8-DAY TRAVEL GUIDE

8-Day Kyushu Road Trip: Fukuoka, Yufuin, Kumamoto, Takachiho & Kagoshima

An 8-day Kyushu road-trip itinerary with two days in Fukuoka, Yufuin and Beppu, Kumamoto, Mount Aso, Takachiho and two days in Kagoshima.

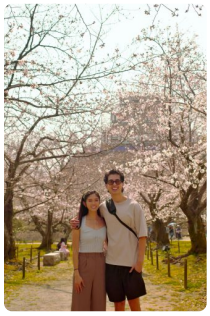


AT A GLANCE

01	*Day One* **Fukuoka Highlights: Fukuoka Castle, teamLab Forest & Hakata**	Fukuoka Castle Ruins & Ohori Park / teamLab Forest Fukuoka / BOSS E...
02	*Day Two* **Dazaifu Day Trip: Tenmangu, Kyushu Museum & Tenjin**	Dazaifu Tenmangu / Kyushu National Museum / Motsunabe Maedaya
03	*Day Three* **Yufuin, Beppu & Attack on Titan Statues**	Oyama Dam: Attack on Titan Statues / Lake Kinrin / Yufuin Floral Village
04	*Day Four* **Kumamoto: Castle, Basashi, and Kumamon!**	Kumamoto Castle / Sakura no Baba Josaien / Kumamon Square
05	*Day Five* **Mount Aso, Nabegataki Falls & Kurokawa Onsen**	Kamishikimi Kumanoza Shrine / Nabegataki Falls / Kurokawa Onsen...
06	*Day Six* **Takachiho: Sacred Shrines & Takachiho Gorge**	Takachiho Gorge / Takachiho Shrine
07	*Day Seven* **Kagoshima: Sengan-en & Sakurajima Volcano**	Shiroyama Observatory / Sengan-en / Sakurajima
08	*Day Eight* **Southern Kagoshima: Ibusuki Sand Bath**	Chiran Peace Museum / Ibusuki Sand Bath

MAIZURU PARK - MOMOCHI - HAKATA

Day One: Fukuoka Highlights: Fukuoka Castle, teamLab Forest & Hakata



STOP 1 / 8:30 AM

Fukuoka Castle Ruins & Ohori Park

Hilltop ruins turn Maizuru Park into a history walk with sweeping city views Ohori Park adds a lake loop, island bridges, and a Japanese garden The...

BOOK THIS STOP >

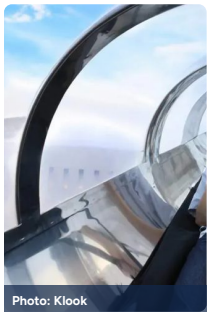


STOP 2 / 11:00 AM

teamLab Forest Fukuoka

An interactive digital forest where projected animals react to your movement Catch and release digital creatures to build your own collection Climb, balance, and jump through artwork that changes around you

BOOK THIS STOP >



STOP 3 / 12:30 PM

BOSS E - ZO FUKUOKA

An indoor entertainment complex mixing rooftop thrills, VR, baseball, Sanrio, and digital art SUBE-ZO drops you through a 100-meter tube slide outside the building You can choose one attraction or turn the building into an...

BOOK THIS STOP >



STOP 4 / 2:00 PM

Fukuoka Tower

A mirrored 234-meter tower rises like a sail beside Hakata Bay The observation room opens wide views across the city, sea, and distant mountains After dark, the illuminated tower becomes part of the skyline

BOOK THIS STOP >

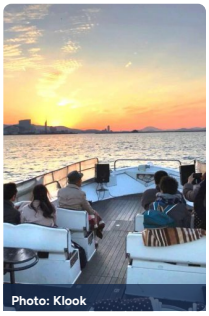


STOP 5 / 4:00 PM

Tochoji Temple

A peaceful Hakata temple hiding an enormous wooden Buddha inside The bright five-story pagoda is one of Old Town's prettiest landmarks The quiet grounds create an easy pause while exploring Old Town

BOOK THIS STOP >



STOP 6 / 6:00 PM

Fukuoka Nakasu River Cruise

A quick boat ride revealing central Fukuoka from an entirely different angle Glide past Canal City, riverside yatai, and Nakasu's bright skyline Some sailings...

BOOK THIS STOP >



STOP 7 / 7:00 PM

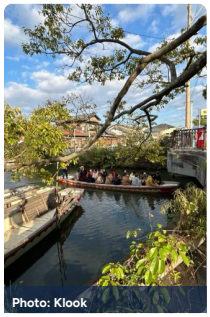
Nakasu Yatai Food Stalls

Tiny open-air stalls where everyone squeezes around one lively counter The riverside setting makes dinner feel completely different from a regular restaurant Our random stall served one of the BEST ramen bowls I've ever had!

BOOK THIS STOP >

DAZAIFU - TENJIN - HAKATA

Day Two: Dazaifu Day Trip: Tenmangu, Kyushu Museum & Tenjin



STOP 1 / 9:00 AM

Dazaifu Tenmangu

An active shrine honoring Tenjin, the Shinto deity of learning and culture Bridges, ox statues, plum trees, and a lively food street made this genuinely memorable

BOOK THIS STOP >



STOP 2 / 11:00 AM

Kyushu National Museum

A sweeping curved-glass museum explores Japan through centuries of exchange with Asia The connection-focused exhibits made Japanese history genuinely engaging and SO fun!



STOP 3 / 3:00 PM

Tenjin Underground Mall

An elegant underground shopping street filled with fashion, beauty, cafes, and bakeries Its European-inspired corridors make the walk feel more special than a typical mall This was honestly our safe haven during a rainy...



STOP 4 / 4:30 PM

I'm donut?

Unbelievably bouncy, fluffy donuts with creams that never taste overly sweet The playful flavors make this much more memorable than a standard bakery stop These became my favorite donuts almost immediately-you NEED to try them!



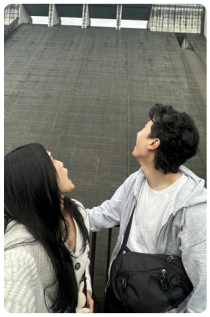
STOP 5 / 7:00 PM

Motsunabe Maedaya

A cozy introduction to Fukuoka's signature offal hot pot The offal made our broth deeply savory without tasting gamey Cabbage and green onions soaked up every bit of that rich flavor Our sashimi was incredibly fresh, and...

OYAMA - YUFUIN - BEPPU

Day Three: Yufuin, Beppu & Attack on Titan Statues



STOP 1 / 8:00 AM

Oyama Dam: Attack on Titan Statues

Oyama Dam turns a massive wall of concrete into one of Kyushu's coolest anime stops straight out of Attack on Titan! Standing beneath it makes the scale of that scene feel surprisingly real!...



STOP 2 / 10:00 AM

Lake Kinrin

Lake Kinrin is Yufuin's quiet little reset! A small torii gate sits in a quiet lake right next to the bustling streets of Yufuin Floral Village.

BOOK THIS STOP >



STOP 3 / 11:00 AM

Yufuin Floral Village

Storybook shopping lane inspired by England's Cotswolds, packed with character-themed shops I had so much fun browsing Ghibli shops and finding cute character souvenirs! It's playful, ridiculously cute, and easy to explore...

BOOK THIS STOP >



STOP 4 / 1:00 PM

Cook yourself a meal using hot spring steam!

Jigokumushi Kobo lets you cook lunch yourself using steam straight from Beppu's natural hot springs. I loved turning the city's hot-spring energy into...

BOOK THIS STOP >



STOP 5 / 2:30 PM

Seven Hells of Beppu

Seven viewing hot springs with cobalt water, red mud, bubbling pools, and a geyser I loved seeing how completely different every steaming hell looked! Buy the combined ticket for all seven; it remains valid across two days

BOOK THIS STOP >



STOP 6 / 6:00 PM

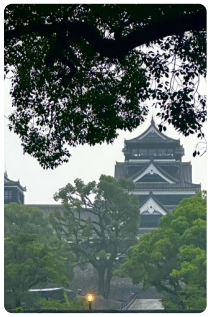
Umi no Hotel Hajime Onsen

Seaside hotel with top-floor hot-spring baths, an outdoor soak, and panoramic sauna We ended the night in yukata and sheet masks after soaking. Such a relaxing reset! Public baths prohibit tattoos; reserve a private family...

BOOK THIS STOP >

KUMAMOTO CASTLE

Day Four: Kumamoto: Castle, Basashi, and Kumamon!

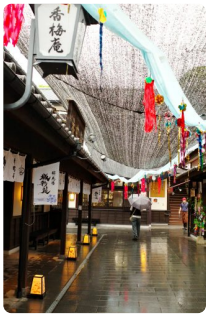


STOP 1 / 9:00 AM

Kumamoto Castle

Kumamoto's landmark black-and-white castle combines massive stone walls with modern history exhibits

BOOK THIS STOP >



STOP 2 / 11:30 AM

Sakura no Baba Josaien

Castle-town-style complex beneath Kumamoto Castle, combining local food, souvenirs, and historical exhibits Sample basashi, karashi renkon, and ikinari dango across its many shops and restaurants!

BOOK THIS STOP >



STOP 3 / 4:00 PM

Kumamon Square

Kumamon's home base combines an interactive stage show, playful displays, and souvenir shop His dancing show was geared toward kids, but I had SUCH a great time! Check the site for Kumamon's performance times.



STOP 4 / 5:30 PM

Aoyagi

Taste Kumamoto's basashi through multiple preparations in a seasonal kaiseki meal The liver was a favorite, and this basashi surpassed every version I'd tried!

MOUNT ASO - OGUNI - KUROKAWA ONSEN

Day Five: Mount Aso, Nabegataki Falls & Kurokawa Onsen



STOP 1 / 8:30 AM

Kamishikimi Kumanoza Shrine

100 Lanterns line atmospheric stairs through mossy cedars toward a dramatic rock opening and forest shrine The misty woods felt like stepping...

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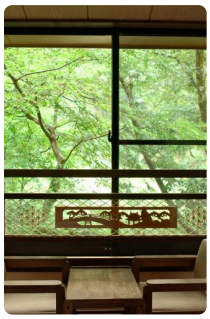


STOP 2 / 11:00 AM

Nabegataki Falls

Wide, curtain-like waterfall formed by the ancient eruption that created Aso's caldera When access allows, walk behind the water for an incredible misty forest perspective

BOOK THIS STOP >



STOP 3 / 5:30 PM

Kurokawa Onsen Hopping & Ryokan Stays

I stayed at three Kurokawa inns-Ryokan Ichinoi, Fumoto Ryokan, and Inn Noshiyu Wander Kurokawa in yukata between riverside, forest, and cave-like outdoor...

BOOK THIS STOP >

AMANOIWATO - TAKACHIHO GORGE

Day Six: Takachiho: Sacred Shrines & Takachiho Gorge



STOP 1 / 10:30 AM

Amaterasu no Kakure Cafe

The sweetest little cafe break between Amano Iwato Shrine and Amanoyasukawara.



STOP 2 / 11:30 AM

Takachiho Gorge

Volcanic gorge where sheer basalt cliffs frame the 17-meter Manai Falls Make sure to reserve a rowboat to enjoy a slow row through the gorge itself! Reserve boats online early; check weather and walking-path closures...

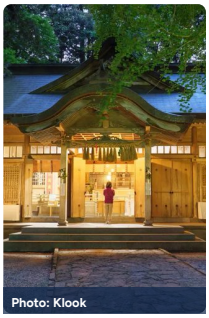
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STOP 3 / 1:00 PM

Chiho no Ie

Catch cold somen rushing down bamboo before dipping it into sauce. Chasing lunch was the BEST part! This is right next to Takachiho Gorge, so head over after for quick lunch!



STOP 4 / 4:00 PM

Takachiho Shrine

Cedar-filled Shinto shrine tied to local mythology, matchmaking, and marital happiness Circle the intertwined Couple Cedars three times while holding hands with someone special Reserve the nightly Takachiho Kagura show; the...

BOOK THIS STOP >

SHIROYAMA - SENGAN-EN - SAKURAJIMA

Day Seven: Kagoshima: Sengan-en & Sakurajima Volcano


Photo: Kluck

STOP 1 / 7:30 AM

Shiroyama Observatory

Forested hilltop observatory lookout framing Kagoshima, Kinko Bay, and Sakurajima in one view Visit after dark for one of the city's signature night panoramas Take the City View bus or walk the two-kilometer forest promenade

BOOK THIS STOP >

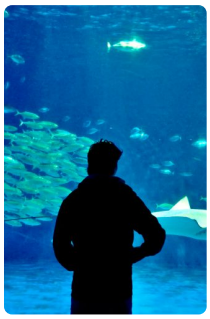


STOP 2 / 9:00 AM

Sengan-en

Traditional Shimadzu garden framing Sakurajima and Kinko Bay Tour the preserved residence for a closer look at Satsuma's powerful ruling family Grab the jambo mochi before leaving-they were surprisingly SO good!

BOOK THIS STOP >



STOP 3 / 12:00 PM

Kagoshima City Aquarium

Southern Kyushu marine life anchored by a huge Kuroshio tank with whale sharks and rays Jellyfish displays and the outdoor Dolphin Waterway make this aquarium truly special! Check the daily schedule for whale-shark feedings...


Photo: Viator

STOP 4 / 2:30 PM

Sakurajima

Active volcano rising across Kinko Bay, reached by a scenic 15-minute ferry Explore lava fields, the free footbath, and Yunohira Observatory's close-up crater views Bring glasses, a mask, or umbrella for frequent ashfall

BOOK THIS STOP >



STOP 5 / 7:00 PM

Iconic Kagoshima Shaved Ice: Tenmonkan Mujaki

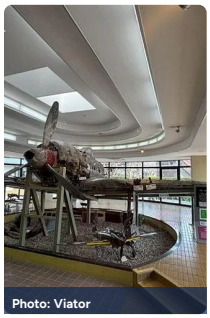
Tenmonkan Mujaki is the classic place to try Kagoshima's famous shirokuma shaved ice. The fluffy ice comes piled with fruit and drizzled with condensed...

BOOK THIS STOP >

CHIRAN - IBUSUKI

Day Eight: Southern Kagoshima: Ibusuki Sand Bath

Spend the final day in southern Kagoshima at the Chiran Peace Museum and Ibusuki's geothermal sand bath.


Photo: Viator

STOP 1 / 11:00 AM

Chiran Peace Museum

The Chiran Peace Museum tells the stories of the young pilots who departed from this area It's a quiet and emotionally heavy stop, so give yourself time rather than rushing through. Buy the discounted combination ticket if...

BOOK THIS STOP >


Photo: Klook

STOP 2 / 2:00 PM

Ibusuki Sand Bath

Change into a yukata, then let attendants bury you in naturally heated seaside sand Ten to twenty minutes delivers an unusually deep, full-body warmth

EXTEND YOUR TRIP

Have more time?

Consider these stops.

OTHER ITINERARY LENGTHS: 2 days in Kyushu - 3 days in Kyushu - 4 days in Kyushu - 5 days in Kyushu - 6 days in Kyushu - 7 days in Kyushu



KIRISHIMA JINGU

Kagoshima: Kirishima Jingu, Takachiho Ranch & Maruo Falls

A shared Kirishima highlights tour visiting Kirishima Jingu, Takachiho Farm, and Maruo Falls.

BOOK NOW >