



Kyushu Journeys

DREAM • EXPLORE • DISCOVER

Best of Kyushu Tour December 2022

Explore the very best of Kyushu on this all-inclusive escorted tour. Discover the outstanding scenery that makes Kyushu such an unmissable destination for lovers of Japan. Experience powerful volcanic landscapes, a secret village and the vibrancy of Nagasaki. Along the way enjoy the tastiest local cuisine and relax in natural hot spring baths. Travel by private bus accompanied by a fun and knowledgeable English-speaking tour leader.

DAY 1: SUNDAY 04 DECEMBER

~ OVERNIGHT IN BEPPU

Meet your tour leader and fellow travellers in Fukuoka city and hit the road. First stop is 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 lunch we'll have the famous yakisoba of Hita town. They are full of nutrients with fresh bean sprouts, green onions and pork. Hita yakisoba is famed for the texture of the noodles (part crispy and part soft) and the delicious sauce.

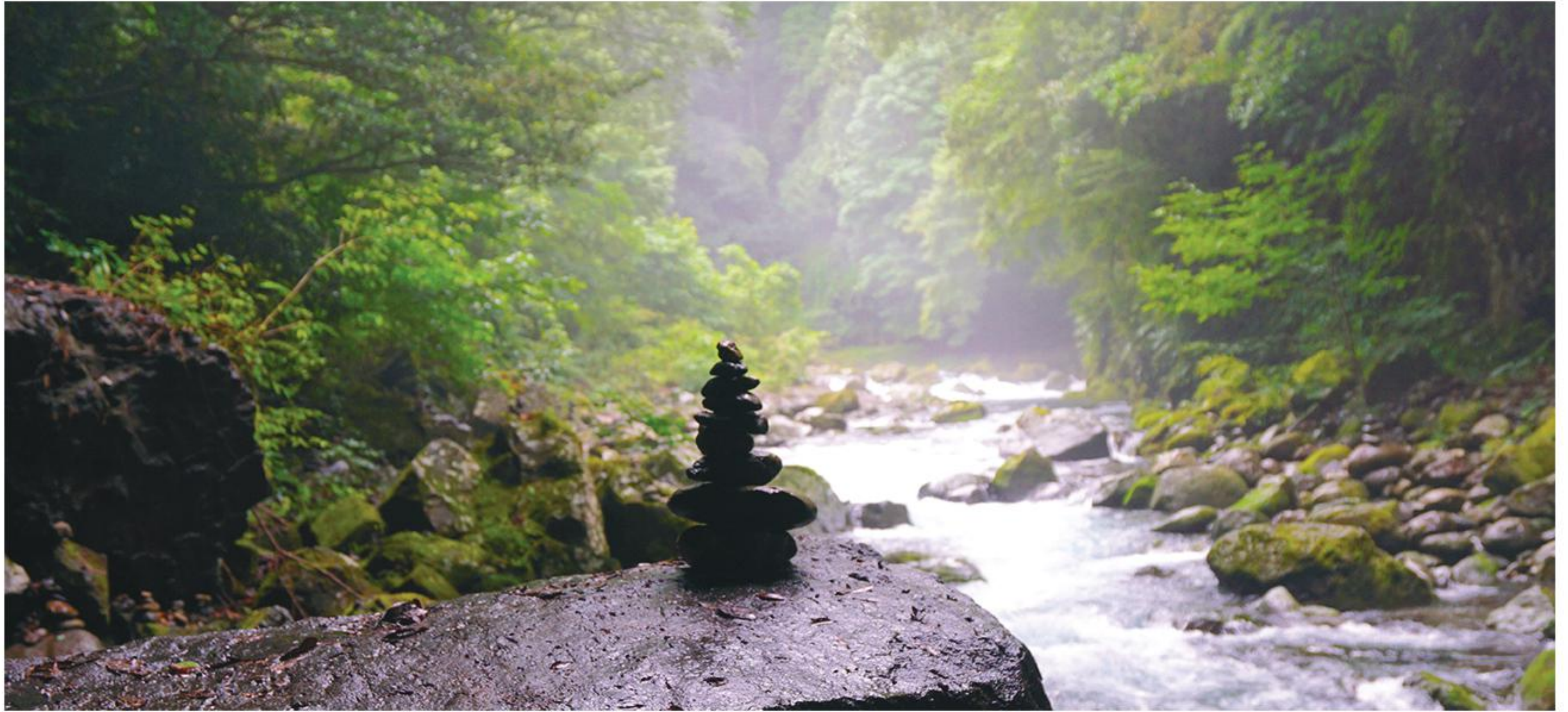
After lunch get your cameras ready for the extraordinary Hells of Beppu. These wildly colourful and explosive hot springs are one of the most exciting attractions on Kyushu and draw visitors from all over Japan.



Beppu is famed for its seafood so of course that's what we'll have for dinner. Our hotel is located in the heart of the city so we can stroll to the restaurant through the lively streets. Expect the very freshest ingredients based on the fisherman's catch of the day.

If you love natural hot spring (onsen) bathing, or want to try, there is no better place than Beppu. It is one of Japan's most famous onsen resorts, producing more hot spring water than anywhere else in Japan. Enjoy a relaxing and rejuvenating bath before bed (optional activity).

DAY 2: MONDAY 05 DECEMBER ~ OVERNIGHT IN TAKACHIHO



After breakfast 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!

Next stop is another great photo moment. Hopefully you aren't afraid of heights because we'll be strolling Japan's longest and highest pedestrian bridge. The views are outstanding!

We'll get hands-on next as you roast your own chicken for lunch on a ceramic hotplate. Although it may be a new experience for you, chicken toban yaki is a traditional and much-loved Japanese favourite.

Next we'll take a short but very pretty walk down to a riverside cave and spiritual 'power-spot' considered sacred to the Japanese. It is steeped in myth and legend and set in beautiful natural surroundings.

After a local country dinner, either relax in your hotel or take a stroll to the 1,900 year-old Takachiho Shrine. Immerse yourself in the comical yet profound Kagura traditional dance.



DAY 3: TUESDAY 06 DECEMBER ~ OVERNIGHT IN KUMAMOTO



Aso area is famed for its grass-reared beef so let's have the juiciest hamburger for lunch. It'll be interesting to compare to the burgers in your home country.

After lunch we'll head to one of Japan's three most important castles. Kumamoto Castle as we see today was first built in 1607 from foundations laid in 1467. Although it has been reconstructed many times as earthquakes and raging battles took their toll, several of the original buildings still remain. You'll discover its fascinating history and explore the magnificent interior on your guided castle tour.

Your hotel is located in the heart of Kumamoto. The evening is your free and easy time to explore this lively city on your own or with friends you have made on the tour. Your tour leader will offer suggestions for the best restaurants serving local cuisine. The locals insist that their ramen noodles are the best in Japan!

Stretch your legs after breakfast and take a stroll along the dramatic Takachiho Gorge. It's a wonderful nature escape. If you are adventurous enough you can even rent a rowing boat (depending on river conditions and waiting time).

We'll continue our journey travelling through the heart of the finest Kyushu 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!



DAY 4: WEDNESDAY 07 DECEMBER ~ OVERNIGHT IN NAGASAKI

We'll continue our journey taking in the sea breeze as we hop on the ferry to Shimabara peninsula. We'll pay a quick visit to see the remains of houses buried up to their roofs after a volcanic explosion and landslide. It's a truly dramatic sight.

Lunch will be another local specialty. Guzoni dates back to the Shimabara Rebellion of 1637 when these tasty mochi (rice cakes) sustained the rebels during their 3-month siege of Shimabara Castle. A variety of fresh local ingredients are cooked together with the mochi in a light yet flavorful broth.



After lunch we'll visit the dramatic Unzen Hells. It is an unforgettable experience wandering through this boiling and bubbling landscape as blistering steam rises all around. Even the most experienced traveller is unlikely to have encountered anything like this before.

We'll move next to the vibrant city of Nagasaki. If our timing is right we'll arrive at one of Japan's most famed viewpoints just in time for sunset.

For dinner we'll walk to one of Nagasaki's most historic restaurants. They have been serving diners since 1945 and you'll love the old world ambience. Enjoy their signature dish of steamed sushi with chawanmushi (savory egg custard). The evening is your free and easy time to stroll one of Asia's most lively and bustling Chinatowns.



DAY 5: THURSDAY 08 DECEMBER

~ OVERNIGHT IN URESHINO



We can't visit Nagasaki without remembering the victims of the single event that still defines this city. The Atomic Bomb Museum is one of the region's top tourist attractions and is both informative yet sobering. We'll also visit the Nagasaki Peace Park built in remembrance of the victims and with hopes of eternal peace.

For lunch we'll have a popular Nagasaki dish. Toruko rice is a fun example of a Western dish prepared in a typically Japanese style.

Next enjoy a fun and practical hands-on activity. We'll learn how to brew green tea like a pro! You will have your own tea, pot and hot water and will learn tips and tricks from an expert.

Accommodation this evening is a real treat. We'll be staying at an authentic Japanese inn (ryokan) with onsen hot-spring baths. Japanese have been enjoying onsen in this area for a staggering 1,300 years. Ladies (and guys!) come here from across Japan to bathe in the silky smooth water and enjoy the beautifying effects on the skin.

The final dinner of this tour is the culinary highlight. Enjoy an unforgettable multi-course feast (kaiseki). Each dainty course is served with the chef's pride and made with the freshest local ingredients.



DAY 6: FRIDAY 09 DECEMBER ~ OVERNIGHT IN FUKUOKA CITY

It's been a busy tour so let's have a lazy morning. We'll check out as late as possible to give you time to relax after breakfast with the option of enjoying a last hot spring bath. The hotel has a range of outdoor baths with nature views so it's the perfect way to relax.

One of the highlights of this tour is a chance to explore the 'Village of the Secret Kilns', a hidden gem tucked away in the mountains. For centuries access was strictly controlled to stop the techniques of pottery production leaking out. Enjoy a walking tour then some free time to stroll around and pick up a quality souvenir; a cup and pot for your green tea perhaps?



Have you ever tried Japanese beef curry? It's not well-known to foreigners but is one of the most popular dishes in Japan. This is what we'll have for lunch as we continue our mission to eat as the locals eat.

A saké brewery tour is an essential Japanese experience. We've chosen a 150-year-old brewery with an array of prize-winning beverages. Enjoy a tour, a tasting and another chance to grab a quality souvenir to take home.

You'll be dropped back to your hotel conveniently located in the heart of Fukuoka city. The evening is your free and easy time for shopping, eating and exploring one of Japan's favourite cities. We definitely recommend popping into one or more of the riverside stalls (yatai) for some of the best street-food in Japan.



DAY 7: SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER

~ 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 Best of Kyushu 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 ¥95,000. For triple sharing price, contact us for details.

Inclusions

Accommodation with breakfast x 6 nights

Lunch x 6

Dinner x 4

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

+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.

How about the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation?

As Japan is still completely closed for tourism we aren't taking any deposits or confirmed bookings yet. However we have opened a waiting list for this tour. When Japan reopening dates are announced we will start taking bookings for the tour and anybody already on the waiting list will get first priority.

Contact us now to add your name to the priority waiting list.

Also note there may be some changes to the itinerary due to coronavirus travel restrictions in place at the time and/or coronavirus business disruptions of hotels, restaurants and sightseeing places. It is also a requirement of this tour to wear a mask when requested by your tour leader.

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 eating like the locals eat. 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 a traditional Japanese ryokan inn. 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. There may be options for private bathing but this cannot be guaranteed. Feel free to contact us with any questions you have about onsen bathing.

How will I travel around?

Comfortable private bus throughout the tour.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

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.

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 two free and easy evenings. 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 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 (loss 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 at the time of booking 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 resurgence of coronavirus in Japan we will issue a full 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



+81-90-8354-1194



Message us here



Schedule a chat here

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO
OUR AMAZING ISLAND OF KYUSHU!**

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

