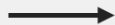





## YOUR JOURNEY IN JAPAN

### MAIN JOURNEYS

-  BULLET TRAIN
-  RENTAL CAR
-  FERRY
-  DOMESTIC FLIGHT

Approximate travel times shown



HOTEL

RYOKAN



YAKUSHIMA



FUKUOKA



MIYAWAKA



ASO



NAGASAKI



KUMAMOTO



KAGOSHIMA



IN & OUT  
VIA FUKUOKA



1h

2h

1h

2h

2h

1h

2-3h

Sample Itinerary: 16-Night Kyushu & Self-Drive

# Sample Itinerary: 16-Night Kyushu & Self-Drive

Day 1	Airport meeting Transfer · Private car to Nikko Fukuoka Orientation Hotel Nikko Fukuoka (2 Nights)
Day 2	Half-day private tour of Fukuoka with private car Activity: Hakata Ramen and Gyoza Home Cooking Class
Day 3	Rental Car · Toyota Rentacar (7 Days) Afternoon at leisure in Nagasaki Garden Terrace Nagasaki (2 Nights)
Day 4	Full-day private tour of Nagasaki with local transport
Day 5	Day at leisure in Nagasaki Ryokan Azumean (1 Night)
Day 6	Ferry · Ferry to Kumamoto Port Half-day private tour of Kumamoto with local transport The Blossom Kumamoto (2 Nights)
Day 7	Day leisure in Kumamoto
Day 8	Overnight luggage transfer: Kumamoto - Kagoshima Day trip to Takachiho Gorge Takefue Ryokan (2 Nights)
Day 9	Activity: Hot-Air Balloon Experience Day at leisure in Aso
Day 10	Rail · Ticket: Kumamoto Station to Kagoshima-Chuo Station Afternoon at leisure in Kagoshima Hotel Shiroyama Kagoshima (2 Nights)
Day 11	Day at leisure in Kagoshima
Day 12	Ferry · Ferry to Yakushima Port Transfer · Private car to hotel Afternoon at leisure on Yakushima Sankara Hotel & Spa Yakushima (2 Nights)
Day 13	Full-day private tour of Yakushima with private car
Day 14	Transfer · Private car to airport Flight from Yakushima to Fukuoka (1 hr, 5 min) Rental Car · Toyota Rentacar (2 Days) Afternoon at leisure in Miyawaka Nansuikaku (2 Nights)
Day 15	Day at leisure in Eastern Fukuoka
Day 16	Day at leisure in Fukuoka Hotel Nikko Fukuoka (1 Night)

**Day 1**

## Airport meeting

After clearing immigration, you will be met by a member of staff and escorted to your private car.

## Transfer · Private car to Nikko Fukuoka

**Departure Location**

Fukuoka Airport

**Arrival Location**

Nikko Fukuoka

### Notes

You will be transferred to your hotel by private car.



## Orientation

In order for your holiday to be as enjoyable and stress-free as possible, we have included a private and personalised orientation session, where you will be given everything you need to travel confidently in Japan.

One of our English-speaking staff members will meet you in the lobby of your hotel and will go through your itinerary with you, day by day, and answer any questions you may have. You'll also receive your "welcome pack" of additional information, such as tourist maps of each destination, suggested walking routes, and detailed information on any special activities you may have booked, as well as a Japanese phrase sheet, which should help you travel in Japan more easily!



## Hotel Nikko Fukuoka

092-482-1111

〒812-0011 福岡県福岡市博多区博多駅前2丁18-25

2 Chome-18-25 Hakata Ekimae, Hakata Ward, Fukuoka, 812-0011, Japan

**2:00 PM**

Check In

**12:00 PM**

Check Out

**2 Nights**

Hotel Nikko Fukuoka is only three minutes' walk from Hakata Station, and is the gateway to Fukuoka and the rest of Kyushu.

Dine at magnificent restaurants serving the season's finest flavours, across Japanese, French and Chinese cuisines.

Take a dip in the pool at the Fitness Centre, or perhaps head to the tea and cocktail lounge or bar.

### Room Selection

#### Room Category

Double Suite Room

#### Room Description

A spacious and luxurious suite room with a comfortable king-size bed. The room is equipped with quality amenities and a large bathroom.

- Breakfast included





## Half-day private tour of Fukuoka with private car

Your guide will meet you at your hotel lobby after breakfast. Today, you will take a trip to Dazaifu, a quaint Japanese town close to Fukuoka. Spend some time wandering its cobbled high street and be sure to try one of Dazaifu's famous treats - Umegai Mochi, a sweet dumpling filled with red beans eaten hot off the grill.

There are some lovely shrines and temples here too. Be sure not to miss Tenmangu Shrine, where students go to pray for good exam results, or Komyozen-ji temple with its beautiful Zen garden.

- Guided
- Transport: Private car



## Activity: Hakata Ramen and Gyoza Home Cooking Class

Be immersed in Japanese culture with a home cooking class today. Ramen is the signature dish of Fukuoka, and today you will try your hand at making your own steamy bowl of delicious noodle soup. You will also be making an accompanying dish of gyoza, which are small fried dumplings stuffed with pork and vegetables - are a great side-kick for any ramen dish.

- Private activity
- Duration: Approx. 3 hrs
- Activity for 2 people
- Unguided

## Day 3

### Rental Car · Toyota Rentacar

7 Days

Duration

**Pick Up Location**  
Hakata Station

**Drop Off Location**  
Kumamoto Station

#### Notes

- Collect your rental car, which is yours for 8 days including today.
- Today, drive to Nagasaki. The journey will take approximately 2 hours.



#### Afternoon at leisure in Nagasaki

Spend the afternoon exploring independently at leisure. We recommend spending the afternoon at Mt Inasa, accessible via rope-way or car. At the top of the mountain there is an exceptional viewing point from where you can enjoy the view of the city across the bay. Relax at the Fukunoyu onsen on the mountain, a wonderful place with open air baths overlooking the city. The night-time view of the warm coloured lights from houses and streets on the slopes is also a must-see.

- Unguided
- Transport: Local transport/Rental car





## Garden Terrace Nagasaki

095-864-7776

〒850-0064 崎県崎市秋町2-3

2-3 Akizuki-machi, Nagasaki city, Nagasaki prefecture 850-0064

4:00 PM

Check In

12:00 PM

Check Out

2 Nights

Designed by famous architect Kengo Kuma, the Garden Terrace Nagasaki is situated halfway up Mt Inasa and offers panoramic views of the port of Nagasaki and the city. The hotel consists of windows of various sizes, with Tower, Ocean, Garden and Japanese style suites, providing views of the landscape from every room.

### Room Selection

#### Room Category

Premier Harbour Suite

#### Room Description

At 50 sqm, this stunning room features bay and city views, private terrace and jet bath. The separate lounge area provides space to relax and the stylish bathroom features plenty of amenities.

- Breakfast included

### Day 4



Full-day private tour of Nagasaki with local transport

Your guide will meet you at your hotel lobby after breakfast. Enjoy a full day tour of Nagasaki's highlights. Start at the Oura Catholic Church before moving on to Glover Garden. This is an attractive garden and open air museum on the slope above the city, which has a stunning view over Nagasaki and its harbour. Continue to Dejima, the former residence of Dutch traders, before visiting the incredibly moving Peace Park and Atomic Bomb Museum, a sobering reminder of this historic event. Alternatively, spend the afternoon admiring the Koshi-byo, Nagasaki's Confucian Shrine and the vibrant Chinatown.

- Guided
- Transport: Local transport

## Day 5



Set out on an exciting road trip to see Mount Unzen in Shimabara today. Mount Unzen is an active volcano which has erupted several times over the past few decades. In the spring time you can enjoy riots of pink azaleas on the hillsides. Take the Unzen ropeway for incredible views over the peninsula, on a clear day you can see all the way to Kumamoto over the Ariake Sea. Take a hike up the mountain for incredible views of the Heisei Shinzan peak, which was formed when the volcano last erupted in 1995.

After exploring Mount Unzen, head south to the boiling hells of Unzen Jikoku. Hot water and sulphuric gas pour out of the earth in this rich geothermal landscape. Steeped in history, this area was used to torture Christian martyrs in the 17th Century. Enjoy a free hot spring foot bath at the end of your visit.

- Unguided
- Transport: Rental car





## Ryokan Azumean

0957-73-2588

〒854-0621 崎県雲仙市浜町雲仙181

181 Obamacho Unzen, Unzen, Nagasaki 854-0621, Japan

**3:00 PM**

Check In

**10:00 AM**

Check Out

**1 Night**

The Ryokan Azumean is situated just a two minute drive from the Unzen Hells. The accommodation looks over the Oshidori lake and had comfortable modern-traditional Japanese rooms. Enjoy a hot spring bath in your room overlooking the lake.

### Room Selection

#### Room Category

Matsurika

#### Room Description

This stunning Japanese room is traditionally designed but with plenty of modern stylistic components. Featuring Hollywood twin beds, a tatami area, lounge area, private deck and open-air bath, as well as gorgeous mountain views.

- Breakfast and dinner included

## Day 6

### Ferry · Ferry to Kumamoto Port

#### Departure Location

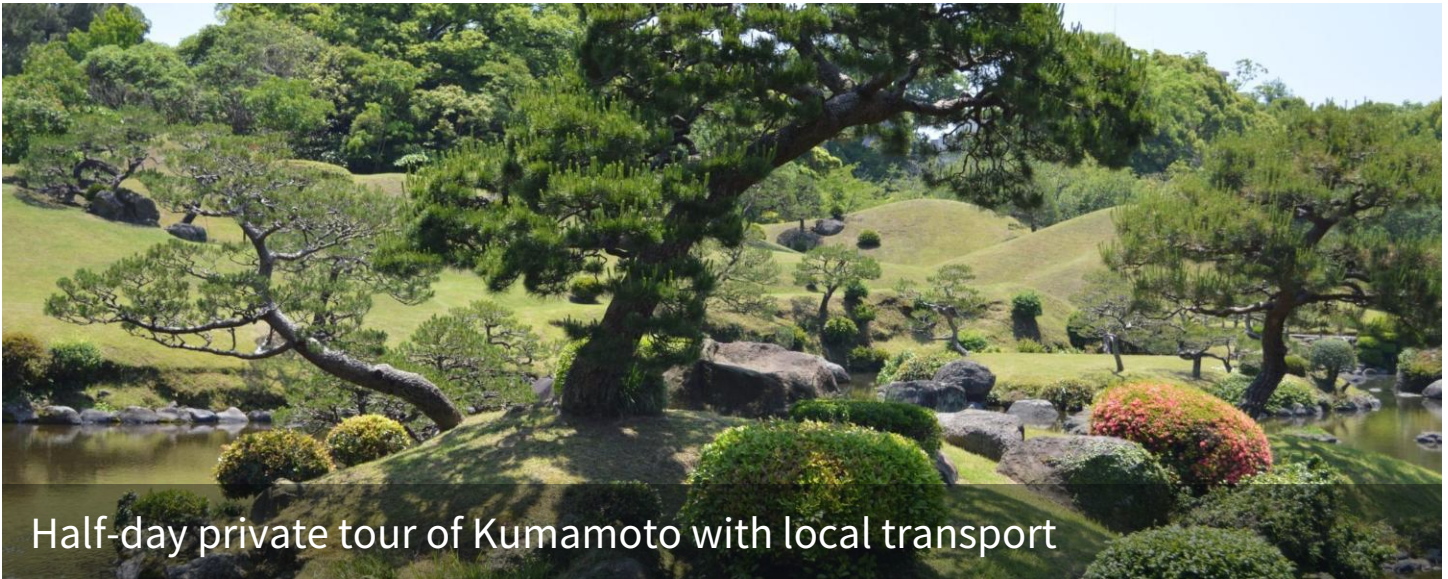
Shimabara Port

#### Arrival Location

Kumamoto Port

#### Notes

- Drive to Shimabara Port, and onto the ferry. The journey to Kumamoto will take around 2 hours in total.



## Half-day private tour of Kumamoto with local transport

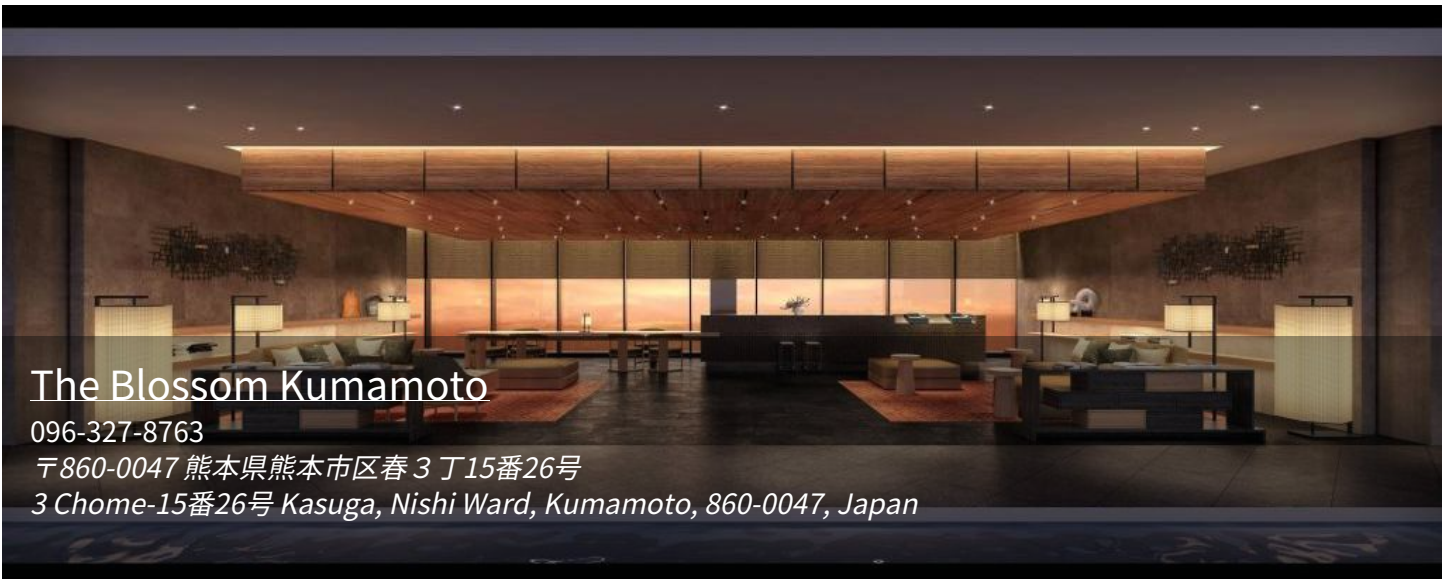
Drop your car off at your hotel, where your guide will meet you.

Today you will be visiting Suizenji garden, a spacious, Japanese style landscape garden which is best enjoyed by strolling along a circular path.

The garden reproduces the 53 post stations of the Tokaido, the important road, which connected Edo with Kyoto during the Edo Period, in miniature form, including a small Mt. Fuji.

Afterwards, you will visit the Hearn residence. Following the 2016 earthquake, only one part of this residence is open to the public. Lafcadio Hearn (1850-1904), known in Japan under his Japanese name Koizumi Yakumo, was among the first Western authors to write books about Japan. His most famous works include "Glimpses of Unfamiliar Japan" and "Kwaidan: Stories and Studies of Strange Things".

- Guided
- Transport: Local transport



### The Blossom Kumamoto

096-327-8763

〒860-0047 熊本県熊本市区春 3 丁15番26号

3 Chome-15番26号 Kasuga, Nishi Ward, Kumamoto, 860-0047, Japan

3:00 PM

Check In

10:00 AM

Check Out

2 Nights



An immaculate hotel based in the heart of Kumamoto city. The Blossom has a wonderful balance of traditional and modern Japanese aesthetic. The hotel features a restaurant, fitness centre, bar and free WiFi.

## Room Selection

### Room Category

The Suite

### Room Description

126 sqm with separate bedroom, living area and dining area. This luxurious suite room resembles more of a private home than a hotel room and the artwork and crafts placed carefully around the suite create a homely feel. The earthy tones and wooden decor provide a relaxing atmosphere, and the Japanese-style indoor bath is the perfect place to unwind.

- Breakfast included

## Day 7



### Day leisure in Kumamoto

Spend the day exploring independently at leisure. Today we suggest visiting the historical Kurokawa Onsen Village. Kurokawa Onsen is one of Japan's top onsen resorts, famous for its traditional and isolated setting, deep in a lush green valley and hidden on the hillside of South Oguni. The baths here are rumoured to have special healing powers and were a convenient stop rest for the Kumamoto Shoguns.

Afterwards we suggest heading to the Nabegataki falls. These impressive waterfalls have developed a reputation as a natural power spot. The waterfalls are a rare geological feature which were formed due to the eruptions of Mount Aso over 90,000 years ago.

Finish the day with a visit to Suzume Jikoku Springs. These cold water volcanic springs emit gases so powerful they are known to be fatal for local wildlife. Although it's fine for humans, it's not recommend to get too close to the springs if you have a heart of breathing condition. Continue on the path past the springs and you will enter Seiryu no Mori forest which is famous for its natural beauty.

- Unguided
- Transport: Rental car

## Day 8

### Overnight luggage transfer: Kumamoto - Kagoshima



Because luggage space on trains is very limited and to allow you to travel comfortably, your luggage will be sent ahead from Kumamoto - Kagoshima overnight. We suggest packing small overnight bags as you will be without the bulk of your luggage for the next 2 nights.



## Day trip to Takachiho Gorge

Today, take a day trip to Takachiho gorge; a narrow chasm cut through the rock by the Gokase River. Partway along the gorge is the 17 meter high Minainotaki waterfall cascading down to the river below, and it is truly impressive to see the waterfall against a backdrop of dense green foliage and the surrounding grey cliffs.

The gorge can be explored from above and below: we suggest hiring a boat and rowing along the river here. The water is calm and easy to navigate and this highly recommended route offers a close up view of the cliffs and waterfall.

Once you have finished exploring, make your way to your next accommodation.

- Unguided
- Transport: Rental car



## Takefue Ryokan

0570-064-559

〒869-2402熊本県阿蘇郡南国町字満願寺5725-1

5725-1 Manganji Minamiogunicho Asogun Kumamoto 869-2402

3:00 PM

Check In

10:00 AM

Check Out

2 Nights

Takefue, an idyllic rural retreat, maintains a refined rustic style, the farm-type buildings all black beams and straw-and-plaster stucco. Interiors are likewise rustic, but with modern amenities and huge windows giving access to the lovely surrounding forest. The onsen hot springs are generated by the same geological processes that keep nearby Mt. Aso rumbling. There are numerous ryokan in the neighbourhood, but the bamboo forest effectively muffles all sounds from outside the grounds, preserving the feeling of deep-forest privacy.

Most of the rooms boast their own private rotemburo outdoor baths - some of which are huge. There is also an enormous public rotemburo, which can be reserved for private bathing.

The cuisine is kaiseki haute cuisine, incorporating inaka ryori, or country fare, and taking full advantage of the delicate and delicious mountain vegetables of the area.

Takefue's location, nestled in a large bamboo grove, gives it a unique otherworldly air; this and its exquisite food, beautiful outdoor baths, rustic authenticity and premium service make this an outstanding ryokan.

## Room Selection

### Room Category

Sasane

### Room Description

This gorgeous Japanese room features comfortable futons laid out on tatami mats, a traditional irori fireplace, and indoor rock bath. The decor is earthy yet stylish, and makes you feel as if you've stepped back in time.

- Breakfast and dinner included

## Day 9



Wake up early today for some breath taking sights of Mount Aso this morning. The balloon will ascend 40 meters in the air so you can enjoy panoramic views of this natural beauty hot-spot.

- Group activity (total 10-15 people)
- Duration: 5 mins in air
- Unguided





## Day at leisure in Aso

After your balloon ride, we suggest taking a trip from to the impressive Mt. Aso. You'll drive through Kyushu's "Land of Fire" to Mount Aso, with spectacular views of the active volcano and massive caldera. It is possible to get close to the actual crater, at Nakadake, though there are plenty of other things to see on the way.

The volcano gases here are noxious but are constantly monitored (as is the volcano itself) to protect visitors, however if you have any respiratory issues please choose another destination. It is worth stopping regularly to catch the panoramic views of the valley and its beautiful patchwork of rice fields.

- Unguided
- Transport: Rental car

## Day 10

### Rail · Ticket: Kumamoto Station to Kagoshima-Chuo Station

Departure Location	Arrival Location	Train Type
Kumamoto Station	Kagoshima-Chuo Station	Japan Rail Shinkansen

#### Notes

- This morning, drive back to Kumamoto where you will need to return your rental car to Kumamoto Station.
- Then, take the bullet train to Kagoshima.





## Afternoon at leisure in Kagoshima

Spend the afternoon exploring independently at leisure. We suggest visiting Senganen Garden also known as Isoteien. This Japanese style landscape garden along the coast north of downtown Kagoshima includes small ponds, streams, shrines and a bamboo grove.

At the centre of the garden stands the Iso Residence. The residence was originally built in 1658 along with the rest of the garden, but the current building mostly dates back to a mid 1880s reconstruction. The interior of the residence can only be seen on a guided tour that includes tea and a snack at the end. (Note that the tour costs an additional 600 yen and there are about three tours per hour).

- Unguided



## Hotel Shiroyama Kagoshima

099-2242211

〒890-8586 鹿児島県鹿児島市新照院町 4 1 - 1

41-1 Shinshoincho, Kagoshima, 890-8586, Japan

**2:00 PM**

Check In

**11:00 AM**

Check Out

**2 Nights**

Hotel Shiroyama Kagoshima is located on the hilltop called Shiroyama in the heart of the city; at 108 meters above sea level overlooking the city skyline with a view of Sakurajima and Kinko Bay. The hotel has a wide variety of guest rooms as well as small and large conference rooms. There are also open-air hot spring baths boasting magnificent views fed by water pumped up from 1.000 meters below the ground.

## Room Selection

### Room Category

Japanese Garden Suite

### Room Description

75 sqm. Designed in a contemporary Japanese style with plenty of nods to traditional style, this luxurious suite has all the modern comforts you need. The wide Hollywood twin beds and Japanese-style indoor bath make this the perfect room to relax in. Seating by the window allows one to take in the Japanese garden views, with the ocean in the background.

- Breakfast included

## Day 11



### Day at leisure in Kagoshima

Spend the day exploring Kagoshima at leisure. We suggest visiting Kagoshima's synonymous volcano, Sakurajima, where you can witness some of Kyushu's most stunning nature. The volcano has a number a luxurious onsen and footbaths, as well as a walking trail, car & bike rental, and some spectacular views.

- Unguided

## Day 12

### Ferry · Ferry to Yakushima Port

#### Departure Location

Miyanoura Port

#### Arrival Location

Anbo Port

#### Notes

- This morning take a taxi to the Miyanoura Port.
- Take the ferry to Yakushima. The journey will take 2-3 hours.

### Transfer · Private car to hotel

#### Departure Location

Anbo Port

#### Arrival Location

Sankara Hotel & Spa



## Notes

- On arrival at the port, you will be met and transferred to your hotel by private car.



### Afternoon at leisure on Yakushima

Enjoy a relaxing afternoon and evening at your accommodation today. Take advantage of the Sankara's wonderful spa or take a refreshing dip in the pool. You can enjoy delicious French cuisine at one of the hotel's restaurants.



### Sankara Hotel & Spa Yakushima

0997-47-3488

〒891-4402 児島県熊郡屋久島町字萩野上553

553 Haginoue, Mugio, Yakushima-cho, Kumage-gun, Kagoshima, 891-4402

**3:00 PM**

Check In

**1:00 PM**

Check Out

**2 Nights**

The hill overlooking the sea where Sankara Hotel & Spa Yakushima is located is an area where subtropical forests and the sub alpine climates intersect. This is a perfect location to enjoy the rich, fragrant aroma of greenery and a sumptuous, refreshing breeze. It has a retreat atmosphere and a sophisticated and chic interior design - perfect for an adult getaway.



## Room Selection

### Room Category

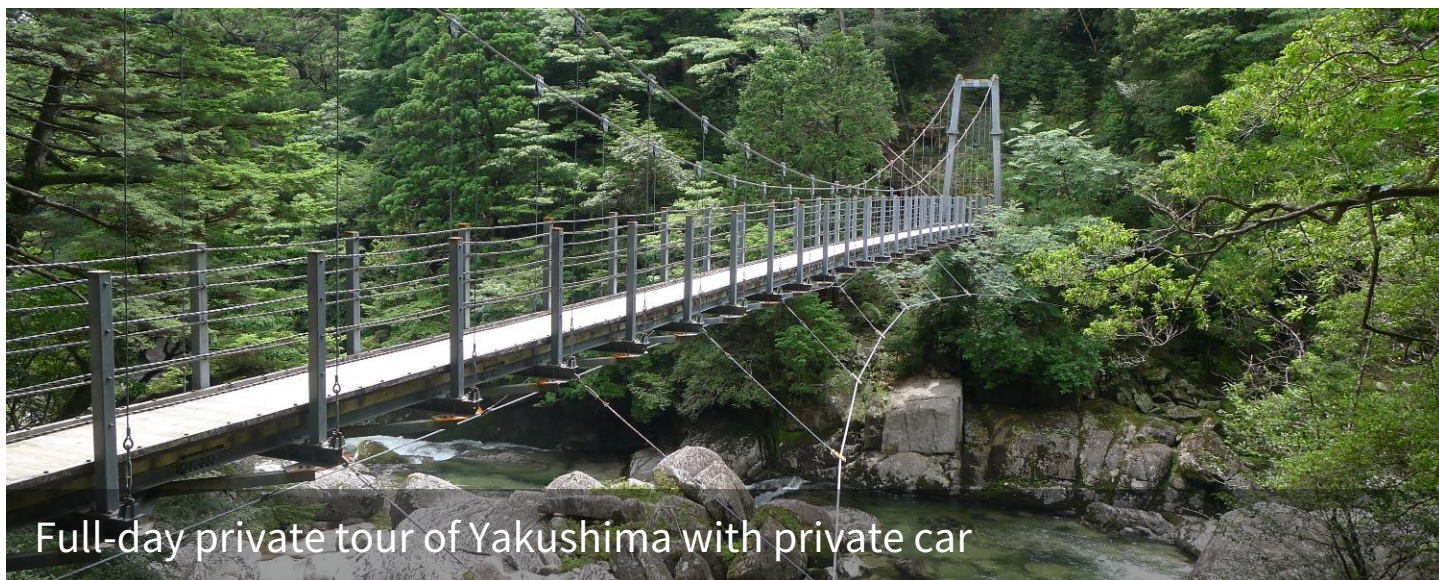
Sankara Suite

### Room Description

126 sqm. The most luxurious suite room at Sankara. The room comes with a spa room, so you can enjoy spa treatment in the comfort of your room and an outdoor bath to enjoy the nature of Yakushima. The room style is a combination of traditional Japanese with a tropical flavour.

- Breakfast and dinner included

## Day 13



Your guide will meet you at the hotel this morning to take you on a full-day tour of the beautiful island of Yakushima. We suggest visiting Yakusugi Land. This nature park is populated by a number of yakusugi (1000+ year old Yakushima Cedars).

The park has a variety of hiking courses to choose from that will accommodate nearly any ability. The recommended courses vary in length from 30 minutes to 2.5 hours, and they all follow the same route into the park with different turnoff points that lead back to the trailhead.

Time permitting, you may like to visit one of Yakushima's impressive waterfalls, such as Okonotaki waterfall.

- Guided
- Transport: Private car

## Day 14

### Transfer · Private car to airport

#### Departure Location

Sankara Hotel & Spa

#### Arrival Location

Yakushima Airport

#### Notes

- You will be transferred to the airport in good time for your flight back to Fukuoka.

## Yakushima to Fukuoka

JAL (JL)

<b>JL</b> Carrier/Flight	KUM •	FUK •	<b>1 hr, 5 min</b> Duration
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## Rental Car · Toyota Rentacar

**2 Days**

Duration

### Pick Up Location

Fukuoka Airport

### Drop Off Location

Fukuoka Airport

### Notes

- Pick up your rental car from Fukuoka Airport. You have this car for 3 days, including today.
- Head out to the onsen town of Miyawaka, around 45 minutes by car from the airport.



## Afternoon at leisure in Miyawaka

Spend the afternoon at leisure. Make use of the facilities at your ryokan, or perhaps head out for a leisurely stroll. The small onsen town has some tiny but charming shrines, and not too far is a beautiful dam with hiking trails.

- Unguided





## Nansuikaku

0949-54-0123

〒822-0133 福岡県宮若市脇507

507 Wakita, Miyawaka, Fukuoka 822-0133, Japan

**3:00 PM**

Check In

**10:00 AM**

Check Out

**2 Nights**

Located in Miyawaka, Nansuikaku is a lovely little ryokan perched at the side of the Inunaki River, and enjoys the onsen water of the Wakita hot spring.

Rooms here are traditional and calming, some featuring river views or private outdoor baths.

A dip in the public indoor and outdoor baths is the perfect way to relax and unwind. Also available are massages, body treatments, and facials.

Enjoy a meal at one of the ryokan's dining establishments, which include 4 restaurants and a coffee shop and cafe. Quench your thirst with your favourite drink at a bar and lounge.

### Room Selection

#### Room Category

Sekirei

#### Room Description

Sekirei is the ryokan's most luxurious room, and features twin beds, and an open-air cedar bath. Its design is traditional and sophisticated, and a wide range of amenities are included for your convenience.

- Breakfast and dinner included



## Day 15



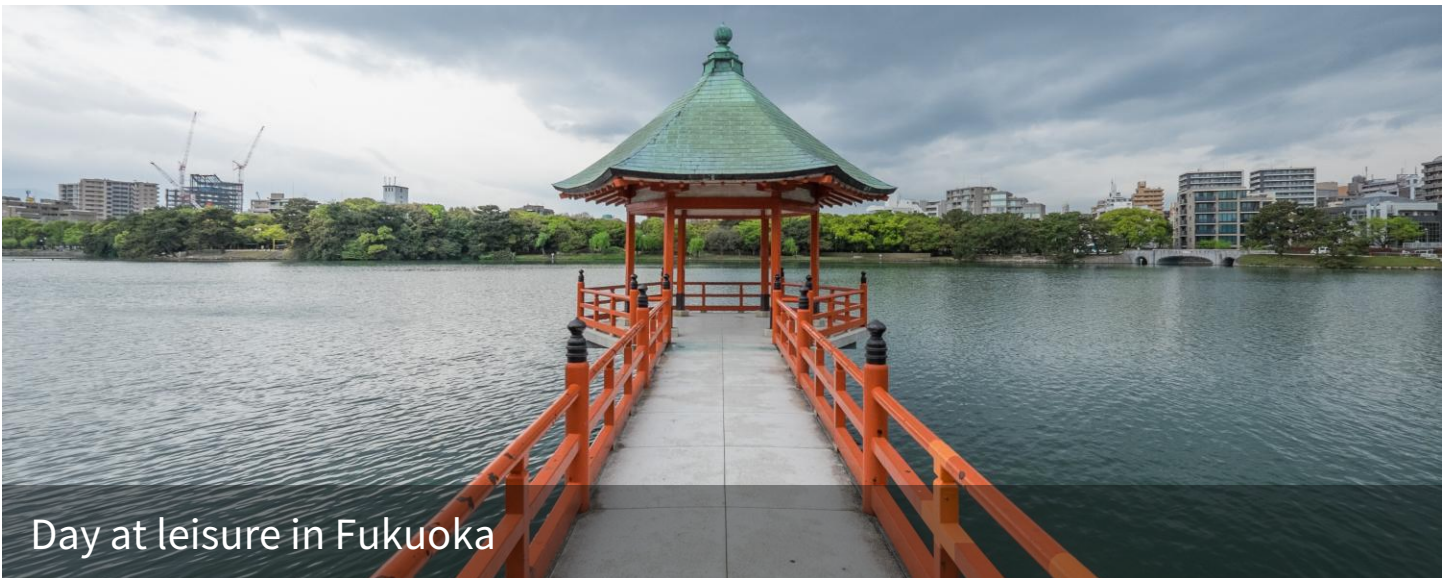
### Day at leisure in Eastern Fukuoka

Spend some time today exploring Japan's natural beauty at leisure. Begin your day with a light hike around Hiraodai National Park. Karst rock formations are scattered throughout the hillsides of this limestone plateau, which can be enjoyed through all four seasons. There are also many intriguing caves and caverns to explore nearby such as the Senbutsu Limestone Cavern.

Next, head to the beautiful Suago waterfall, which stands an impressive 30m tall. The falls are situated on the Murasaki River in the forest of Dobaru. Buddhist statues and shrines line the path to this incredible area of natural beauty.

- Unguided
- Transport: Rental car

## Day 16



### Day at leisure in Fukuoka

This morning, head back to Fukuoka in your rental car.

Spend today exploring independently at leisure. We suggest a leisurely morning at Ohori Park, a beautiful park with a lake in the centre, right in the heart of the city. There are cafes in which you can rest and enjoy the wonderful views of the park and the city. You can also visit the traditional Japanese garden within the park, which is home to a golden shrine.

Afterwards visit the ruins of Fukuoka Castle. Only a few buildings remain after it was torn down during the Meiji Restoration but it does boast some lovely views of the surrounding area. Head to Kushida Shrine, which was originally built in 757 and restored in 1585.

When it starts getting darker, take a stroll along the river and through the streets to see the famous Yatai stalls - small stalls selling all kinds of street food! Some of these stalls have just six seats, and you will see long lines of hungry Yatai lovers outside the most popular ones!

- Unguided
- Transport: Rental car



## Hotel Nikko Fukuoka

092-482-1111

〒812-0011 福岡県福岡市博多区博多駅前2丁18-25

2 Chome-18-25 Hakata Ekimae, Hakata Ward, Fukuoka, 812-0011, Japan

2:00 PM

Check In

12:00 PM

Check Out

1 Night

Hotel Nikko Fukuoka is only three minutes' walk from Hakata Station, and is the gateway to Fukuoka and the rest of Kyushu.

Dine at magnificent restaurants serving the season's finest flavours, across Japanese, French and Chinese cuisines.

Take a dip in the pool at the Fitness Centre, or perhaps head to the tea and cocktail lounge or bar.

### Room Selection

#### Room Category

Double Suite Room

#### Room Description

A spacious and luxurious suite room with a comfortable king-size bed. The room is equipped with quality amenities and a large bathroom.

- Breakfast included





## Departure

- Drop off your rental car at Fukuoka Airport before making your way into the terminal ready to depart.