation Myths of Himeshima

Located off Kunisaki Peninsula's coast, the tiny island of Himeshima is home to a small community of mostly fishermen and shrimp farmers. Despite its small size—just under seven kilometers long—Himeshima is a historically important island. Its existence was first recorded in the Kojiki, an eighth century text that recounts a predominant Japanese origin myth. According to this legend, the two gods Izanagi no Mikoto and Izanami no Mikoto came together to create the islands of Japan. Himeshima is mentioned as their twelfth creation. This creation myth is supplemented by another legend regarding the island's name. Legend has it that a distraught princess from the Korean mainland fled to Himeshima (literally, "Princess Island") to avoid marriage to a Korean prince. Folk stories describing her time on the island have been passed down through generations. In one story, she would regularly blacken her teeth (a common cosmetic practice in pre-modern Japan) on a stone known as Kanetsukeishi, eventually creating an indentation in the shape of her brush and inkwell. This site is included among the Seven Wonders of Himeshima, a set of places that appear in the myths about the princess and that are connected to Himeshima's unique history and geography. Other sites include the Hyoshimizu spring and an unusual-shaped willow tree.

Obsidian from Himeshima is grey rather than black. Stone tools made from this grey obsidian have been found all along the Seto Inland Sea. Some of these tools date back over ten thousand years ago, indicating that there was significant trade on the Japanese archipelago prior to any written history of the area. Tools made from Himeshima's milky grey obsidian have been found as far south as Tanegashima, in Kagoshima prefecture, and as far east as Osaka. In 2013, Himeshima was registered as a National Geopark because of its unique obsidian and high concentration of volcanoes (seven in an area of under seven square kilometers). Himeshima's location near the mouth of the Seto Inland Sea has made the island an important reference point for ships traveling through the strait. Built in 1904, Himeshima Lighthouse sits atop the island's easternmost mountain, where it marks the location of the island's rocky coastline for passing ships. The structure is made from granite brought from Yamaguchi Prefecture, and was designed in the British lighthouse style brought to Japan by Richard Brunton (1841-1901). It is a good example of the westernization of Japanese architecture that came about after the Meiji Restoration in 1867.

Syncretism of Shinto and Buddhism



the oldest ceremony of Usa Jingu Shrine

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Ancient times

History of the Kunisaki Peninsula

Formed from the Mount Futago volcanic cone on the edge northeastern Kyushu, the Kunisaki Peninsula was at one time a region of major political power in Japan. In the eighth century, the legendary monk Ninmon created the ascetic practice known as Rokugo Manzan. This practice is a combination of Buddhist and Shinto worship and includes a year-long pilgrimage to twenty-eight holy caves hidden in the mountains of the peninsula. As the practice became more embedded in religious tradition the temples and shrines of the Mirokuji-Usa Jingu complex required their monks to complete the Rokugo Manzan before they could serve at the shrine-temple. Along the Rokugo Manzan path, acolytes built additional shrine-temples with which to better worship the deities. This religious system held political power in the region until it was displaced by warrior lords who in turn built the castle towns that dot the peninsula today. Syncretic Buddhist and Shinto worship continued until shortly after the Meiji restoration in 1867 when Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines were required to separate by the new government.

Temples of Rokugo Manzan

Rokugo Manzan was a year-long pilgrimage around the Kunisaki peninsula. Those who completed this circuit were considered qualified to serve at the Mirokuji-Usa Jingu complex. One of the main stops on this pilgrimage was the inner sanctum of Futagoji Temple. The ascetic pilgrims would live in the cave for a few days, during which they performed ceremonies for the Buddha before moving on. Located near the center of the peninsula, this site has been a spiritual destination for over a thousand years. Two Nio statues protect the shrine along the road leading towards to Usa Jingu. South of Futagoji, Fukiji Temple is another stop on the Rokugo Manzan route. The Amida Hall at Fukiji is the oldest wooden structure in all of Kyushu.



Tennenji Yaba



Futagoji Temple



Fukiji Temple



Monjyusenji Temple



Futagoji Temple-Kunisaki City



Kumano magaibutsu stone buddha

As religious practices centered around the Mirokuji-Usa Jingu complex continued from the ninth to fourteenth centuries, the number of temples-shrines in the region grew to around 50. Two of the major testaments to this religious fervor are the cliffside carvings and stone monuments that still can be found throughout the peninsula. Most famous among these is Kumano Magaibutsu, a pair of Buddhist stone carvings set into a cliffside in Hirano, Bungotakada. One carving stands six meters high and is the largest depiction in Japan of Dainichi Buddha, the supreme Buddha of the cosmos. The other is eight meters tall and depicts Fudo Myo-o, a guardian of the faith.



Gorinto and Kunisakito

In addition to the towering stone carvings of Kumano Magaibutsu, thousand-year-old stone monuments can be found littered along Kunisaki's narrow mountain paths and roads. The two most common types are the Gorinto and Kunisakito stone markers. Both are typically cut from a single stone but are made to resemble separate stones stacked together. Each level of the Gorinto represents one of the five traditional elements. Starting from the base, they are: Earth, Water, Fire, Wind and Void. Kunisakito are similar in design to the Gorinto except for an elongated top piece in the shape of several stacked lotus flowers that stretch into the sky.

The power of a thousand years of water and land

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Middle ages

Tashibu-no-Sho-Bungo-Takada City



Shoen rice



Rice paddy that has not changed since long ago



Clear stream essential to manor



Scenery from Saieizan

Usa Jingu's Estate-Farms

Until the sixteenth century, the Mirokuji-Usa Jingu complex managed a network of twenty-four agricultural estates known as shoen. These estates helped maintain stability in the region by producing rice for the shrine-temple and its followers. One of these eleventh-century shoen, Tashibunoshō, still operates today. Nestled within a valley in Bungotakada, this intricately designed expanse of terraced rice fields gently curves around various land features to match the topography of the area. While other fields designed in this way have been made square to facilitate modern agriculture, Tashibunoshō has maintained the organic curves of each field. Additionally, these rice paddies are still farmed by hand rather than with machines. Before the introduction of a Western-style calendar, farmers used the position of the sun relative to the peaks of the surrounding mountains to determine when to plant and when to harvest their rice.

Tashibunoshō is the only shoen field that has maintained its original shape for over a thousand years. Designed in the eleventh century to provide irrigation to the fields below, the rice paddies follow the natural geography of the valley. In 2010, they were designated an Important Cultural Landscape. Usa Jingu still uses some of the rice grown at Tashibunoshō for ritual ceremonies and festivals. From December to January, the fields are illuminated with strings of lights, which has brought more visitors to the area. While this influx of tourism has helped to support the present generation of farmers, it is unclear who will maintain the paddies in the decades to come.

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System designation because of the reservoir and ancient knowledge of agricultural circulation



Oak forests and shiitake mushrooms

The way of rice growing brought up in Kunisaki Peninsula became prosperous in the Manorialism Era, and it is taught the same way even now. In 2013, the agricultural area of this region was registered as a world heritage site. Mount Futago is in the middle of Kunisaki Peninsula. The ridge of the mountain extends radially downwards in all directions, and there is no place for water to accumulate even if it rains. For that reason, the farmers established a reservoir to store the water, and created a mechanism to collect rainwater in the pond. Water becomes filtered and enriched by going through the humus of the oak tree forest, and this water is then poured into the farm fields. Shiitake mushrooms are grown using the oak tree in the forest, and the people of Oita are proud to announce they produce the largest amount of shiitake mushrooms in Japan. Also, the ecosystem is protected by water and oak tree forests, so that there are all sorts of living things such as plants, animals, insects and more. The Japanese agricultural methods of appreciating nature and living together, can be seen.

Samurai and merchant culture



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Castle town of the river-Nakatsu City
Nakatsu castle/Okudaira family museum of history

Early modern times

Three castle towns

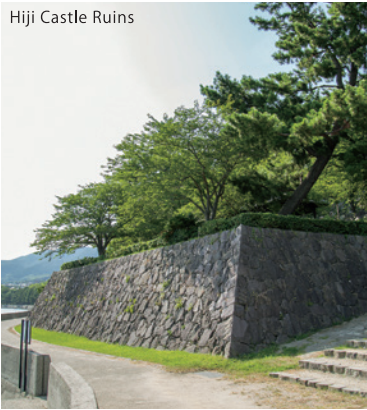
Until the twelfth century, the Mirokuji-Usa Jingu shrine-temple complex was the center of political power on the Kunisaki Peninsula. By the early seventeenth century, political control of the Kunisaki Peninsula was split up into three domains: Kitsuki, Hiji, and Nakatsu. Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543–1616), the man who unified the country under his rule in 1603, gave control of the region to a loyal retainer, Hosokawa Tadaoki (1563–1646). Tadaoki maintained control by placing his allies and family members at the three castles. The ruling clans changed over the centuries, but the towns remained. After the Hosokawa clan, other clans were given control of the region in accordance with their service to the Shogun and their own political successes.

NAKATSU

Strategically located along a river which shares its name, Nakatsu Castle is one of only three water castles in Japan. The its adjoining castle town was also designed to hinder the approach of attackers. Kuroda Yoshitaka (1546–1604) built Nakatsu Castle in 1588 after he was designated daimyo of the region by the warlord Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1537–1598). When Kuroda was moved to Fukuoka by the Tokugawa warlords in 1600, Hosokawa Tadaoki (1563–1646) replaced him and sent his son to occupy the castle. Later, the domain would be ruled by the Ogasawara clan (from 1632) and the Okudaira clan (from 1717). The town that surrounded Nakatsu castle has a robust history of craftsmanship. When Kuroda Yoshitaka (1546–1604) began construction on the castle in 1588 he brought with him craftsmen from the cities of Himeji and Hakata. The castle’s long-standing stone walls were cut and stacked by hand and have remained standing to this day. Several workshops in Nakatsu, such as Wagasa Kobo Shuka, which still makes traditional Japanese umbrellas, and Yuba Somemonoten, which still uses traditional dying techniques to dye their fabrics, trace their history back to the artisans that lived in the town during the Edo period (1603–1867). Recently they have begun running hands-on workshops to teach visitors about these traditional skills.



Kitsuki Castle



Hiji Castle Ruins



Japanese dyeing shop Sanpukuya



Traditional Japanese umbrella



Yukichi Fukuzawa's former Residence /Museum m-NakatsuCity



Ohara Residence-
Kitsuki City

KITSUKI

Located in the southern part of the Kunisaki Peninsula, Kitsuki Castle is surrounded by ancient samurai homes, earthen walls, and stone paths that stretch over rolling hills. Many of the houses retain their traditional thatched roofs. The castle dates back to 1394, when the samurai Kizuki Yorinao (dates unknown) ruled the region. His clan reigned until 200 years of civil war came to an end in 1600, and Hosokawa Tadaoki (1563–1646) was given the peninsula by the Tokugawa. Kitsuki Castle functioned as the center of political power in the Kunisaki Peninsula until the late nineteenth century. Rebuilt in 1970, the castle is known for being one of the smallest castles in Japan. Kitsuki was built on top of two hills and the valley between them. The samurai built their homes on the top of the hills and the merchants lived in the valley. These different parts of the town are connected by streets that run perpendicular to the hills, and a major road runs parallel up the valley. Two of the most prominent streets that runs up the hills are Suya no Saka and Shioya no Saka, which connected the samurai homes on the hills to a merchant community in the valley. Their names derive from the shops (suya and shioya, respectively) that once existed at the bottom of the hill. In addition to the impressive stonework of the paths themselves, the view overlooking the town is worth a moment’s appreciation.



Chidokan

Hiji

Situated across from the city of Beppu, the remaining walls of Hiji Castle look out over Beppu Bay. Though the seventeenth-century castle is no longer standing, the surrounding streets give a glimpse of what Japan must have looked like during Edo period (1603–1867). Some of the structures built in the Edo period that still exist today are the Chidokan, Shouokuji Temple, and Wakamiya Hachiman Shrine. Of note is the Chidokan, a traditional school built in 1858. There, the children of local samurai families were taught a variety of subjects ranging from calligraphy to medicine. This institution was one of 255 domain (han) schools that made up a nationwide, state-organized education system which existed parallel to the temple-organized terakoya education system. The Chidokan was moved to a new location on the Hiji Castle fortifications during its restoration in 1951.

Showa Period and the culture of onsen (Hot Spring)

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Modern times

BEPPU

Nestled between the ocean and mountains rich in geothermal activity, Beppu contains almost 2,300 hot springs, a number that is second only to Yellowstone National Park in the United States. The city has embraced this geothermal phenomenon, and a unique bathing culture has developed over the centuries.

Prior to Beppu’s status as a global sightseeing destination, local farmers congregated at hot springs to relax and socialize. Such daily rituals helped create a sense of community based around the intimacy of shared bathing. The publicly operated baths in Beppu, such as the famed Takegawara Onsen in the Motomachi neighborhood, are also community centers with extra room for neighborhood meetings and events. For locals, the public bath is not only a space to bathe, but also a place for strengthening community bonds. As word of Beppu’s famous hot springs spread across Japan in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, wealthy Japanese began to purchase vacation homes in the area. Today, the hills around Beppu are dotted with well-preserved homes from this period, some of which are now operated as lodgings for domestic and international travelers.

As tourism to Beppu grew in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, residents competed to draw incoming tourists to their establishments in a city that overflowed with bathhouses. At the time the port functioned as the main entrance to the city and arriving visitors would walk up from the seaside into the upper part of the city to their lodgings. As competition for customers increased, neighborhoods began to cover their streets and alleys to lure in tourists seeking shelter from the frequent rain. These wooden super-structures have mostly been taken down, but some still exist, such as the one built over Takegawara Alley near the Takegawara onsen. Although the buildings in Beppu are modern, the streets in the area around Kannawa Onsen have been left unchanged, winding up and down the slopes like a maze filled with the steam of countless onsen.



Takegawara Onsen



Public bath in beppu



Jigoku Mushi(Steamed dishes)



Takegawara Street

The Beppu Hells (Jigoku) are seven hot springs located to the north of Beppu city that form the backbone of tourism to the region. Leading up the mountain towards these hot springs are many shops selling a food called Jigoku-mushi. Steam from underground hot springs is used to cook vegetables and meat. Recently, local restaurants have used the steam to create new culinary sensations, including everything from steamed pork buns to steamed pudding. Many local homes also draw up onsen water for their personal baths and to heat their homes in the winter. The entire community around Beppu owes its existence to the onsen that permeate every part of life in the city.



The streets of the showa 30's

BUNGOTAKADA

Bungotakada became a castle town sometime during the period of recurrent civil war in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The region has over a thousand years of history, but today the town is known for its Showa no Machi. The name refers to the latter half of the Showa period, from about the 1950s to the 1980s, which is often regarded as the “good old days.” First created by a collective of seven shops in 2001, the Showa no Machi is made up of forty shops that have been restored to the way they looked and operated in the 1950s and 60s. The collective requires members to display antiques and curios as part of its itten ippo (or “one shop, one treasure”) scheme, and the area feels as much like a museum as it does a commercial district. Although 400,000 tourists visit the town each year, most of the traffic is on holidays and weekends, and the town is peacefully quiet during the work week.

In order to maintain the profitability of each shop, the forty-odd members of the collective also abide by their itten ippin (“one shop, one product”) rule. This rule requires each shop to have a unique product for sale and forbids other shops from copying that product. Along the avenues, you can find treats from the period including dagashi candies and deep-fried croquettes; at the Showa Roman Kura center there is a collection of antique cars, and old bank notes are on display at the historic bank building. A restored antique bus runs through the town on weekends and holidays, and the area regularly hosts local gatherings and events.



Showa-no-Machi-Bungo-Takda City

MODEL
COURSE of
**3 nights
and
4 days**

The training path to see syncretism of Shinto and Buddhism

Kunisaki City, Usa City, Bungo-Takada City, Kitsuki City

Usa Shrine in Oita, Kyushu is the original place of syncretism of Shinto and Buddhism. Rokugo Manzan Culture in Usa, Kunisaki Peninsula, is a regionally distinctive Buddhist culture where gods and Buddha were merged. It is the Buddhism culture from Ancient Times, but different from the one in Kyoto and Nara. The original Japanese faith spirit 'Heart of Wa' started here.

You can understand Japanese Ancient time history with this model course. A local guide will show you the unique Japanese spiritual culture, corresponding Hachiman Okami fusing with Buddha.

This journey starts with staying in a temple in Rokugo Manzan, then climbing Mount Omoto, which is one of the roots of the Usa Shrine, and then experience trekking the "Minemichi" the way that monks use to train. This four day journey is to feel Japanese special syncretism of Shinto and Buddhism and to know the origin of Japan.



Usa Jingu Shrine-Jogu

Day 1

Oita Airport

50 min by taxi

Monjyusenji Temple

You will stay in Monjyusenji Temple. Monks will explain about Rokugo Manzan Culture. Enjoy copying Sutras, Zen meditation, and trying Buddhist cuisine, and start your journey with a calm mind.



Zen meditation



Sutras experience



Monjyusenji Temple

Day 2

Monjyusenji Temple

30 min by taxi

Usa shrine

30 min by taxi

Mt. Omoto

30 min by taxi

**Fukiji Temple
Ryoan Fukinoto**

After waking up, you will experience the Homa Ritual at Monjyusenji Temple. Write a wish on a homa tree and pray to the Buddha. The ceremony where a huge fire rises in front of your eyes is fascinating. After training at the temple, go to the Usa Shrine to worship. After the shrine, climb Mount Omoto, considered a part of the Usa Shrine. This mountain is a sanctuary where the God of Usa Shrine descended, and gives a sense of approaching God. Accommodation is at Fukinoto, right next to Fukiji Temple, and it is possible to enjoy the monks' home-made soba noodles. The place also has a hot spring to relax after a tiring day.



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1. Homa fired prayer
2. Usa Shrine
3. Omoto old road
4. Ryoan Fukinoto
5. Soba noodle in Fukinoto

Day 3

Fukinoto

30 min by taxi

Minemichi Long Trail
(Start from Iwawakiji Temple)

10 min by taxi

Yamaga Onsen Kazenosato

In the morning, practice Zen meditation at Fuji Temple. And then, go to Kunisakihantou Minemichi Long Trail, the training place for monks of Rokugomanzan Temple and the path of the Kunisaki Peninsula. Local guides will show you the culture of Rokugo Manzan and syncretism of Shinto and Buddhism.



1. Daifudoukutsu
2. Ichiboiwa
3. To Itsutsujifudoson
4. Itsutsujifudoson
5. KyuSentouji Temple Ruins



Day 4

Yamaga Onsen Kazenosato

10 min by taxi

Hachiman Nadagu

30 min by taxi

Futagoji Temple

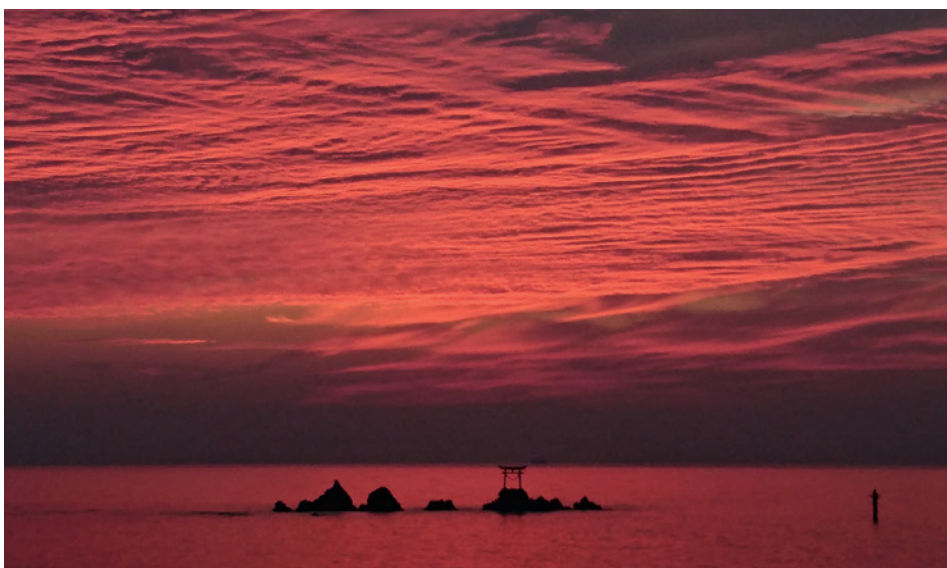
15 min on foot

Futago Kwaraza

30 min by taxi

Oita Airport

Hachiman-Nadagu Shrine is related to Usa Shrine and it is located at Nada Beach in Kitsuki City. The scenery with a Torii at Ichikishima in the offing and sunrise must remain in your heart for the rest of your life. After visiting Hachiman-Nadagu Shrine, go to see the statue, cared by the local people, which represents Hachiman Okami becoming a Buddha. Finally, visit Futagoji Temple, the central temple of Rokugomanzan Temple, and give thanks for a safe trip.



Ichikishima off the Hachiman Nadagu



Homa fired prayer in Futagoji Temple
Nio of Futagoji Temple

MODEL
COURSE of
2 nights
and
3 days

Modern Times Onsen and Three Castle Town Tour

Kitsuki City, Beppu City, Hiji Town, Bungo-Takada City, Nakatsu City



Three types of characteristic castle towns - "castle town of the slope", "castle town of the river" and "castle town of the sea" - were formed on the different types of terrain. The lives and culture of samurai and merchants at the time are still felt. Enjoy these three places leisurely, walking with guides telling the history of the town. "Castle town of the slope" is where it is nice to see people strolling in Kimono. "Castle town of the sea" is to enjoy the view of the sea while cruising Beppu Bay. "Castle town of the river" is where craftsmen can still be seen brushing up their skills. In Beppu, the world's largest hot spring resort developed in the Modern Times, let's look around the back alley and go to the public baths to see why its culture is tops. It is a journey to understand Japanese history from Early Modern Times to Modern Times.

Suya no saka Slope



Kitsuki Castle town

Day 1

JR Kitsuki Station

15 min by taxi

Walking around Kitsuki castle town

10 min by express

JR Beppu Station

10 min on foot

Takegawara Onsen

Get off the train at Kitsuki Station and head to "castle town of the slope". There are Kimono rental shops in Mitsuki, so it is possible to enjoy walking in the castle town in Kimono. There are some great deals when you wear Kimono, such as free entrance at some cultural sightseeing facilities in the city. After enjoying the atmosphere of the Edo Period by strolling around places like samurai residences, take a bath at "Takegawara Onsen" which has been around for about 130 years in the world's largest hot spring resort "Beppu".



Isoya Residence



Takegawara Onsen



Fishing boat cruise

Day 2

Beppu Wakakusa Port

40 min by boat

Oga Fishing Port/ Fish Market

15 min by boat

Hiji Port, Walking around Hiji castle town

5 min on foot

JR Yokoku Station

60 min by train and bus

Showa no Machi

After taking a great bath in the morning in Beppu the tour will head to Hiji, the "castle town of the sea" by fishing cruiser from Wakakusa Port. It is amazing to feel the sea breeze at Beppu Bay and see the unique scenery of Beppu and Hiji while cruising. The ship will arrive at Oga Fishing Port, which is also a Fish Market with energetic local fishermen. You are able to look around and buy fish there. You will leave Oga Fishing Port and go to Hiji Port by fishing cruiser again and walk around the "castle town of the sea" with guides. You can see stone walls that remains from Edo Period and a castle tower, which were rebuilt to their original appearance. Showa no Machi in Bungo-Takada City is the next stop after the castle town in Hiji. You will interact with local people at stores in shopping districts with guides.



Fish Market of Oga Fishing Port



Explore the castle town of Hiji



An old store in the Showa-no-Machi

Day 3

Bungo Takada

40 min by taxi

Yuba dyer or Wagasa factory Shuka

10 min on foot

Restaurant Shuka

2 min on foot

Yukichi Fukuzawa's Former/Museum

6 min on foot

Walking around Nakatsu castle town

10 min on foot

Niwa Chaho cafe

10 min on foot

JR Nakatsu Station

On third day, go to Nakatsu, "castle town of the river". You can see and actually experience making Japanese traditional art and crafts. At the Yuba Dyer, you can choose your favorite Japanese pattern from the numbers of selection and try indigo dye. You can also design original pattern and learn about Japanese traditional dyed textile from craftsmen. In addition, there is a Japanese umbrella studio near by, and it is also great to see the colorful works, such as traditional Japanese umbrella lamp shades and witness the skill of a craftsman.

After enjoying traditional art and crafts, it is time to go to Yukichi Fukuzawa's Former Residence & Museum. Yukichi Fukuzawa is a famous educator for writing books like Gakumon no Susume ("An Encouragement of Learning"), and also the leading person who spread the mindset of Western Civilization in the Meiji Period. You can learn the details about Yukichi at his memorial hall.

Then, to the castle town again to walk around. Not a single city block of Nakatsu castle town has changed since Edo Period, and it has a lot of temples and archives of Han Doctors, so you can learn more about Edo Culture. There are spots where you can enjoy Japanese tea as well, so have a relaxing long walk and enjoy.



1



2

3



4



6

1. Yuba dyer
2. Wagasa factory Shuka
3. Wagasa Andon
4. Yukichi Fukuzawa's Former/Museum
5. Red wall of Goganji Temple
6. Restaurant Shuka lunch

5

MODEL
COURSE of
**1 day and
2 nights**

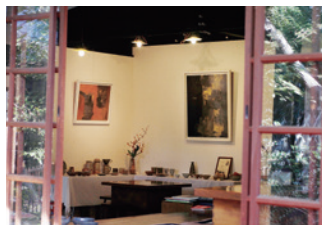
Visit galleries in Kunimi and experience the life in Himeshima Island



There are many artists creating all kinds of art in Kunimi, Kunisaki City. It is possible to find distinctive art in the galleries. After visiting the galleries, go to Himeshima by ferry and appreciate the time go slowly by on this island.

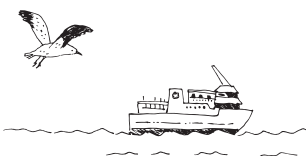
Kunimi galleries tour

You can go to Touinryo, a gallery with a cafe and three-story wooden house built about 130 years ago. You can also go to La Paloma where ceramics and glass crafts are displayed and meet the people behind the various works.



Go to Himeshima by ferry

After Kunimi Gallery Tour, leave Imi Port, and it is 20 minutes to Himeshima by ferry.



Walk in the village with Himeshima guides

After arriving in Himeshima Island, take a long walk with a guide to know Himeshima Village.



Enjoy the stay and Himeshima local cuisine

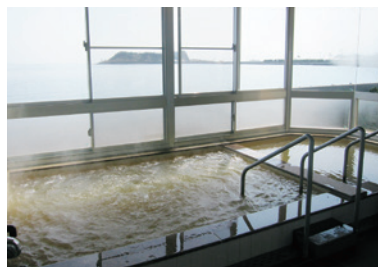


You can enjoy eating local cuisines such as Red Snapper noodles and the time being in Himeshima.

Himeshima tiger prawn Shabu-shabu
Himeshima is known for tiger prawns. You will be delighted with the great taste of succulent prawns.

Hyoushimizu Onsen

It is the Onsen that use Hyoushimizu, one of 7 mysteries. The water contains iron and is carbonated so it is loved by locals as well.



Himeshima 7 mysteries tour

Himeshima is called a legendary island and there are many mysteries about the princess there.



Eco-drive tour

Drive around the island in an electric car. It is awesome to drive along the oceanside.



Visiting 2 Beppu onsen and trying Jigoku-mushi

Taking a bath at two different onsen offers synergistic effects for health treatments. It is possible only in Beppu, where many springs exist close together.



Myoban onsen

The first onsen is a sulfur spring which has a high cleansing effect that clears all the dirt in pores. The sulfur spring water in Myoban is a beautiful celadon color.



Kannawa onsen

The second onsen is Kannawa Onsen. The water contains metasilicic acid, which has a high moisturizing effect.



Jigoku mushi

Jigoku mushi is a traditional cooking method using onsen to steam seafoods and vegetables in Kannawa. The original taste of food stands out so that it is delicious.

Love cycling & trekking in Nakatsu and Yabakei

This tour is to go cycling on Maple Yaba Cycling Road in Yabakei, a nationally designated place of scenic beauty, and trek to the tourist spots along the road.



Maple Yaba Cycling Road

There are more than 250 of bikes at Yabakei Cycling Terminal to rent and it is a exhilarating feeling to go cycling in superb scenery alongside the railway line.



Ao-no-Domon / Kyoshuho

This is a 342m long tunnel which Zenkai, a monk in Edo Period, dug with a chisel and hammer. There is a Tanshodo on Kyoshuho, a rock mountain, to have a refreshing trek.



Rakanji Temple

This old temple has 1300 years of history. There are stone Buddha sculptures at the temple in the middle of mountain and Gohyaku Rakan in a cave. You can also take a cable car or walk an old approach to the top of the mountain.



War site tour in Nakatsu, Usa, and Hiji

There are a lot of war sites in Nakatsu, Usa, and Hiji. Learn the preciousness of life and the importance of peace from history of the Special Attack Units.



Hachimenzan Peace Park, Nakatsu

The Pacific War was a big lesson. There is a wish for the friendship between Japan and the United States, as well as world peace at the mountainside of Mount Hachimen, where an American warplane fell. Mount Hachimen is popular for hiking.



Joui Bunker No.1, Usa

This is a war site of former Usa naval aviation, and the bunker was a defensive military fortification designed to protect military aircraft from bombs or other attacks. There are eleven bunkers left in Usa.



Kaiten Oga Training base memorial park, Hiji

In 1945, a training base for the human torpedos or "Kaiten" was built in Oga Fishing Port. There is a replica of a Kaiten in the Memorial Park.