

HELLO! GEO WORLD

Sightseeing Inquiries

- Kagoshima Chuo Station Tourism Information Center ☎099-253-2500
- Kagoshima Chuo Station East Exit Tourism Information Center ... ☎099-253-2500
- Sakurajima Tourism Information Center / Sakurajima Concierge Center ... ☎099-293-4333
- Kagoshima City Tourism Exchange Center ☎099-298-5111
- Kagoshima City Sightseeing Information Center (Tenmonkan) .. ☎099-813-7604
- Kagoshima Sightseeing Guide Station ☎099-208-4701
- Tarumizu City Tourist Association ☎0994-32-8839
- Roadside Station Tarumizu "Yuttari-kan" ☎0994-34-2237
- Roadside Station Tarumizu Hamabira "Tarutarupark" ☎0994-45-5727
- Forest Station Tarumizu "Sarugajo Gorge" ☎0994-32-9601
- Aira City Tourism Association ☎0995-67-6052
- Aira Kamo Tourism Exchange Center ☎0995-52-0748

Public Transportation

- JR Kyushu Information Center ☎099-256-1585
☎050-3786-1717
- Nangoku Kotsu ☎099-255-2141
- Kagoshima Kotsu ☎099-247-2333
- Kagoshima Kotsu: Bound for Aira / Kagoshima City ☎099-254-8970
- Kagoshima Kotsu: Bound for Tarumizu ☎0994-65-2258
- JR Kyushu Bus: Kagoshima Branch ☎099-247-2057
- Kagoshima City Transportation Bureau.: Kagoshima City Bus ... ☎099-257-2117
- Kagoshima City Transportation Bureau.: Kagoshima City Tram ... ☎099-257-2116
- Ferry Sunflower ☎0120-3268-56
- Sakurajima Ferry ☎099-293-2525
- Tarumizu Ferry: Kamoike Port ☎099-256-1761
- Tarumizu Ferry: Tarumizu Port ☎0994-32-0001

Access to Kagoshima



Kagoshima Transportation

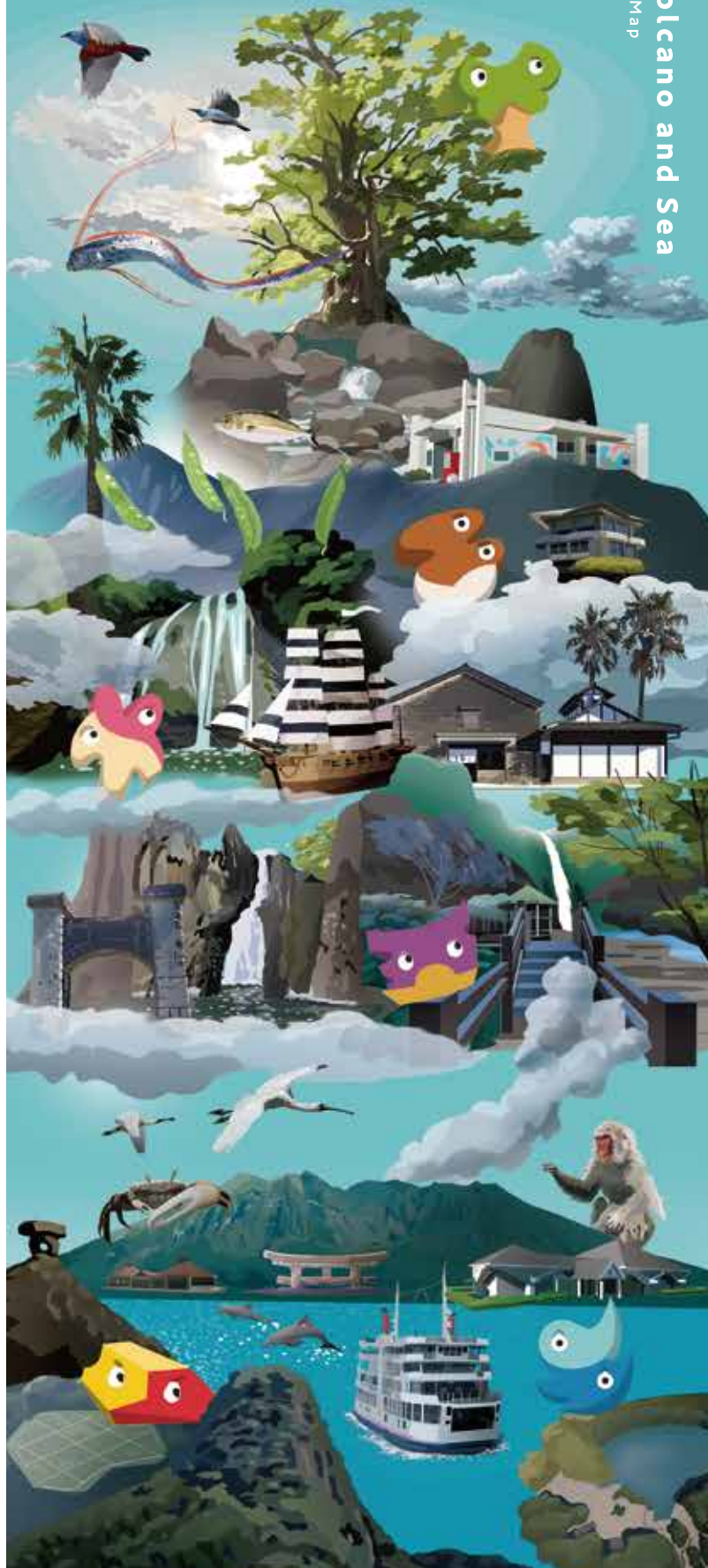


Contact

Sakurajima-Kinkowan Geopark Promotion Council Office

(Kagoshima City World Heritage and
Geotourism Promotion Division)
11-1 Yamashita-cho, Kagoshima-shi 892-8677
TEL: 099-216-1313 FAX: 099-216-1320

Sakurajima-Kinkowan Geopark (Official Site)
<https://www.sakurajima-kinkowan-geo.jp/>





SAKURAJIMA-KINKOWAN GEO PARK

A geopark is a “park of the land.” In other words, a place to enjoy as you’d like where the earth becomes a field and tells a story of the connection between the land and humans of the past, present, and future. Many natural attractions that have formed over tens of thousands of years including mountains, the deep blue sea, and large forests lie right in front of your eyes. At Sakurajima-Kinkowan Geopark, there are many ways to experience the impressive nature, tours, events, activities, and special products. Sakurajima-Kinkowan Geopark is a stage where you can both learn and play to your heart’s content.



Certified Japanese Geopark

Deep Dive Activities

Program [Reservation is required in advance]

*Please confirm the availability, fees, and other details in advance.
(As of March 2023)



Guided Tour of Sakurajima with a Volcanologist

Explore Sakurajima with a volcanologist on a bus tour, allowing you to delve into deeper what you want to know about Sakurajima. A customized tour is also available besides the standard tour.

●Period: Please inquire in advance. (Schedule adjustment is possible for reservations that are made 2 months in advance.) ●Duration: 2 hours (Available between 9:00 and 17:00 / Extension is available upon request.) ●Capacity: 1 to 40 people (Only one bus is available. Vehicle arrangements are not provided.) ●Fee: 55,000 JPY (included tax) (When accompanied by one volcanologist) ●For inquiries: NPO Sakurajima Museum ☎099-245-2550

Canyoning

Travel down along the clear stream through Sarugajo Gorge. Calm your body while taking in the water and surrounding greenery.



●Period: July to September ●Duration: 2 hours ●Capacity: 2 to 40 people ●Fees: 6,500 JPY (12 years old or older; junior high school and above), 6,000 JPY (9 years old or older; 4th grade elementary school and above) ●For inquiries: Mori-no Eki Tarumizu "Sarugajo Gorge" ☎080-9248-1903

Shower Climbing

Travel upstream through Sarugajo Gorge, selected as one of the top 100 sceneries of Kagoshima. It's a fun adventure through the water and atop white massive rocks.

●Period: All year round ●Duration : 2 hours ●Capacity: 4 to 40 people ●Fee: 4,500 JPY (6 years old or older; elementary school and above) ●For inquiries : Mori-no Eki Tarumizu "Sarugajo Gorge" ☎080-9248-1903



Pottery Experience

Try pottery-making and art experience that use volcanic ash as an ingredient. These make a great souvenir to remind you of your trip.

●Period: All year round ●Duration: 30 minutes to 2 hours ●Fees: Starting from 1,650 JPY/person ([Murayama Tougei] Pottery experience, [Ogaku Tougei] Pottery painting experience, and volcanic ash art experience) ●For inquiries: [Murayama Tougei] ☎099-293-2322 [Ogaku Tougei] ☎099-293-3939

Reservation required at least 7 days prior

Dyeing Experience with Sakurajima Volcanic Ash

Dye tenugui (Japanese hand towels) using dye made from Sakurajima's volcanic ash. Take home your own-colored tenugui from Sakurajima.

●Period: All year round ●Duration: 30 minutes ●Location: Around Sakurajima Visitor Center (Please confirm at the time of reservation.) ●Capacity: 2 to 5 people ●Fee: 2,500 JPY/person ●For inquiries: Gentoo Penguin Sakurajima Kobo ☎070-5507-8935



Travel Guide for a Trip around Sakurajima

A guide map with short videos "The secrets of the volcanic island." It can enhance your cycling or driving trip. The colorful paintings of Sakurajima must be a great souvenir!

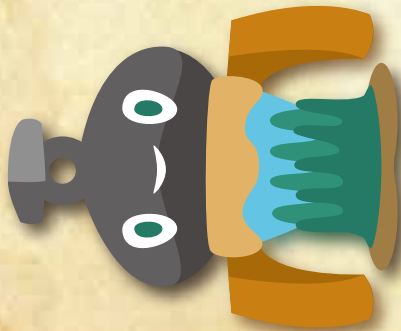
●Period: All year round ●Location: Sakurajima Visitor Center ●Price: 1,000 JPY ●For inquiries: Sakurajima Visitor Center ☎099-293-2443

Natural Hot Spring Digging Set; Let's make your own footbath!

Make your own private footbath by digging along Arimura Beach of Sakurajima, where hot spring water gushes out. No reservation is required. The hot spring digging set is available for purchase.

●Period: All year round (The dates and times are limited due to the weather and tide. Please inquire in advance.) ●Location: Arimura Beach ●Price: 1,100 JPY (The set includes: 2 shovels, 1 original towel, and guidebook for digging hot springs.) ●For inquiries: Sakurajima Visitor Center ☎099-293-2443

Discover "geo treasures" hidden throughout Aira, Kagoshima, and Tarumizu!

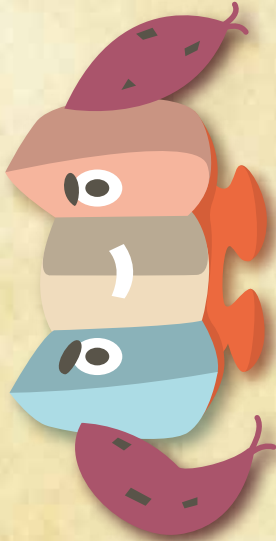


Nickname: Momaar

AIRA

Aira is a treasure box of geographical and topographic features, including Lake Sumiyoshi, the explosion crater of the Yonemaru Maar, Ryumon Falls, the ebb tides of Shigetomi Beach, and more. The Aira Caldera is a place with deep connections to the name of Kinko Bay.

Aira City Tourism Association Website <https://aira-kankou.jp/>

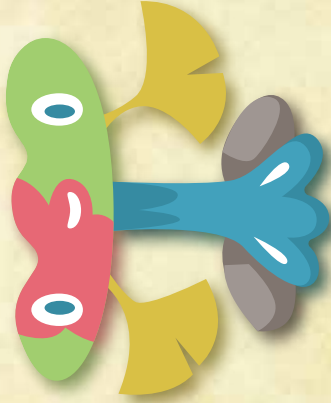


Nickname: Tarock

KAGOSHIMA

A representation of the three calderas formed from massive eruptions and ignimbrite rock that came from them. By carefully using this rock, stone culture of Kagoshima was developed. It's used in the World Cultural Heritage sites and objects, as well.

Kagoshima City Tourism Guide <https://www.kagoshima-yokanavi.jp/>



Nickname: Rumity

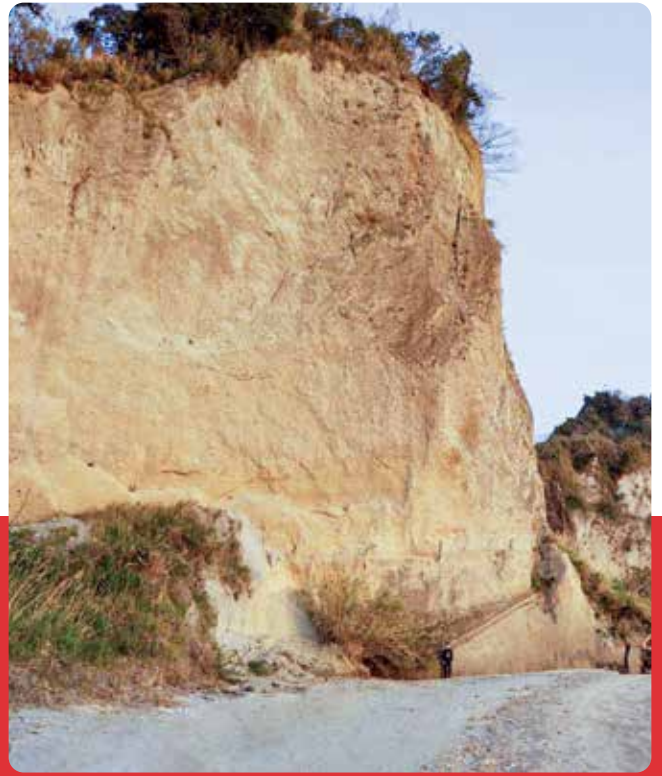
TARUMIZU

If you are looking for activities to enjoy the geography and geology, then Tarumizu is the place to go. Enjoy canyoning in Sarugajo Gorge as well as SUP and canoeing in the grand Kinko Bay.

Tarumizu City Hall <https://www.city.tarumizu.lg.jp/>

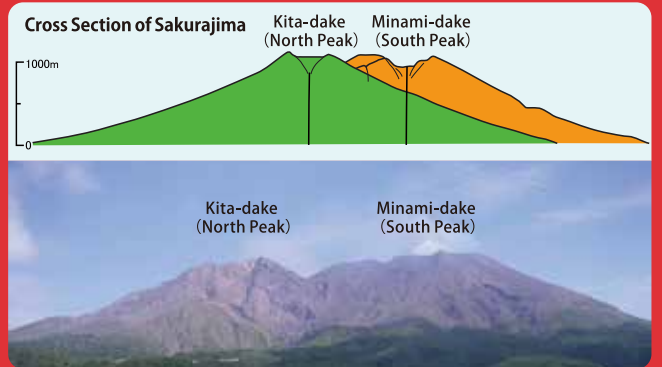


[Koi-suru Tarumizu]



The shirasu tablelands were not ash from Sakurajima.

It is often mistaken that the shirasu tableland was formed from the volcanic ash of Sakurajima piling up over tens of thousands of years. However, it was actually created in one week during the large eruption of the Aira Caldera. In Tarumizu, you can observe the strata layers and the spectacular shirasu.



Sakurajima has 2 peaks

Sakurajima appears to be one mountain, but it consists of two volcanos. The North Peak (Kita-dake) is older and created Sakurajima 26,000 years ago. It continued to be active until about 5,000 years ago. After that, about 4,500 years ago, the volcano shifted slightly south resulting in the South Peak (Minami-dake) which is still active today. Those two peaks, running north and south, make up Sakurajima. This is why the shape and size of Sakurajima can change so much depending if you are viewing it from Aira City, Kagoshima City, Tarumizu City, or somewhere else. Discover various views of Sakurajima to find your favorite.

Must see sites of Sakurajima and Kinko Bay

Takakura Observatory (Aira city)

At an elevation of 125m, this observation point offers a breathtaking view of Aira, Kinko Bay, and Sakurajima all together. At night time, the skyline of Aira is also beautiful.



Roadside Station Tarumizu "Yuttari-kan" (Tarumizu city)

You can enjoy the great view of sakurajima close at hand and calm waves of Kinko Bay while relaxing with a footbath. This is a place to slow things down and enjoying the hot spring and restaurant of this roadside station.



Connection with Nature

Observe the life force of the flora! Sakurajima is a natural museum.

Plant life can't possibly survive the harsh environment of a volcano! Wrong! Close to the craters, you can find Japanese pampas grass and knotweed. A little further away, *Eurya Japonica* and *Alnus Firma*, a type of alder, are growing strongly. Even further away, Japanese black pines and Red Machilus, a type of laurel, grows well. With each large eruption, the land becomes covered in lava, turning it to rock, but that is just a new beginning in the lifecycle of the foliage. First, moss and lichen start to grow on the rocks, creating a foundation for grassland. Sun trees such as Japanese black pines and shade trees such as laurels start to grow and over many years become a forest. The scenery of Sakurajima has lava from many different eruptions which offers views of different stages of the forest creation process. It truly is a natural museum.

There is plant life even near the crater



Plant life on the Showa and Taisho lava grounds are still quite young and scattered, but take a look at the An-ei and Bunmei lava grounds and you will find full lush forests.

Three Generations of Plant Life!



The Arimura coast offers three generations of lava with the An-ei (1779), Taisho (1914), and Showa (1946) lava. See for yourself the variation of the old lava covered in trees and the newer lava with Japanese black pines growing from the rock surfaces.

The more you know, the more fun you have!

Rules of Sakurajima

The residents of Sakurajima and Kagoshima follow these unspoken rules. For first time visitors to Kagoshima, as well as repeat visitors, knowing these rules will make your time in the Sakurajima-Kinkowan Geopark more enjoyable and comfortable.

[No.1] If there is an eruption, don't run away in a panic

Sakurajima generally erupts every day, but it's not a problem and you can go sightseeing normally. Even if it erupts hundreds of times a year, you can understand it simply by seeing the people who live their normal lives at the foot of the volcano. Entrance is prohibited within 2km of the crater, but all of the sightseeing facilities are located at least 2.5km away, so you can enjoy them worry-free.



[No.2] Don't get startled if ash starts falling



Volcanic ash is less than 2mm in size, so even if it falls on you, it won't hurt at all. However, for people that wear contact lenses, it can be painful if ash gets in your eyes, so please be careful. In all of the research and surveys done up to now, there appears to be no direct health effects from the ashfall, so don't worry, even if some gets in your mouth.

[No.3] If you like to stay clean, you should hide from the ash

When ash falls onto their clothes, the people of Kagoshima simply brush it off with their hands. However, if you are worried about your clothes getting dirty, you should take a break in an undercover area. If you don't mind possibly getting a little dirty, there is no problem continuing on as you were. When ash falls after an eruption, it generally lasts for a couple minutes up to around 10 minutes, 20 minutes or so at max. Therefore, spending the time under cover, indoors, or in a car is recommended.



[No.4] Take caution when driving during heavy ash fall



If ash starts to fall while you are driving, treat it the same as rain and slow your speed or pull over and wait for it to stop. However, the location that the ash is falling is usually a small area, so it could be better to simply keep moving to avoid the ashfall completely.

[No.5] Don't be surprised if you see people without masks during ash fall

When ash starts to fall, if you want to protect your mouth and nose, you can wear a mask, but you won't find any locals that wear masks for the purpose of protection against ash.



[No.6] Don't be too worried that there may be a large eruption



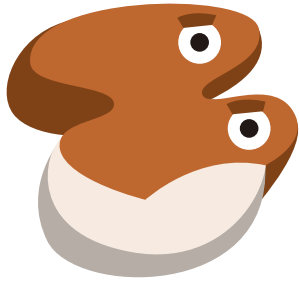
Before a large-scale eruption, such as the Taisho eruption in 1914, there are many signs that occur months in advance, such as plate movement and seismic activity. You don't have to be worried about it too much. For example, there were signs such as the level of well water decreasing and earthquakes before the Taisho eruption.

[No.7] If you are still worried, please take a look at the Meteorological Agency website or contact them

If a large eruption that requires evacuation is predicted, the eruption security level will be raised in advance to level 4 (prepare for evacuation) and level 5 (evacuate now). If you'd like to know more about the current condition of Sakurajima, make an inquiry to the Meteorological Agency or check out their website.



https://www.data.jma.go.jp/svd/vois/data/tokyo/STOCK/activity_info/506.html



Connection with Industry

An island of treasure blessed with the volcano and the sea

Sakurajima boasts many treasures that are only possible with the benefits of the volcano and the sea. For example, Sakurajima komikan are grown on sunny mountain slopes, taking advantage of the well-drained soil also utilizing the reflected light off of Kinko Bay. Others include ceramics made with volcanic ash, fish dried with ash, glassware and cosmetics made with shirasu, lava plates for cooking, and more. Don't forget about Kagoshima City being the Number 1 prefecture capital for hot springs. The people of Kagoshima are strong minded for taking the ash, something that is usually hated, and turning it into a resource.

Changing something usually hated into a resource!



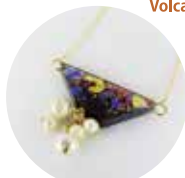
The foundation for the grass of the city trams is actually made from shirasu, a material formed during volcanic eruptions. As a resource, it has great water retainability and permeability for the grass to grow strong.

Delicacies and Beauty items Made from Volcanic Ash!



Sakurajima Haiboshi Bento

Haiboshi is a technique to use a process where fish are dried out using volcanic ash, which removes the odor from the fish. This process which brings out a true umami flavor of an aged fish is why the meals are so popular. You can find these bento lunchboxes at Kagoshima Chuo Station, Kagoshima Airport, and other locations.



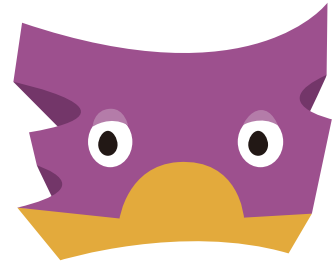
Volcanic Ash Jewelry, Tephra

These fashionable accessories made with volcanic ash are created using the concept of, "jewels that have fallen from the Kagoshima sky."



Canned Ash, "Hai, Dozo!!"

Ingredients: fallen ash from Sakurajima, Tarumizu City residents' agony
Volume: 100cc of unthankful blessings from the sky



Connection with History and Culture

People have lived alongside the volcano since the Jomon Period (14,000–300 BCE)

The history of Kagoshima can't be talked about without mentioning volcanos. There are trace remains of shell middens found on Sakurajima that prove people lived together with the volcano as far back as the Jomon Period (14,000-300 BCE). Those were covered with debris flows, but even then, people continued to live on Sakurajima. It could be that the benefits outweigh the risks. The stone culture in Kagoshima is also thanks to volcanos. The welded "tuff" ejected by eruptious is not so "tough" compared to other stones, so it is easier to process it. resulting in it being easier to process. Many of the historic buildings in Kagoshima, such as the stone bridges and the World Heritage sites of the Shuseikan Museum, Terayama Charcoal Kiln Remains, and Sekiyoshi Sluice, are made with ignimbrite rock.

The castle of Satsuma stood on shirasu tableland.



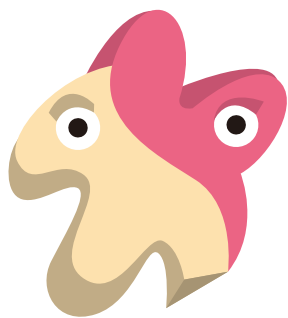
Kagoshima Castle, where the Shimadzu clan lived as the feudal lord of Satsuma, was composed of the mountain fortress on the shirasu tableland and buildings at the foot of the hill.

Japan Heritage Walk through a Fumoto, historic neighborhoods once traversed by Satsuma samurai



There are many historic samurai areas, including the site of the main castle (Tsurumaru Castle) and branch castles called "Fumoto" under the defence network throughout Kagoshima. Fumoto were built in defensively strategic locations with rock walls between the entryways which provided the function as a castle. Stone culture grew stronger through the use of ignimbrite rock in the rock walls and stone warehouses of fumoto neighborhoods.

There are some fumoto that are located within the Sakurajima-Kinkowan Geopark including Tarumizu Fumoto and Kamo Fumoto.



Connection with People

Coexisting with an active volcano!

People have always lived with the active volcano, Sakurajima. The An-ei eruption of 1779 made the residents of the Kurokami area to relocate to high land in Kagoshima City. In Tarumizu, there are also places that were developed by refugees of the Taisho Eruption of 1914 who moved after the eruption devastated their homes. The deep feelings towards Sakurajima of these people can be felt.

Ash services of Kagoshima!



These yellow bags are special garbage bags for collecting volcanic ash.

Some functions for coexisting with an active volcano include road sweepers, volcanic ash collecting stations, ashfall weather reports, eruption alerts, and more.

Disaster Remains

~Experience the frightfulness of the Taisho Eruption~

Remains of the destruction from the Taisho Eruption of 1914 can be seen throughout Sakurajima-Kinkowan Geopark, including the buried shrine gates of Kurokami and Ushine Fumoto, which were buried 2m in one day, as well as many monuments dedicated to the conditions of the structures effected by the disaster. It is a place to learn the history of the people that lived together with an active volcano.



Kurokami Buried Shrine Gate



Ushine Fumoto Buried Shrine Gate



Sakurajima Eruptions Monument (Sakurajima)



Sakurajima Eruptions Monument (Aira)



Connection with the Sea

A deep sea full of mysteries created by a volcano!

Kinko Bay, created by a volcano, is full of mysteries! With depths of over 200m, it was created from a hollowed-out volcano which erupted 29,000 years ago. Located on the sea floor of the north end of Kinko Bay within the Aira Caldera is another smaller caldera called the Wakamiko Caldera. Here, volcanic gas seeps through the sea floor and rises to the surface. These gas bubbles are called, "tagiri." There are rocky coastlines, rock reefs, and coral, as well as marine forests, ebb tides, deep sea depths, and much more making it a diverse environment for an abundance of sea life. Within the bay, you can find dolphins, over 1,000 species of fish, and a rare species of tube worms called Satsuma Haorimushi. In addition, you can also find hydrothermal vents and rare metals, as well.

Are the dolphins of Kinko Bay gluttons!?



Dolphins have cute faces and dolphins require a large amount of food. Seeing them jump around Kinko Bay is proof it is abundant in sea life.

Meaning of Kinko Bay



Literally meaning, "Inlet of decorative shuttle-woven fabric," The name was given by the first Daimyo (feudal lord), Shimadzu Iehisa of the Satsuma domain, present day Kagoshima. He originally thought it to be only the Aira Caldera part seen from Kurokawa Cape in Aira, but eventually, all of Kagoshima Bay became known as Kinko Bay.

Taste the Blessings of Kinko Bay

The amberjack and yellowtail of the bay are fatty and the deep-sea shrimp are tender and sweet. Please enjoy the delicious tastes that can only be found in Kinko Bay.



Umi-no-oukan

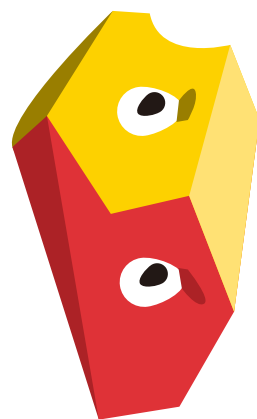
643-14 Kaigata, Tarumizu city ☎0994-32-0321
11:00 ~ 14:00 Tuesdays and New Year's Holiday

Roadside Station Tarumizu "Yuttari-kan" Restaurant

1038-1 Ushinefumoto, Tarumizu city ☎0994-34-2237
11:00 ~ 15:00 No holidays

Roadside Station Tarumizu Hamabira "Tarutarupark" Restaurant (Farm to Table TARUMIZU)

2036-6 Hamabira, Tarumizu city ☎0994-32-1155
Mon. ~ Fri.: 11:00 ~ 19:00, weekends and holidays: 11:00 ~ 20:00
no scheduled holidays



Connection with Topography and Geology

The Land of Kagoshima was Formed by a Massive Volcanic Eruption!

About 230,000 years ago, there was a massive eruption estimated to be a million times stronger than the daily eruptions we see from Sakurajima today. The total amount of magma covered across all of Kagoshima with the thickness over 60m (about 200 ft). This eruption formed the Aira Caldera, located in the back end of what is currently Kinko Bay. At this time, pyroclastic flow composed of lava rock, volcanic ash, and volcanic gas mixing together at more than 600°C spread across the land of Kagoshima. Within a week, all the mountains and valleys had been filled resulting in very flat land. The shirasu tableland in Kagoshima was left after rivers cut through some parts of the flatland. After that, an eruption on the south side of the Aira Caldera around 26,000 years ago created the North Peak. Eventually, another eruption created the South Peak. This was the creation of Sakurajima, a double volcano mountain. The land of Kagoshima that we stand on today, as well as Sakurajima and Kinko Bay which extend before our eyes, are all connected to the massive eruptions long ago.



Kinko Bay is a Caldera

Kinko Bay was created from large eruptions that hollowed out the land below the surface. Did you know that volcanoes are not only mountains, but can also be large hollows in the ground known as a caldera?

A spot to experience the energy of the volcano!



Looking down at Kinko Bay from the observation deck in Terayama Park, you can see that it is a sunken hole, showing that it is a caldera. You can feel the power of the volcano while gazing out at the beautiful scenery of Sakurajima.

Check out the mountain surface of Sakurajima!



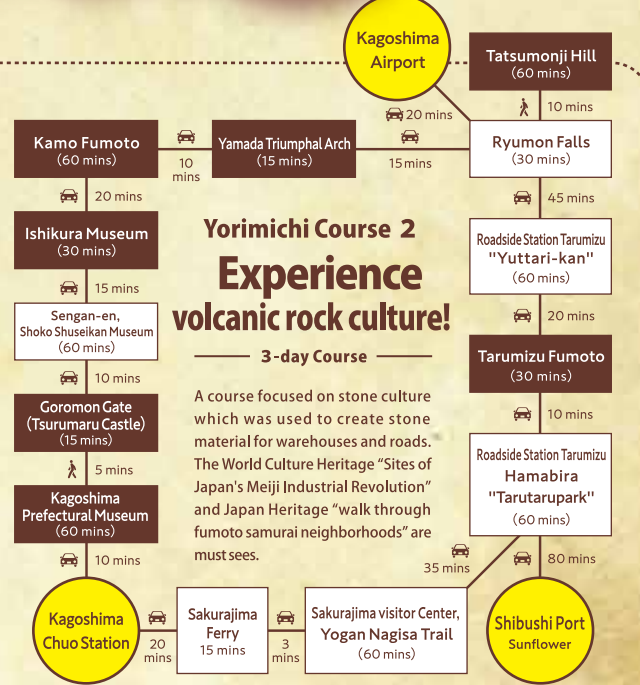
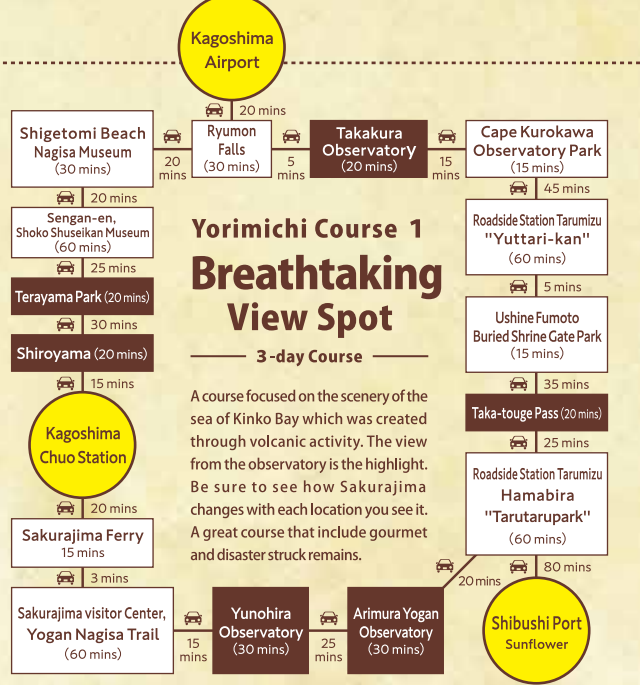
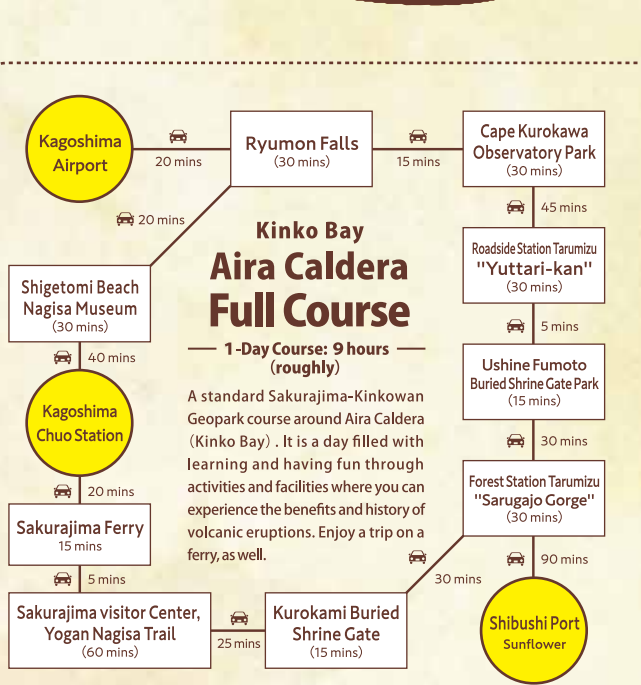
The mountain surface of the older North Peak has been carved away and is rough, while the South Peak is still smooth. Around the Showa Crater (east side of South Peak) is covered in new volcanic material creating a very smooth surface.



Depart on an Adventure of a Volcano and the Sea !

An adventure around Sakurajima-Kinkowan Geopark will take you to many activities throughout Aira city, Kagoshima city, Tarumizu city. See the beautiful sites sightseeing locations of the volcano and the sea while feeling a deep interest of the world through the connection of people's lives with the Earth and history. It's time to set out on your own adventure with this trusty handbook to guide you.

SAKURAJIMA-KINKOWAN GEO PARK GUIDE MAP



Recommendations!



● Shioyagamoto Port

A place where you can see the lava flow from both the Tenpyo-houji and Showa eruptions. The name comes from the emerald blue sea water and the nearby gushing hot spring color. It is an evacuation port during large eruptions.

■30 mins by car from Sakurajima Port ☎099-298-5111 (Tourism Exchange Center) Parking: 7 spaces (Kurokami Buried Shrine Gate Parking Lot) Entrance fee: free

● Shinjima Island

An island created during the Annei Eruption of 1779. There is proof in the layer of sea shells that is used to be the sea bed 5,000 years ago. (public boat transportation available from Uranomae Port) ■"Uranomae Port" 3-minute walk from Nishi-Uranomae bus stop on the City Bus #70 line, 30 mins by car from Sakurajima Port

● Yunohira Observatory

An observatory at the highest elevated location regular people are allowed to visit. The powerful mountain surface is the highlight.

■15 mins by car from Sakurajima Port ☎099-298-5111 (Tourism Exchange Center) Entrance fee: free Hours: 9:00~17:00 no holidays Parking: 30 spaces

● Yogan Nagisa Trail

Observe the plant life of the Taisho eruption (1914) lava flow at Sakurajima' s Yogan Nagisa Park, nearby Karasujima Observatory, and the 3km foot trail in between.

■8-minute walk from Sakurajima Port ☎099-298-5111 (Tourism Exchange Center) Parking: 20 spaces Entrance fee: free

● Arimura Yogan Observatory

A 1km walkway where the lava flow from the Taisho (1914) and Showa (1946) eruptions can be observed through a single view of the volcano and sea at once. Be sure to check out the difference in vegetation of the two lava flows.

■20 mins by car from Sakurajima Port ☎099-298-5111 (Tourism Exchange Center) Parking: 19 spaces

● Sakurajima Komikan and Sakurajima Daikon Fields

"Sakurajima Komikan are small oranges with strong sweetness. They are a gift from the alluvial fan land made from of volcanic debris flow. The land has great drainage and grows delicious citrus fruit. They are harvested in December and January. Sakurajima Daikon is the Guinness World Record certified largest radish in the world. They grow very well in the rough fields full of pumice stones. They are harvested in December and January."

● Tsukiyomi Shrine

The largest shrine on Sakurajima. It was made facing Sakurajima. It was buried during the Taisho Eruption, but rebuilt in 1940

■2-minute walk from Sakurajima Port ☎099-293-2109 Parking: 20 spaces

● Sakurajima Visitor Center

This geopark facility offers explanations to easily understand the history and nature of Sakurajima. There is a Sakurajima sightseeing desk and museum shop located inside, as well.

■10-minute walk from Sakurajima Port TEL: 099-293-2443 Entrance fee: free Hours: 9:00 ~ 17:00 no holidays Parking: 10 spaces

● Jigenji Park

A park that can be enjoyed year-round covered in ignimbrite rock created from Ata pyroclastic flow. In the riverbed, water spring forth from between the rocks which was once used for an alcohol distillery.

■20 mins by JR train from Kagoshima Chuo Station to Jigenji Station, then a 10-minute walk ☎099-298-5111 (Tourism Exchange Center) Parking: 260spaces Entrance fee: free

● Ishibashi Monument Park

There were 5 stone bridges over Kotsuki River that were heavily damaged during torrential rain with 2 being washed away. The remaining 3 bridges were relocated and repaired in this memorial park using stone material made from volcanic material.

■City View "Ishibashi Park" bus stop ☎099-248-6661 Entrance fee: free *Park hours: always open Facility hours: 9:00 ~ 17:00 (until 19:00 in July and August) Facility closed on Mondays (following day if national holiday) and Dec.31 ~ Jan.2 Parking: yes

● Umegabuchi Kannon

A kannon statue beloved by the locals that is carved out of ignimbrite rock from the Kakuto pyroclastic flows. There were many stone workshops in northern Kagoshima City between Ishiki and Koriyama areas.

■40 mins by car from Kagoshima Chuo Station ☎099-298-5111 (Tourism Exchange Center) Parking: yes (paid parking) Entrance fee: free

Connection with Topography and Geology

Connection with Nature

Connection with the Sea

Connection with Industry

Connection with History and Culture

Connection with People

Related Facilities

● Sekiyoshi Sluice Gate

A property asset of the World Culture Heritage "Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution." This 8km waterway made with hard ignimbrite rock from the Yoshino pyroclastic flows reflects the high level of the stone craftsmen.

■25 mins by car from Kagoshima Chuo Station ☎099-298-5111 (Tourism Exchange Center) Parking: 15 spaces (Sekiyoshi Bussankan parking lot) Entrance fee: free

● Sengan-en, Shoko Shuseikan Museum

A villa and borrowed scenery garden of the Shimadzu family that overlooks Sakurajima and Kinko Bay. The remains of a reverberatory furnace include volcanic stone material. This site is included in the World Cultural Heritage "Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution."

■City View "Senganen (Kotoden)" bus stop ☎099-247-1551 Entrance fee: Adult: 1,000yen, Children (6-15): 500yen hours 9:00 ~ 17:00 No holidays Parking: 500 spaces (300yen/car)

● Terayama Charcoal Kiln Remains

※Entrance currently not allowed due to a landslide after heavy rain

A charcoal kiln that created white coal used to fuel the reverberatory of the Shuseikan Project. The volcanic stone used is from the Yoshino Pyroclastic flows. This site is included in the World Cultural Heritage "Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution."

■25 mins by car from Kagoshima Chuo Station ☎099-298-5111 (Tourism Exchange Center) Parking: 6 spaces Entrance fee: free

● Nanatsujima

In the 1960s, this area was the coastal area, but is now a port built on reclaimed lands. One of the hills here was previously an island and ignimbrite stone from Ata pyroclastic flows can still be seen.

■30 mins by JR train from Kagoshima Chuo Station to Sakanoue Station, then a 25-minute walk ☎099-298-5111 (Tourism Exchange Center) Parking: no Entrance fee: free

● Kagoshima Prefectural Museum

An exhibit of material related to nature of Kagoshima starting with Sakurajima and Kinko Bay.

■5-minute walk from the City View Bus "Bronze Statue of Saigo Takamori" stop ☎099-223-6050 Entrance fee: free hours: 9:00 ~ 17:00 (last entrance 16:30) Closed on Mondays (following day if a national holiday), the 25th of every month (4th Tuesday if that falls on a weekend), Dec.29 ~ Jan.1 Parking: no

● Kagoshima University Museum

An exhibit of academic material collected by Kagoshima University. It includes a stripped sample of the "Satsuma Tephra" stratum, fossils, ore, and many other materials on display.

■5-minute walk from the City Tram "Toso" stop. ☎099-285-7259 Entrance Fee: free Hours: 10:00 ~ 17:00 (last entrance 16:30) Closed on Sundays, Mondays, holidays, New Years, and some temporary closures Parking: yes

● Yonemaru Maar & Lake Sumiyoshi

This maar (explosion crater) was created from a magma steam explosion around 8,000 years ago. While it is designated as an active volcano, the Yonemaru Maar is currently being used as rice paddies and Lake Sumiyoshi is a water reservoir.

■20 mins by car from the Aira IC of the Kyushu Expressway ☎0995-66-3145 (Aira Tourism Department) Parking: 88 spaces Entrance fee: free

● Ryumon Falls

Chosen as one of the top 100 waterfalls of Japan, this large waterfall is 46m tall and 43m wide. The rock bed of the falls was formed when magma penetrated into the Kokubu stratum and cooled to create andesite rock. You can see the beautiful columns the were created in the rock.

■5 mins by car from the Kajiki IC of the Kyushu Expressway or 35 mins from Kagoshima Chuo Station 30-minute walk from JR Kajiki Station ☎0995-67-6052 (Aira Tourism Association) Parking: 20 spaces Entrance fee: free

● Shigetomi Beach Tidal Flats

Around 300 species of sea life can be found in this large tidal flat of Sakurajima which helps to clean and diversify the water. The panoramic view includes Sakurajima, the Aira Caldera, and on clear days, the Kirishima Mountain Range in the background to the north.

■10 mins by car from the Aira IC of the Kyushu Expressway, 20 mins from Kagoshima Chuo Station 10-minute walk from JR Aira Station ☎0995-67-6052 (Aira Tourism Association) Parking: 100 spaces, 9:00 ~ 18:00 (until 19:00 during summer) Entrance fee: free

● Shirakane Hill

This trail was once a part of the road of the Satsuma feudal lord. The hill trail is lined with stone and climbs 300m over 2.7km. There is a footpath and an observation deck that peers out at a beautiful sight of Sakurajima. It is a designated historic cultural asset by the country of Japan.

■10 mins by car from the Aira IC of the Kyushu Expressway, 20 mins from Kagoshima Chuo Station 10-minute walk from JR Shigetomi Station ☎0995-67-6052 (Aira Tourism Association) Parking: 8 spaces Entrance fee: free

● Tatsumonji Hill

This trail was once a part of the road of the Satsuma feudal lord. The moss-covered stones that line this hill path are simply beautiful. Ignimbrite rocks were cut and processed at a nearby mountain, then carried here and carefully placed to create a flat path. It is said to have taken 100 years to complete. It is a designated historic cultural asset by the country of Japan.

■5 mins by car from the Kajiki IC of the Kyushu Expressway, 35 mins from Kagoshima Chuo Station 30-minute walk from JR Kajiki Station ☎0995-67-6052 (Aira Tourism Association) Parking: 8 spaces Entrance fee: free

● Yamada Triumphal Arch

Japan' s one and only triumphal arch made from stone. This monument commemorates the soldiers of the Russo-Japanese War returning home. The design borrows techniques used in arched stone bridges. It is a designated historic cultural asset by the country of Japan.

■15 mins by car from the Kajiki IC of the Kyushu Expressway ☎0995-67-6052 (Aira Tourism Association) Parking: 8 spaces Entrance fee: free

● Ishigura Museum (Shirakane Shuzo Co. Ltd.)

Shirakane Shuzou was established in the year 1869. The stone warehouse built from Kajiki stone is currently used to create shochu in a traditional style. You can also take a distillery tour, learn about the history of shochu, or visit the shop. The building is a designated tangible cultural property of Japan.

■10 mins by car from the Aira IC of the Kyushu Expressway, 20 mins from Kagoshima Chuo Station 5-minute walk from JR Shigetomi Station ☎0995-67-1496 Parking: 23 spaces Entrance fee: free Hours: 10:00 ~ 17:00 Closed on Wednesday, Obon Holiday, and New Years

● Nagisa Museum

Located along the Shigetomi Coast and operated by NPO Kusunoki Shizenkan, this facility continues to make efforts to protect and preserve nature. Come join one of the e-bike tide observation groups or have fun learning about the sea life of Kinko Bay. ■10 mins by car from the Aira IC of the Kyushu Expressway, 20 mins from Kagoshima Chuo Station 10-minute walk from JR Shigetomi Station ☎0995-23-3146 Entrance fee: free Parking: 100 spaces Parking Hours: 9:00 ~ 18:00 (until 19:00 during summer) Facility Hours: 9:00 ~ 17:00 (until 18:00 during summer) Closed on Tuesdays (following day if a holiday), and for New Years. ※No closed days during summer

● Sarugajo Gorge

Located in a gorge of the Takakuma Mountain fumoto. Clear and cool water flow over rock formations of granite creating some beautiful scenery. It is a recreational space designated as a prefectural nature park.

■40 mins by car from Sakurajima Port / 15 mins by car from Tatumizu Port ☎0994-32-1111 (Tatumizu Tourism Department) Parking: 60 spaces Entrance fee: free

● Tasaki Kannon Point

A place to enjoy the view of Sakurajima and Kinko Bay. Sedimentary rock (sand stone & mud stone) made in the ocean can be observed.

■30 mins by car from Sakurajima Port / 25 mins by car from Tatumizu Port ☎0994-32-1111 (Tourism Division, Tatumizu city) Parking: yes Entrance fee: free

● Takakuma Mountains

Stretching along the Kinko Bay side of the Osumi Peninsula is a chain of peaks rising over 1,000m. Home to one of the few laurel forests in Kagoshima, this is are the southern limit for plant life such as beech wood, oak, and Miyama Kirishima (a type of azalea).

■15 mins by car from Tatumizu Port ☎0994-32-1111 (Tatumizu Tourism Department) Parking: yes Entrance fee: free

● Taka-touge Pass

Covered in 100,000 plants of around 100 species of azaleas, when in full bloom, the mountainside becomes blanketed in red and pink flowers. It' s best viewed at the end of April to the beginning of May. There is a wonderful panoramic view from the observation deck at Taka-touge Tsutsuji-oka Park.

■40 mins by car from Sakurajima Port / 15 mins by car from Tatumizu Port ☎0994-32-1111 (Tourism Division, Tatumizu city) Parking: 400 spaces Entrance fee: free

● Forest Station Tatumizu "Sarugajo Gorge"

A facility located in fumoto of Sarugajo gorge in the Takakuma Mountains. There are a variety of activities to try to enjoy the ravine and mountain area. There are also cottage accommodations.

■40 mins by car from Sakurajima Port / 15 mins by car from Tatumizu Port ☎0994-32-9601 Parking: 24 spaces Entrance fee: free Hours: 8:30 ~ 17:00

LUNCH SPOTS

Minato Café

A café located inside the Sakurajima Port Ferry Terminal. The menu is full of photogenic items such as Sakurajima curry and fallen ash ice cream.

■61-4 Sakurajima Yokoyama-cho, Kagoshima-shi Sakurajima Ferry Terminal 3F ☎099-293-2550 11:00 ~ 15:00 Parking: 4 spaces no holidays



Café review

A 120-year-old café located in the historic samurai neighborhood. It offers a variety of popular sweets from around Aira.

■234 Kamo-cho kamigutyoku, Aira ☎080-2772-5644 11:00 ~ 17:00 Parking: 35 spaces (Kamo Tourism Exchange Center parking lot) no holidays

Enjoy Kinko Bay!

Program (Reservation is required in advance)

*Please confirm the availability, fees, and other details in advance. (As of March 2023)

Underwater Hot Spring Exploration Geo Tour

Take an eco-tour by kayak that explore the environment, nature, and history of Kinko Bay and Sakurajima. Enjoy the stories about wild birds and fish, and try footbath digging, and more.

Sakurajima Half-day Kayak Tour

Take a leisurely kayak tour on the water around Sakurajima. Go slowly the lava-formed coast. If weather permits, even land an uninhabited island.

●Period: All year round ●Duration : 3 hours ●Meeting point: Rainbow Sakurajima Inn ●Capacity: 2 to 16 people ●Fees: Starting from 9,000 JPY/person ●For inquiries: Kagoshima Kayaks ☎090-4583-6920



Observation Tour: Life of Kinko Bay



Tidal flat and beach

Explore the beach of Kinko Bay, a caldera sea with deep water even though it is an inner bay. Observe various creatures in their diverse environments and learn about the connection between human life and Kinko Bay.

●Period: All year round (during low tide) ●Duration: 90 minutes ●Location: Shigetomi Beach and Kinko Bay coast ●Capacity: 1 to 120 people ●Fee: 3,000 JPY/person ●For inquiries: NPO Kusunoki Native world ☎0995-67-6042

Wetlands and birds

Observe birds in the seaside wetlands in the inner part of Kinko Bay. Feed the rich natural environment where migratory birds come flying and learn about the connection between human life and the environment on this bird-watching tour.

●Period: All year round ●Duration: 90 minutes ●Location: Kinko Bay coast ●Capacity: 1 to 15 people ●Fee: 3,000 JPY/person ●For inquiries: NPO Kusunoki Native world ☎0995-67-6042



Birds and E-bikes

Join the bird-watching tour by e-bike (electric bike) in the seaside wetland in the inner part of Kinko Bay to observe wild birds. *Only those who can ride an adult electric bicycle can join this tour.

●Period: All year round ●Duration: 4 hours ●Location: Kinko Bay coast ●Capacity: 1 to 5 people ●Fee: 8,000 JPY/person ●For inquiries: NPO Kusunoki Native world ☎0995-67-6042

Waders Walk

Walk around in the shallow waters of Shigetomi beach without getting wet by wearing chest-high boots (waders). A professional guide will provide commentary about Sakurajima and Kinko Bay.

●Seasons: Autumn, Winter, and Spring ●Duration: 90 minutes ●Location: Shigetomi Beach ●Capacity: 2 to 10 people ●Fee: 3,000 JPY/person ●For inquiries: NPO Kusunoki Native world ☎0995-67-6042



Marine activities (SUP,etc.)

Enjoy various marine activities such as stand-up paddle-boarding and canoeing, which is a wonderful way to immerse yourself in the area's natural beauty.

●Period: All year round ●Opening hours: 9:00 to 18:00 (The hours may vary based on environmental conditions.) ●Address: 2058-3 Hamabira, Tatumizu ●Fees: 2,200 to 6,050 JPY/person ●Duration: 10 minutes to 3 hours ●For inquiries: Marine Park Tatumizu ☎0994-45-7182

Amberjack Feeding Experience

Experience feeding amberjack from a boat at the fish farm located offshore from Kaigata fishing port. It's an amazing sight to see the fish swarm around the bait.

●Period: April to November ●Duration: 2 hours ●Location: Kaigata Port ●Fee: 4,200 JPY/person ●Capacity: 10 to 160 people ●For inquiries: Tatumizu City Fishermen's Cooperative ☎0994-32-1165



Enjoy Walking!

Program (Reservation is required in advance)

*Please confirm the availability, fees, and other details in advance. (As of March 2023)

Yo-gan (lava) Watch

Take a 30-minute guided tour to witness the impressive lava field created by the Taisho eruption. It's also a great opportunity for children to explore and learn.

●Period: The tour period is limited. (Please inquire in advance.) *No prior reservation is required when the tour is held. ●Duration: 30 minutes (Please arrive at the meeting point 10 minutes before your starting time.) *Scheduled starting times: 10:00/11:00/13:00/14:00/15:00 ●Meeting point: Sakurajima Visitor Center ●Capacity: Approx. 10 people ●Fees: Adults: 1,000 JPY (High school students and above), Children: 500 JPY (Elementary and junior high school students), Infants: free *Payment can be accepted in cash only. The fee includes guide fee and insurance. ●For inquiries: Sakurajima Geosaruku ☎080-4873-7574



Casual Kagoshima Walking Sakurajima Course

Explore the Taisho lava field on foot. Visit an observation deck and literary monuments, and relax while enjoying a footbath with a view of Sakurajima and Kinko Bay.

●Period: All year round ●Starting point: Sakurajima Port Ferry Terminal ●Duration: 2 hours ●Starting time: 11:00 or 13:00 ●Fees: 1,000 JPY (15 years old or older high school and above), 500 JPY (6 to 15 years old: elementary school and junior high school) ●For reservations: Machiaruki Sightseeing Station ☎099-208-4701



Go to Sakurajima with a Guide!

Enjoy a trip to Sakurajima from Kagoshima Chuo Station with a guide by taking city trams and ferries.

●Period: All year round. Reservation is required at least 3 days prior. ●Starting point: Kagoshima Chuo Station East Exit ●Duration: 2 hours ●Starting time: Between 9:00 and 13:00 (Please select a preferred time.) ●Fee: 2,500 JPY/person *The "Cute" pass covers public transportation in the city for a day, so we highly recommend purchasing it. ●For reservations & inquiries: Sakurajima Geosaruku ☎080-4873-7574

"Geo" Enjoyment Course with a Guide

Take a bus tour to discover the wonders of geological features and human life of the volcanic island formed by Sakurajima's volcanic activity.

●Period: All year round. Reservation is required at least 3 days prior. ●Starting point: Sakurajima Tourist Information Center ●Duration: 2 hours ●Departure time: Between 10:00 and 15:00 (Please select a preferred time.) ●Fee: 2,500 JPY/person *The "Cute" pass covers public transportation in the city for a day, so we highly recommend purchasing it. ●For reservations & inquiries: Sakurajima Geosaruku ☎080-4873-7574



SABO Trekking Course

Take a walk over lava that covered around 100 years ago while learning about measures for landslide prevention, known as "SABO."

●Period: All year round. Reservation is required at least 7 days prior. ●Starting point: Sakurajima Tourist Information Center ●Duration: 3 hours ●Capacity: Up to 10 people ●Starting time: Between 8:00 and 13:00 (Please select a preferred time.) ●Fee: 20,000 JPY/group ●For reservation & inquiries: Sakurajima Geosaruku ☎080-4873-7574



Aira Footpath

Explore the footpaths in Aira City, offering five different routes that allow you to stroll through forests, rice fields, historic townscapes, and plenty of scenery preserved from the past. Along the way, you'll encounter many spots that highlight the unique geological features of Aira. It's time to depart on a memorable little journey!

●For inquiries: Aira City Tourism Association ☎0995-67-6052



Let's Walk Aira!

Join the annual walking event "Let's Walk Aira!" Have fun walking, learn from a guide, and enjoy delicious foods. With various course options, you can fully experience the charm of Aira. Please contact Aira City Tourism Association to inquire about event dates and participation fees.

●For inquiries: Aira City Tourism Association ☎0995-67-6052



Check here for more details!

1 The Volcano and People Coexist!

It' s truly amazing how the people of Sakurajima and surrounding areas live their daily lives with an actively erupting volcano. Disaster prevention measures are taken using the world's best high tech volcanic monitoring system allowing many people to live near the volcano. Sakurajima-Kinkowan Geopark is a unique location where people and a volcano coexist.

2 The Sea Created by a Volcano!

Kinko Bay, which surrounds Sakurajima, was actually created from a large volcanic eruption. About 29,000 years ago, located in what is currently the back part of Kinko Bay, there was a massive eruption which emptied all of the lava under the surface. This resulted in a large hollowed area which then collapsed. This giant hole is the Aira Caldera. It was the land at first, but eventually filled with sea water with some areas deeper than 200m, and is now known as Kinko Bay.

3 Sakurajima Eruptions

The history of Sakurajima is said to be a history of eruptions with 17 large scale eruptions known. Its history is split into 2 periods. The first period related to activity of the North Peak (Kita-dake), started with the birth of Sakurajima about 26,000 years ago and lasted until about 5,000 years ago. The second period is activities from the South Peak (Minami-dake) and started around 4,500 years ago and still continues. Because these two peaks are aligned north to south, the shape and size of Sakurajima changes depending on where you view it. In its history, the largest eruption came around 13,000 years ago. It's estimated that this eruption covered all of Kagoshima in over 10cm of volcanic ash. Another notable eruption was in 1914. The lava filled the strait between Sakurajima and the Osumi Peninsula, resulting in Sakurajima no longer being an island. The destruction this eruption caused can still be observed at locations such as the Kurokami Buried Shrine Gate.

4 A Look into Living in Kagoshima