



# Kyushu Journeys

DREAM • EXPLORE • DISCOVER

## Kyushu Autumn Tour

November 2023

Come with us to explore the best of Kyushu's fall foliage. Along the way enjoy the tastiest local cuisine and relax in natural hot-spring baths. Discover the outstanding scenery that makes Kyushu an unmissable destination for lovers of Japan. Travel by private bus accompanied by a fun and knowledgeable English-speaking tour leader.

# DAY 1: THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER ~ OVERNIGHT IN BEPPU

Meet your tour leader and fellow travellers in Fukuoka city and hit the road. First stop is a country-side orchard where we'll have fun picking the Japanese favourite of mikan (sweet tangerine). From there we continue to the famous onsen (natural hot-spring) town of Beppu. We'll visit the traditional straw huts where sulphur crystals are grown in a process that has continued for 300 years. Buy some to take home and enjoy the benefits of onsen bathing in your very own bathtub!

Lunch will be healthy and natural onsen-steamed. The mineral-laden steam brings out the true flavours of the food. In the afternoon enjoy the unique experience of hot sand bathing. It's a fun activity with many health benefits.



After checking into the hotel we'll stroll to a nearby sushi restaurant for dinner. Beppu is famous for its seafood so this is sure to be a special treat. After dinner you can either go straight back to the hotel or take a soothing hot-spring bath first.

## DAY 2: FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER ~ OVERNIGHT AROUND KUJU MOUNTAINS



We'll wake up early and travel by boat to a traditional fishing market. Get some great photos and try the famed local fishcake for breakfast. Our road trip then continues through a hand-carved tunnel to a temple perched high up on a cliff-face. It dates back to the 13th century and the thousands of hand-carved Buddhas are a memorable sight.

As we're heading higher and higher through the forests now, there is no better lunch than soba noodles. It's a specialty of this mountainous area. We continue our journey into some of Japan's most stunning areas for fall foliage (though of course everything depends on Mother Nature). We'll use our local contacts to discover the places that are showing their best glory on this particular day.

Your hotel tonight will be nestled in the heart of Kyushu's most scenic area. After a dinner of local fare, take the chance to soothe yourself with a leisurely hot-spring bath.



## DAY 3: SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER ~ OVERNIGHT IN TAKACHIHO



Today we continue our journey through the remote countryside. At Aso Volcano you'll get the unique opportunity to stare right into an active volcano crater! This is one of Japan's most impressive sights. If the crater is closed for safety reasons we'll still get as close as we can to smell the devilish sulphur and see the smoke billowing out. It makes for a wonderful photoshoot!

We stop for lunch where you'll get hands on barbecuing local mountain veggies, river fish and tofu at your table. We'll continue to Takachiho (another spot famous for autumn colours) and stroll along the dramatic gorge. If you are adventurous enough you can even rent a rowing boat (depending on river conditions and waiting time).

In the evening either relax in your hotel or take a stroll after dinner to the 1,000 year-old Takachiho Shrine. Experience a comical yet poignant Japanese 'Kagura' dance performance.



## DAY 4: SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER ~ OVERNIGHT IN HIYA

If you can wake up early enough (5AM!) visit a sunrise viewpoint. Although Mother Nature guarantees nothing, we hope to enjoy the famed 'Sea of Clouds'. This is best in autumn and is a truly memorable experience. After breakfast we'll take a unique scenic ride to get a birds'-eye view of the yellows, golds and autumnal reds all around!

Next we'll take a short but very pretty walk down to the riverside cave and spiritual 'power-spot' of Ama-no-Iwato. It is steeped in myth and legend and set in beautiful natural surroundings. Enjoy your delicious lunch of local countryside dishes.



Accommodation this evening is a real treat. We'll be staying at an authentic Japanese inn (ryokan) with onsen hot-spring baths. Enjoy indoor and outdoor baths with wonderful natural views. Japanese have been coming here to bathe for more than 1,000 years and it's the quality of the water that attracts them. Feel your stresses and strains melt away and give your tired skin a radiant shine. Japanese ryokan are renowned for the pride they take in their cuisine. Expect this final dinner of the tour to be a special treat (kaiseki-ryōri) based around seasonal ingredients and the chef's inspiration.



# DAY 5: MONDAY 20 NOVEMBER

## ~ OVERNIGHT IN FUKUOKA



After a relaxed breakfast we'll head out and explore the pretty little town of Mameda-machi. Browse the traditional stores on its well-preserved streets and don't miss the unforgettable display of exquisite 'hina' dolls.

For the final lunch on the tour we'll visit a renowned specialty eel restaurant. Westerners may not have much experience with eel but it's a classic Japanese dish. Savour grilled fillets that are glazed with a sauce caramelized over charcoal and served with rice. The meat is tender and the sauce is delicious.

After lunch get your cameras ready for the final chance of autumn leaves viewing. Wander the thick forested grounds of a 1,300 years old temple with an abundance of maple trees. If our timing is right it should be a stunning sight and a fitting end for your seasonal adventure. The tour ends at your hotel, conveniently located in the heart of Fukuoka. The rest of the evening is your free & easy time for shopping, dining & nightlife .



# DAY 6: TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER

## ~ END OF TOUR

Breakfast at the hotel and then checkout. The tour is over but the memories remain. Thanks for trusting Kyushu Journeys for your Japan Fall Foliage Tour.

## Tour Price

¥330,000 (Japanese Yen) per person

This price is based on double / twin sharing. For a single traveler staying in a room alone the additional charge is ¥132,000. For triple sharing price, contact us for details.

## Inclusions

Accommodation with breakfast x5 nights

Lunch x5

Dinner x4

English-speaking tour leader

All transport in private tour bus

All entrance fees

## Exclusions

Flights

Optional activity: rowing boat

## Contact Us Now

@ [letsgo@kyushujourneys.com](mailto:letsgo@kyushujourneys.com)

+81-90-8354-1194

Message us here

Schedule a chat here

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

## Why book a Kyushu tour with Kyushu Journeys?

Because we're Kyushu's biggest fans! We live in Kyushu and our company is owned and managed by a Kyushu local. We are a fully registered Japanese travel agent with all legal protections in place.

## What kind of food can I expect on this tour?

Each restaurant has been carefully chosen to highlight a wide variety of the tastiest Kyushu cuisine. The focus is on using locally-sourced seasonal ingredients wherever possible. If you have any dietary restriction please ask us about alternatives before booking your tour.

## What kind of accommodation will I stay?

You will stay in a mix of clean and comfortable city hotels and traditional Japanese ryokan inns. In the city hotels you will be sleeping in western beds. In the ryokan you will be sleeping in western beds or traditional Japanese-style futon beds on tatami mat flooring. If you have any difficulty sleeping on a futon please ask us about alternatives before booking your tour.

## What is 'onsen' bathing?

An onsen is a bathing pool using water from natural hot-springs. It's a wonderful pleasure with many health benefits. As nudity is required, onsen bathing is usually sex-segregated with males in one public bath and females in a different public bath. If you feel uncomfortable you can skip this activity. Feel free to contact us with any questions you have about onsen bathing.

## How will I travel around?

Comfortable private bus throughout the tour.

## How many people can join this tour?

We want this to be a small group intimate tour. Maximum participants will be 12 pax.

## Can you run a private tour?

Yes we can. We have several options for couples or private groups of family or friends. Contact us for details.

## Is this tour suitable for seniors?

Definitely. You will be travelling by private tour bus and accompanied at all times by an English-speaking tour leader. There are no long hikes on this tour but of course you will need to walk around the attractions. There will be some non-paved paths and steps to climb (especially in shrines or temples). It will be no problem if you prefer to skip any activity and wait for the group on the bus or in a seated area.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

## Is this tour suitable for children?

This is an adult tour with no activities for children. We welcome all participants aged 12 years or older. However on a private tour children of any age can join.

## Anything else I need to pay?

From your own pocket you need to pay for dinner on the final evening. You also need to pay for any alcohol and in-room hotel charges (phone calls, room service etc). Rowing a boat in Takachiho Gorge is an optional activity at your own expense. Tipping is not required in Japan so it is your choice if you want to show appreciation to your tour leader and / or driver if you receive exceptional service.

## How do I secure my booking?

Due to current travel uncertainty caused by coronavirus we are currently accepting reservations (waiting list) on this tour without any payment required. If your name is on the waiting list we will contact you when the tour is confirmed. Those already on the waiting list will be given first priority for booking. At that time if you want to confirm your place on the tour you will be required to pay 20% deposit. The 80% balance should be paid 60 days before the tour begins.

## What are the cancellation charges?

After payment of deposit: 20% cancellation charge (forfeit of deposit) || 60 ~ 46 days before the tour begins: 30% cancellation charge || 45 ~ 31 days before the tour begins: 40% cancellation charge || 30 ~ 16 days before the tour begins: 60% cancellation charge || 15 ~ 8 days before the tour begins: 80% cancellation charge || 7 days or later before the tour begins: 100% cancellation charge.

We suggest you take out travel insurance to protect yourself in case you need to cancel for any unexpected reason.

## What about coronavirus cancellation?

If we are forced to cancel the tour due to a closure of the borders by the Japanese government we will issue a refund of any monies you have paid.

## What's the next step?

Contact us with any questions or to inform us how many people are interested to join this tour. We'll get back to you with everything you need to know.

## Contact Us Now

@ [letsgo@kyushujourneys.com](mailto:letsgo@kyushujourneys.com)

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Message us here

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### What did previous tour participants say?

"Thank you so much first for a lovely tour and for taking great care of us - thumbs up to Kyushu Journeys, Simon & especially you!!!

Eunice Kwan ★★★★★

"Thanks for taking good care of us for the past few days. We really enjoy this trip a lot. Good work!

Woon Mui Gek ★★★★★

"Thank you very much for a wonderful and memorable tour. I thoroughly enjoyed the lovely sights, the gourmet meals and the onsen. Huge thanks to Kyushu Journeys!"

Esther Kwan-Leong ★★★★★



Happy previous tour members

Note: all photos in this brochure are places you can expect to visit on this tour.