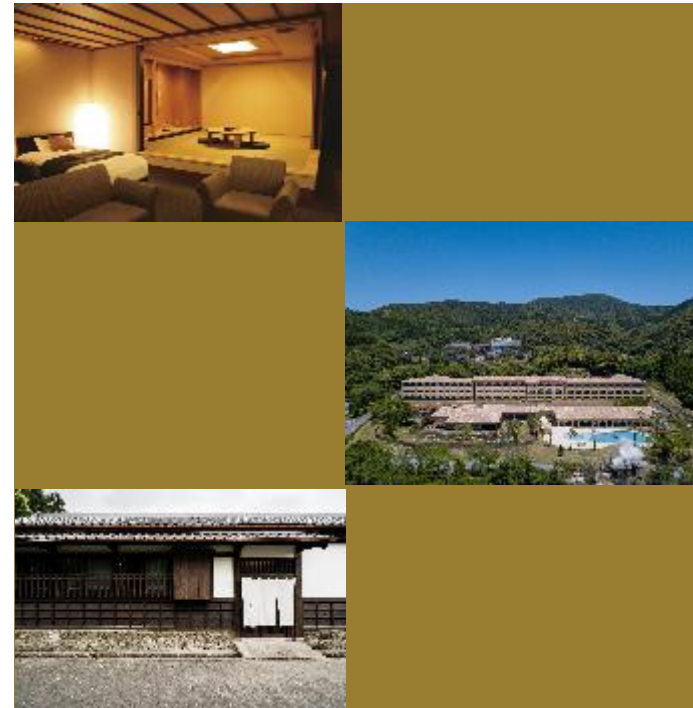


# Course #3

## KUMAMOTO/KAGOSHIMA/MIYAZAKI

3 Nights 4 Days



# KUMAMOTO/KAGOSHIMA/MIYAZAKI 4 Nights 5 Days

DAY 1



FUKUOKA⇒KUMAMOTO⇒YAMAGA

DAY 2



YAMAGA⇒SENDAI⇒IZUMI⇒KIRISHIMA

## ROUTE MAP

DAY 3



KIRISHIMA⇒KUSHIMA⇒NICHINAN⇒OBI

DAY 4



OBI⇒AOSHIMA⇒SAITO ⇒MIYAZAKI Airport

## DAY 1 FUKUOKA – KUMAMOTO – YAMAGA



Arrive at Fukuoka Airport via Singapore or other international airport.



Board a Shinkansen bullet train at Fukuoka and head to Kumamoto, a journey of 90 minutes, to visit the city's imposing castle. One of Japan's three preeminent castles, Kumamoto Castle was built over a seven-year period beginning in 1601. The castle's construction incorporated novel techniques that made use of beautifully curved stone walls and the natural topography.



Kumamoto Castle



For lunch, choose whatever you like at the adjacent Josaien in Sakuranobaba. At Wakuwakuza, the Kumamoto Castle museum, experience a virtual reality history of Kumamoto. Close by is Sakuranokoji, a reproduction of an Edo-era castle town that houses eateries and some 23 souvenir shops. Here you can eat, see and feel the Kumamoto experience.



Josaien in Sakuranobaba



In the afternoon, continue on by private vehicle to Yachiyozu in the city of Yamaga. The journey takes about 50 minutes. Built some 100 years ago, the Yachiyozu theatre, which is still in use, has been designated as an Important Cultural Property. A Western-style construction method was used for the roof frame, which sits on pillars. The revolving stage, which uses a German-made rail, and the hanamichi runway from the rear of the theatre are quintessential elements of Edo-era kabuki theatres that remain to this day.



Yachiyozu theatre

Afterwards, learn from a practicing lantern craftsman how to make a palm-sized golden lantern. Assemble some 30 different parts to create your very own flickering mini lantern.



Lantern Festival



Accommodation for the night is at Seiryuso in Yamaga Onsen. The hot spring water here is said to leave women's skin glowing. Japanese- and Western-style rooms are available, each with an open-air bath on an attached riverside terrace. Dine on an original kaiseki meal that accentuates the deliciousness of seasonal ingredients.



**Accommodation: Seiryuso**  
<http://www.rokumon.com/>

## DAY 2 YAMAGA – SENDAI – IZUMI – KIRISHIMA



Travel 50 minutes by private vehicle to Kumamoto Station and board a Shinkansen bullet train for the one-hour journey to Satsumasendai.



Leave the station by private vehicle and head to Marutake to view 50 pieces of traditional armour. The exhibits include replicas of armour worn by Sengoku warlords, items from period dramas and armour actually worn by samurai.



From Marutake, travel one hour by private vehicle to Izumi-Fumoto Samurai Residences, an area of stone walls, hedgerows and stately gates to former samurai homes that retains the vestiges of a samurai village.



For lunch, enjoy the Kagoshima specialty of tonkatsu made with pork from the region's black pigs.



Black pork tonkatsu



Satsuma kiriko



In the afternoon, journey 50 minutes by private vehicle to Satsuma Vidro Artcrafts, a studio making beautiful Satsuma kiriko cut glass. After a tour of the site, try your hand at making your own glass handicraft.



Continue on by private vehicle to the magnificent shrine of Kirishima Jingu, some 50 minutes away. The shrine, which is built on the side of a mountain, comprises a number of buildings, all richly decorated and all designated together as a national treasure and an Important Cultural Property.



Accommodation for the night is at the premium La Vista Kirishima Hills, which has a stunning location overlooking Sakurajima. Located in Kirishima Onsen with views of Kinko Bay and Sakurajima, this southern-European-style hotel has an open-air natural hot spring bath in every guestroom. Take in views of the southern Japan sky and Sakurajima while relishing this remarkable experience. Dinner comprises Western-style courses that elegantly fuse Italian tastes with locally grown seasonal vegetables.

**Accommodation: La Vista Kirishima Hills**  
<https://www.hotespa.net/hotels/kirishima/>



Traditional armour and weapons



Izumi-Fumoto Samurai Residences



Kirishima Jingu



## DAY 3 KIRISHIMA – KUSHIMA – NICHINAN – OBI



Travel two hours by private vehicle to Cape Toi, which is located at the southernmost point of Nichinan Kaigan Quasi-National Park. A chalk-white lighthouse stands on the headland that juts out into the Pacific Ocean. Surrounded by nature, its dazzling appearance is truly romantic. Misaki horses roam freely across the magnificent cape landscape. The Misaki horse is indigenous to Japan and has been designated a natural monument.



Cape Toi



For lunch, enjoy the local specialty of katsuo aburi ju, which consists of fresh broiled bonito marinated in two kinds of sauce and served on rice.



Katsuo aburi ju

In the afternoon, head to the tip of Cape Udozaki, which looks out over the Pacific Ocean, and make your way to Udo Jingu. This unusual shrine has a brightly painted vermilion inner shrine located within a cave. Among the rocks below is a square hole known as Kameishi. To bring good luck, try to throw undama lucky balls into the hole. Women throw with their right hand and men throw with their left. The shrine visit takes about 70 minutes.



Udo Jingu

From the shrine, head to Obi, about 30 minutes away. The land partitions that date back to the beginning of the Edo era still remain here today and the stone walls, hedges and gates of samurai residences can still be seen. There are many historical sites in and around the town's preservation area, such as Obi Castle, the former Yoshokan residence and the history museum. Enjoy picking out choice snacks to eat while strolling around this picturesque castle town.



Accommodation for the evening is at the hot spring inn Nazuna Obi, a renovated 140-year-old samurai house that was built as the residence of a doctor working for the Obi clan at the end of the Edo era. All five of Nazuna Obi's Kogakura guestrooms are equipped with open-air hot spring baths. There are also two individual houses, Katsume and Aiya, that are available as single-property accommodations. For dinner, enjoy original Japanese cuisine that makes abundant use of local specialties.



Obi Castle Town



Accommodation: Nazuna OBI  
<https://www.nazuna.co/ja>



## DAY 4 OBI – AOSHIMA – SAITO – MIYAZAKI Airport



Leave Obi by private vehicle and head to Aoshima, a scenic one-hour drive through Nichinan Kaigan Quasi-National Park. Along the way, look out for the exposed eroded seabed created during the Neogene Period (15 to 30 million years ago) after aquatic rock formed from layers of hard sandstone and soft mudstone was raised and eroded over millions of years. This stretch of coastline has been designated as a natural monument.

After taking a break in Aoshima, head to Saitobaru Burial Mounds, a special historical park an hour away. There are more than 300 burial mounds scattered across a raised area measuring 2.6 kilometres east to west and 4.2 kilometres north to south. As most of the burial mounds have not been excavated, much of the area has been preserved in its natural state.

Around the Goryobo imperial tombs have been planted some 2,000 cherry trees and 300,000 rape blossoms. The Saitobaru Burial Mounds area is famous not only for its academic importance, but also as a place to view flowers representative of Miyazaki Prefecture.

Cherry and rape blossoms can be enjoyed in March and April, sunflowers in July and cosmos in October and November. In addition, white ume blossom appears in February and can be seen close to the No. 3 Burial Mounds on the north side of the Saitobaru Archaeological Museum. To the west, rhododendrons appear on Mt. Takatori in late April. Particularly during cherry blossom season, the contrast between the pink of the cherry flowers, the yellow of the rape blossom and the clear blue sky is spectacular.

From Saitobaru Burial Mounds, head to the Saitobaru Archaeological Museum, a field museum that treats the entire vast burial mound area as an exhibit. It is a popular destination for people fascinated by the romance of ancient Hyuga and wanting to learn more.



For lunch, feast on the Miyazaki specialty of chicken nanban.



After lunch, travel the 50 minutes to Miyazaki Airport by private vehicle and return to Australia via Haneda Airport.



Aoshima



Nichinan Kaigan Quasi-National Park



Saitobaru Burial Mounds



Saitobaru Archaeological Museum



Chicken nanban