

## Other recommended destinations throughout Japan

### 九州およびその他西日本

#### Kyushu island & other Western Japan



Western Japan including Kyushu 九州 for its proximity to the Asia continent has just as long history as in the central Japan such as Kyoto and Nara. In addition, the region is full of magnificent tourist spots that are rich in natural beauty of various kinds.



#### 別府温泉 Beppu onsen

Group of hot springs in the city of Beppu with both the number of spring wells and the yield of hot water being #1 in Japan. Grouped into eight different areas (each with public baths), Beppu adds variety also by sand / steam baths. 1hr20 min by JR from shinkansen Kokura 小倉 st.



#### 湯布院温泉 Yufuin-onsen

Located 10km inland from Beppu, Yufuin is set apart from others by twin-peaked Mt. Yufu in its skyline, farmhouses and rice paddies nearby, trendy main street (cafe, boutiques) ended with Lake Kinrinko, wealth of art museums (Chagall etc.), and the absence of large hotels.



#### 門司・下関 Moji and Shimonoseki

The Kanmon straits 関門海峡 connects the two cities on Kyushu and Main islands. The area's highlights include the view from Hinoyama park, the undersea pedestrian tunnel, Karato 唐戸市場 morning sushi market, blowfish 河豚 dishes, and Moji (int'l port of Meiji明治/Taisho大正 eras)



#### 萩 Hagi

Castle town facing Sea of Japan was the capital of Mouri Clan 毛利家, one of most powerful feudal lords who also played a key role to create Meiji Restoration. Hagi-yaki 萩焼 pottery ranks among Japan's finest. 2hr shinkansen to Shin-yamaguchi 新山口 from Kyoto +70 min bus



#### 秋吉台 Akiyoshida

Is the plateau with the highest concentration of karst formations in Japan, and Akiyoshido 秋芳洞 (Akiyoshido) is the nation's largest and longest limestone cave underneath Akiyoshida. 45 min bus from shinkansen/JR Shin-Yamaguchi station, or 70 min bus from Hagi 萩

### 東北地方

#### Tohoku Region



Tohoku region could be the best to be visited year round for its comprehensive collection of all touristic essences of Japan: history and festival, nature and onsen, late sakura and early colored leaves, and abundant marine resource as well as edible wild plants from mountains.



#### 秋田 Akita

As the prefectural capital, Akita city is best known for Kanto Matsuri 秋田竿灯祭り in Aug. The greater area facing Sea of Japan is rich in marine resources such as "hatahata", Sailfin sandfish, eaten grilled, as fermented sushi, or in hot pot. 3hr50min shinkansen from Tokyo



#### 角館 Kakunodate

Is a former castle (which no longer remains) town in Akita prefecture, originally built with samurai and merchant districts (remarkably remained unchanged since 1620). And known also for weeping cherry trees 枝垂桜 (~May). 45min shinkansen from Akita toward Tokyo



#### 乳頭温泉 Nyuto onsen

Has a history of >300 years and is a collection of eight onsen ryokan in the eastern Akita 秋田 prefecture. The baths with the milky/cloudy appearance are available also for day trippers. 50 min bus from Tazawako 田沢湖 st. of shinkansen (which is 2hr55min from Tokyo).



#### 青森 Aomori

The prefectural capital city on the north end of the mainland is known for Nebuta-matsuri Festival in summer. Mt. Hakkoda 八甲田山 (1hr bus from the city) is first place in the mainland to develop autumn colors (late Sep - mid Oct). 3hr12min shinkansen from Tokyo.



#### 横手 Yokote

Is most known for Yuki-matsuri 雪祭り Festival featuring igloo-like snow houses called kamakura built across the city. The 450 years old festival is held on Feb 15 and 16. 1hr toward Tokyo from Akita by JR, or 5hr from Tokyo (JR from Yamagata after shinkansen).



#### 男鹿 Oga

The Namahage Sedo Festival なまはげ祭り in Oga is held on the 2nd weekend of Feb. Namahage, dressed up by villagers as ogres, coming from the mountain New Year's Day, admonish badly-behaved children. 55 min JR from Akita to Oga + 40 min bus to festival site.