

13-DAY ESI KYUSHU TOUR (2010)

WITH OPTIONAL SHIKOKU EXTENSION

FUKUOKA • NAGASAKI • KUMAMOTO • BEPPU • MATSUYAMA • KOTOHIRA • TOKYO

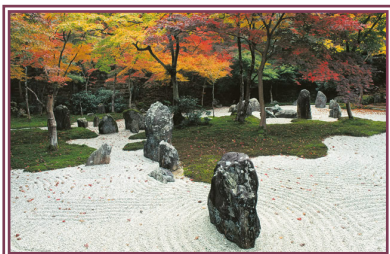
DEPARTURE:

OCT 16, 2010
(SATURDAY)

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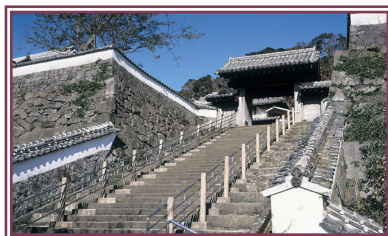
Kyushu, the most southerly of Japan's main islands and the third largest is linked to Honshu, the main Island, by road and rail via an undersea tunnel. Kyushu, literally means 'nine regions', which is what it embraced in ancient time when it was known as Kyukoku or 'nine states'. Today, the island comprised of seven prefectures: Fukuoka, Oita, Kumamoto, Nagasaki, Saga, Miyazaki and Kagoshima. Kyushu was Japan's cradle of civilization; archaeological sites in Saga Prefecture reveal first evidence of rice farming. The famous Karatsu and Imari ceramics were built upon the skills of craftsman in the 16th century. The first European to come to Japan was Portuguese sailors shipwrecked off the Southern Kyushu coast in 1543. They introduced the Japanese to firearms and tobacco and paved the way for subsequent sailors and missionaries. Remnants of bygone relationship with Europe survive in Nagasaki City, notwithstanding the horrific destruction brought on by the atomic bomb in 1945. Geographically, the island is volcanic and has a great number of hot springs. Mount Aso is the largest caldera on Earth; and Sakura, the Japanese equivalent of Vesuvius, gives Kagoshima the designation of 'the Naples of Japan'.



Fukuoka is the largest city in Kyushu and the island's international hub. It is divided into two major areas: the port area in the northeast, commonly known as Hakata; and Fukuoka itself, lies on the western bank of the Nakagawa River. During the Edo period, the name Fukuoka was given to the samurai quarter in Hakata. Nevertheless, the commoners, preferred to call it Hakata and they still do today. In ancient times, the port of Hakata had been the gateway for trade with China and Korea. The port city also played a decisive role in fending off invasions of the powerful Mongol Emperor Kublai Khan in 1274 with a 12-mile anti-Mongol wall built along the coast. Parts of its ruins still stand at Nishijin and Imazu. In 1281, a large Mongol fleet was destroyed in a spectacular typhoon, the Japanese believed that it was divine in-

tervention which revered ever since as kamikaze - the wind of the gods.

Nagasaki is the entry point for both European trade and Christianity in Japan, the city has a fascinating history. The Portuguese is the first European to discover the area in the mid-16th century. The small fishing village gradually grew into a port city. Many products from Europe such as tobacco, bread and textile were imported through Nagasaki. Followers of Jesuit Missionary St. Francis Xavier had converted a few Daimyos (feudal lords) to Christianity; thus, Nagasaki was the only city in Japan that had a strong Christian influence. The harbors also became major base of the Imperial Navy during the Sino-Japanese War and the Russo-Japanese War in the turn of the 19-20 centuries. Many sights evoke the city's historical link to the rest of the world. After the devastation of the atomic bomb in 1945, the restoration of the city is remarkable. Today, unless you visit the Atomic Bomb Museum and Peace Park near ground zero, it is difficult to imagine the bombing ever occurred.



Beppu is the Promised Land for lovers of hot spring, the city reign supreme over all onsen resorts in Japan in terms of water volume. Beppu is one of the world's most geothermal cities, natural hot water cooks food and heats houses in the winter. Some of the hot spots are referred to as the 'nine hells of Beppu' - geysers, bubbling mud and pools of steaming hot water dyed strange colors by minerals. The most famous being the red Chi-no-ike, or 'pond of blood'. Going around them forms an extraordinary half-day excursion. Sometime, it seems that all you have to do to make a living there is to stick a pipe in the ground, turn on a faucet, and build a restaurant or ryokan around the outflow.

Shikoku is the smallest of Japan's main islands, lies south across the seto-naikai (inland sea) from Honshu. Shikoku means 'four countries', referring to the feudal provinces of Sanuki, Awa, Iyo and Tosa; now respectively the four prefectures of Kagawa, Tokushima,

Ehime and Kochi. Although parts of the island are industrialized; Shikoku remains overwhelmingly rural and sparsely populated; and the mainstays of the island's economy are fishing and farming, especially fruits and vegetables. The prefecture capitals - Takamatsu, Tokushima, Matsuyama and Kochi are the main towns, and even these are relatively serene and unhurried. Old Japan lives on in Shikoku. Traditional crafts such as ceramics, textile dyeing, weaving and papermaking still thrive alongside colorful cultural events and festivals.

Matsuyama stretches along the northern part of Shikoku, is the capital of Ehime Prefecture. Its main attraction is the well-preserved Matsuyama-jo Castle, built in 1627 by feudal lord Kato Yoshiaki. Damaged by lightning in the 18th century, the main keep was rebuilt in 1854. Exhibits inside the castle include original paintings, armor and swords. The castle ground is a sight to behold during cherry blossom in spring. Being the birthplace of master poet Shiki Masaoka (1867-1902), Matsuyama is regarded nationally as a center for haiku. Natsumi Soseki (1867-1916), a famous novelist whose portrait graces the 1,000-yen note, taught English in Matsuyama as a young man and found inspiration for his novel Botchan. His boarding house has been restored as the Gudabutsu-an, now used for tea ceremonies and haiku poetry sessions.

The region of **Kotohira** is located southwest of Takamatsu, wherein lies the Kotohiragu Shrine or Kompira-san, the most important of Shikoku's Shinto Shrine and among the nation's most sacred. Located in the slope of Zozu-san, a 1,640-foot hill, the shrine is dedicated to Omono-Nushi, god of seafarers and travelers. Particularly inspiring many of its visitors with awe is the prospect of an 1-hour's climb of 785 stone steps through the woods to get there. It is well worth the effort with a visit to this well-preserved shrine and the spectacular view over the Sanuki Plain.



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Tour Itinerary (2010):

Oct 16 (SAT): U.S.-Fukuoka.
Depart U.S. for Fukuoka.

Oct 17 (SUN): Fukuoka.
Arrive Fukuoka, transfer to hotel after entry formalities.
Accommodation: New Otani Fukuoka.

Oct 18 (MON): Fukuoka (B/L).
A morning tour of Fukuoka, visit the vibrant Yanagibashi Market, Hakata Canal city, Kaidan-in, Kanzeon-ji Temple and Dazaifu Tenman-gu Shrine. Lunch at a local restaurant. In the evening, take a stroll to the Tenjin area and experience some Fukuoka famous Yatais (food stalls) at your own preference.

Oct 19 (TUE): Fukuoka (B).
Day free at leisure for you to explore the city at your own pace.

Oct 20 (WED): Fukuoka-Nagasaki (B/L).
After breakfast, transfer to Hakata Station for a 2-hour scenic train ride to Nagasaki. Lunch at local restaurant after arrival. Afternoon tour of the Dejima area: Chinatown, Confucius Shrine, Hollander Slope, Glover Garden and Oura Tenshudo.
Accommodation: BW Premier Hotel.

Oct 21 (THR): Nagasaki (B).
Morning tour to Urakami, ground zero of the second atomic bomb of WWII; visit the Peace Memorial Park and the Atomic Bomb Museum dedicated to the city's darkest day in history. Afternoon free at leisure.

Oct 22 (FRI): Nagasaki-Kumamoto (B/L).
Depart Nagasaki by bus along the Shimabara Peninsula; visit the Unzen spa area with its volcanic landscapes. Lunch at a local restaurant; onward to Shimabara Port for a ferry across the Ariake Sea for Kumamoto.
Accommodation: ANA Sky Hotel.

Oct 23 (SAT): Kumamoto-Beppu (B/L/D)
Morning tour of Kumamoto Castle; onward to Mt. Aso with its variety of stunning sceneries. Lunch at a local restaurant, then continue the journey to the onsen town of Beppu. Dinner at the hotel.
Accommodation: Suginoi Hotel.

Oct 24 (SUN): Beppu (B/D)
Morning tour of Beppu City and its many 'jigoku' geothermal pits with difference activities. Afternoon free at leisure for you to enjoy

the superb spa facilities at your hotel. Dinner at hotel.

Oct 25 (MON): Beppu-Tokyo
Transfer to Oita airport for domestic flight to Tokyo. Transfer to hotel after arrival at Haneda Airport.
Accommodation: Grand Pacific Le Daiba.

Oct 26-27 (TUE-WED): Tokyo (B).
Days free at leisure.

Oct 28 (THR): Tokyo-U.S. (B).
Transfer to airport for departure.

Tour Cost - Kyushu Tour	
Cost per person based on double occupancy	\$3,990
Single supplement	\$850



Optional Shikoku Extension:

Oct 16-24:
Same as Kyushu tour.

Oct 25 (MON): Beppu-Matsuyama (B)
Transfer to Beppu Port for ferry to Matsuyama; transfer to hotel after arrival.
Accommodation: ANA Hotel Matsuyama.

Oct 26 (TUE): Matsuyama (B/L).
Tour of Matsuyama city: visit Matsuyamajo Castle, Dogo Hot Spring, Dogo Park, Botchan Karakuri Clock, Shiki Memorial Museum and Gudabutsu-an.

Oct 27 (WED): Matsuyama-Kotohira (B/D).
Transfer to Matsuyama Station for express train to Kotohira; proceed to hotel after arrival. Dinner at the hotel.
Accommodation: Kotohira Grand Hotel.

Oct 28 (THR): Kotohira (B/L/D).
Take a leisurely paced morning climb of 785 stone steps to the Konpira Shrine where you'll have a panoramic view of the Kotohira Plain. Visit an udon school and learn how to make udon and your creation is your lunch. Dinner at hotel.

Oct 29 (FRI): Kotohira-Tokyo (B).
Transfer to Takamatsu Airport for domestic flight to Tokyo. Transfer to hotel after arrival.
Accommodation: Grand Pacific Le Daiba

Oct 30-31 (SAT-SUN): Tokyo (B).
Days free at leisure.

Nov 01 (MON): Tokyo-U.S. (B).
Transfer to airport for departure.

Tour Cost - Kyushu & Shikoku	
Cost per person based on double occupancy	\$5,220
Single supplement	\$1,072

Notes on costs:

- Costs include economy class air transportation from Honolulu, and all accommodations, transfers, tours and meals specified in the itinerary.
- Costs do not include international air transportation taxes and fuel surcharge.
- Tour costs based on ¥90 to a dollar. Adjustment to tour cost will be made according to the prevailing exchange rate on tour finalization day (30 days prior to departure) based on the following differential chart:

¥	Kyushu	Kyushu & Shikoku
85	+153	+214
86	+121	+169
87	+90	+125
88	+59	+83
89	+29	+41
90	0	0
91	-29	-40
92	-57	-79
93	-84	-117
94	-111	-155
95	-137	-191
96	-163	-227
97	-188	-262
98	-212	-297
99	-236	-330
100	-260	-363