

*Wonderful Views & Historical Spots in Scenic Byway Japan*

# *Scenic Byway Kyushu*

## **- Part I Overview -**



① Mountains of Aso Volcano  
(Aso City, Kumamoto) Q-⑨.



② Rock Shrine in Kami-Koshiki Shima Island, "Koshiki Dai-myojin". (Satumasendai City, Kagoshima) Q-⑩.



③ Peace Statue of Nagasaki Memorial Park in Ground Zero (Nagasaki City, Nagasaki) Q-③.



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Gate of Thousand Year (Fukuoka City) Q-7



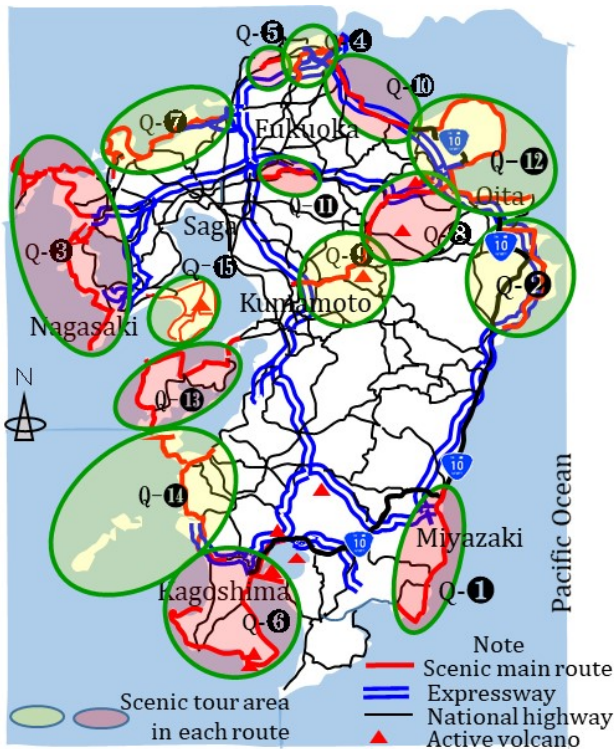
Tiered Display of Doll's Festival  
(Ukiha City, Fukuoka) Q-11



④ Headpiece of Karatsu-Kunchi Festival  
(Karatsu City, Saga) Q-7

## Scenic Byway Kyushu

Note) Shaded Route is inland type, and other is coastal type.



- ① Nichinan Sparkling Coast. (NICHINAN)
- ② Nippo Seashore Road. (NIPPO)
- ③ Nagasaki Sunset Highway. (NAGASAKI)
- ④ Kitakyushu Hospitality Roads. (KITAKYUSHU)
- ⑤ Munakata History Byway. (MUNAKATA)
- ⑥ Kagoshima Scenic Byways. (KAGOSHIMA)
- ⑦ Genkai Coastal Highway. (GENKAI)
- ⑧ Yamanami Highland Parkway. (YAMANAMI)
- ⑨ Aso/Kumamoto Scenic Roads. (ASO/ KUMAMOTO)
- ⑩ Toyonokuni History Roads. (TOYONOKUNI)
- ⑪ Minou Foothills Byways. (MIDORINOSATO)
- ⑫ Beppu Gulf Area. (BEPPUWANGAN)
- ⑬ Amakusa Islands Drive. (AMAKUSA)
- ⑭ North Satsuma Scenic Tour. (SATSUMA)
- ⑮ Shimabara Peninsula Highway (SHIMABARA)



Kyushu



### Significant Resources and "Omotenashi" for Scenic Byway Kyushu.

- **Various Natures** in seashore and mountain.
- **Volcanic Activities** and **Hot Springs Resort**.
- **Mythical World** to trace roots of Japan.
- **Ancient Ruins** and **Historical Heritages** in Asia Gateway.
- **Regional Dishes (Washoku)** of marine and forest products.

Fig.1 Fifteen Scenic Byways of Kyushu Province: Q-①~⑮.

Table 1 Division of Historical Period in Japan.

\*\*\* (a) \*\*\*

The table 1 is a classification of historical periods in Japan. Many events or ruins in the Edo period (1603~1868) and the Meiji period (1858~1912) are shown in a series of this guidebook.

The Sengoku period (1493~1573) is the final stage of the Muromachi period, and the Toyotomi period (1582~1603) is the second half of the Azuchi-Momoyama period.

Although the old name of Japan was "WA", our country is called NIPPON (or NIHON) since the 7th century when the first Yamato regime was established. This period of NIPPON can be divided roughly to five sections as shown in the right column of Table 1, too.

	CE	Period(Era)	Nippon
B	~14000BC	(Myth ages)	
C	14000BC~	Old stone age	
	6th century BC	Jomon	Primitive
	6th century BC	Yayoi	(WA)
A	~3rd century		
D	4	Kofun (Tumulus)	
	5		
6	592~710	Asuka	(NIPPON)
	710~794	Nara	Ancient
10	794~1185	Heian	
	1185~1336	Kamakura	
15	1336~1573	Muromati	Middle
	1573~1603	Azutimomoyama & TOYOTOMI	Early modern
	1603~1868	Edo (=TOKUGAWA)	
20	1868~1912	Meiji	Modern
	1912~1926	Taishou	
	1926~1989	Showa	(World War II)
	1989~2019	Heisei	
21	2019~	Reiwa	Present

Note) Ancient Japanese archipelago etc. in a wide range was called "WA".

\*\*\* (b) \*\*\*

Many words or proper nouns with the same meaning are used in Japanese, and several examples are given in the following table. Also, there are some words in Japanese to have the same pronunciation but different meanings.

English	Japanese(Roman alphabet)			
mountain	Yama	San	Take	Dake
river	Kawa	Gawa		
sea	Kai	Nada	Umi	
island,isle	Shima	Jima		
lake,pond	Ike	Ko		
temple	Tera	Ji	Jiin	
shrine	Jinja	Gu	Jingu	Taisha
bridge	Hashi	Bashi	Kyou	
town	Machi	Chou		
warrior	Bushi	Samurai		
Road in Japan		Japanese		
Expressway(Freeway, Motorway)				
National Highway			Gaido Kaido	
Prefectural road				
Municipal road, local road				

# 1. Welcome to Attractive Kyushu



Fig.2 Kyushu in Japan.

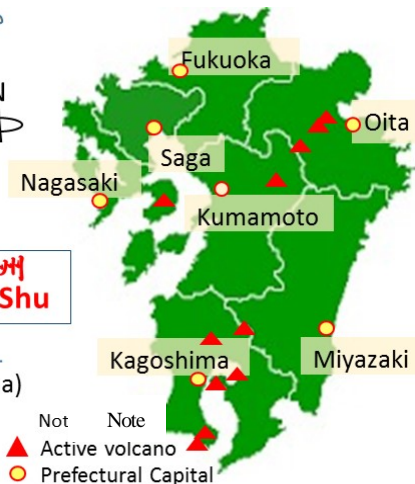


Fig.3 Seven Prefectures in Kyushu.

## 1.1 Kyushu of 7 Prefectures.

Looking at the whole country, the Kyushu region is located in the southwestern part of the country, reaching about one-third of the islands in Japan, and is composed of about 2360 small islands. In addition, the regional organization is shown in Figure 3 and is divided into seven prefectures.

According to Japanese mythology, two gods descending from heaven mixed chaos to create the Japanese archipelago. As shown in Figure 2, Kyushu's main island is one of them, and the third largest island in Japan. The area is divided into nine states (see Figure 13), and the entire area including Tsushima and Iki is referred "Kyukoku Ni-Tou" (9 states and 2 islands) in Japanese. The name "Kyushu" is derived from this fact.

Kyushu's climate extends from temperate to subtropical and is blessed with rich nature. The cherry blossoms, symbolizing Japanese flowers, are in full bloom earlier in spring than other parts of the country. As you climb the mountain in the fall, you can see the scenery of colored trees such as yellow and red.

On the other hand, precipitation varies greatly in the southern and northern parts of Kyushu. We suffer from large-scale disasters such as volcanic eruptions and typhoons almost every year.

However, people have settled in Kyushu for tens of thousands of years. And, they have overcome the harsh nature. Civilization has evolved through the unremitting efforts of the people, taking advantage of the relationship with the Asian continent and the blessings of nature. As a result, many cultures were born in Kyushu and spread throughout Japan. As in Chapter 7, Kyushu culture is Japanese culture itself. By traveling to Kyushu, you can learn about Japanese culture, history and customs.

As shown in Fig.4, the framework of transport system in Kyushu Islands is firmly established on Kyushu Main Island. Kyushu is far from the capital. Therefore, the airport network in Kyushu was established earlier than in other parts of our country. Many airports are located throughout Kyushu, and they are closely linked to major international airports of Haneda, Narita, Chubu and Kansai. Fukuoka International Airport is connected to 24 foreign airports, and Kagoshima Airport operates four international flights.

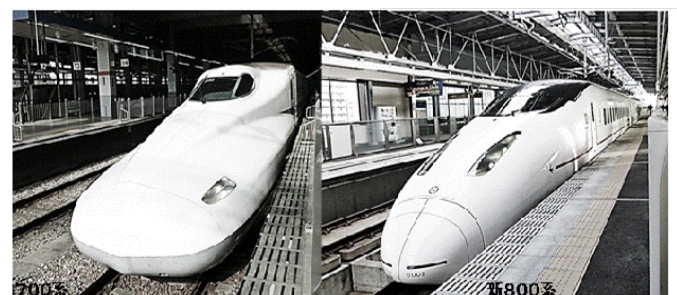
As shown in Fig.4, the expressway network goes around Kyushu. The Kagoshima route of the Kyushu High-Speed Railway (Kyushu Shinkansen) has been operating since in 2011.

High-speed boats are regularly operated between Busan Port in Korea and Hakata Port in Fukuoka City. In addition, many international tourists visiting the ports of Kyushu are attracted to the cruise service of luxury ships in the East China Sea and the Sea of Japan.

The travel time from Hakata Station in Fukuoka City to Tokyo Station is about 5 hours by Shinkansen. The flight time between Fukuoka and Tokyo is 1 hour 30 minutes, and the jet foil ship between Hakata and Busan is about 3 hours. On the other hand, the



Fig.4 Basic Frame of High-speed Transport Network in Kyushu.



Two Types of High-Speed Trains for Kagoshima Route of Kyushu Shinkansen.

## 1.2 How to access Kyushu.

travel time between Fukuoka and Seoul is 50 minutes by air and 2 hours to Shanghai.

In short, Kyushu is made up of small islands, but it is one of the important bases of the air and sea transport network in Japan and Asia. You can easily access and travel around Kyushu, using Kyushu's transportation system.

### 1.3 What is Scenic Byway Kyushu?

--- Hospitality Byways and Enjoyable Life Experience ---

In Kyushu, 15 routes are registered as Scenic Byway Japan, and when we put them all together, we call them Scenic Byway Kyushu. The location, extend and scenic spots of each route are defined by the meaning and use of local resources such as historical heritage, culture, food, customs, festivals, and natural scenery (see Table 2).

Fig.5 shows the basic concept of a landscape route. The purpose of the trip is an interesting local story and given by a tour that expects the unknown. Attractive sightseeing means not only visiting tourist spots, but also understanding history and customs, interacting with locals, and strengthening the mind and body. This notion of a scenic route contributes greatly to the importance of the tour and provides a basic idea of landscape.

This guidebook shows you how to travel through the scenic byway areas of Kyushu, based on the basic thinking above.

First, Chapters 2 through 4 summarize basic information about the geology, topography, and Nature of Kyushu. Next, Chapters 5 through 7 introduce World Heritage and the history of Kyushu. These local resources, scenic spots and stories can be used in the travel planning of each route of the Kyushu Scenic Byway, which is outlined in Chapter 8.

In Chapter 1 through 7, the serial numbers (①,②, etc.) are attached to the photos. Chapter 8 contains photos of typical spots on each route. It is advisable to pay attention to these pictures in order to understand each route.

### 1.4 Scenic Byways registered in Kyushu.

Table 3 and Figure 6 show all routes in Scenic Byway Kyushu. The basic information is as follows:

- 1) The three landscape areas extend to two adjacent prefectures, while other routes are restricted to one prefecture.
- 2) The location of each route is classified into four regions, east, north, central and west of Kyushu (see Figures 6 and 17).

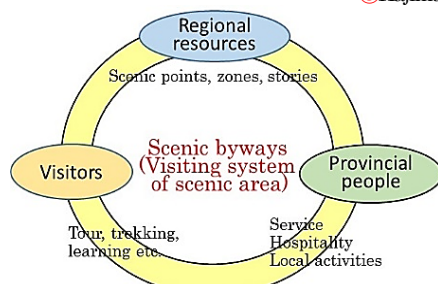


Fig.5 Concept of Scenic Byway Kyushu

Table 2 Scenic Resources in Kyushu

1 True of nature and environment
○ Sea,Mountain and Field,River,Lake, Natural phenomena, Nature scene
2 Nature and environment created by people
○ Terraced rice fields,Hot spring,Planting, Park,etc.
3 Ruins,heritage and history
○ Ancient ruins,Historic heritage,History road
○ Historic cityscape,Traditional building,etc.
○ Faith, Shrines and Temples, Churches
○ Historical story, Legend, Mythology
4 Culture and Civilization
○ Traditional Culture,Traditional Entertainment
○ Traditional crafts, Festival
○ Food culture, Regional products
○ Local valuable buildings
○ Scenic infrastructures
5 Others
○ Event,Custom,etc.



⑤ Kajima Cliff of Shimo-Koshiki Island (Satsuma-sendai City) Q-⑭.



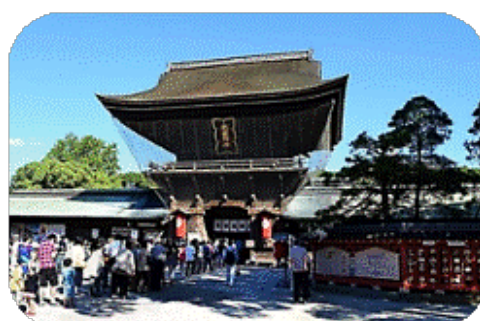
⑥ Scenic Coast along Genkai Sea (Fukuoka City) Q-⑦.



⑦ Historical Road "Higo Kaido" (Imaichi, Oita City) Q-③.



⑧-1 Floats in Hita Gion Festival (Hita City, Oita).



⑧-2 Hakozaiki Hachimangu Shrine (Fukuoka City) Q-⑦.

Photo ①~⑧ Typical Local Resources in Network of Scenic Byways Kyushu.

3) The related municipalities reach 1/4 of those in Kyushu and are scattered in all prefectures.

4) Of course, the stunning landscape Nature in areas where there are significant differences contribute to landscape creation and route characterization. In addition, lifestyle and history vary from route to route, and adding them creates a unique scenic route.

5) The three routes ⑧, ⑨, and ⑪, pass through mountains, plateaus, valleys, and active volcanoes. 10 routes are provided on the various islands and peninsulas surrounded by vast scenic sea and rare rocks.

Table 3 15 routes of Scenic Byway Kyushu

Q	Name of Scenic Byways	Abbreviation	Prefecture	Related municipalities(City)	Length of Main Rout
①	Nichinan Sparkling Coast	NICHINAN 日南	Miyazaki	Miyazaki, Nitinan, Kushima	200
②	Nippo Seashore Road	NIPPO 日豊	Oita & Miyazaki	Saeki, Nobeoka	94
③	Nagasaki Sunset Highway	NAGASAKI 長崎	Nagasaki	Matsuura, Hirado, Saikai, Nagasaki, Sasa(Town)	280
④	Kitakyushu Hospitality Roads	KITAKYUSHU 北九州	Fukuoka	Kitakyushu	40
⑤	Munakata History Byway	MUNAKATA むなかた	Fukuoka	Munakata	5
⑥	Kagoshima Scenic Byways	KAGOSHIMA 鹿児島	Kagoshima	Kagoshima, Ibusuki, Minamisatsuma, Makurazaki, Minamikyushu	192
⑦	Genkai Coastal Highway	GENKAI 玄海	Fukuoka & Saga	Fukuoka, Itohima, Karatsu, Genkai(Town)	157
⑧	Yamanami Highland Parkway	YAMANAMI やまなみ	Oita	Beppu, Yufu, Takeda, Kokonoe	163
⑨	Aso/Kumamoto Scenic Roads	ASO/KUMAMOTO 阿蘇熊本	Kumamoto	Kumamoto, Aso: Kikuyou(Town), Oozu, Minamiojuni, Ojuni, Takamori, Ubuyama, Kikuyou(Town), Buzen, Yoshitomi(Town), Kouge(Town), Nakatsu, Usa	76
⑩	Toyonokuni History Road	TOYONOKUNI 豊の国	Fukuoka & Oita	Kitakyushu, Ikuhoshi, Buzen, Kanda(Town), Miyako(Town), Takyu(Town), Buzen, Yoshitomi(Town), Kouge(Town), Nakatsu, Usa	77
⑪	Minou Foothills Bayways	MIDORINOSATO みどりの里	Fukuoka	Kurume, Ukiha	72
⑫	Beppu Gulf Area	BEPPUWANGAN 別府湾岸	Oita	Bungotakada, Kunisaki, Kitsuiki, Beppu, Oita, Hiji(Town)	150
⑬	Amakusa Islands Tour	AMAKUSA 天草	Kumamoto	Kamiamakusa, Amakusa, Reihoku(Town)	142
⑭	North Satsuma Scenic Tour	SATSUMA 薩摩	Kagoshima	Izumi, Akune, Satsumasendai, Itikushikino, Hioki, Nagashima(Town)	152
⑮	Shimabara Peninsula Highway	SHIMABARA 島原	Nagasaki	Shimabara, Unzen, Minami-shimabara	194

□ Coastal type    ■ Inland type



Fig.6 Locations of 15 Scenic Byways, Q-①-⑮



⑨ Craters in Kirishima Volcano.

6) The length of the main route of the scenic route ranges from 5 km to 280 km, averaging 133 km. They are suitable for short or medium trips, but you can also connect adjacent routes for long stays and tours.

7) Six landscapes with a main route length of less than 100 km are a group of small routes. The smallest is "⑤ MUNAKATA", and the other five are 40 to 100 km.

8) The other seven routes are medium-sized with distances between 100 and 200 km. Among them, "⑭ SATSUMA" includes a route to the Koshiki-shima Islands that requires a boat ride.

9) The two routes "① NICHINAN" and "③ NAGASAKI" are over 200 km long and are the largest route group of the 15 routes.

## 2. Land and Nature in Kyushu

### 2.1 Complicated Geologic Structure of Kyushu

The Japanese archipelago was part of the Eurasian continent. However, when separated from the continent a few 10 million years ago, the Sea of Japan was formed. The evidence is that dinosaurs fossils that lived on the continent about 100 million years ago were found in various places in the northwestern part of

Kyushu. Some important views on the geology of Kyushu can be summarized as follows:

○ As shown in the photo ⑩, the Japan's geology is divided into two regions, east and west, due to the large gap in Fossa Magna. Of course, the geology of Kyushu is given by the west type.

○ The northern part of Kyushu has old strata.



⑩ Column Joint of Basalt (Itoshima City, Fukuoka) Q-⑦



⑪ Rocks of several 100 million years ago (Nagasaki City) Q-③

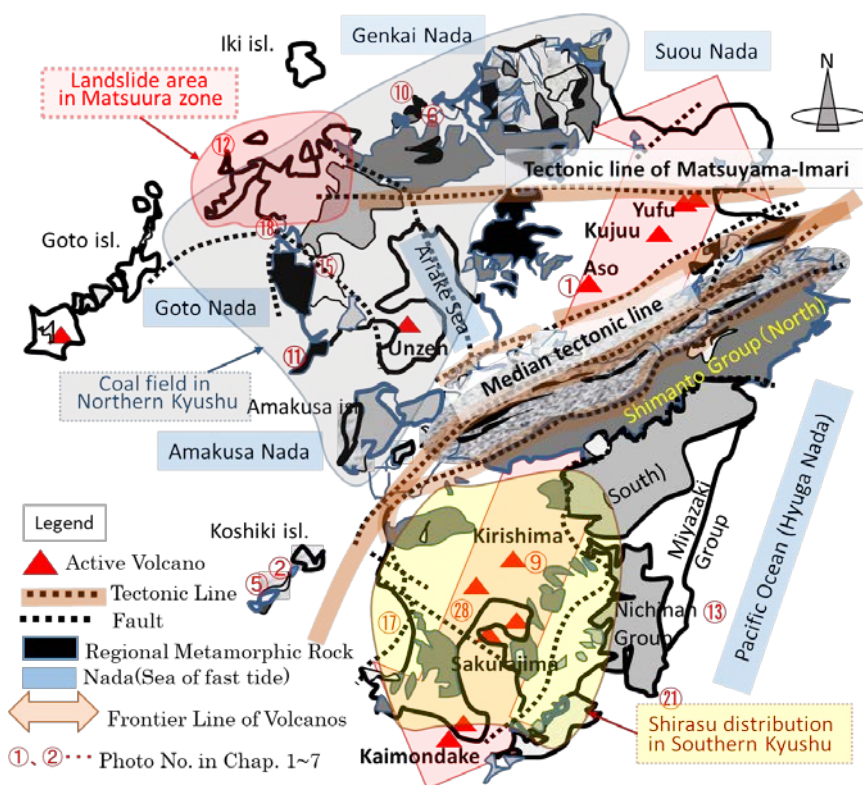


Fig.7 Geologic Structure of Kyushu.

○ As shown in Fig. 7, Kyushu has many active volcanoes even though it is relatively small islands, and the current Kyushu was made by many volcanic activities and land uplifts.

Looking at the geological map of Kyushu with the above features, as shown in Fig.7, the geology is divided into three blocks: north, central, and south. The boundary between the central part and the southern part is given by the Median Tectonic Line, and the structural Line of Matsuyama-Imari is the boundary between the northern part and the central part.

#### a North Block (Photos ⑩, ⑫ and ⑪).

The north block is a coastal region of Fukuoka, Saga and Nagasaki Prefectures. The mountains are relatively moderate, with granite and old sedimentary rocks. These are the same as the geological strata of the east end of Asian continent.

An example of an old stratum in this area are basalt with columnar joints, as shown in photos ⑩ and ⑫. In the rough seas of Nagasaki, metamorphic rocks of 400 million years ago can be seen in the form of monsters, as shown in Photo ⑪.

In the northern region, coal beds are also found in many places and were mined until 2001. There are some places where a heap of coal waste and coal mine shafts remain, some of which are registered as World Industrial Heritage Site.

On the other hand, the red hatched area in the Matsuura Peninsula in Saga Prefecture and the northern part of Nagasaki Prefecture is a landslide area. Many residents were affected by landslides during heavy or long rains.

#### b Central Block (Photo ①, ② and ⑤).

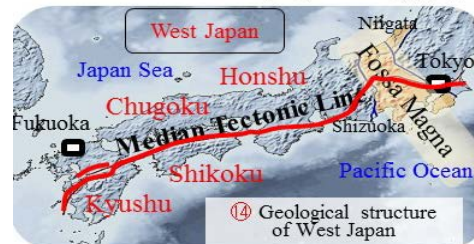
The central part is a delta-shaped area from Oita Prefecture to Nagasaki Prefecture. There are several volcanoes such as Aso, and Kuju. Therefore, the ground is mostly covered with volcanic ejecta. Sand and mud flow into the Ariake Sea through several rivers, creating fan-shaped plains.



⑫ Rock columns in Ikitaki Isle. (Hirado City) Q-③



⑬ Demon's washboard (Miyazaki City) Q-①



⑭ Geological structure of West Japan

#### c South Block (Photo ⑨, ⑬, ⑰ and ⑳).

The southern side of Median Tectonic Line spans Oita, Kumamoto and Kagoshima prefectures, and its geological structure is extremely complex. As shown in Fig.7, the gray belt belonging to the old layer is around the tectonic line and extends to the southwest. The geology of this zone is rock mass changed by heat and pressure.

Meanwhile additional wedges have been accumulated in the Pacific area. It is a double layer of old and new, with a reverse fault between them. The new wedge, called the "Miyazaki Group", covers the Miyazaki Plain and the area along Nichinan Seashore (see Fig.7).

Pyroclastic flows from 100 thousand to 200 thousand years ago are called "Shirasu" (pumice), and are found mainly in Kagoshima Prefecture. Since the slopes of Shirasu are susceptible to rainwater flow, rain rifts formed on cliffs are common (see Photo ⑰).

In short, the stratum of Southern part of Kyushu is an accretionary prism from the ocean plate, and the northern part is the same as the old stratum in the Asian continent. The boundary of the volcano faces the Pacific Ocean and is located diagonally in the center. As a result, volcanic eruptions occur frequently, and in some case, evacuation of people around the volcano is inevitable.

These geological conditions present difficult challenges in the construction and maintenance of roads and other social facilities. But apart from that, when driving on expressway and road, you will encounter amazing mysterious terrain and strange scenes of rocks. In addition, various hot springs warmed by the heat of the volcanoes in various places of Kyushu will help you on a healing trip. Residents enjoy life in Kyushu while avoiding danger.

## 2.2 Relatively Low Mountains in Kyushu.

As shown in Fig.6, the central wide area of Kyushu's main island is covered by many mountains called the range of Kyushu

Table 4. Islands in each Prefecture of Kyushu.

Prefecture	Number of Islands	Top 3 Islands in prefecture		
		1st	2nd	3rd
Fukuoka	62	Ooshima 7	Shikanoshima 6	Nokonoshima 4
Saga	55	Madarajima 4	Kakarashima 3	Kabeshima 3
Nagasaki	971	Tsushima 696	Fukuejima 326	Nakadoorijima 168
Kumamoto	178	Amakusa Shimojima	Amakusa Kamijima	Ooyanojima 30
Oita	109	Himeshima 7	Oonyujima 6	Ooshima 2
Miyazaki	179	Shimaauratou 3	Ooshima 2	Tsukishima 0.2
Kagoshima	605	Amami Ooshima 71	Yakushima 505	Tanegashima 445
Top 5 in Kyushu	2159	Amami Ooshima, Tsushima, Amakusa Shimojima, Yakushima, Tanegashima		

Note 1) Both of "Shima" and "Jima" mean an island.

2) Numerical value following the name of island is an area (km<sup>2</sup>)

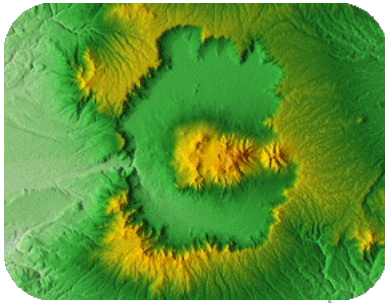


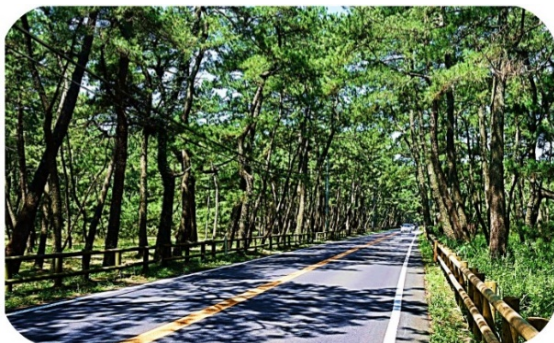
Fig.8

Mountains that spread from north to south. In addition, the volcanoes of Kuju, Aso and Kirishima are surrounding.

On the other hand, in the north, the range of the Chikushi Mountains without a volcano is not necessarily connected to one, but is divided into several blocks by plains and basins.

The highest mountain in Kyushu is Miyanoura-dake on Yakushima Island floating in the Nankai Sea in Kagoshima Prefecture, at an altitude of 1,936m. The second to eighth highest mountains are also concentrated on Yakushima. For this reason, Yakushima is called the Sea Alps.

The highest mountain on the main island of Kyushu is Mt. Nakadake in the Kuju Mountains, which is the ninth at 1,791m.



⑳ Nijino-matsubara (Pine Forest along the Coast of Genkai-nada Sea) (Karatsu City, Saga) Q-7.



㉑ Wild Cycad in Tbi Cape (Kushima City, Miyazaki) Q-1.



⑮ First Long Span Bridge, Saikai Bashi, in Japan after the Pacific War (1955, Sasebo City) Q-3.



⑮ Kujukushima Islands which gather more than 200. (Sasebo City, Nagasaki) Q-3.



⑲ Oshima Ohashi Bridge (1999, Saikai City, Nagasaki) Q-3.

⑮ Aso Volcanos in Caldera of World Scale (Kumamoto) Q-9.



⑰ Sirasu Plateau in Seashore Line (Hioki City, Kagoshima) Q-10.

Also, two-thirds of mountains in Kyushu are less than 600m and many forest roads are in place. If you pass carefully through the active volcano, you can drive comfortably through the mountains.

## 2.3 Islands in Kyushu of 1/3 of Whole Country.

As mentioned in the section 1.1, one third of the Japanese islands is concentrated in Kyushu. However, the scale is relatively small, except for the main islands of Kyushu. Table 4 shows data for each prefecture. Nagasaki Prefecture has 971 islands, the largest in Japan. Next is 605 islands in Kagoshima Prefecture.

As shown in Fig.9, several islands are also found in the eastern sea of Kyushu, but most are floating on the west sea. If you follow the myth, it may be said that many drops of chaos were blown away by the wind from the east and fell into the west sea.

Many islands in Kyushu shine as follows:

○ Tsushima Island in Nagasaki Prefecture is located at the natural border on the Tsushima Strait. Therefore Tsushima Island has played an important role as a relay point for cultural exchange between Japan and the Korean peninsula. The island culture is heavily influenced not only by Japanese civilization but also by Korean culture, and many people travel between Tsushima and the Korean Peninsula.

○ The first gun in our country was brought to Tanegashima Island from Europe in the 16th century. And now a satellite rocket is launched from the same island.

○ On the islands of Hirado, Amakusa and Goto, Christianity spreads earlier than elsewhere in Japan, and its religion has been inherited today.

○ Until some time ago, several islands in the Goto Sea were home to offshore coal mines. And some of them are registered as World Heritage Sites.

European and Asian cultures were first introduced on the western islands of Kyushu and then spread throughout the country. This is similar to the spread of Minos civilization from Crete in the Aegean Sea to Ancient Greece.

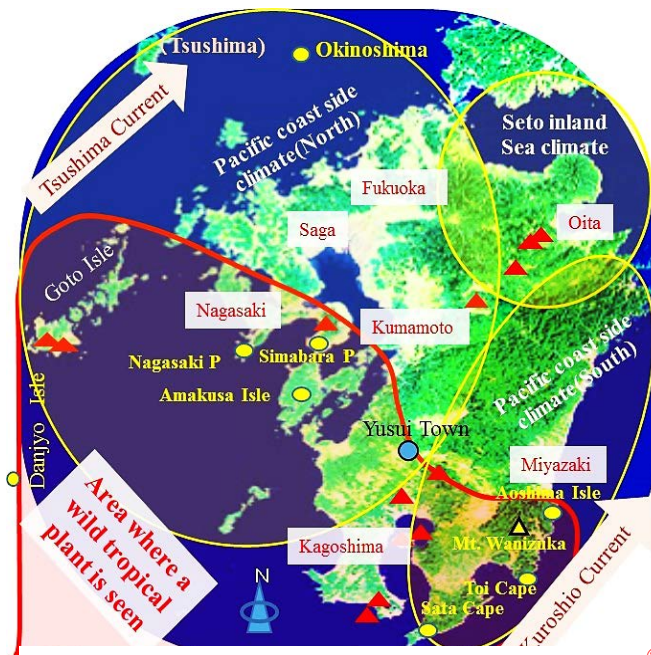


Fig.9 Three Type of Climates and Zone of Subtropical Plant in Kyushu.



㉔ Jomon Sugi (Yaku-Shima Island (Kagoshima)).



㉕ Arao Tidal Flats in Ariake Sea (Kumamoto.).

## 3. Kyushu's Climate from Temperate to Subtropical

### 3.1 Three Climate Zones in Kyushu.

In Kyushu, there are the rainy season and typhoons every year, but there are few big tornadoes and hardly heavy snow. Especially, the large area of Kyushu is warm.

Looking at the climate, there are basically three patterns. One is **the Pacific side climate** (see Fig. 9), which is further subdivided into two. In the northwest, many winter days are cloudy due to the seasonal winds of the Asian continent. The southeast has many rainy days in summer, but winter temperatures are slightly higher than in other areas.

The second is **the climate of the Seto Inland Sea** in northeastern Kyushu. It is about the same temperature as the rest of the Pacific. However, the annual rainfall is 1680 mm (Oita City), which is smaller than the rest of Kyushu.

The third is **the climate of Southern Japan**. A typical region in this climate is the Amami-Oshima Islands in Kagoshima Prefecture where the summer is hot and the winter is warm. In other words, the average annual temperature in most places in Kyushu is 16 to 19 degrees Celsius, while Amami-Oshima is about 22 degree Celsius. The annual rainfall reaches 2840 mm.

The natural diversity of Kyushu is caused by the above three climates and four different seasons. Therefore, you can enjoy interesting views every season in various places. In Kyushu, spring blossoms are in full bloom, fresh green in summer, autumn leaves in autumn, and sunbeams in winter, while exhibiting the characteristics of each region. In addition, snow is piled up in the central mountain area at an altitude of 900m or more, so you can enjoy winter sports.

### 3.2 Zones of Temperate Plant and Subtropical Plant.

Presentative trees in Kyushu are cedar, pine and bamboo. However, due to the climate described above, Kyushu is divided into the subtropical and the temperate plant areas, and places where wild subtropical plants grow are limited. Some places are picked up as follows (see Fig. 9):

○Yakushima Island in the southern part of Kagoshima Prefecture is called an Oriental Galapagos Island, where you can see the Jomon-sugi (Japanese cedar), which is said to be more than 3000 years old (see Photo ㉔). The island was listed as a World Natural Heritage Site in 1993, and its ecosystem has been preserved.

○ Aoshima Island in Miyazaki City is the northern limit of palm trees, and Cape Toi in Kushima City, Miyazaki Prefecture is the northern limit of wild cycads and palm trees. Also, many tropical plants can be seen on the Osumi Peninsula in Kagoshima Prefecture.

The warm current of Kuroshio is divided into two in the southern sea of Kagoshima Prefecture. The branched current is the Tsushima warm current, which flows north to reach the Sea of Japan. As a result, tropical plants are found on some islands and peninsulas in the northwestern part of Kyushu (see Fig.8).

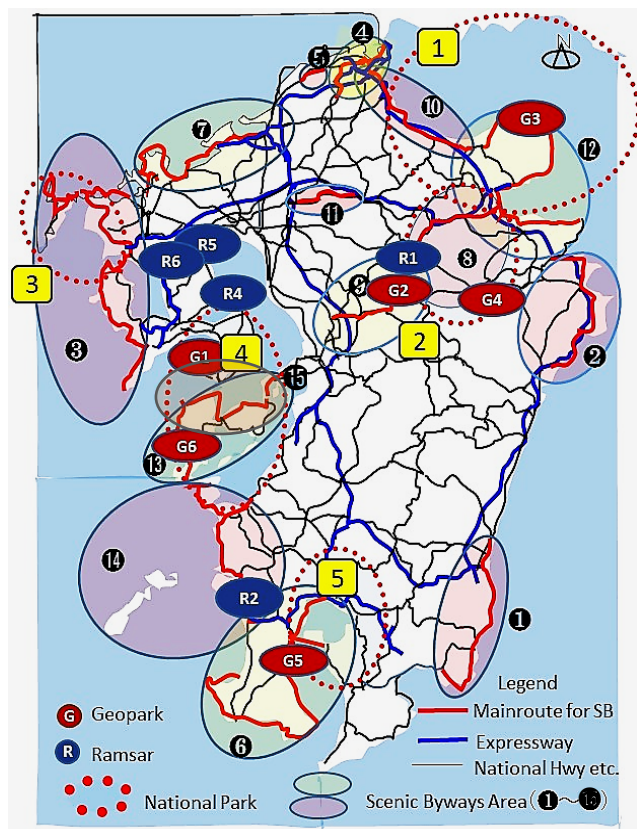
○ Okinoshima Island in Munakata City, Fukuoka Prefecture is the northern limit of palm trees. Also, subtropical plants drifted by the Tsushima Current have been found on the Goto Islands in Nagasaki Prefecture.

○ On the Shimabara Peninsula, the Nagasaki Peninsula and the Amakusa Islands, you will be surprised by the strange appearance of the Akou tree. This is a subtropical plant and looks like a bearded haunted tree.

○ Yusuicho Town in Kagoshima Prefecture is the southern-most tip of Nohanashoubu (progenitor of Iris Ensata) and Higan cherry (early blooming cherry). And Mt. Wanitsuka is the limit of wild Japanese horseradish.

Plotting the above view-points on the map, the red-painted area in Figure 9 (Southern area of Nagasaki Prefecture, Kumamoto Prefecture, Kagoshima Prefecture, and Miyazaki Prefecture) can be estimated to be a subtropical plant area. The temperate plant area is the other part of Kyushu.

## 4. National Park, Geo-park and Ramsar's Wetland in Kyushu



National Park		Location	Main scenic resauces	Q
1	Seto Inland Sea	Kanmon strait, Hoyo Strait	Mekari Mt,Himeshima isle, Takasaki Mt, Takashima isle	10, 12
2	Aso/Kuju	Kumamoto Pref, Oita Pref	Spectacular caldera, Aso volcano, Green field	9, 8
3	West Sea	Nagasaki Pref	Goto isle, Hirado isle	3
4	Unzen/Amakusa	Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Kagoshima	Unzen Mt., scenic Archipelago, Hot spring	13
5	Kirishima/ Kinkouwan	Miyazaki Pref, Kagoshima Pref	Sakurajima Volcano, Caldera Bay	6
6	Yakushima isle	Yakushima Isle	(World natural heritage)	Outer
Geopark		Location	Main scenic resauces	Q
G1	Shimabara Penin.	Shimabara Penin.	Unzen Fugendake(Volcano)	15
G2	Aso Mt.	Aso provinces	Asosan(Volcano), Aso Caldera	9
G3	Oita Himeshima	Hime-Shima Isle	(Obsidian)	12
G4	Oita BungoOono	Bungo Oono City	Kawakami Valley	
G5	Sakurajima/ Kinkouwan	Kagoshima City	Sakurajima Volcano, Kinkouwan Bay	6
G6	Amakusa	Amakusa Isls	Goshoura-isle, Fossil	13
G7	Mishima-Mura, Kikai Caldera	Mishima Village	loujima isle, loudake Mt.	Outer
Ramsar		Location	Main scenic resauces	Q
R1	Kujuu Bougatsuru Tadehara Wetland	Kuju Town, Takeda City	Wedlands	8
R2	Imutaike Lake	Satsumasendai City	Crater lake, low-rise wetlands	14
R3	Nagatahama Beach	Yaku-Shima Isle	Sandy beach	Outer
R4	Arao Higata	Arao City	Higata(Tideland)	
R5	Higashiyoka Higata	Saga City	Higata(Tideland)	
R6	Hizenkashima Higata	Kashima City	Higata(Tiderand)	

Outer=Outer of Map

Fig.10 List of National Park, Geopark and Ramsar's Wetland.



24 "Ozaki District of Tashibunosho" (National Important Cultural Landscape) (Bungotakada City) Q-12.

25 Burning of Aso Grassland Q-8, 9.

4.1 National Park.

National parks in Japan are regulated by the Natural Parks Law. Maintaining and using excellent natural landscapes is effective for

human health, rest and spirits. It also contributes to ensuring biodiversity. There are 32 national parks in Japan, of which six are in Kyushu (see Fig.10). In addition, five parks of them have active volcanoes.



26 Tortoiseshell Dragonfly.



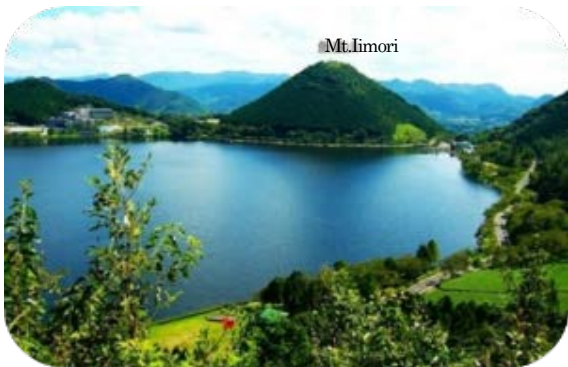
Eto Sashimi.  
(Sliced Raw Fish of Japanese Anchovy).



Mutugoro (Goggle-eyed Goby).



Mategai (Razor Shell).  
Creatures in Tidal Flat of Ariake Sea.



27 Imuta Lake (Satumasendai City, Kagoshima) Q-14.



28 Sakurajima seen from Kagoshima City. Q-6.

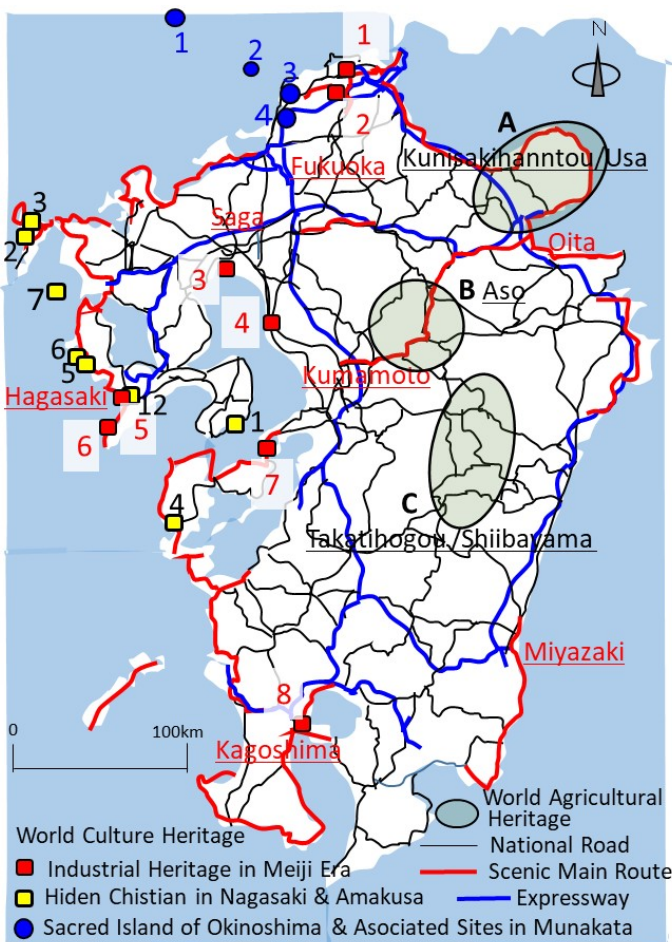


Fig.11 World Culture Heritages and World Agriculture Heritages in Kyushu.

World Heritage and its candidates	Industry	Prefecture	City,Town	Q
<b>World Culture Heritage 1</b>	<b>Meiji Japan's industrial revolution heritage</b>			
1 The Imperial Steel Works, Japari	Iron & Steel	Fukuoka	Kitakyushu	4
2 Onga river Pumping Station	Iron & Steel	Fukuoka	Nakama	4
3 Mietsu Naval Dock	Shipbuilding	Saga	Saga	
4 Miike Coal Mine and Miike Port	Coal	Fukuoka	Omuta,Arao	
5 Nagasaki Shipyard	Shipbuilding	Nagasaki	Nagasaki	3
Kosuge Slip Dock		"	"	"
Mitsubishi No.3 Dry Dock		"	"	"
Mitsubishi Giant Cantilever Crane		"	"	"
Mitsubishi Former Pattern Shop		"	"	"
Mitsubishi Senshokaku Guest House		"	"	"
Glover House and Office		"	"	"
6 Takashima / Hashima Coal Mine	Coal	Nagasaki	Nagasaki	3
Takashima Coal Mine		"	"	"
Hashima Coal Mine		"	"	"
7 Misumi West Port	Coal	Kumamoto	Uki	13
8 Shuseikan	Shipbuilding	Kagoshima	Kagoshima	6
Old Shuseikan	Iron・Steel	"	"	"
Terayama Charcoal Kiln		"	"	"
Sekiyoshi Sluice Gate of Yoshino Leat		"	"	"
<b>World Culture Heritage 2</b>	<b>Sacred Island of Okinoshima and Associated Sites</b>			
1 Okitsumiya Shrine and Okinoshima Ritual Ruin		Fukuoka	Munakata	6
2 Nakatsumiya Shrine and Ontakesan Ritual Ruin		Fukuoka	Munakata	6
3 Hetsumiya Shrine and Shimotakamiya Ritual Ru		Fukuoka	Munakata	6
4 Shinbaru・Nuyama Mounted Tomb Group		Fukuoka	Fukutsu	6
<b>World Culture Heritage 3</b>	<b>Hidden Christians in Nagasaki &amp; Amakusa</b>			
1 Hara Castle Ruins		Nagasaki	Minami Shimabara	15
2 Sacred place and settlement in Hirado (Kasuga Settlement & Anman Dake)		Nagasaki	Hirado	3
3 Sacred place and Settlement in Hirado(Nakaenoshima Is		Nagasaki	Hirado	3
4 Sakitsu Settlement of Amakusa		Kumamoto	Amakusa	13
5 Shitu Settlement of Sotome		Nagasaki	Nagasaki	3
6 Oono Settlement of Sotome		Nagasaki	Nagasaki	3
7 Settlement in Kuroshima Island		Nagasaki	Sasebo	3
8 Sttlement in Nozakijima Island		Nagasaki	Ojika Town	
9 Settlement in Kashiragashima Island		Nagasaki	Shinkamigoto Town	
10 Settlement in Kugashima Island		Nagaski	Goto	
11 Egami Settlement in Narushima Island (Egami Tenshudou Church and Surroundings)		Nagaski	Goto	
12 Oura Tenshudou Church		Nagasaki	Nagasaki	3
<b>World Agriculture Heritage (GIAHS)</b>			<b>main area</b>	
A Kunisaki Peninsula/Usa		Oita	Kunisaki Pen.	12
B Aso Mountains		Kumamoto	Aso Caldera	9
C Takatihogo/Shiibayama		Miyazaki	Takachihogo	

## 4.2 Geopark.

The purpose of the Geopark is to learn the earth with important terrain and geology. As shown in Fig.10, seven geoparks are registered in Kyushu. The Shimabara Peninsula (G1) and Aso Mountains (G2) Geoparks are certified as UNESCO Global Geoparks, and the rest are Japan Geoparks.

From 1990 to 1995, many people were sacrificed by the eruption of Unzen Volcano in Nagasaki Prefecture. To avoid the same tragedy, it is necessary to transmit information about this catastrophic event from generation to generation. In response to this request, the Shimabara Peninsula was registered as a UNESCO Global Geopark in 2009.

Aso Geopark in Kumamoto Prefecture is an active volcano where hot steam is rising every day and its caldera. Since 50 thousand people live in the caldera, it was registered under the theme of "Gaia on Aso Volcano and People's life".

There are five Japanese Geoparks in Kyushu. One of them is "Sakurajima Volcano and Kinko-wan Bay" in Kagoshima Prefecture, as an active volcano similar to Mt. Aso. This geopark faces the sea, and in addition to the volcanoes, boiling water spurts from the bottom of adjacent bay. Citizens live, while seeing the smoke of the steam every day, but they also suffer from falling volcanic ash sometimes (see Photo 28).

## 4.3 Wetland of Ramsar Convention.

As shown in Fig. 10, Kyushu has six Ramsar Convention registration sites. Of these, three tidal flats (R4, R5, and R6) are in the Ariake Sea with the maximum tidal range of 6 meters. As tidal flats grow due to the emission of volcanic ash from rivers, land reclamation is repeated and passed down from generation to generation. When you go to a tidal flat or landfill, a little bird will welcome you.

Meanwhile, the Ariake Sea is a typical production area of Japanese seaweed. In addition, rare seafood such as anchovies, eels, littleneck clams can be tasted at the restaurant.

The wetlands of "Kuju-Bogatsuru & Tadewara" (R1) in Oita Prefecture are Japan's largest intermediate wetlands surrounded by volcanoes. Both are located at the foot of the Kuju mountains and spread a plateau over 1000 meters high.

The Imuta Lake in Satsumasendai City, Kagoshima, is a volcanic lake surrounded by many small volcanoes. Bekkou dragonflies designated as an endangered species are flying and many peat islands are floating. You can enjoy the precious nature on the calm lake (photo 26, 27).

people moved to Kyushu thousands of years ago together with rice cultivation techniques.

Various migration routes are inferred, the main one being the tidal current route of Tsushima Current and southern Kyushu route via islands in the South China Sea. However, so far it is not always clear.

Traces of rice farming during the Yayoi period can be seen in many places of northern Kyushu, including the Itazuke Site in Fukuoka City (Photo 29-1) and the Nabatake Site in Karatsu City.

By the way, the vast plains in Kyushu are rarely seen, but there are many mountainous areas. For this reason, agriculture techniques suitable for the climate of Kyushu, such as rice cultivation, and fields adapted to the terrain were developed.

Recently, forest blessings such as shiitake mushrooms, fruits, and green tea have been nurtured. In order to produce high-quality rice and prevent slope disasters, rice terraces have been devised for the area. Highland agriculture such as vegetables and livestock are also active.

Evaluating the significance of coordinating agriculture and forestry under such harsh terrain and natural conditions, three places in Kyushu have been approved as GIAHS (Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System) (see Fig.11).

### A. Circulation System of Forestry, Agriculture and Fisheries in Kunisaki Peninsula & Usa Region (Oita Prefecture).

The Kunisaki Peninsula of Oita Prefecture has many deep valleys, narrow ridges, and small plains. Not only it is less rainfall than in other areas, but even long-awaited rainwater quickly permeates porous volcanic soils.



29-1 Moated Settlements and Restored Paddy Field of "Itazuke Ruins" in Yayoi Era (Fukuoka City) Q-7.



Area 1400 km<sup>2</sup> (Kyushu Mountains area)  
Forest area 92%  
Farmland area 3%  
Population about 27000 people.



29-2 Management System of Takachiho-Go and Shiiba-Yama, Miyazaki Pref.

# 5. Global Agricultural Heritage in Kyushu

About 10 thousand years ago, rice cultivation began in the Hunan region of the Yangtze River basin in China. Later, part of Hunan

In order to overcome these difficult situations, a useful circulation system for agriculture, forestry and fishery on the Kunisaki Peninsula has been devised in the past and registered as a Global Agricultural Heritage.

The Tashibuno-sho district on the Kunisaki Peninsula in Bungo-Takada City is located along a small river on the east side of National Route 10. It was a manor of Usa Jingu Shrine in the past, and the landscape of paddy fields and village has been

maintained since the 15th century. It is now registered as a global agricultural heritage site, and is also the "important cultural landscape of the country". When you visit it, you can see the old countryside scenery where large and small rice fields harmonize.

On the other hand, the management system since the Edo period, in which six agricultural ponds are connected, has been handed down to Tsunai District in Kunisaki City. This is an idea for using rainwater as effectively as possible without wasting it.

The culture of "Rokugo-Manzan" developed as a traditional event related to agriculture is another major feature in this region. Rokugo is six sanctuaries (villages) on the peninsula, and Manzan means the entire set of Usa Jingu Shrine and temples in Rokugo. In other words, "Rokugo-Manzan" is a unique mountain religious culture that combines Shinto and Buddhism in six sanctuaries. Each sanctuary has a pilgrimage mountain temple and Magaibutsu (Buddha Statue carved on rocky cliff), soothing the heart.

#### **B. Managing Aso Grasslands for Sustainable Agriculture (Kumamoto Prefecture).**

The agricultural heritage in the Aso area is the maintenance of active volcanoes, large calderas and grasslands around the outer rim. It is a mechanism that keeps grass in the grassland and connects it to agriculture (see Photo 25). The vast grasslands cover 22,000 hectares, but the burning of pastures called "Noyaki" takes

place at the beginning of spring. You will be amazed at how the land turns black and then turns into grassy freshness and beautiful green carpets.

In addition, Noyaki (field burning) burns only grass on the surface, so plant species and small animals in the soil do not burn. Thus, unlike slash-and-burn agriculture, biodiversity is maintained and pasture is used for a variety of recycling applications, including livestock feed, compost production, soil conditioners, and biomass fuels.

#### **C. Agriculture and Forestry System of Takachihogo-Shiibayama Mountain Area (Miyazaki Prefecture).**

Areas such as Takachiho Town and Shiiba Village are located in the northern part of Miyazaki Prefecture at an altitude of 1000-1700m.

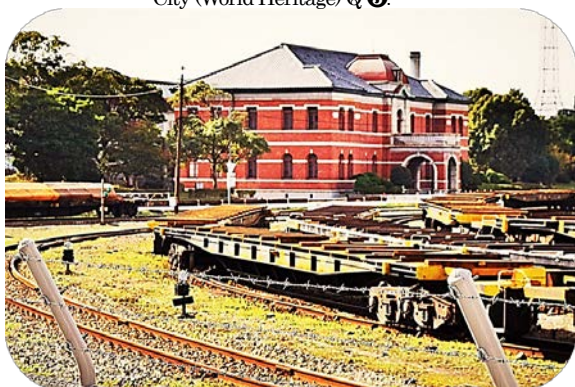
Due to the harsh natural conditions of these mountainous areas, circulation management of agriculture and forestry has been devised, and a joint system for forest management and social infrastructure development has been established.

A wonderful patchwork landscape with conifers (dark green) for production of timber and broad-leaved trees (light green) for production of Shitake mushroom can be seen (see Photo 28).

## **6. World Cultural Heritage in Kyushu**



30-1 Remains of Coal Mine in Hashima Island, Nagasaki City (World Heritage) Q-3.



30-2 Old Yahata Iron Works Office Building (1988), Kitakyushu City (World Heritage) Q-4.



31 Glover's House (World Heritage, Nagasaki City) Q-3.



32 Shitsu Church (World Heritage, Nagasaki City) Q-3.

## 6.1 World Cultural Heritage.

As seeing in the next chapter, Kyushu in the past has been involved in civil and international wars, and many assets have been lost. However, many valuable historical heritages are still preserved, and some assets are listed as World Culture Heritage Sites. The outline is as follows.

○ One of them is the “**site of Meiji Industrial Revolution in Japan**” promoted by steel, shipbuilding and coal mining in the 1850s to the 1910s. In 2015, it was registered as a World Cultural Heritage. Of the 8 locations and 23 assets selected from across the country, 5 locations and 13 assets are selected from Kyushu, accounting for about half.

They are shown in the table of Fig.11 and relate to steelworks, shipyards, coal mining plants and machine plants. Since the Meiji era, various industries in Kyushu have led the

modernization of Japanese industries, laying the foundation for today's advanced industries (see Photos 30 and 31).

○ Another world cultural heritage in Kyushu is “**Sacred Island of Okinoshima and Associated Sites in the Munakata Region**” registered in 2017. It consists of three shrines and an ancient ritual site. In our country, they are regarded as the origin of Shinto.

The region of Munakata City and Fukutsu City located between Fukuoka City and Kitakyushu City is called Munakata Area. In the past, a powerful local clan ruled the Munakata area and possessed navigation skills. For safe navigation between Japan and many parts of the Asian continent, the Okitsu-miya (Shrine)

Table 5 UNESO Intangible Cultural Heritages in Kyushu.

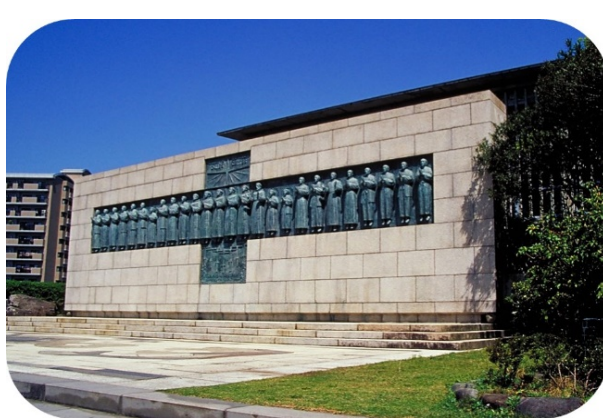
Name of Festival	Sponsorship	Adress	Date	Photo	SB
Hakata -Gion-Yamakasa	Kushida Shrine	Fukuoka City, Fukuoka	July	p.22	Q-7
Tobata-Gion-Ooyamagasa	Shrines in Tobata	Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka	July	37-1	Q-4
Karatsu-Kunti	Karatsu Shrine	Karatsu City, Saga	Nov.	4	Q-7
Yatsushiro-Myouken-Sai	Yatsushiro Shrine	Yatshishiro City, Kumamoto	Nov.	37-2	—
Hita-Gion-Yamakasa	Yasaka shrines etc.	Hita City, Oita	July	8-1	—



33 Ouratenshu-do Church related to the Discovery of Hidden Christians. Q-3



34 French Missionary, Marc Marie de Rotz. (Nagasaki). Q-3



35 26 Saints Monument on the Hill of Nishizaka (Nagasaki) Q-3



36 Okinotsu-miya of Okinoshima and Hetsu-miya in Tajima district (Munakata Taisha) .Q-5



37-1 Huge Lantern Yamagasa in Tobata Gion Ooyamagasa Festival Q-4



37-2 Yatsushiro-Myouken-sai Festival

in Okinoshima, the Nakatsu-miya Shrine in Oshima, and the Hetsu-miya in Tajima area have been built. Munakata Taisha is a set of these shrines along islands, and there is no other example in our country (see the photo 36).

The farthest Okino-shima island is an isolated island, where no one lives, and landing is severely restricted. It is strictly forbidden to take anything out of the island, whether it is a stone, a wood or a grass. Therefore many relics from ancient times remain, some of which are important treasures of the country.

○ Furthermore, “**Hidden Christian and Related Heritages in Nagasaki and Amakusa Regions**” was registered as a World Culture Heritage Site in 2018.

Despite the ban on Christianity by the Edo Shogunate, Christianity secretly continued during the Edo period from the 17th to the 19th century. In the early Meiji era, the ban on Christianity was abolished, and Christians were resurrected. Pope Pius IX sent a letter of joy as an Oriental miracle related to the discovery of a hidden Christian.

This is an extremely important event that cannot be overlooked not only in Kyushu, but also in the religious history of the world (see photos 32, 33, 34, and 35).

## 6.2 UNESCO's Intangible Culture Heritage.

As shown in Table 5, five traditional festivals in Kyushu were designated as UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2016. All of them are festivals of the shrine in summer or autumn. The brave and magnificent parade which "Yamakasa" or floats are carried by many people is very stirring (see photos 37). Of course, there are many other traditional festivals in Kyushu, some of which are introduced in the scenic route in Chapter 8.

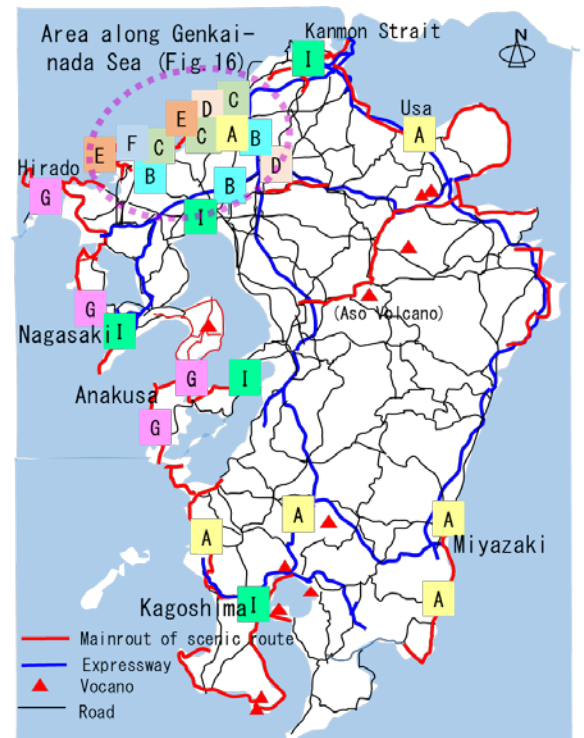


Fig.12 Location of Historical Inheritance except for H and J.

# 7. Kyushu's Historical Matters that has been leading Japan

## — 10 Points of big Historical Events —



Fig.13 Nine Provinces in Ancient Ages



Fig.14 Clan System in the Edo Era.



Fig.15 Seven Prefectures in Modern Age.

Despite the harsh nature, many people have been settled in the mountains and islands of Kyushu, creating various cultures depending on local environmental conditions. Looking at its long history symbolically, a summary of historical processes can be interpreted from a regional standpoint as follows:

According to mythology, Kyushu (Chikushi-jima) had four faces (regions). Later, a local administration system was developed in the 7th century. They were a variety of discipline-based reforms, such as the Taika's Renewal in 645.

As a result, as shown in **Figure 13**, Kyushu was divided into nine states and two islands, which became a prototype of Kyushu's local system.

The aristocratic society in the Emperor system was strengthened from ancient times to the middle ages. However, in the 12th century, groups of samurai emerged and repeatedly fought among clans, communities, or families. As a result, as shown in **Fig.14**, the feudal system of about 30 lords in Kyushu was established and kept for about 300 years from the 17th

century. If visiting Kyushu, you can find the ruins of many castles (see Photo 48).

After the feudal system collapsed about 100 years ago, the local autonomy system in Kyushu was established by seven prefectures in Fukuoka, Saga, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Oita, Miyazaki, and Kagoshima, as shown in Fig.15.

The current prefectural boundary depends largely on topographical conditions such as rivers and mountain ridges. Because of this, the modern local system of the seven prefectures is spatially similar to the ancient ones, and most of the territory of Daimyo during the Edo period is more fragmented. As a result, the basic framework for creating Kyushu culture is thought to have been based on an ancient regional system.

As we will see later, important events in Kyushu have always been at the forefront of Japanese history because of the geographical conditions near the Asian continent. And, it can be said that the civilizations developed in the seven prefectures of Kyushu had a great influence on Japanese history (see Figures 12 and 16).

#### A. Mythical era. Q-1,7,10,14.

The people of Kyushu believe that Japan was created by the god of Ninigino-Mikoto, the grandson of the "goddess of the sun". He has descended from heaven to the top of Takachihono-mine of the Kirishima volcano on the border between Miyazaki and Kagoshima prefectures. It is said that a spear was pushed into the ground for the peace of our country, but it is a posterity product accorded with myth. (See photos 9 and 40).

This is a Japanese myth that the grandson of the sun goddess descended on the earth (Tenson Korin). In particular, Kirishima Shrine in Kagoshima Prefecture (38-1), Usa Jingu Shrine (Page 20) in Oita Prefecture, and Kashii Gu Shrine in Fukuoka City (38-2) are the main shrines involved in this myth. In Satsuma-sendai City, southern part of Kyushu, there is the graveyard that is said to have buried the God of Ninigino-Mikoto, which is protected by the Imperial



38-1 Kirishima Shrine (Kirishima City)



38-2 Kashii Gu Shrine (Fukuoka City) Q-7.



39 Udo-Jingu Shrine (Nichtinan City, Miyazaki) Q-1.

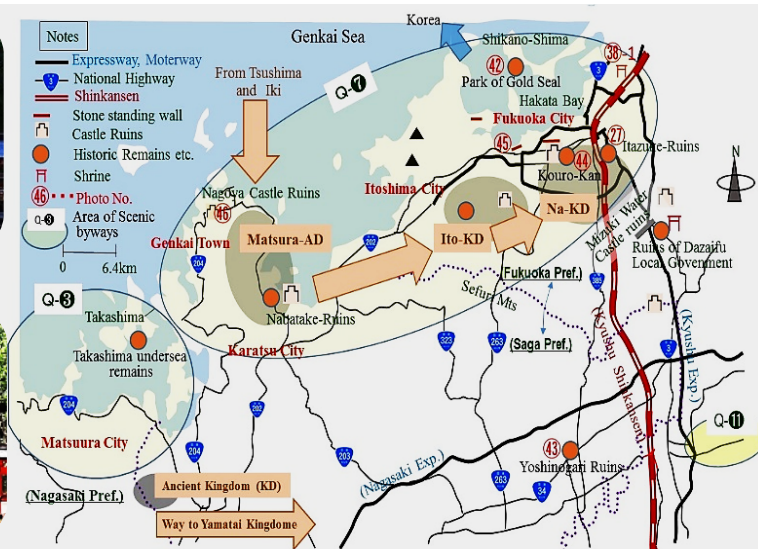
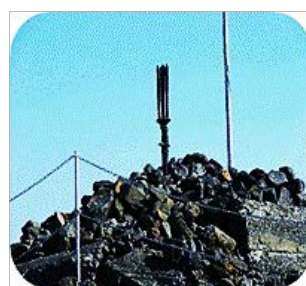


Fig.16 Three Kingdoms in Ancient ages of Northern Kyushu. Q-7.



40 Amenosakahoko (spear) on Mt. Takatiho (Border of Miyazaki & Kagoshima Pref.).



41 Grave Site in Eno Mt. for Ninigino-Mikoto (Satsuma-sendai City) Q-14.

Household Agency, but the truth is known. (See Photo 41).

Certainly, there are many shrines dedicated to the emperor in Kyushu, and Shinto of ethnic religion is widespread. You can get a glimpse of the Shinto beliefs that Japanese people believe by visiting shrines and watching shrine festivals in various places

#### B. Village Enclosed by Ditch in the Yayoi Period (B.C. 4th Century~A.D. 3rd Century) Q-7.

As mentioned in Chapter 5, rice cultivation was transmitted from Asia to many places in Kyushu. During the Yayoi period, villages with moats were constructed in various places, and rice cultivation further developed.

In other words, a moat for defense was found on the Etsuji site in Kasuya Town, Fukuoka. At the "Itazuke Ruins" in Hakata Ward, Fukuoka City, settlements with moats and rice fields of the Yayoi era were excavated (29-1). At the Yoshinogari site in Saga Prefecture, a large village with moats in the late Yayoi period was restored to its original form (43).



42 Gold Seal granted to Nakoku in 57AD. Q-7.



43 Restored Village of Yoshinogari (Saga Pref.).

#### C. International Exchange in the Ancient Age (A.D.1st~3rd Century). Q-7, 6.

In Shikano-shima, Fukuoka City, a gold seal that Emperor Guangwu of the later Han dynasty gave to "Na" kingdom in 57 was found, and is displayed at the Fukuoka City Museum. "Na" was an old kingdom near Fukuoka City. Therefore, this discovery means that diplomatic relations between the northern region of Kyushu and China had already been made at that time.

In addition, the WA-record of the history of China's "Sui" includes WA (Japan) around the 3rd century. It describes the names, lives, and customs of many kingdoms on the way to the Japanese capital. In particular, the locations of the three kingdoms, "Matsura", "Ito", and "Na" in northern part of Kyushu can be almost identified, as shown in Figure16. On the other hand, the leader of Japan at that time was Queen Himiko, but the location of the capital has not yet been specified.

#### D. Envoys into the Tang Dynasty in China in Nara (8<sup>th</sup> Century) and Heian era (9~12<sup>th</sup> Century). Q-7, 6.

During the 7th to 10th centuries, Japanese envoys were repeatedly dispatched to the Tang dynasty via Hakatatsu Port. Their mission was to learn Tang's excellent civilizations and obtain sacred books of Buddhism.

In other words, Kyushu has played an important role as a gateway to Asia for many years. The proof is the guesthouse "Korokan" of the Nara period (8th century). A trace of a diplomatic guesthouse was found at Maizuru Park in Fukuoka City, and a full-scale real model was made. In addition, many relics are on display at the excavation site's history museum (see photo 44).

#### E. Mongolian Invasions (1274, 1281) Q-7, 3.

Despite paying attention to defense, the northern part of Kyushu was plagued by piracy from Silla in the 8th to 10th centuries. In the 13th century of the Kamakura period, our country was invaded twice by the allied forces of the Mongolian Empire and the Koryo Kingdom.

During the Mongolian invasion, Japanese warriors (samurai) fought desperately in northern Kyushu, including Hakata Bay, Itoshima Peninsula, Imari Bay and others. Also, as shown in Photo 45, walls for fort were built along the coastline to enhance defence, after the first battle.

In addition to these efforts, the Mongolian army is said to have been wiped out by the storm. As evidence, Mongolian warships sank in the storm were found on Takashima Island, Matsuura City. Parts of the hull, wooden anchors, ironware, tableware, pottery, etc. were lifted out of the sea and are on display at the Takashima History Museum in Matsuura.

#### F. Dispatch to Korea of Military by Toyotomi Hideyoshi (16<sup>th</sup> Century). Q-7.

As mentioned above, Japan was invaded by Mongolia, but Japan also attacked the adjacent country. Toyotomi Hideyoshi, who unified Japan in 1590, dispatched troops to the Korea Peninsula twice. The battle, however, ended with the death of Toyotomi Hideyoshi.

While waiting for the dispatch, the soldiers enjoyed a tug-of-war game, which has been passed on the Yobuko district of Karatsu



44 Restored Ancient Guesthouse "Koro Kan" (Fukuoka). Q-7



45 Defense Walls against Mongolian Invasions (Fukuoka) Q-7

City as a festival held for 400 years and is now a national important intangible culture property. At the Nagoya Castle Museum in Saga Prefecture, models of castle, large models of battle-ships, and related materials are displayed (see Photo 46).

#### G. Amakusa-Shimabara Rebellion and Hidden Christians (17<sup>th</sup>~19<sup>th</sup> Century). Q-3, 13, 15.

In 1549, Christianity was introduced by the Spanish missionary, Francisco de Xavier, and many Japanese became believers. However, Toyotomi Hideyoshi issued an expulsion order of missionaries in 1587 after the conquest of Kyushu.

At Hideyoshi's order, 26 believers were executed at Nishizakano-Oka Hill in Nagasaki City in 1597 (see photo 35). This place was chosen because it resembled the Golgotha hill where Christ was executed.

During the Edo period, the ban on Christianity was re-ordered in 1612 and 1613. For this reason, Christians continued to hide their faith under unimaginable hardship.

Not only that, farmers on the Shimabara Peninsula were heavily taxed and Christians were tortured. The farmers on Amakusa Island were overestimated for their harvest in the early Edo period, were subject to high taxes, and were damaged by natural disasters.

Farmers in Amakusa and Shimabara were unable to endure suffering and eventually caused riots. This was the first major civil revolution in our country, but after more than a year of fighting, the rebellion was suppressed. Villagers built tombs in various places.

The "Senninzuka" in Photo 47 was newly built in 1956 as a monument to those who died in the war, regardless of government forces or rebels. Many tombs are gathered in one place.

After the rebellion, under further pressure, all Christians were believed to have become Buddhists. However, in Amakusa, Shimabara and Nagasaki areas Christianity were secretly kept.

In Kyushu, it is important to learn the history of serious repression and resurrection in the Christian faith, but details can be found in the historical novel "Silence" (Shusaku Endo).

#### H. Castle Town in the Edo Period. Q-1-13.

The castle was a building for politics and residence of lord, and was the most important facility in the territory. It was built only in one place of the territory by the order of the shogunate. The castle town has been set up to protect a castle and territory, and to develop the region.

But the castle was not always the center of the town. For defense, the castle was built on a hill, at the foot of the mountain, or facing the sea and river. In the plain, the castle was surrounded by moats and stone walls, as shown in Fig. 50-2.

Examining the structure of the castle town, the castle was adjacent to the zone of samurai residence, and shopping streets and

craftsman towns were formed outside it. In addition, many temples were located on the outskirts of the town. In short, the castle town was a land use with the castle at its core.

In the castle, Honmaru-Goten (palace) and Tenshukaku (castle tower) were main ones, but they are not left in the Kyushu region. Some gates, warehouses, stone walls, etc. remain, and several castle towers were rebuilt as before (see Photos ④⑧ and ⑤①-2). Many castles are maintained as parks, preserving archeological sites. So, when you visit, you can at least know their arrangement and scale.

### I. Industrial Revolution in Meiji Era. Q-④, ③, ⑥, ⑬.

After the samurai society of the Edo period, the Meiji era began, and Japanese worked on industrial modernization. As a result, many modern industrial facilities have been built, some of which are now listed as World Heritage sites (see Chapter 6).

### J. Revival from War Damage after World War II Q-①-⑮.

Each town in Kyushu was damaged during the Second World War. In particular, Nagasaki, where the atomic bomb exploded, lost most of its town (see photos ③ and ④⑨).

In such a tragic situation, all towns in Kyushu desperately tried to rebuild. And the cities and towns in Kyushu have revived (photo ④⑨ and ⑤①). The scenic tour offers views of the rebuilt town and nature.

To summarize the current situation in Kyushu, Fig.3 is the local government system, and Fig.4 is the basic transport network. In addition, Table 6 shows the current population and area of each region.

○ The economic scale of Kyushu is equivalent to 20th Belgium in the world.

○ The population of Kyushu is about 13 million, and the population density of 308 people / km<sup>2</sup> is almost the same as Sri Lanka and the Philippines.



④⑥ Prospects toward Korean Peninsula from Nagoya Castle Trace (Karatsu City) Q-⑦.



④⑥ Model of Military Vessels of Japan (left) and Korea (right) in 16th century (Saga Prefectural Nagoya Castle Museum) Q-⑦.



④⑦ Mound of thousand Martyrs (Amakusa City) Q-⑬.



④⑧-1 Castle Tower in Kumamoto Castle (Kumamoto City) Q-⑨.



④⑧-2 Castle Tower in Hirado Castle (Hirado City) Q-⑩.

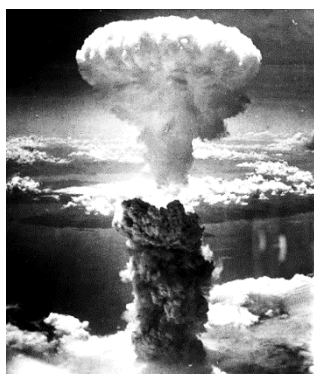
Table 6. Basic Data of Current Kyushu

Prefecture			Capital of Prefecture		
Name	Area	Population	Name	Area	Population
Fukuoka	4987	5110	Fukuoka	343	1593
Saga	2441	814	Saga	432	234
Nagasaki	4131	1325	Nagasaki	406	411
Kumamoto	7409	1747	Kumamoto	390	739
Oita	6341	1134	Oita	502	478
Miyazaki	7735	1072	Miyazaki	644	398
Kagoshima	9188	1600	Kagoshima	548	595
<b>Kyushu</b>	<b>42232</b>	<b>12802</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3265</b>	<b>4425</b>
in 2019/10	km <sup>2</sup>	×10 <sup>3</sup> people	in 2019/10	km <sup>2</sup>	×10 <sup>3</sup> people

(Note) In Kyushu, names of the capital of prefecture and the prefecture are same.

○ Fukuoka City has a population of 1.6 million, the largest in Kyushu, and the fifth in Japan.

○ In Fukuoka Prefecture, more than one-third of the population of Kyushu lives, and the population density in other prefectures is relatively small. However, looking at the entire Kyushu area, cities and rural areas are in harmony and people live abundantly.



④⑨ Atomic Bomb in Nagasaki



④⑨ Nagasaki City destroyed by Atomic Bomb



④⑨ Revived Nagasaki City



50-1 Modern Town in Hakata Station Area in Fukuoka City. Q-7



50-2 Kokura Castle surrounded Modern Buildings (Q-4)

## 8 Tour Guide of 15 Routes of Scenic Byway Kyushu

Evaluating local resources and the promotion system, 15 routes in Kyushu are registered with Scenic Byway Japan. This chapter gives an overview, but a detailed guide for each route is provided separately.

By the way, based on Nature of Kyushu explained up to the previous chapter, 15 landscape routes can be summarized as follows.

- (1) Broadly speaking, the 15 routes can be divided into inland and coastal types. The former is given by routes Q-8, 9 and 11, and the Q-4 route is also substantially the inland type. Others are coastal, but some of them require access to the scenic spot by boat.
- (2) In vegetation, routes Q-1, 6 and 14 are subtropical, Q-3 and 15 are mixed, and others are temperate.
- (3) Active volcanoes are directly included in four routes Q-8, 9, 15 and 6.

In addition to the above, based on the culture and history of Chapters 5 through 7, the 15 routes are grouped into 4 blocks: East, North, West and Central, as shown in Figure 17. Let's take a look at Scenic Byway Kyushu.

### 8.1 Eastern Kyushu in Sunrise. (Q-1, 2, 12, 10).

The national route 10 is longest in Kyushu, of which distance from Kitakyushu City to Kagoshima City is 527 km, and passes Oita and Miyazaki. Along the national route 10, there are four landscape courses on the east coast of Kyushu: TOYONOKUNI (Q-10), BEPPUWANGAN (Q-12), NIPPO (Q-2) and NICHINAN (Q-1).

The Nippo main line of JR Kyushu Railway runs along National Route 10, and the Higashi Kyushu Expressway along the foot of the mountain circles a scenic area. In other words, there are four scenic routes along three main transports, and you can also travel train or car.

Certainly, the manufacturing industry in Kitakyushu City and Oita City is making good progress. However, overlooking the entire eastern part of Kyushu, many mountains occupy a vast area, and in the four scenic areas, agriculture, livestock, and fisheries are also active. Taking the sea as an example, Shiroshita's righteye

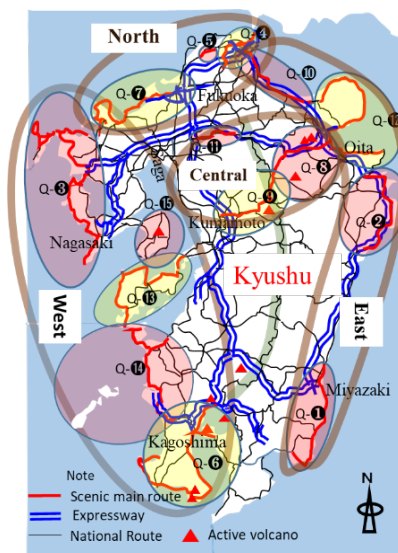


Fig.17 Brock Division of 15 Routes

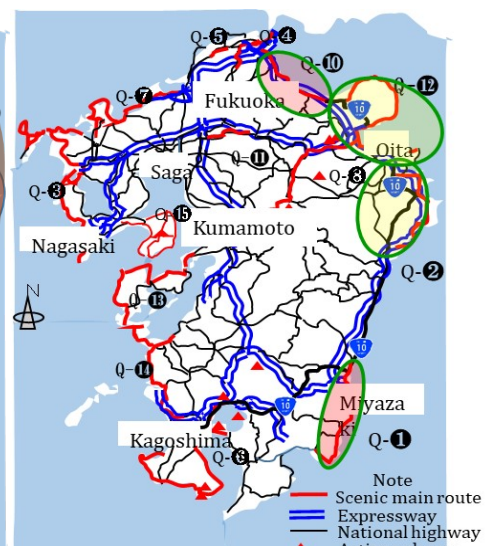


Fig.18 Scenic Byways in Eastern Kyushu

flounder in Hiji City is famous, mackerel in the Saganoseki Strait (Oita City) is popular, and lobster is abundant in the Nippou coastal area. The Hyuga-Nada Sea is famous for skipjack tuna. Therefore, you can fully enjoy local cuisine by traveling the beautiful coast, and this is the main theme of the Route Q-2, in particular.

These four routes are partly parallel to the ancient roads that circulate around Kyushu, and each route has several important ancient sites. Among them, Route Q-1 is in a mythical world, Route 12 is characterized by ancient Buddhist culture, and Route Q-10 has ruins of ancient provincial capital.

#### Q-1 Nichinan Sparkling Coast. NICHINAN Area in Miyazaki Pref. —Unique Coastline, Myth Story, and Tropical Plant.

The southern part from Miyazaki City to Kushima City is the scenic route of NICHINAN with three main resources. Firstly, the terrain is a highlight under the southern sun along the tropical Nichinan Coast. Traveling along this breathtaking view, you'll feel great excitement under the blue sky.



Nichinan Coast (Nichinan City)



Ishinami Coast (Kushima City)



Aoshima Island and Aoshima Jinja Shrine (Miyazaki City)



Q-1 Nichinan Sparkling Coast.

The second beautiful landscape is a colony of subtropical or tropical plants. Here you can see a variety of colorful passionate flowers.

The mythical world over 1300 years ago is the third. This area has the mythological world of the ancient history book “Kojiki”, which describes the land creation, gods, and events in the ancient Japan.

In addition, the southern part of the region is a paradise for wild monkeys and horses. If advancing south, you can reach Koujima Island where became famous for the effect of the 100th monkey. A study of Kyoto University has shown that animals retain civilization. One example is the culture of monkeys, who wash and eat sweet potatoes.

Cape Toi is located south of National Route 448. Large sandstone and mudstone are alternately stacked and surrounded by cliffs. Its

plateau, “Cape horses and its breeding grounds”, has been a habitat for semi-wild horses for more than 300 years, and are designated as a special natural monument.

## Q-2 Nippou Seashore Road. NIPPOU (Oita and Miyazaki Prefectures)-Rias Coast, Fishery Village, and Experience of Fishing Culture.

The scenic area of “Nippou Seashore Road” is along the Rias coast between Nobeoka City and Saiki City, crossing the border between Oita and Miyazaki prefectures.

The main route is National Route 388, which runs zigzag along it, crosses prefectural road 122, and is supported by the Higashi Kyushu Expressway. Driving on these roads

gives you all the scenic spots in this area, and you can enjoy the scenery of small fishing villages.

This scenic area is themed on coastal fishing villages and fisheries with plenty of seafood. In particular, the magnificent lobster festival is held from September to November during the fishing season. Many tourists can eat lobster and enjoy marine sports and events in the background of the quiet bay.

In Kitaura Town of Nobeoka City, a comprehensive marine park of Himuka Resort Park is prepared, which is called "Umi Urara". You can spend a vacation with your family or experience outdoor marine sports.





Hatotsu Coast



Aunt Buffet in (Saeki City)

(120,000) is the second. Although they are adjacent to each other, the characteristics of urban areas are very different.

Oita City is the place where Kokufu (provincial capital) of ancient Bungo Province was located. During the Sengoku period, Christianity spread and the Western civilization was introduced. Although it is now the capital of Oita Prefecture, it has remarkably developed as an industrial city since the late 1960s.

Beppu City is located on the foot of the active volcano (Tsurumidake), and its urban area is known as the town with the most hot spring wells in our country.

## Q-12 Scenic Byways of Beppu Gulf Area. **BEPPUWANGAN** (Oita Prefecture) -Unique Buddhist Culture, Hot Spring, and Beppu Bay.

This scenic areas are the coastal area of Beppu Bay and the Kunisaki Peninsula, which is roughly divided into three zones: Kunisaki Peninsula, Beppu City, and Oita City. The main roads in the scenic area are prepared by National Routes 213, 10, 197, and 217, including the coastal industry road in Oita City.

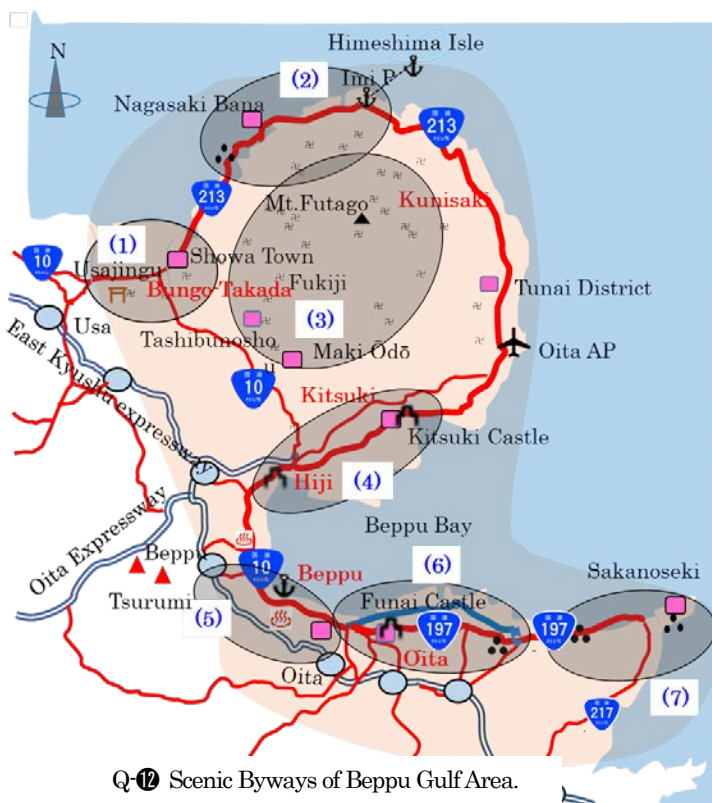
Futago Mountain on the Kunisaki Peninsula is an old volcano with an altitude of 721m. This unique terrain is in the shape of an inverted bowl with numerous V-shaped valleys.

There are many temples and stone-cliff Buddhas on the peninsula, and mountain religion combining Shinto and Buddhism is widespread. For this reason, visiting temples at the bottom of cliffs and mountain peaks is a Buddhist teaching and encountering the guidance of God.

On the other hand, Oita City has the largest population (480,000) in all municipalities in Oita Prefecture, and Beppu City



Stone Buddha on Roadside (Kunisaki)



Q-12 Scenic Byways of Beppu Gulf Area.



Fire Festival of Iwakura Sha Shrine (Kunisaki).



Fukiji Oodo built in the Heian period (Bungo Takada)

## Q-10 Toyonokuni History Roads. TOYONOKUNI (Fukuoka and Oita Prefectures)-Ancient Province, and Na- katsu Kaido Road.

Tokiwa Bridge spans the Murasaki-gawa river in Kitakyushu City and is the starting point of "Toyonokuni History Roads". The main route is Nakatsu Kaido Road in the Edo period, being parallel to National Route 10, passing through 5 cities and 5 towns facing the Suo-Nada Sea, and crossing Fukuoka and Oita prefectures.

Important scenic spots on this route are Usa Jingu Shrine itself (Usa City), its associated Como Shrine (Nakatsu City), and Myoken Shrine (Kokura Kita-ku in Kitakyushu). Usa Shrine was founded in 725 and is the head shrine (Sohongu) of 46,000 shrines nationwide, and the building for main shrine is a national treasure.

The Como Shrine is said to be the ancestral shrine of Usa Shrine, and a shrine building was built in the first half of the 9th century, of which



Usa Jingu Shrine (Usa City)



Metasequoia Forest (Chikugo Town)



Nakatsu Castle (Nakatsu City)



Myouken-gu Shrine (Kitakyushu City)

Yukichi Fukuzawa is the founder of Keio University and his portrait is drawn on a 10000 yen bill. He is the most respected person in Japan, and the childhood residence is preserved in Nakatsu City.

During the Edo period, Nakatsu Kaido Road was connected to a mountain path to Hita Magistrate's office, which was under the direct control of the Shogunate. This road was scenic, but was dangerous due to the steep cliffs along the river. In other words, you can see the beautiful scenery of Yabakei Valley by going to Hita via this road (current National Route 212). But, traffic was extremely difficult. Unable to let this situation, a monk dug an unlined tunnel with chisels and hammers, which are referred as "Ao-no-Doumon"(342m), and it was open for a fee after completion in 1750. It is said to be the origin of toll roads in Japan..

Shinmon is a double gate with a costume floor and is an important cultural property of the country.

It is said that Myoken Shrine was founded by the nobleman Wakeno Kiyomaro. He resolved the false oracle case of Usa Shrine, saved the crisis of the imperial family, and later worked on the relocation of Heiankyo.

An important scenery in addition to the above-mentioned shrines is an ancient heritage sites and historical legacies scattered along the Nakatsu Kaido from Myoukengu Shrine to Usa Shrine. There are ancient tombs scattered from Yukuhashi City to Usa City, and the remains of Buzen Kokufu in Miyako City. In Nakatsu City, there are another attractions such as the Goganji Temple of red walls, Nakatsu Castle, and the former home of Yukichi Fukuzawa.

## 8.2 Northern Kyushu along Genkai Nada Sea (Q-4, 5, 7).

In northern Kyushu, facing the Genkai-nada Sea, people have settled down since ancient times, and civilization has developed. Given these facts, the region is rich in historical and regional resources, within which there are three main points.

○ In the past, many international exchanges and wars have been repeated on the stage of the Genkai Sea spread across Japan and Asia. In this sense, the region has a lot of historical heritage and religious facilities from mythological times to the present. They include those that are highly valued for international exchange and progress. In particular, the heritage that created and developed ancient Shinto in connection with Munakata Taisha

Shrine and international exchange is now registered as a World Heritage Site.

○ Karatsu Kaido Road was on the coast of northern Kyushu, and always had many travelers. As mentioned in Chapter 7, in ancient times, many soldiers were gathered from the east of the country to carry out missions to protect the northern part of Kyushu. In addition, during the Sengoku period, soldiers from all over our country gathered at Nagoya Castle in Karatsu and were dispatched to the Korean peninsula. In the Edo period, Daimyos in northern Kyushu went to Edo via Karatsu Kaido. From these, if you follow Karatsu Kaido, you can see many archeological sites and artifacts related to these events.

○ If you are interested in the local industry, seeing the coal and steel industry is meaningful. During the Meiji period, steel industry and shipbuilding were promoted by introducing of foreign technology, and local coal mines were developed accordingly. As shown in Chap.6, some of them are now registered as "World Heritage of Industrial Modernization".

In northern Kyushu, scenic routes are set in three areas, but there is no problem with the transport network. Fukuoka International Airport, Kitakyushu Airport, and Hakata International Ship Port are available.

All roads and railways from Honshu to Kyushu must pass through the Kanmon Strait, but now there are two railway tunnels, one road tunnel and one road bridge. Since there are two big cities, Fukuoka and Kitakyushu, the road and rail transport networks in this area is urban type.

As a result, in the northern part of the Kyushu region, the road traffic network and railway network are well developed. Travelling on scenic routes is convenient, whether public or private (cars, bicycles, etc.).

**Q-4 Kitakyushu Hospitality Roads.** **KITAKYUSHU** (Fukuoka Pref.)-World Industrial Heritage in Meiji Ages, Kokura Castle and Nagasaki Kaido.

The scenic route "Kitakyushu Hospitality Road" is a landscape area from Kanmon Strait (Moji Ward), the gateway to Kyushu, to Koyanose Town (Yahatanishi Ward) upstream of the Onga River. The Kanmon Strait is a key point of transportation between Kyushu and Honshu, and was connected to Nagasaki

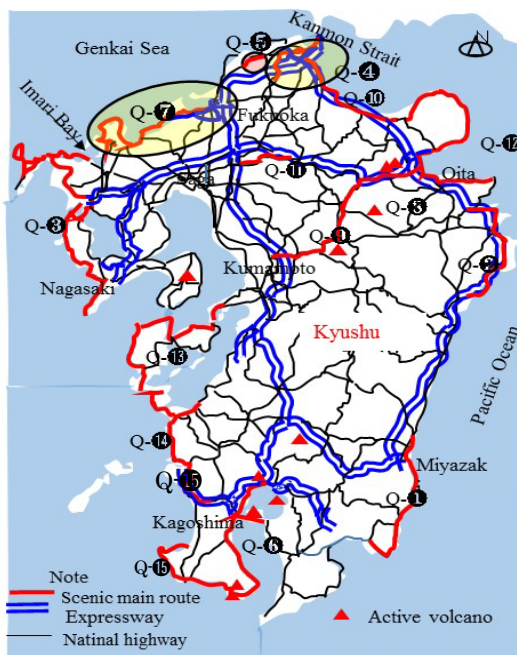


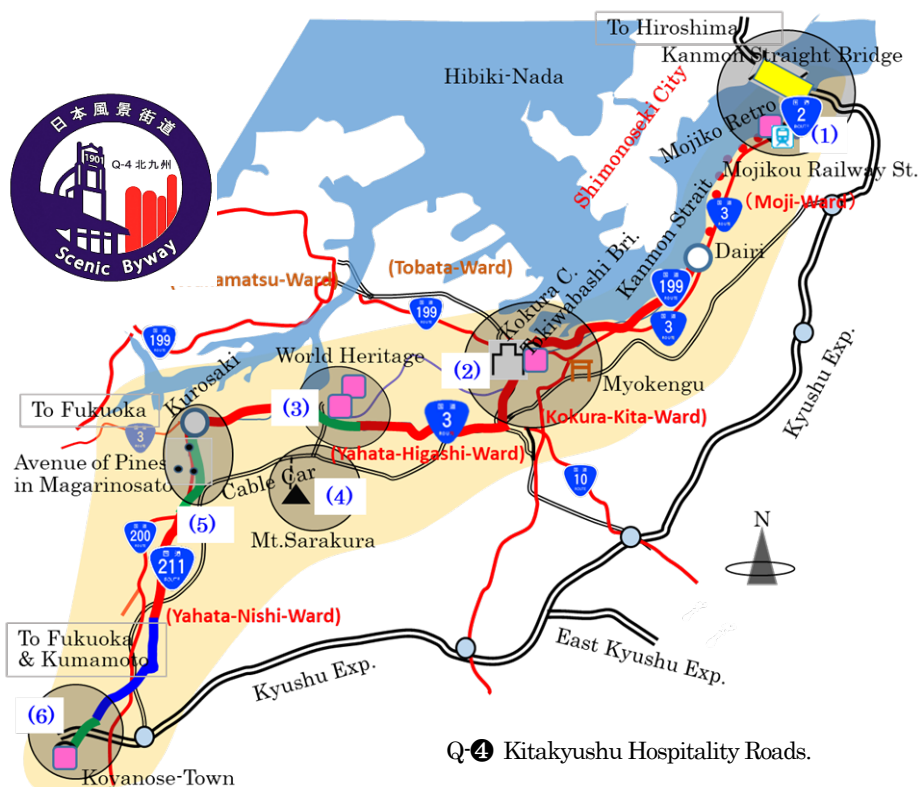
Fig.19 3 Routes of Scenic Byway in Northern Kyushu.

Port on the Nagasaki Kaido Road in the Edo period. The region also played a very important role in modernizing Japanese industry during the Meiji period.

In other words, this scenic area is a mix of historical heritage and modern urban activities, full of valuable heritage that cannot be overlooked when discussing Japanese history. Among them, the following four things can be mentioned especially if you list the attractions of the city you visit.

The first is the Kanmon Strait and the Mojiko Retro area. There is a pedestrian tunnel on the Kanmon Strait where you can cross the sea floor on foot. The retro district was a port town opened in the Meiji period, and is now a retro port town with build-

ings from the Meiji era to the Taisho era (about 100 years ago).



Q-4 Kitakyushu Hospitality Roads.



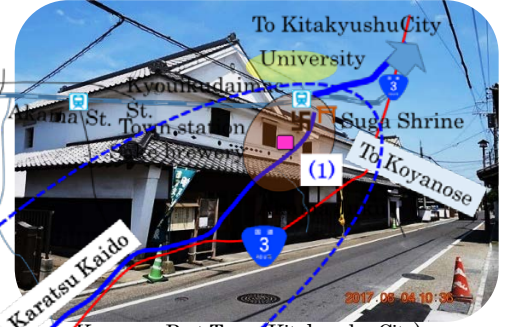
Night view of Kitakyushu City from Mt.Sarakura



Kanmon Bridge between Kitakyushu and Shimonoseki.



Tenshukaku of Kokura Castle



Koyanose Post-Town (Kitakyushu City).



Q-5 Munakata Historic Byway

The second is the center of Kitakyushu City. This is the area where the modern city was built, although the heritage of old town and the castle remains. The cityscape adjacent to the city hall and Kokura Castle is symbolizes this (see Photo 50-2).

The third is the sub-center of urban area, Kurosaki area, which is a factory zone such as a robot factory and steel mill with world industrial heritage. You can see the whole town from Mt. Sarakura at an altitude of 662m. The fourth is the Koyanose-juku (post-town), where Onga River Water Transportation, Karatsu Kaido and Nagasaki Kaido intersect. It is an old town of 100 to 200 years old.

### Q-5 Munakata Historic Byway. MU-NAKATA (Fukuoka Pref.) —History Road (Karatsu Kaido), Town of white Wall, and Walking of Restful Street.

The “Historic Byway in Munakata Area” basically consists of two old towns, Akama-juku (post town) and Haru-machi (town). This scenic route is about 5km long and is a convenient scale to explore the city walking.

Hideyoshi Toyotomi achieved the reunification of Japan at the end of the 16th century, and dispatched troops from Nagoya Castle in Karatsu to the Korean Peninsula. Therefore, he traveled along the Karatsu Kaido Road with his subordinates (Sengoku Daimyo) to Nagoya Castle, but some of their footprints remain. (Note: Nagoya Castle in Karatsu is different from the one in Aichi Prefecture).

Under the "Sankin-Kotai" system, which attends the Edo Shogunate every other year, many daimyos in northern Kyushu traveled along this section of the Karatsu Kaido Road. In addition, during the anti-shogunate campaign in the end of Edo period and



Okinoshima Island and Munakata Shrine (World Cultural Heritage)



Akama-juku (post-town)



Street Lamp of Harumachi.

the coup of political groups in the early Meiji era, many revolutionists stayed in Akama-juku and exchanged information with each other.

In short, this historic Karatsu Kaido Road, linking the northern Kyushu and the capital of Honshu, is a witness to history with significant events in Japan, and still has traces and monuments. In addition, the World Heritage Site, "Sacred Island of Okinoshima and its related Heritages" is a 15-minute drive from this scenic area. As introduced in Chapter 6, it is important as the origin of Shinto and is a folk religion inherent in Japan. Please do not miss such a good opportunity.



Harumachi Old Town (Munakata City).

**Q-7 Genkai Coastal Highway.** **GENKAI** (Fukuoka and Saga Prefectures) – Historic Region since Ancient Ages, Gateway to Asia, Scenic Nature facing to Genkai Nada Sea.

As mentioned in Chapter 7, the regions along the Genkai-nada Sea are the three ancient kingdoms, Mutsu, Ito, and Na. In modern times, it is composed of four municipalities: Fukuoka, Itoshima, Karatsu, and Genkai.

One of the scenic resources of this route area is the old geological strata and rough seas in Genkai-nada Sea. The beautiful coastal drive offers many rare rocks and spectacular views.

The other is the culture and civilization brought to the gateway of the Asian Continent. Japan's envoys to the Sui and Tang dynasties of China have necessarily passed through this area due to geographical conditions. As a result, many arts, religions, medicine, science, and food cultures from all over Asia have been brought to Kyushu earlier than anywhere else.

The people of Kyushu have experienced not only good things but also unfortunate events. The northern part of Kyushu was at the forefront of national defense in the 6th and the 7th centuries, but soldiers from all over the country performed their duties. Many poems in Japan's oldest collection of poems, Manyoshu (founded in the middle of the 8th century), convey the harsh environment of those days. Stone monuments engraving these poems are built in the northern part of Kyushu as well as in the southern part.

Later, stone and sand walls were constructed along the coast at that time to protect against



Hakozaki-gu Shrine (Fukuoka City).

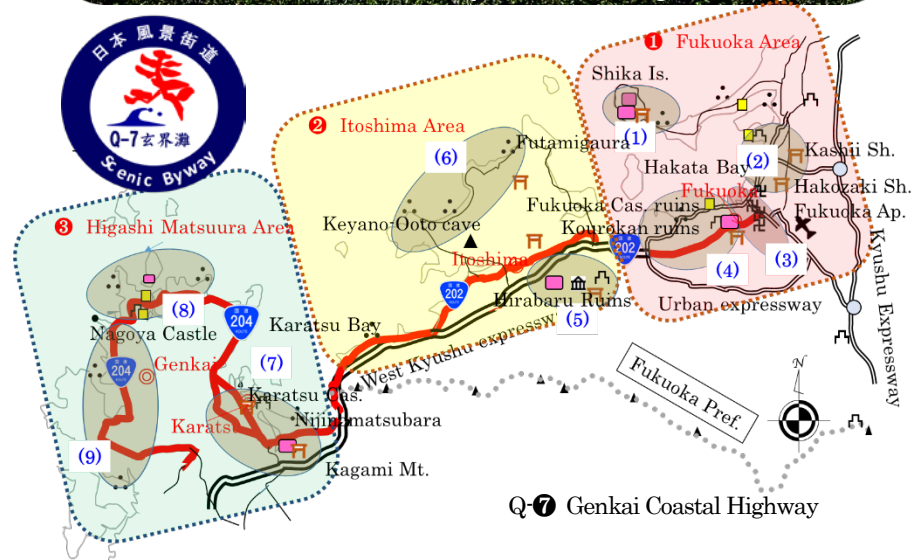
Mongolia invasions in 1274 and 1281. Some of them remain along the former coast line (see photo 45).

Along the Karatsu Kaido, in addition to the castle towns of Fukuoka and Karatsu, there are several old towns with Edo period atmosphere, such as Akama, Hakozaki, Meinohama and Maebaru. By visiting them, you can enjoy each unique culture, historical cityscape and so on.

Also, once a year, there are several unique and wonderful festivals in the Genkai

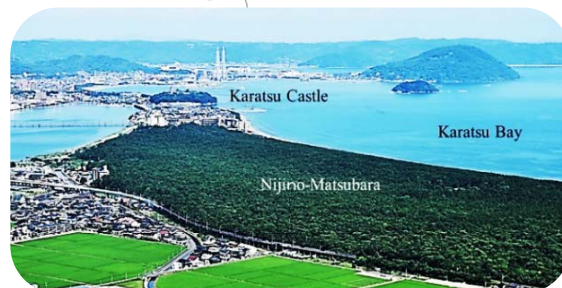


A city in Fukuoka facing Hakata Bay



Q-7 Genkai Coastal Highway

Kazariyama in Hakata Yamakasa Festival.



View from the Top of Kagami Yama Mt. (Karatsu City).



Karatsu Castle (Karatsu City)

Myobaru Square mound for Queen of Ito-Koku (Itoshima City).

coastal region. In particular, Hakata Gion Yamakasa in Fukuoka City, Tobata Gion Oyamakasa in Kitakyushu City, and Karatsu Kunchi in Karatsu City are registered as UNESCO World Intangible Cultural Heritage. To visit, ask the organizing committee or the tourism department of the city hall for the schedule and location of the festival.

### 8.3 Peninsulas and Islands in the most West Kyushu (Q-3, 15, 13, 14, 6).

In general, West Kyushu is an area from Fukuoka to Kagoshima via Kumamoto, along National Route 3. However, Nagasaki Peninsula and Amakusa Island are further west of Ariake Sea and Yatsushiro Sea. Therefore, these areas that lead to the Satsuma Peninsula are at the westernmost end of Kyushu, and there are five scenic routes in this area (see Figure 20). That is, among them you can see the last sunset that really falls on the horizon. The sun is red, illuminates the horizon, and the silhouettes of the buildings and long bridges are stunning.

Since the warm Tsushima Current is offshore of this area, you can see subtropical plants such as banyan trees (Akou) and palm trees on the roadside, and enjoy various tropical atmosphere.

Buddhism and Christianity were introduced to Japan along with Western civilization through voyages and the warm ocean currents. But the introduction of new religions has always been disastrous.

In the early days of the introduction of Christianity, 26 saints were executed on the Nishisakano-Oka Hill in Nagasaki City. In Amakusa and Shimabara, Christian peasants rebelled but failed. Since then, many Christians have been checked by stepping on the picture of Christ to prove that they are not Christians. Because of these, Christians continued to hide on the west coast islands and peninsulas, but their suffering was enormous.

Meanwhile, Buddhist Jodo Shinshu was also banned in the southern Kyushu during the Edo period. For this reason, believers hid in caves and prayed, but the caves remain in several places in southwest Kyushu.

If you are interested in the sufferings of these religions, traveling to Nishikyushu means visiting sacred places and churches. It may be comparable to a pilgrimage trip to Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain.

**Q-3 Nagasaki Sunset Highway. NAGASAKI (Nagasaki Prefecture)-Hidden Christian, Sunset Road, and Long Bridge.**

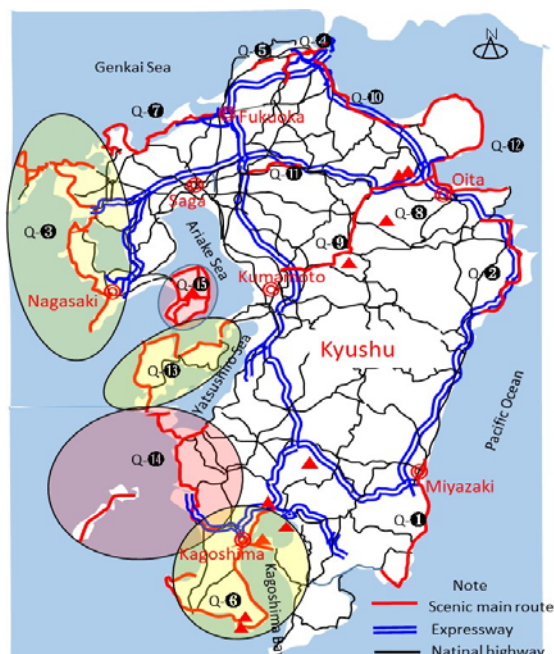


Fig.20 Five Scenic Byways in the most Western Region in Kyushu.

From the 17th century to 19th century (Edo period), the shogunate declared an isolated country and banned travel and trade with foreign countries. Under these conditions, our country officially approved only trade between the Netherlands and China at Nagasaki Port.

As a result, local civilization developed in the Nagasaki region. The "Nagasaki Sunset Highway" was built using these unique landscape resources. In other words, this scenic area extends from Matsuura City and Hirado City in the northern part of Nagasaki Prefecture to the southern part of Nagasaki City via the Nishisonogi Peninsula.

The main route of the "Nagasaki Sunset Highway" is National Route 204, 202 and 489, which extend from the north side of Saikai National Park to the south.

The scenic spots of the "Nagasaki Sunset Highway" can be broadly divided into four zones: Matsuura/Hirado, Sasebo, Nishisonogi, and Nagasaki. All zones are islands or peninsulas, and have three important content, sunsets behind countless islands and horizon, world heritage of hidden Christians and related heritage, and the world's industrial modernization heritage.

The first landscape resources are sunset and countless islands. Looking at the sunset on the western edge of Kyushu Island, the sun setting on the horizon grew redish, and everyone stopped and



Theme Park, Huis Ten Bosch (Sasebo City).



St. Francis Xavier Memorial Church. (Hirado City).



Lanthanum Festival in Chinatown.

wished for happiness. At your feet, you will be amazed by the hordes of islands. There are 48 islands the Iroha Islands in Imari Bay, 208 islands of the Kujukushima Islands in Sasebo, about 120 islands in the Amakusa Islands, and about 140 islands on the Goto Islands. Small islands that may seem like children of the earth may seem to be rushing from offshore to the coast.

Since the introduction of Christianity on Hirado Island in the 16th century, Christianity was spread throughout the region. However, the Edo Shogunate promulgated a ban on Christianity. People were forced to step on the picture of Christ to reveal that they were not Christians. Sometimes, they were tortured to change religion. Because of this, during the 300 years of the Edo period, their religion was kept secret and later called “hidden Christians”.

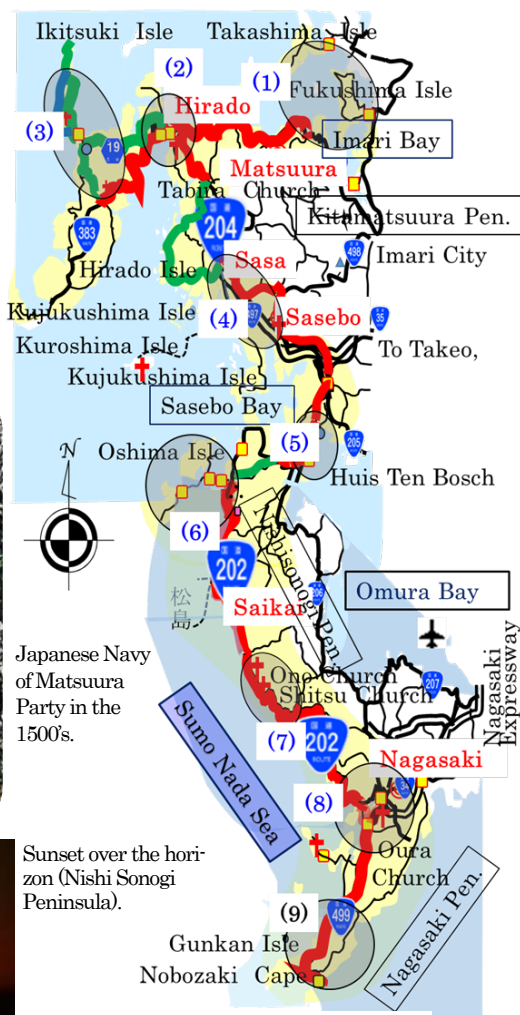
In the Meiji period (1873), the ban on Christianity was officially lifted, Christianity was revived, and many churches were built. Relics left behind by hidden Christians, objects of worship, and churches built by resurrection were listed as World Cultural Heritage in 2018.

The third is the “Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution Heritage”, which was actively operated from the 1850s to the 1910s and included coal mining, shipbuilding and steel industries. There are eight assets in the Nagasaki area, which make up one-third of Japan’s 23 assets in the whole country.

In Sasebo City, heavy industry developed in naval port, and shipyards were built in Koyagi Town (Nagasaki City) and Saikai City after the war. Recently, there are also the promotion of new challenge such as large theme park.



Houki Kyoukai Church  
(Hirado City)



Q-3 Nagasaki Sunset Highway

## Q-15 Shimabara Peninsula Scenic Highway. SHIMABARA (Nagasaki Pref.)-Unzen Volcanic Area Geopark, and Rebellion in Shimabara & Amakusa.

One of a pair of peninsulas in the southern part of Nagasaki Prefecture is the Shimabara Peninsula, an important spot of which is Unzen Active Volcano. The peninsula is 150 km long, and 40 km wide, and its scenic byway is called the “Umi-Yama Scenic Highway in the Shimabara Peninsula”.

The main route is made up of three National Routes 57, 251, and 389, that surround the scenic area. Disaster prevention roads and prefectural roads complement them.

For the public transportation, the Shimabara Railway is available between JR Isahaya Station and Shimabara Port. A bus route network is also established along major road.

Main landscape resources of the Shimabara Peninsula are active volcanoes, “life in harmony with volcanoes”, three types of hot springs, and the history of Christian suffering.

Millions of years ago, there were several small islands in the Shimabara area. After much volcanic activity, it became a peninsula 500,000 years ago and an earthquake struck, creating a fault-separated rift north-south in the center of the peninsula. In addition, there was volcanic activity and mountain collapse that shaped the current terrain.

The Shimabara Peninsula, which is part of Unzen Amakusa National Park, was certified as a Global Geopark based on Unzen Volcano in 2009.



Q-15 Shimabara Peninsula Scenic Highway.



Miyama-Kirishima in Unzen-Dake Mt.



Tatsuishi Coast



Ruins of Hara Castle



Hot Spring Source in Obama Onsen.



Shimabara Castle Q-15

The second landscape resource is the revolt by farmers on Amakusa Island and Shimabara Peninsula. In 1637-38, farmers in the region could not survive excessive taxes, famines, and severe repression of Christians. For this reason, under the leadership of 16-year-old Shiro Amakusa, the peasants caused the biggest uprising in our country. They stayed in the abandoned Hara Castle, and its size was 37,000, including non-combatants.

The corresponding shogunate army was 130,000 soldiers, with overwhelming power. Still, the castle was attacked several times, but all failed. For this reason, the Shogunate troops attacked, cutting off the rebels' supplies, eventually killing or forcing into suicide on all rebels. This was a tragic event we had never experienced.

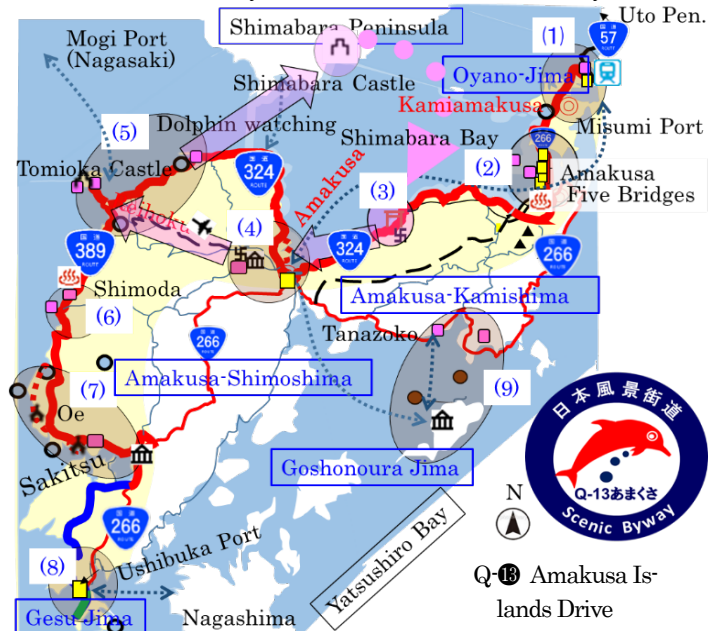
At the bottom of Tachibana Bay, a volcanic caldera, there is a magma pool that transfers heat to the Unzen Peninsula, making the entire peninsula a recreation area with hot springs. The main ones are Obama, Unzen and Shimabara Onsen (hot spring). The temperature of hot water at Obama Onsen is 105 degrees. Unzen Onsen is a hell of 30 fountains and hot steam, and is said to be good for healing wounds. Shimabara Onsen is about 40 degrees which is good for skin.



Statue of Amakusa Shiro (Amakusa City).



Sakitsu Church (Amakusa City).



Q-15 Amakusa Islands Drive

**Q-15 Amakusa Islands Drive.** **AMAKUSA** (Kumamoto Pref.)-Rebellion of Amakusa & Shimabara, Sunset Road of West Coast, Geopark Islands.

The scenic area of "Amakusa Island Drive" is the Amakusa Islands, Kumamoto Prefecture. The main areas are four main islands lined from north to south, and the Goshonoura Shima Islands in the Yatsushiro Sea within the Shimabara-Amakusa National Park.

The Amakusa Five Bridges were built in 1966, and since then many long bridges have been built connecting the islands. Today, inhabited islands are mostly linked by long bridges, like a bridge museum.

By the way, Misumi Westport, located at the tip of Uto Peninsula, is registered as a World Heritage Site of Industrial Modernization and is



Amakusa Matsushima Area and Amakusa Five Bridges.



Girder Stone Bridge with multi Columns (National Important Cultural Property).



Meitoku Ji Temple and Statue of Niu (Amakusa City)



Dolphin Watching (Amakusa City).

the starting point of this scenic route. The main roads are National Route Nos 266, 324, and 384, and some areas require local roads. The Goshonoura Islands, famous for fossils, require a boat approach.

This scenic route has two important spots. One is about the riots in Amakusa and Shimabara. In the early 17th century, a group of farmers led by the 16-year-old Christian boy Shiro Amakusa (1623~1638) rebelled against the Shogunate. He was about the same age as the Orleans maid, Jeanne d'Arc (1412~1431).

Suwa Shrine in Amakusa Kamishima Island is the place where the battle began. As mentioned earlier, peasants crossed Shimabara Bay, after intensive battles at Hondo and Tomioka Castles. Then, they built a barricade at Shimabara Castle and fought. This story resembles the Exodus from the Old Testament. Eventually, however, 37,000 farmers were killed or committed suicide. This kind of tragedy is not found anywhere else. Later, Christian faith was secretly kept in the southern part of Amakusa City. It revived in the Meiji era, and the Oe Church and Sakitsu Catholic Church were built. In addition, five literary youths from Tokyo came to study European literature and played an active role as pioneers in its development. It may be said that Amakusa contributed to civilization and enlightenment of the Meiji era.

Another landscape resource in this area is Amakusa Geopark. The main site is Goshonoura Islands where dinosaurs and ammonite fossils were found. In addition, there are many strangely shaped rocks on the west coast of Amakusa Island and a tropical marine park on the south coast. And, Amakusa Island is a pottery producing area. 80% of the porcelain produced nationwide uses clay mined on this island.

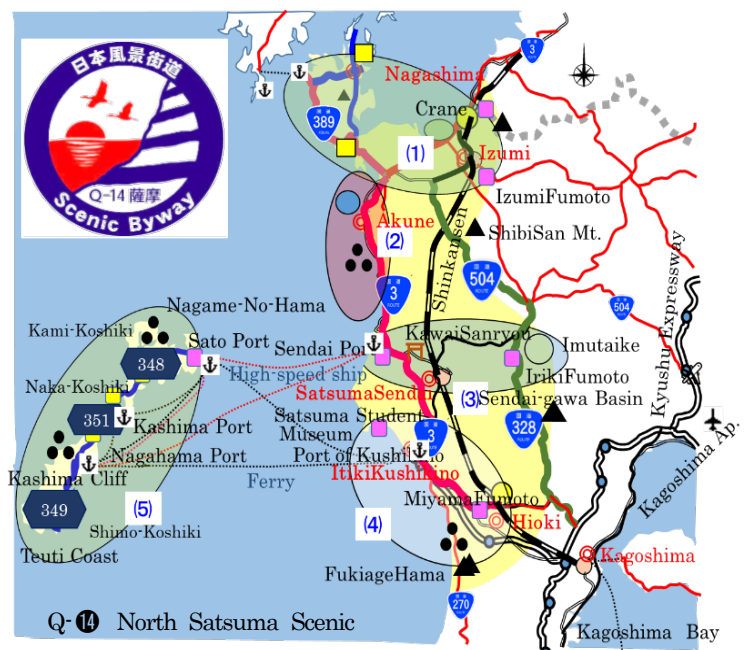
Dolphin Watching can't be missed. Recently, this show in this scenic route is popular with Dolphin Watching, which naturally settles in the mouth of Shimabara Bay. In Amakusa City, there are pleasure boats from Marine World, and dolphins swimming in parallel with them are dynamic and you can fully enjoy them.

On the other hand, the Ushibuka area is the birthplace of Haiya folk music. "Haiya" means the south wind. This song and dance began with a Japanese-style banquet for sailors who temporarily stayed in the harbor to wait for the wind of the voyage. Today, the Haiya Festival Dance Parade is held every spring near the curved bridge of the Haiya Ohashi Bridge. This rhythms with good tempo are spreading all over the country, but it is a good idea to visit them once to see the real thing.

### Q-14 North Satsuma Scenic Tour.

**SATSUMA** (Kagoshima Pref.)-Untouched Nature, Unique Samurai Residence District, and Soil Layer of Shirasu.

This scenic route is in the northern part of the Satsuma region of Kagoshima prefecture. Five cities from Izumi City to Hioki City,





Samurai Residence Area in Sato Fumoto of Kami-Koshiki Island (Satumasendai City).



Nagameno Hama Beach in Kami-Koshiki Island.



Giant Rock in Shimo-Koshiki Island (Satumasendai City).



Sand beach of Teuchi Bay in Shimo-Koshiki Island (Satumasendai City).



Old Masuda Family Housings in Iriki-Fumoto (Satumasendai City).



Cranes on Izumi Plain (Izumi City)

including Nagashima Town, are the area of the scenic route. The main roads are National Route Nos 3, 328, 389, and 504, and three prefectural roads link the three islands of Koshiki Shima. Based on this road network and the location of the scenic spots, the area of North Satsuma Scenic Tour is divided into five zones: Izumi / Nagashima, Akune, Sendai River Basin, Koshiki Island, and Ichikikushikino / Hioki (see the next map).

Both the Satsuma Route (Q-14) and the Kagoshima Route (Q-8) are scenic routes in Kagoshima Prefecture, and share the unique landscape resources of this region. In other words, from the Sengoku (Warring States) period to the Edo period, the outer castle, "To-jo", and the local samurai village "Fumoto", were inherited, preserving local culture, unique traditions, and interesting customs. Some districts are still retain their look and feel. Let me explain them first.

The Shimadzu lord and one group of samurai who served it lived in the inner castle (Uchi-Jo), but the entire territory was subdivided and most samurai were assigned to it. This is a distributed arrangement of the outer castle as a defense base, and the place where the samurai who serve there gathered was called "FUMOTO".

Samurai who lives in the village was called "Goshi" in Japanese. This Goshi was a person usually engaged in agriculture and fighting as a warrior in an emergency.

However, all buildings in the outer castle were destroyed in accordance with the "Law of One Castle in One Country" promulgated by the Edo Shogunate. For this reason, the role of defense and governance was taken over by FUMOTO. It can be said that autonomy function of FUMOTO has been strengthened.

This system was an idea to establish territorial defense in Satsuma's tight financial situation. In FUMOTO, unique village landscapes, autonomy, education, customs, etc. were born. From this perspectives, it can be said that the following FUMOTO is well-maintained in this scenic areas:  
○ "FUMOTO" and "Noda-FUMOTO" in Izumi City are large and close to Izumi Station on the Kyushu Shinkansen. Therefore, you can easily visit.

○ "Iriki-FUMOTO" in Satsuma-sendai City is a typical samurai village in a mountain village that can be imaged the Edo period.

○ The samurai residences in the two districts of the Koshiki Islands ("Sato" and "Teuchi") have unique style gardens and stone walls due to the limited resources in the island.

○ "Miyama FUMOTO" in Hioki City was originally

opened by potters who have emigrated from Korea, and they are still engaged in pottery activities.

Another excellent resource of this scenic route is wonderful nature.

☆ In the plains of Izumi City, special natural monuments, cranes more than 10,000, come from the Siberian region in winter and fly around in the sky (see above Photo).

☆ The coastline of the main scenic route area is a plateau made of volcanic ash shirasu erupted from the volcano (see Photo 17). At the same time, the Shilasu beach formed on the shore is arcuate or zonal as shown in the photo, and shines brightly.

☆ Koshiki Island, a quasi-national park, is a place where you can see untouched nature, such as the cliffs piled up since 80 million years ago (Photo 5) and stunning huge rocks. Koshiki Island can be easily accessed in 50 minutes from Sendai Port (high-speed ship) and Kushikino New Port (ferry).

Another local resource to keep in mind is the Imuta Pond, upstream of the Sendai River, which is registered as a Ramsar Convention (Photo 28). In addition, the burial place of Niniginomikoto, Eno-Misasagi, is adjacent to the central area of Satsuma-Sendai City.

Downstream of the Sendai River is a serrated embankment built to prevent floods during the Edo period. The Kushikino Port has also a British Student Memorial Hall, where you can see materials from young people who studied secretly in the UK at the end of the Edo period. These are important landscape resources that tell us about the history of Japan.

## Q-6 Kagoshima Scenic Byways.

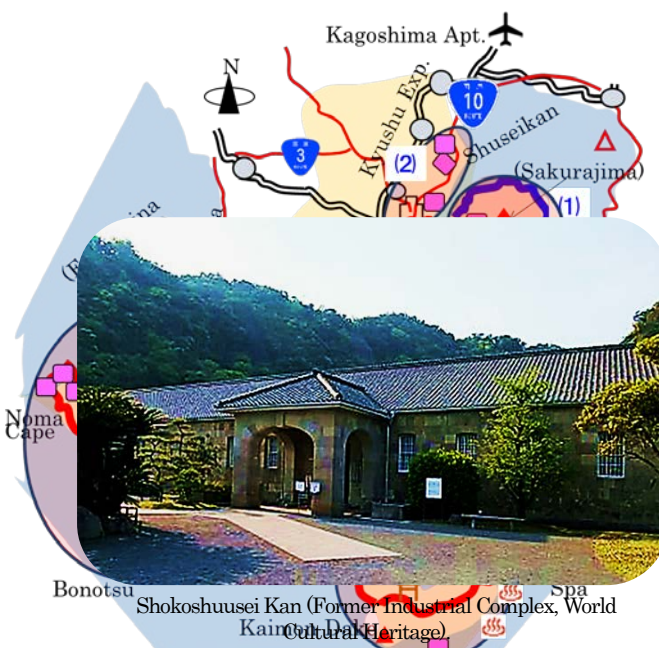
**KAGOSHIMA** (Kagoshima Pref.) --Active Volcano, Subtropical Zone, Leading Activity toward Meiji Era.

The “Kagoshima Scenic Byway” area extends from Kagoshima City to the southern part of the Satsuma Peninsula along Kagoshima Bay, and consists of five cities: Kagoshima, Ibusuki, Minami Satsuma, Minami Kyushu and Makurazaki. The main routes are National Routes 224, 225 and 226.

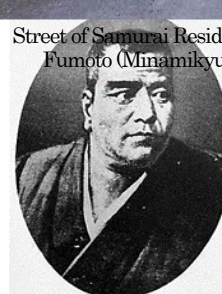
Kagoshima Bay is a major scenic resource in this area, but it was originally a graven along the north-south fault. Subsequently, several volcanoes including the surrounding area erupted repeatedly and grew into a bay.

In the bay, Sakurajima eruptions were repeated, and the Osumi Peninsula side eventually became land. In addition, there is an eruption of Kaimondake at the entrance of the bay, and the surrounding area is covered with volcanic ash (shirasu). These results are the current appearance of Kagoshima Bay and Satsuma Peninsula.

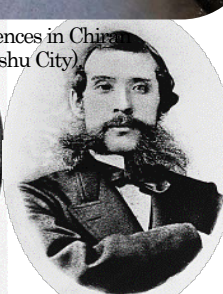
In other words, the southern part of the Satsuma Peninsula is covered with volcanic rocks and volcanic ash on old ocean plates and pyroclastic flow deposits, creating various scenic spots. Heading south on Kagoshima Bay side, you will encounter Sakurajima, Shirasu Plateau, Sand Steaming Hot Spring, Ikeda Caldera Lake, Yamakawa Bay, and Kaimondake.



Shimazu Nariakira,  
Lord of Satsuma Clan  
in the late Edo Period.



Takamori Saigo (Mil-  
itary Man), Leading  
Person in Meiji Resto-  
ration.



Toshimichi Okubo (Poli-  
tician), Leader of Meiji  
Restoration and Meiji Ad-  
ministration.

Three Great Historical People in the Meiji Restoration.

In addition, you can enjoy the dramatic natural scenery of the southernmost tip of mainland Kyushu when you drive along Route 226 from Makurazaki City to Minamisatsuma City via Bozu and Noma Peninsula. There are various views of coral reefs, steep terraced fields, rocky reefs painted in Hiroshige ukiyo-e, and long-lasting Fukiage coast.

Geology and topography are the result of massive volcanic activity. Nevertheless, people have settled here since ancient Jomon times and have built countless civilizations and cultures. In this regards, the following three points can be considered as scenic resources in the area.

Kagoshima's industrial modernization heritage is designated as a World Cultural Heritage Site. This is a legacy that introduced European technology in the late Edo era and promoted industries such as steelmaking, shipbuilding, machinery and spinning. In

terms of people, there are many soldiers, politicians, and business people who have been active since the Meiji Restoration. Among them, Takamori Saigo and Toshimichi Okubo are famous nationwide. Kagoshima City is a place where you can visit these things and the heritage of the people.

The second is a samurai residence in Chiran. "FUMOTO" is as explained in Q-14, but Chiran can be recommended as one of the most typical cases in the whole Satsuma clan. As you can see in the picture, you will be impressed by the very well-maintained samurai residence and Japanese garden. The third is the Fukiage Beach Sand Festival, which has been held every year since 1987, in early May. Various sand sculptures are created by artists and are on display as to compete.

## 8.4 Mountain Area in Central Kyushu (Q-8, 9, 11).

When traveling from the east to the west in the center of Kyushu, it is inevitable to drive a car while sewing through the mountains. Some courses require you to avoid volcanoes, and depending on the size of the eruption, you may be barred from entering the volcano.

However, mountain roads in Kyushu have been built for a long time. In ancient times, the ancient road to Dazaifu were built, and

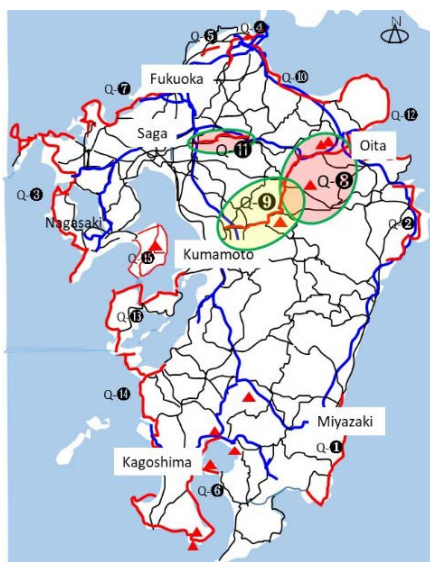


Fig.21 Three Routes in Central Kyushu.

in the Edo period, a Higo road was established across Kyushu. The mountain path to the Hita magistrate, which was directly managed by the shogunate, led to many castle towns. This situation can also be understood from the network of national routes and major prefectural roads, which have succeeded mountain roads. In addition, the modern road of "Yamanami-highway" was built for mountain tourism, after World War II.

The volcanic eruption is horrible, but there are many blessings, such as mountaineous sports on vast plateaus, enjoyable mountain life, mountain food and healing spas.

Utilizing these benefits, three scenic routes, Q-8, Q-9, and Q-11, were provided in the mountain road network of central Kyushu. Enjoy the scenery that people enjoy on the magnificent mountains.

### Q-8 Yamanami Highland Parkway.

**YAMANAMI** (Oita Prefecture)—Scenic Nature, Hot Spring, Drive in Highlands.

The scenic area of the "Yamanami Highland Parkway" is a region connecting Beppu City and Takeda City via Yufu City and Kokonoe Town in Oita Prefecture. The main scenic spots are 5 zones, which are 2 hot spring towns (Beppu and Yufuin) and 3 plateaus.

Landscape resources common to these zones are vast plateaus, volcanoes and hot springs. The main route is the section of prefectural road No. 11 connecting Yufuin and Aso, and is called the "Yamanami Highway". It is the most popular driving and touring course in Kyushu.

Except for of Beppu, Yufu and Takeda cities at both ends of the main scenic route, the rest of the center is the plateau at the foot of the Kuju Mountains. This route is along the "Yamanami Highway" and has an altitude of 700 to 1400m. You need to go around the active volcanoes Tsurumi-dake,



Yunotubo Dori. in Yufuin Spa (Yufu City).



Jigoku of Buddhist Priest (Beppu City)



Kinrin Lake at Mountain Base in Yufu-Dake Mt.



Mountain Type Hells in the Beppu Hot Spring (Beppu City).



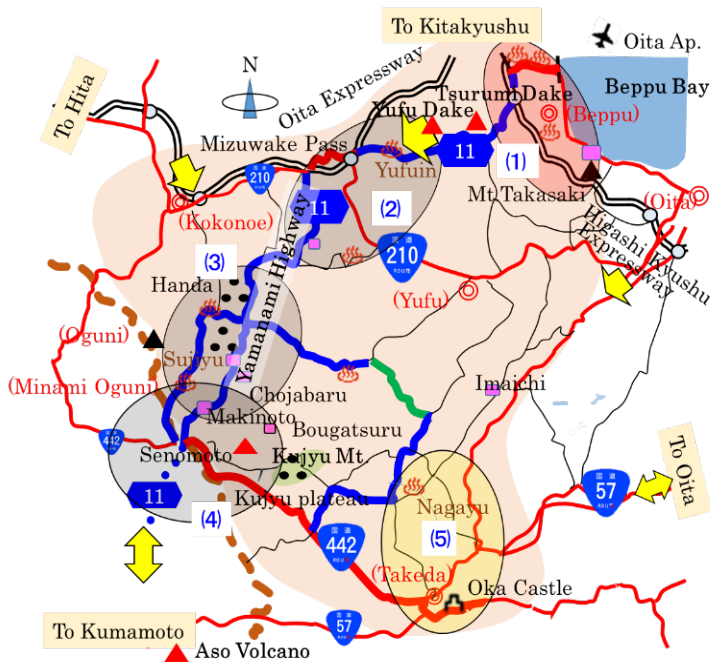
Blood Pond Type Hells in the Beppu Hot Spring (Beppu City).



Miyama-Kirishima on Hiji-Dake.



Rentaro Taki and Ruins of Oka Castle (Takeda City, Oita).



Q-8 Yamanami Highland Parkway.

Yufudake and Kokonoe Mountains. In particular, the Kuju Mountains are composed of more than a dozen volcanoes, and Mt. Nakadake of them is the highest in the mainland of Kyushu at the alti-



Tadehara Wetland (Kokonoe Town).



Takagawa Public Bathhouse built in 1879 (Beppu City).

tude of 1791 m.

This mountain area is on the Oita side of Aso Kuju National Park. Along the route, you can stroll through the “Tadehara” wetland (1000 m above sea level, 38 ha in area) and the “Bogatsuru” wetland (1200 m, 53 ha.). These are registered the Ramsar Convention and are the largest intermediate wetlands in Japan.

The base of the route is a visitor center and a rest house. These can be used as a base for climbing, hiking, and driving around them.

This scenic route area is unique in that it has a variety of hot springs. Beppu Onsen (hot spring) boasts the largest number of hot springs in Japan. Yufuin Onsen is a healthy resort-type of hot spring. Suijiyu Onsen is known as a healing hot spring that drops hot water from high places and relaxes your shoulders. Nagayu Onsen is one of the best carbonated

spring in Japan. After climbing or hiking, relaxing in these various hot springs is a blissful journey.

Even if you can't see all the scenic spots, Oka Castle and its castle town, Takeda City, can't be missed. In other words, when you follow National Route 442 from Senomoto Kogen to Takeda, you can see a castle on a hill. This castle is famous for the song, “the Moon Over the Ruined Castle”, composed by Rentaro Taki (see photo). The castle town is located in the valley at the foot of the hill, and has the same relationship as a medieval town and castle in Germany.

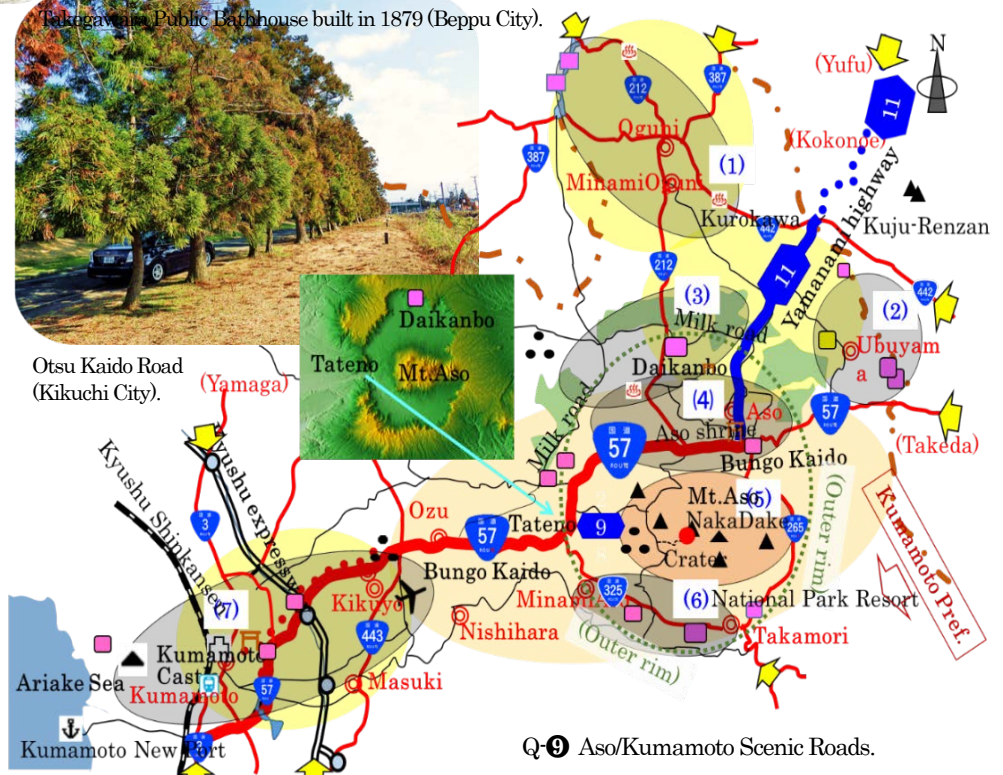
## Q-9 Aso/Kumamoto Scenic Roads.

**ASO/KUMAMOTO** (Kumamoto Pref.)-Aso Volcano and Caldera, Bungo Kaido, Kumamoto Castle.

The Aso / Kumamoto Scenic Road Area is a mountainous area excluding Kumamoto City, and is divided into three major areas: Oguni / Ubuyama, Aso Volcano, and Kumamoto Castle Town. The former two areas are included in Aso Kuju National Park, and the third, Kumamoto, is an urban area that inherits the castle town was built 400 years ago.

The main road in this scenic area is National Route 57, with the addition of Yamanami Highway section between Semoto and Aso, which is adjacent to the “Yamanami Highland Parkway Q-8”. There are many roads around the Aso Mountains, Caldera and outer rim. From these reasons, travelers are not restricted to the main roads concerned, but are travel freely between the landscape route areas, “Q-8” and “Q-9”.

The three main spots in the Aso/Kumamoto Scenic Highway area are volcanoes, calderas, and outer rims. In addition, there are Kumamoto Castle and the heritage of the castle town,



Q-9 Aso/Kumamoto Scenic Roads.

and the former Higo Kaido Road connecting Aso and Kumamoto.



Kiyomasa Kato who built Kumamoto Castle (1562~1611).



Musashi Miyamoto of skilled Swordsman (1584~1645).



Soseki Natsume of Great Novelist (1816~1916).

Three Greatest Men who made nationally famous Kumamoto.



Aso Volcano (Aso City)



Kumamoto Castle (Kumamoto City)



Aso Jinja Shrine and Parade in Shinto Ritual (Aso City, Kumamoto).



Aso is a double volcano with five volcanoes in the center and mountains at an altitude of 1326 to 1592m. Its activity continues to erupt with the beating of the earth. Usually you can see the crater, but sometimes there are restrictions on access.

There is a huge caldera around the mountains of Crater. The scale is 18km from east to west, 25km from north to south, and an area of 380km<sup>2</sup>. The crater is home to about 50,000 people and is the largest in the world.

The outside of the caldera is a plateau. The caldera side of the plateau is a steep cliff, and the view the observatory on the north at Daikanbo Peak and the west at Tawarayama is spectacular. In addition, the west side of the outer rim mountains is missing, from which the river flows toward the Ariake Sea. In parallel, road and railway connect the inside and outside of the caldera.

The above information on the southern part of Aso Kuju National Park is registered in the UNESCO Global Geopark.

The main route from Aso area to Kumamoto Castle Town is the old road on National Route 57. The section between Futae Pass and Otsu Town was also called Otsu Kaido. In the Edo period, cedar trees and distance indication trees were planted beside the road, and created a partially cobblestoned path.

The third landscape resource is Kumamoto Castle and its castle town. Aso is a natural legacy, but Kumamoto Castle is the biggest

master piece created by people. Kumamoto Castle, a national special historic site, is one of the three major castles in Japan. Various facilities such as the castle tower and Honmaru palace have been rebuilt. However, the earthquake in 2016 caused severe damage to each facility and is currently being repaired. Nevertheless, there are some that are seen during repairs, and their wonderful appearance is the pride of Kumamoto citizens.

In the Kumamoto area, three great men appeared from the Edo period to the Meiji era. Everyone is famous nationwide, but one of them is Kiyomasa Kato, the first lord (daimyo) of Kumamoto Clan in the Edo period. In addition to Kumamoto Castle, he had built

various social infrastructures, such as Higo Kaido Road and flood control projects. He is respected by residents.

Miyamoto Musashi is the most famous swordsman in Japan. After a duel on Ganryujima Island in Shimono-seki City, Yamaguchi Prefecture, in 1612, he was invited by Mr. Hosokawa (daimyo) to Kumamoto. After that, he wrote the "Gorinno-Sho" (Book of five Rings (1643-45)), that contained the results of his swordsmanship.

Another wonderful person is Soseki Natsume. He came to Kumamoto as a professor at Fifth High School (now Kumamoto University). He spent several years in Kumamoto and traveled many surrounding areas. After that, he became a writer and wrote many famous novels including "Kusamakura" (1906) based on his experience in Kumamoto. By the way, "Kusamakura" is translated as "The Three-Cornered World" in English.

In addition to the legacy of the Hosokawa clan in the Edo period, the tour of castle

town is to follow the footsteps of these three great men.

**Q-11 Minou Foothills Byways. MIDORINO-SATO (Fukuoka Pref.) —Minou Mountains, Historic old Town, Gardens of Camellias and Azalea.**

The Chikugo Plain is located in the southern part of Fukuoka Prefecture in the Minou Mountain Range at the southern end of the plain. Although it is a low mountain at the altitude of 800m, it extends 26km from east to west. This is because it was formed by a fault that occurred in the 679 earthquake. The southern slope is gentle and the northern slope is steep.

On the other hand, in the central part of the Chikugo Plain, the Chikugo River runs parallel to the Minou Mountains. The scenic route area of "Minou Foothills Byway" is located between the Minou mountains and the Chikugo River on the outskirts of Fukuoka City.

The main routes are National Route 210 and Prefecture Road 151, which are parallel to each other. On the north side, there is

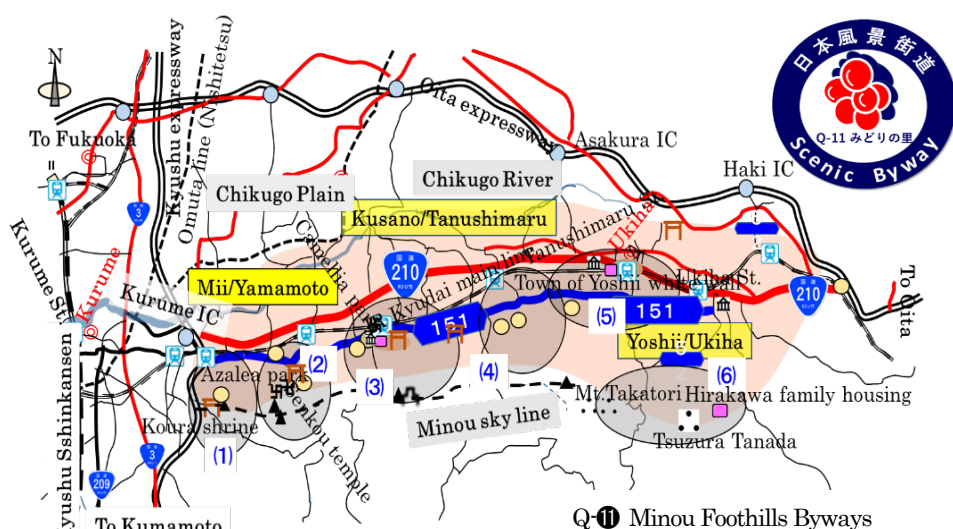
the Oita Expressway and the “KyuDai Line” of JR Kyushu Railway, which can be used to access the area of this scenic byway. The scenic spot is in Kurume City and Ukiha City, and can be divided into three blocks as shown on the map. The landscape resources of these blocks include Minou skyline along the fault, ancient tumuli, the heritage of the Kusano family, towns with white walled landscape, lively flower gardens and orchards. Below are some items that characterize this scenic route.

○ The mountain slope is full of flowers and fruits. Azalea Park and Camellia Garden (photo (3)) are famous as flower spots. In June, you can see more than 5,000 hydrangeas at Senko-ji Temple, and see beautiful autumn leaves at another temple. In addition, there are fruits such as pears, strawberries, figs and grapes. Fruit picking takes place seasonally and is visited by many people. This area is also known as the birthplace of landscape technology and is now one of Japan's leading horticultural villages.

○ As you can see from the ancient tombs, people have lived in this landscape area since ancient times and have developed civilization. It flourished as a base for the medieval Kusano family, and as a post-town on the Hita Kaido Road during the Edo period. As a result, luxurious temples and shrines have been built and kept. And, in the Meiji era, Yoshii-machi prospered as a commercial town, but its proof is white-walled houses (see photo).

○ Along the mountainous area between Minou Skyline (forest road) and prefectural road 151, you will encounter brooks, waterfalls, and shaded green areas. There are rice terraces in some places, and houses with thatched roofs that was built in the Edo period (important cultural property of the country). In short, you can enjoy the typical mountain village scenery of this area and understand the real situation of precious mountain area in Japan.

Finally, although not a mountain area or historical heritage, we recommend that you stop by the Tanushimaru area. The area around JR Tanushimaru Station is a Kappa town where the aquatic creature “Kappa” is used as a motif to regain its liveliness. That is, kappa sculptures of various gestures are installed on roads and waterways to entertain travelers. After visiting the mountain village, why not end up playing together with a cheerful kappa?



Tsuzura Terraced Rice Field.



White wall-street in Yoshii town (Ukiha City).



Kappa in Tanushimaru.



Hirakawa Family House of U-shape (Ukiha City).



Gate of Susanoo Shrine in Kusano Town.



Sennennji Temple in Kusano Town (Kurume City).

# Series of Travel Guide of Scenic Byway Kyushu

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<http://www.qsr.mlit.go.jp/n-michi/fukeikaido/guidebook.html>

## 全 体 編 Overview of Scenic Byway Kyushu

○Japanese edition: 魅惑の九州風景街道  
その1 総論

○English edition: Scenic Byway Kyushu  
Part 1 Overview



## その2 ルート別ガイド

日南海岸きらめきライン  
日豊海岸シーニック・バイウェイ  
ながさきサンセットロード  
北九州おもてなし“ゆっくりかいどう”  
ちょっとよりみち唐津街道むなかた  
かごしま風景街道  
玄界灘風景街道  
九州横断の道やまなみハイウェイ  
九州横断の道阿蘇くまもと路  
豊の国歴史ロマン街道  
みどりの里・耳納風景街道  
別府湾岸・国東半島海への道  
あまくさ風景街道  
薩摩よりみち風景街道  
島原半島うみやま街道

## Part2 Pamphlet by Route

- Q-① Nichinan Sparkling Coast
- Q-② Nippo Seashore Road
- Q-③ Nagasaki Sunset Highway
- Q-④ Kitakyushu Hospitality Roads
- Q-⑤ Munakata Historic Byway
- Q-⑥ Kagoshima Scenic Byways
- Q-⑦ Genkai Coastal Highway
- Q-⑧ Yamanami Highland Parkway
- Q-⑨ Aso/Kumamoto Scenic Roads
- Q-⑩ Toyonokuni History Roads
- Q-⑪ Green Village in Minou Mountains
- Q-⑫ Scenic Area of Beppu Bay and Kunisaki Peninsula
- Q-⑬ Amakusa Islands Drive
- Q-⑭ North Satsuma Scenic Tour
- Q-⑮ Umi-Yama Byway in Shimabara Peninsula



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