

# Kyushu Autumn Colours Tour

## Japan Holidays



### DURATION OF TOUR:

3rd ~ 10th November 2019

8 days, 7 nights

**PRICE:** From \$6200\* per person, twin share

\*Price based on a minimum group of 4 people.

\*Guaranteed departure on minimum of 4 people.

\*If maximum of 8 persons reached travel price will be reduced.

\*Single supplement available.

### TOUR DESCRIPTION

Direct exposure to this fascinating diverse island of Japan

Be immersed in history - staying in the Home of Heike samurai clan

Soak in the natural hot springs that abound in the island

Personalised tour with a highly experienced escort

Enjoy local tastes and foods unique to Kyushu

Experience the warmth and hospitality of the local people



### Introduction: 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 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.



### INCLUSIONS:

- 7 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, 6 Dinners
- 7 Nights Accommodation - Western & Japanese style
- Transfers, Tours & Entrances as per Itinerary
- Private Escort/Guide in Japan

### EXCLUSIONS:

- 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. 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 it is a perfect time to visit Kyushu.

## **Day 1 Sunday: Tokyo**

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 Monday: Tokyo - Kumamoto**

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 damage 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 (or similar)*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **Day 3 Tuesday: Kumamoto**

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, char-grilled, 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*



### **Day 4 Wednesday: Gokanoshō**

The Land of the Last Samurai, Gokanoshō 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. Gokanoshō, 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 Thursday: Amakusa**

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 Friday: Unzen**

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 *amour*, view the castle and sights from the top. Soak in relaxing *onsen* at the hotel before feasting at a multi-course meal, whilst lounging in a comfortable *yukata* at this traditional style *ryokan* accommodation.

*Accommodation: Hotel Seiunso*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 7 Saturday: Nagasaki**

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: JR Kyushu Hotel*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 8 Sunday: Nagasaki - Tokyo**

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 us.

***END OF TOUR***