

# Travel Guide of Scenic Byway Kyushu

## Q-6 Kagoshima Scenic Byways

Cities of Kagoshima, Ibusuki, MinamiKyushu, MinamiSatsuma, and Makurazaki (Kagoshima Pref.) —Active Volcano, Shirasu Plateau & Sub-tropical Zone, Leading Activities toward Meiji Era —

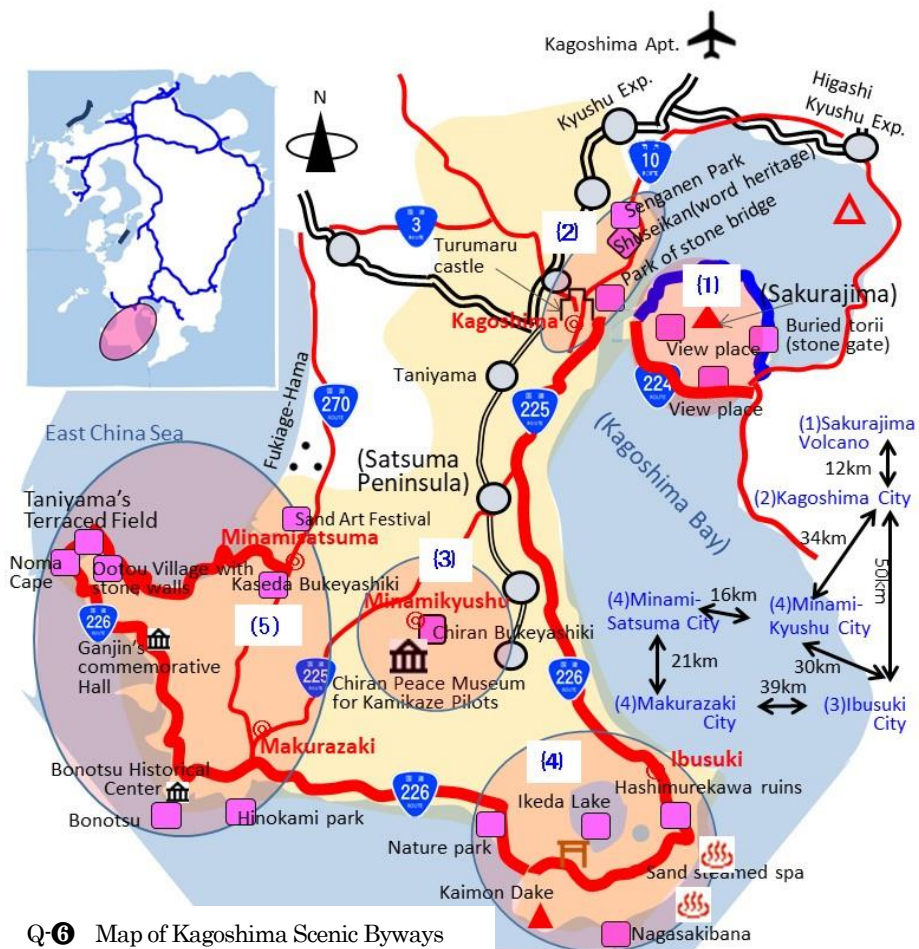
Kagoshima Prefecture in the southern Kyushu has Kagoshima Bay in the center. In addition, the Osumi Peninsula is located on the east side of the bay, and the Satsuma Peninsula, on the west side. Under such terrain conditions, the Kagoshima Scenic Byway extends from Sakurajima in the bay to the southern part of the Satsuma Peninsula. In other words, it is composed of five cities: Kagoshima, Minami-Kyushu, Ibusuki, Makurazaki, and Minami-satsuma, and belongs to the Kirishima Kinkōwan National Park in the subtropical region. (Note: Kinkowan is another name for Kagoshima Bay).

The most important resource common to the entire Kagoshima Scenic Byway is the active volcano lined up at the Kyushu Volcano Front, which extends from Kagoshima Bay. Hot water gushes from the submarine volcano “Wakamiko” in the back of the bay, and bubbles sometimes appear. In addition, steam smoke from Sakurajima volcano can be seen almost every day. The average number of eruptions in the last 10 years is about 590 per year. We are often surprised by the sound of explosion and bothered by the fall of volcanic ash.

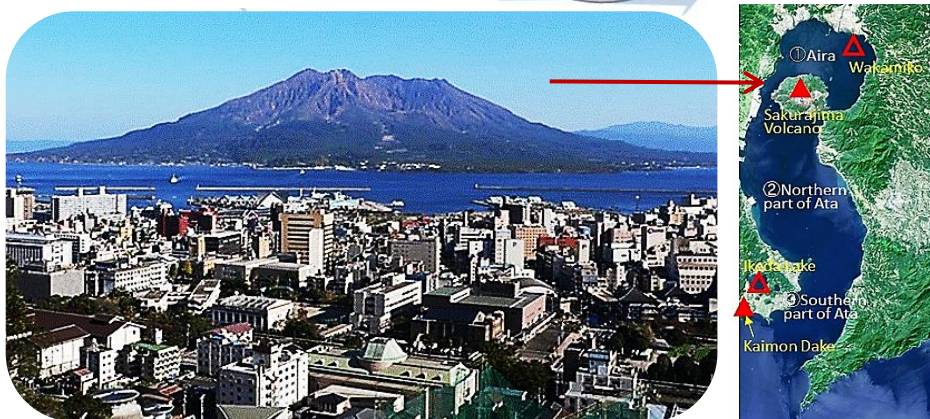
In addition, there is Kaimondake at the entrance to the bay, and the crater at the summit is covered with a second eruption at the end of the 9th century as if to wear a hat, forming the appearance of Mt.Fuji (see photo (4)).

The interest in volcanoes lies not only in the eruption but also in its blessings. You can get many benefits such as Sakurajima's radish, Satsuma small orange, industrial products using volcanic ash, and hot springs. The local people are also called “Satsuma-Hayato”, and the eruption is training their mental powers. It would be very interesting to experience the lives of the locals while thinking about what it means to live in a volcanic area that looks more attractive than danger.

**(Access).** Kagoshima Airport is the base for access to the scenic route of Kagoshima, with six international routes to Korea, China and Taiwan. In addition, there are 17 domestic lines, 8 of which are served to Okinawa and the southern islands.



Q-6 Map of Kagoshima Scenic Byways



(1) & (2) Sakurajima (left) seen from the city area in Kagoshima City, and Kagoshima Bay (right).

The terminal station on the Kyushu Shinkansen is Kagoshima-Chuo Station, which takes about 1 hour 30 minutes to Hakata Station (Fukuoka). Kagoshima-Chuo Station is connected to the Kagoshima Main Line, Nippo Main Line, and Ibusuki-Makurazaki Line, so you can visit the main cities of the prefecture by a railway.

The Kyushu Expressway and the MinamiKyushu Expressway





(3) Street of Samurai Residence and Japanese Style of Garden in the Chiran Fumoto Town of Minami-Kyushu City.

are tied in the center of Kagoshima City. You can use them to smoothly access various local attractions.

**(Main Route of Landscape Area).** The main road rounding Sakurajima is National Route 224 and Prefectural Road 26 in the eastern side. The ferry connects Sakurajima and Kagoshima city center, which takes only 15 minutes to board. In Kagoshima City, trams are operated in urban area. The train route (prefecture road No.21) and National Route 10 are main.

On the other hand, the main routes in the Satsuma Peninsula are National Routes 225 and 226, which are supplemented by the Ibusuki Skyline (motorway). In addition, prefectural roads on the peninsular are well-maintained, so you can enjoy comfortable driving in the countryside. Bus routes on these roads are available to access the main attractive spots of the scenic byway network. Alternatively, the Ibusuki Makurazaki Line goes around the coastline.

**(Regional Resources)** The active volcanoes of Kagoshima Bay and the plateau of "Shirasu" soil are spread throughout the area. The historical heritage of Shimazu clan and the footsteps of the youth in the Meiji Restoration are also important regional resources on this scenic route.

#### (A) Kagoshima Bay and Shirasu Plateau which were created by Volcanic Eruption.

Kagoshima Bay and its surroundings were rifts in the earth, and had a lot of volcanic activities. At that time, the Aira caldera was formed in the back of the bay, the Ata north caldera in the center, and the Ata south caldera at the entrance of the bay. Seawater flowed in it creating a bay. Sakurajima at the back of the bay was originally an island, but it was connected to the Osumi Peninsula by the eruption of 1914. As a result, the present Kagoshima Bay was born. By the way, except for the waterway (strait) on the west side of Sakurajima and the mouth of the bay, the average depth of the bay is about 130m and the maximum depth is about 240m.

On the other hand, due to various volcanic activities covering Satsuma Peninsula and Osumi peninsula, a large amount of pyroclastic flow is ejected, forming the Shirasu plateau widely. The slope of this Shirasu Plateau is vulnerable to rain, so cliffs of about 20 to 100 meters are formed and can be seen everywhere.

Crashed shirasu sand flows into the sea and is washed up on the coast, creating a beautiful long arched beach. In particular, the west coast of Satsuma Peninsula is 47 km long and is called "Fukiage Hama (beach)".

In short, as you drive along the coastline, you'll encounter unique landscapes such as plateaus developed on the cracked cliffs, and arched white beaches.



(1) Sakurajima Raising the Plume.



(1) Torii (Shrine's gate) buried in Volcanic Ash.

#### (B) Historic Heritage of Shimazu Clan.

From the Kamakura period to the Edo period, the Shimazu clan (also called the Satsuma domain) governed vast territories of Kagoshima Prefecture and southern area of Miyazaki Prefecture. Therefore, in the Edo period (17th to 19th centuries), a samurai system was established that was not centered on the castle town of Kagoshima, even under the law of "one castle in one country".

In other words, while there was a samurai who lived in the castle town and served in the castle, there was a samurai who was usually engaged in agriculture and served as a soldier in an emergency. The latter samurai, who lived in rural areas, served both as a samurai and a farmer, and was called "Goshi" in Japanese.

The total of these two types of samurai amounted to about 40% of the total population of the Shimazu clan. The clan's financial situation was poor, because it was difficult to grow rice in the Shirasu plateau and many typhoons and volcanoes caused a lot of disasters. Also, because the Kagoshima area is at the southern end of the country, it was necessary to strictly defend the entire area. For these reasons, the aforementioned samurai system was devised.

In this unique samurai society, the village where samurai and their families live was called "Fumoto". A samurai residence has been built and community system with a unique culture has been developed (see photo (3)).

#### (C) Leading Activities toward Meiji Era

In the radical political changes from the Edo period to the Meiji period (19th to 20th centuries), Satsuma's people played a more important role than those of other regions.

Shimazu Nariakira (11th lord of the Shimazu clan) promoted measures to strengthen the wealth and military power of the clan. In particular, after Anglo-Satsuma War in 1863, the modernization of various industries such as shipbuilding and machinery has been promoted, and its heritage has been registered as "Meiji Japanese Industrial Revolution Heritage".

From the above, you can divide the scenic cityscape of Kagoshima into five blocks and experience a meaningful and interesting tour (see the map).

#### (1) Sakurajima Island of World Geo-park.





Sekiyoshi's Hydrophobic Groove



Former Spinning Station Engineer's House



Shoko-Shuseikan (Former Machine Factory, and now Museum)

## (2) Kagoshima's Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution



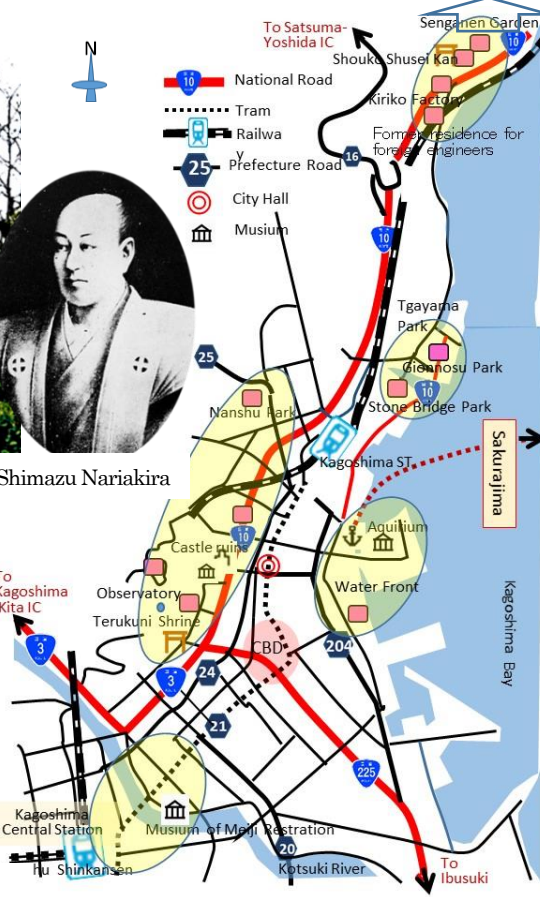
Statue of Saigo Takamori



Shimazu Nariakira



Group of Satsuma's young people



Nishida Bashi (1946, 49.5m in length)  
(Stone Bridge Memorial Park)



Tenmonkan-Dori (arcade) in CBD of Kagoshima City

Map of Kagoshima City and several Photos on Scenic Sites

The ferry from Kagoshima Port in the center of Kagoshima City to Sakurajima Port is used by many residents and tourists, and there are 4 round trips per hour during the daytime. In addition to this liner, there is also a seasonal 1-hour or 2-hour cruise tour.

In 2013, Sakurajima Volcano and Kinko Bay (Kagoshima Bay) were registered as a Global Geopark. Attractive spots of Sakurajima are the lava-filled coastline, the hot springs of the submarine volcano, the Torii (shrine gate) buried in volcanic ash, and the crater where steam continues to generate. At the foot of the volcano, sightseeing bus tours run eight times a day.

### (2) Downtown of Kagoshima City.

Block (2) is the central urban area of Kagoshima City. Going north from JR Kagoshima-Chuo Station, there are prefectural road 21 where trams run and National Route 10. Important scenic resources along these roads are the heritage of the Shimazu clan during the Edo period and the world heritage of industrial revolution in the early Meiji era.

In addition, a monument of youth's sculpture is installed in front of JR Kagoshima-Chuo Station. They are the young people who broke the isolation policy of the Shogunate and went to the Britain for study in 1865, under the protection of Shimazu Clan. Most of

them returned to Japan after the Meiji Restoration, gained a high government status, and contributed greatly to the modernization of Japan.

If you go about 500 meters north from JR Kagoshima-Chuo Station along the tramway, you will find the Kōtsuki River. This riverside town (Kajiya-machi) was a residential area of lower-class samurai. Many talented people who were deeply involved in the Meiji Restoration grew up, and materials related to them are exhibited at the nearby hometown museum (Ishin-Furusatokan). Seeing around the city based on that information is very meaningful and effective.

When you get off the tram at Aquarium Station, you can reach Kagoshima Port, where the old port (important cultural property) and the aquarium are located.

Then, taking north on National Route 10, you will find Ishibashi (Stone Bridge) Memorial Park. Here, three stone bridges that once spanned the Kotsuki River were relocated and rebuilt after the great flood. These original bridges were built in the mid-19th century and you can see the detailed design and construction techniques developed in Kyushu.

Furthermore, proceeding north on National Route 10 for about 2km, you will find Shimazu Villa and Sengan-en Garden. Adjacent



to the site is the “Meiji Industrial Revolution Heritage: Steel, Shipbuilding, Coal Industry” (2015 World Cultural Heritage).

In other words, at the end of Edo period, the clan lord, Shimazu Nariakira, introduced industries such as shipbuilding, steelmaking, spinning, and glass manufacturing to enhance wealth and strengthen maritime defense. These factories were located in the Shūsei-kan (building of industrial complex), but it is now the museum that conveys the history and culture of the Shimazu clan, and some of the machines and equipment of the time are also on display.

Returning to the city center and climbing the hill behind the city hall, you can see Kagoshima Bay, Sakurajima Volcano, and Osumi Peninsula. This hill is called Shiro-yama because the castle was built in the past.

During the Edo period, however, the inner castle of the Shimazu clan was newly built at the foot of the hill and was called Kagoshima Castle (or Tsurumaru Castle). The castle was often destroyed in disasters and rebuilt each time, but has not been rebuilt since the fire in 1874. Still, the stone wall, moats, stone bridge, and the main gate remain.

### (3) Chiran-cho district in MinamiKyushu City.

It takes about 50 minutes by car or 70 minutes by bus from JR Kagoshima-Chuo Station to Chiran-chō Town, Minami-Kyushu City. And, this town is famous for the samurai residence and the Peace Memorial Museum.

a) In Chiran-chō, the samurai residence, which was a village of "Fumoto" in the Edo period, remains for more than 800 meters. As shown in the photo, the fence along the road is beautifully formed by combining yew trees and stone walls, and it is highly regarded as one of 100 carefully selected roads in Japan.

The Japanese garden of the mansion is made of trees and stones against the backdrop of the surrounding mountains and nature. Due to this excellent design, 7 gardens have been designated as one of 100 most beautiful historic buildings in Japan. Also, the streets of samurai residences are registered as a traditional building reserved area.

b) At the end of the Pacific War, a military base for special attacks was built in Chiran-chō Town. Many young attackers flew planes and attacked enemy warships with their lives. This is an unprecedented tragedy in human history. After the war, the Peace Memorial Museum was built to pray for peace and display the portraits and materials of the attackers. Please visit the memorial hall and make sure that such a tragedy will never happen again.

### (4) Ibusuki-Area of Sand steaming spa town.

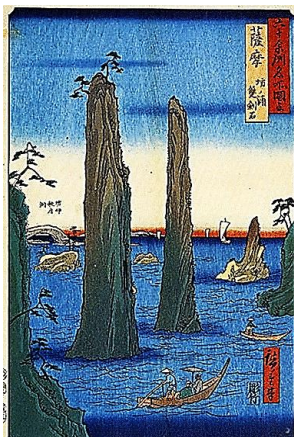
From Kagoshima Chuo Station, driving south on National Route 266 for about 50 km or taking the JR Ibusuki Makurazaki Line in about an hour, you will reach the center of Ibusuki City. It is located at the southeastern end of the Satsuma Peninsula, while you can ferry across Kagoshima Bay to reach Minami-Osumi Town on the



(3) Tomiya-Shokudou (Dining Hall) which was the relaxation place for Special Attacker.



(3) Chiran Peace Memorial Hall (Minami-Kyushu City)



(5) Double Sword Stones (Minami-Satsuma City).



(4) Kaimondake Volcano (Ibusuki City).

Osumi Peninsula. Therefore, it is the key point rounding the Bay.

In and around Ibusuki City, there are typical scenic spots such as the Volcano (Kaimon-dake), caldera (Lake Ikeda), crater (Yamakawa Bay) and sandy beach steam baths. In addition, the Hashimure-gawa ruins near JR Ibusuki Station is designated as a national historic site, and you can see the difference between the Jomon period and the Yayoi period.

### (5) Areas of Makurazaki City and Minami-Kyushu City

Taking west along National Route 266, you will arrive at the Makurazaki City. The city thrives with fishery industries, and the amount of production of bonito chips, the essence of Japanese cuisine, is the largest in Japan. While watching Kaimon-dake Mountain, you can visit the Makurazaki Fish Center, long and slender rocks (Tategamiwa) protruding from the sea, and the Brewery for Satsuma Shochū.

Next is a tour of the southwestern tip of Kyushu. The main spots are Bonotsu Port, Noma Peninsula and Fukiage-hama Beach. Bonotsu Port, which is the hub of trade with China, is known as the port where the ambassador's ships from Japan to Tang stopped by. It is also the port where the monk, Ganjin, came to Japan at the request of Emperor, landing after failing to travel many times. He went from Bonotsu to the capital of Nara via Dazaifu in Fukuoka, and drastically reformed Japanese Buddhism.

You can enjoy fishing and marine sports on the coast of Noma Peninsula. Some places offer the view of complex rocks and small islands, and the landscape of terraced farm fields with natural stones on the slopes is also impressive.

As going around the Noma Peninsula, the scenery turns into a long white sand beach (Fukiage-hama). Every May, a sand festival is held on the beach, where you can see wonderful works of a lot of historical figures and famous buildings. In addition, several old samurai residences remain in the center of Minami-Satsuma City, which can trace the changes of Japanese houses over 100 years.