Kirishima-Kinkowan National Park

Kirishima shrouded in cloud, the shimmering Kinkowan Bay, and the ever-smouldering Sakurajima Volcano

Born in 1934 as Kirishima National Park, Kirishima-Kinkowan National Park was one of Japan’s first national parks. The park can be broadly divided into northern and southern parts. The northern Kirishima area is a mountainous zone featuring over 20 volcanoes of various sizes, which are also home to legends associated with Japan’s creation myth, especially the descent of the Sun Goddess Amaterasu’s grandson Ninigi-no-mikoto from the heavens. The southern Kinkowan Bay area is centered around Mt. Sakurajima, an active volcano which was once an island until a 1914 eruption connected it with the mainland. Mt. Sakurajima watches over the bay, sporadically emitting ash and creating a unique landscape that has become a symbol of the park.

The area is home to many more still-active volcanoes and huge caldera craters formed by large eruptions over the millennia. The Kakuto, Kobayashi, Aira, and Ata caldera together form a line extending from north to south across southern Kyushu, Japan’s main southern island. The volcanic area boasts many local specialities, including shochu liquor, black vinegar, green tea, and Satsuma sweet potato, and is dotted with onsen hot spring sites such as Kirishima Onsen Village, famous for its diverse range of hot spring types, and Ibhusuki, featuring steamy sand baths that utilize rising ground heat.

Access

Access routes are given as examples. Times indicated for each route section are approximate only. For more details, please visit the counters or websites of the transportation providers.

Information counter

Please contact the each provider directly.
Activity 01
Make your very own footbath on the coast of Mt. Sakurajima, a still-active volcano emitting fumes even today! You can feel the power of magma and experience the bounties of nature and the volcano.

Make your very own natural spring footbath in a secluded hot spring area on the coast of Mt. Sakurajima.

This activity takes place on a coastline that offers a great up-close view of the form and flow of hot spring water from Sakurajima. Experience the power of geothermal power by digging your very own hot spring and foot bath, before relaxing and enjoying your hard work as you admire Mt. Sakurajima. This activity can only be held in the right weather and tidal conditions.

Schedule
- All year round
- 130 min

Fees
- Adults: 7,000 yen, 5-14 years: 3,500 yen, under 5 years old: free

Groups: 10 people or more, additional 1,000 yen per person (minimum group size: 10 people)

Guidelines
- Bring your own bathrobes and towels

Contact Information
- SAKURAJIMA MUSEUM
- 099-246-0416
- info@sakurajima.or.jp
- http://www.sakurajima.or.jp/

Activity 02
Only one bus a day: A bus tour around the Sata area, the southernmost part of mainland Japan. You can enjoy a 360-degree panoramic view of Cape Sata and the spectacular sight of the emerald green Ogawa Falls. A sightseeing bus that takes you around Cape Sata and the Ogawa Falls, located in the southernmost part of mainland Japan.

This bus service is connected to the last ferry service at Usui Port. With only one bus a day, the tour offers you a chance to enjoy a 360-degree panoramic view of Cape Sata and the spectacular sight of the emerald green Ogawa Falls. A Cape Sata Concierge will serve as your guide. Great meals are available at Usui Fishing Port, shopping and bakery at Cape Sata Shopping Arcade (cost of meal not included).

Schedule
- All year round
- 90 min

Fees
- Adults aged 13 and over, or junior high school students and older: 2,500 yen, children aged 6 to 12, or elementary school students: 1,250 yen, preschool child: free
- Sata, Futagaawa, Kubo
- Sata, Kubo
- Sata, Kubo
- Sata, Kubo: 099-246-0126 (Japanese only)
- Futagaawa: 099-246-2763 (Japanese only)
- kanko@brown.minamisouno.lg.jp

Activity 03
Tsunuki is one of the few places in the world where you can take a natural sand bath, which improves your blood flow and is said to give you beautiful skin. Listen to the sounds of the waves and surrender yourself to the elements. A natural sand bath "Sarakku"

When the spring tide is low and the condition of the weather and beach are just right, you can take a sand bath right next to the waves. Change into a yukata and take a sand bath (about 10 min). After taking a shower and removing the sand, you can take a onsen hot spring bath. There is also a roofed sand bath area, so you can enjoy a bath in all weather conditions.

Schedule
- April to October: 10 min
- November to March: 40 min

Fees
- Adults aged 13 and older: 1,100 yen, children/infants aged 2 to 12: 600 yen, groups (20 people or more adults): 940 yen, children/infants 520 yen (Discount available for disabled visitors, wheelchair certificate required)
- Usuisuki Onsen Machizukuri Public Corporation (Sand Bath Hall "Sarakku"
- 0993-23-3900 (Japanese only)
- usuisuki@sakurajima.jp
- http://www.sakurajima.or.jp/

Activity 04
A photogenic spot worth sharing: Visit the historical Kirishima-Jingu Shrine dressed in Japanese attire! Walk through the red torii gate and take a stroll around the shrine’s approach and elegant sanctuary.

Taking a stroll in Kirishima-Jingu Shrine in traditional Japanese dress.

You can visit Kirishima-Jingu Shrine, the symbol of Kirishima, wearing a kimono, take a stroll in nature, and experience culture as a Japanese person would. This program was created based on the idea of local residents. We offer about 90 kimonos and 3 hakama for women and 8 hakama for men. The vermilion shrine and Japanese attire will make great souvenirs as well as a guaranteed social media hit!

Schedule
- All year round
- 150 min

Fees
- Adults: 3,000 yen (for adults, it is not necessary to participate alone; 1.30 cm or taller)
- Kirishima City Tourism Association
- 0999-57-1588 (Japanese only)
- Kirishima-jingu-shrine.com
- http://www.kirishima-jingu-shrine.com

Activity 05
A tour where you can take in spectacular views of the whole Kirishima Mountain Range from a chartered small plane! Experience the many charms of the Kirishima Mountain Range that change season to season. Take flight on the "Kirishima Mountain Range Course" sightseeing charter tour.

Activity 06
Guided wildlife observation tour at the tidelands of Kinkowan Bay!

You can get a close-up view of a variety of rare wildlife including endangered species. A guided wildlife observation tour of the single-biggest tideland in Kirishima-Kinkowan National Park.

Kinkowan Bay is one of the world’s few sea caldera craters, and Shigetomi Beach is its largest tideland. In this unique tour, you can enjoy the spectacular scenery of Mt. Sakurajima and Kirishima Bay, while an expert guide tells you about the wildlife of the area. You can enjoy looking for tidalland wildlife, classifying and observing wildlife, and taking souvenir photos.

Schedule
- All year round
- 120 min

Fees
- Adults and children: 2,500 yen (Please contact us for group fees. About 50,000 yen required for an interpreter; please book at least one month in advance of your visit)
- Kirishima Nishinokokan
- 0995-67-6042 (Japanese only)
- kirishimashinkonkan.com
- http://www.kirishimashinkonkan.com/
Get a panoramic view of Mt. Sakurajima and Kinkonan Bay from a chartered small plane! Enjoy an exciting close-up view of Mt. Sakurajima puffing smoke and Showa Crater.

Activity 10
Take to the skies on the “Sakurajima Course” sightseeing flight tour

A tour where you can get a panoramic view of the active volcanoes, Mt. Sakurajima and the peaceful Kinkonan Bay from the sky. A small plane will take passengers to see Mt. Sakurajima’s crater and lava plains, central Kinkonogahara, and Kinkonan Bay, among other locations. You can see the places you have already visited in your trip from a new perspective. Night flights are available for an additional charge.

Schedule
All year round
30 min
16,000 yen (up to three passengers) 35,640 yen (60 min. flight up to six passengers) 84,240 yen

*The number of passengers may be limited due to total payload

Airline
New Japan Aviation Co., Ltd.
Phone: 0995-58-2211
E-mail: info@njavco.co.jp
Website: https://www.njavco.co.jp/

Activity 11
A town walking tour where you can experience “some cooking” that employs geothermal heat!

A local guide will show you around the charming and secluded Unagi Onsen Hot Spring area.

Walk around the historical and secluded Unagi Onsen area and experience “some cooking”

Unagi Onsen Hot Spring is a charming, secluded town where the famous long Tamane, Japan’s “tai narabi” opens. A local guide will show you around the area, sometimes using Kagoshima dialect. “Some” is a local specialty and refers to an oven that uses geothermal heat from natural hot springs. You can experience the local way of life by steaming okra, sweet potatoes, and other seasonal vegetables and make an okonomiyaki, all cooked in a hot spring. Enjoy walking through authentic traditional-style Japanese streets, taking in the view of steaming hot springs.

Schedule
All year round
45 min
12,000 yen (adults aged 15 and over) 5,000 yen (children aged 2-14) 3,500 yen (children under 2 years, students, and senior people aged 65 and over)

*Contact for a group tour & bus service: 0995-22-3297(Japanese only)
*E-mail: info@busunlock.jp
*Website: http://www.busunlock.jp/

Activity 12
Kayaking with an instructor on Lake Ikeida, Kyushu’s largest lake!

If you are lucky, you may encounter a giant mottled eel!

Kayaking on Lake Ikeida, Kyushu’s largest lake with an Instructor (Only on weekends and public holidays)

You can kayak with an instructor on Lake Ikeida, Kyushu’s largest lake, while viewing Mt. Sakurajima, otherwise known as the Mount Fuji of Satsumas. In the vast lake you can discover the true meaning of the Great Outdoors and enjoy the views at a remote location in Lake Ikeida that can be accessed via water. Have a relaxing time in nature, listening to the wind, the waves, and the challenging calls of birds. If you are lucky, you may encounter a giant mottled eel!

Schedule
All year round
weekends and public holidays only
10:30 am, 11:30 am, 1:30 pm, 2:30 pm
2,680 yen (adults) 2,080 yen (children)

*Contact for a group tour & bus service: 0995-35-0760(Japanese only)
*Website: http://www.apronhouseikeda.com/
Go horse trekking at Kirishima Art Ranch and get in touch with mother nature! The view from horseback will give you a fresh appreciation for the Kirishima scenery.

**Activity 13**
Horse trekking at Kirishima Art Ranch

Kirishima Art Ranch is a ranch surrounded by lush greenery located in the west part of the Kirishima foothills halfway up Mt. Kusunoki at 700 meters above sea level. In the weather, you can go horse trekking while overlooking Mt. Sakurajima in Kirishima Basin. We offer a variety of fun horse-riding experiences, including instructor-guided horse rides that small children can enjoy and a course involving trekking in the woods and meadows, a great choice for beginner riders. We also offer an exciting route for experienced riders which involves galloping across salt plains. In the relaxing 60 minute course, you can horseback ride in pasture for retired horses.

**Details**
- All year round: 10:00-12:30, 13:00-15:30
- Regular price: 3,300 yen (60 minutes), 4,600 yen (90 minutes)
- Book in advance at the website or by phone:
  - 0996-74-1335 (Japanese only)
  - [www.kirishimaart.co.jp](http://www.kirishimaart.co.jp)

Enjoy various hand-making activities at Takahito Farm which overlooks the vast nature of the Kirishima Mountain Range. You can make butter, ice cream, sausages, and more!

**Activity 14**
A farm packed with activities for the whole family situated on the foothills of the Kirishima Mountain Range.

A farm where you can interact with animals and get a great view of the Kirishima Mountain Range, where you can enjoy making hand-made sausages, as well as butter and ice cream using milk produced at Takahito Farm. The farm shop offers specially made dairy products, including milk and yogurt, homemade bread, farm sausage, and a variety of snacks made using dairy products. The milking area is also a hill. There is a restaurant where you can enjoy grilled meat and matton hot pot, and a hood court that offers delicious pizza and fried chicken.

**Details**
- All year round: 10:00-17:00
- Regular price: butter making: 500 yen, ice cream making: 1,300 yen, hay ride: 800 yen per person, hay ride: 800 yen per person
- Reservations required in advance: "Number of participants: 2

Takahito Farm, Co., Ltd.
- 0966-33-2102 (Japanese only)
- e-mail: nosa@dairy-mlt.co.jp
- [www.takahito-cho-kokujou.co.jp](http://www.takahito-cho-kokujou.co.jp)

The Kirishima Sightseeing Tour Bus puts the transportation hubs and sightseeing spots of Kirishima in easy reach. The first bus in Kyushu to introduce seats that estate 90 degrees toward the window.

**Activity 15**
Kirishima Sightseeing Tour Bus

This tour bus connects transportation hubs and sightseeing spots and takes you on a historical tour of Kirishima. Once you get on, there’s no need to transfer buses—you can visit Kirishima’s tourist spots and visit various areas within the park, all at the while enjoying the scenery of the national park. We offer special services for passengers at stops on the way. On the way, you can enjoy views of the Kirishima Mountain Range and Mt. Sakurajima from various locations, such as Shimosakurajima Park. In addition to the Kirishima Station Tour bus, there is also Sea Cruise tour of Kirishima Bay.

- All year round: weekends and public holidays only
- Fares: adults: 1,100 yen, children (aged 12 and under): 550 yen
- [www.city-kirishima.jp](http://www.city-kirishima.jp)

Enjoy nature at Hinamori Auto Campground, a base camp for sightseeing in the Kirishima Mountain Range! A multitude of stars light up the night sky, making it the perfect place for star-gazing.

**Activity 16**
A car camping site where you can fully enjoy the Kirishima Mountain Range.

This camping site is a great location, offering a close view of the Kirishima Mountain Range and serving as a base camp to mean trekking and after outdoor activities. Features include a telescopicEnglish marked course, mountain bikes for children (11 items available), hot food for sale, and a lavatory. The camp site also offers night view of the starry sky, making it the perfect place for stargazing. Various activities, such as a night view of the starry sky, are available, including briefings about star-gazing.

**Details**
- All year round: 4 November - 28 February, 4,100 yen (for up to 1 person), 9,600 yen (2 persons or more)
- Book in advance at the website or by phone:
  - 0961-43-2525 (Japanese only)
  - [www.hinamoricafe.com](http://www.hinamoricafe.com)

Dress up in armor and get your picture taken at Sengan-en gardens, a picturesque spot that overlooks the majestic Mt. Sakurajima and Kirishima Bay! Get your picture taken wearing the armor of famous samurai like Yoshihiko Shimazu, Toshihisa Shimazu, or Yukiura Sanada.

**Activity 17**
Dress up in armor and get your picture taken at Sengan-en!

You can wear a full set of authentic armor and get your picture taken professionally. Sengan-en, originally built as a feudal warlord’s private garden, is well located and offers a view of the majestic Mt. Sakurajima and Kirishima Bay. Available samurai armors include the armor of Yoshihiko Shimazu (for adults and children), the armor of Toshihisa Shimazu (for adults and children), and Yukiura Sanada (for children). Selected photos will be developed and printed to you and you will receive the digital data of the other pictures.

**Details**
- All year round: 24 November - 14 March (Under age 45 or under 21 years old, 9,000 yen, children (aged 19 and over); 15,000 yen, children (aged 15-19 years old), 9,000 yen, children (aged 12 and under); 5,000 yen
- Book in advance at the website or by phone:
  - 0966-81-0919 (Japanese only)
  - mamoru.yoshinagah@shimazu-bld.co.jp
  - [http://www.sengan-en.jp](http://www.sengan-en.jp)

Escape the bustle of daily life and sleep in a tent high in the air! You can relax under the starry sky: enjoy an early morning trekking trip to the Ogawa Falls, and much more.

**Activity 18**
Ogawa Falls early morning trekking tour (part of the stay-in-the-air program provided at MAGICAL STAY)

We offer visitors a rare chance to sleep in a tent high in the air. As part of the program you can enjoy walking around the Ogawa Falls, and a guide will take you on a star-gazing tour. The stay includes two meals.

**Details**
- Late March to September
- Starry sky observation activity: 6:30 am, Ogawa Falls early morning trekking tour: 9:00 am
- Adults: 4,500 yen, children (aged 12 and under): 3,500 yen
- [www.ogawafalls.jp](http://www.ogawafalls.jp)

Kirishima Tourism Association
- 0966-43-0750 (Japanese only)
- [magicalstay@pp@docomo.ne.jp](mailto:magicalstay@pp@docomo.ne.jp)
- [http://sakanamiaki.com](http://sakanamiaki.com)
Volcanic Landscapes, Legends and the Culture of Kirishima

- Enjoy outdoor activities, including mountain climbing and trekking, around the active volcanoes of Japan’s oldest national park, Kirishima-Kinkowan National Park.
- Discover the region’s living myths, culture and lifestyle.
- Finish your trip with an optional aerial tour of Kirishima.
Discover the Splendors of Sakurajima, Kinkowan Bay and Cape Sata

- Enjoy stunning scenery, the gifts of the region’s active volcanoes, and discover Kinkowan Bay, a dynamic submerged caldera.
- Experience the ultimate in relaxation at the Ibusuki sand baths, and tour around Cape Sata, the southernmost tip of the Japanese mainland.
- Get a feel for the area by boat, tour bus, and sightseeing train.

**Notes**

- Use the continuous print of Sakurajima Bay by high-speed ferry.
- Enjoy the billowing fumes of Sakurajima from a distance.
- Enjoy the dining out opportunities in Ibusuki, the capital city of the region.

**Trail map**

**Day 1**
- 10:40 a.m. Kagoshima Airport → 30 min.
- 11:10 a.m. Shigetomi Kaigan Nagisa Museum → 30 min.
- 12:30 p.m. Terminal for the ferry between Kagoshima Harbor and Sakurajima (Ferry) (Enjoy this 15-minute mini-cruise to Sakurajima) → 10 min.
- 12:45 p.m. Sakurajima Harbor Ferry Terminal → 15 min.
- 1:00 p.m. Activity 01: Harvest Sakurajima Daikon and sample Daikon dishes with lunch (60 min.) → 10 min.
- 2:15 p.m. Activity 01: Guided Walk Around the Sakurajima Volcanoes (60 min.) → 10 min.
- 4:10 p.m. Activity 02: Airmura Lava Observatory (30 min.) → 10 min.
- 5:50 p.m. Accommodation within the city of Kagoshima (Accommodation)

**Day 2**
- 8:15 a.m. Accommodation within the city of Kagoshima → 15 min.
- 8:30 a.m. Activity 19: Dress Like a Warrior and Have a Photo Taken at the Scenic Sengan-en Garden (45 min.) → 10 min.
- 2:00 p.m. Activity 17: Snorkeling in the Lake (60 min.) → 10 min.
- 4:00 p.m. Activity 18: Explore the Uraga-Ike Lake Area on Foot, and Sample Onsen-Steamed Hot Pot "Sume" Cuisine (45 min.) → 10 min.
- 5:20 p.m. Activity 21: Enjoy Ibusuki Natural Sand Baths (60 min.) → 10 min.
- 6:30 p.m. Accommodation at Ibusuki Onsen Hot Springs (Accommodation)

**Day 3**
- 8:50 a.m. Accommodation at Ibusuki Onsen Hot Springs → 10 min.
- 9:00 a.m. Activity 17: Sights of the Southernmost Tip of the Japanese Mainland — Cape Sata — by Sightseeing Bus, and Admire Ogasawara Waterfall (360 min.) (High-speed ferry) → 20 min.
- 9:30 a.m. Activity 10: Tour the Southernmost Tip of the Japanese Mainland — Cape Sata — by Sightseeing Bus, and Admire Ogasawara Waterfall (360 min.) (High-speed ferry) → 20 min.
- 3:40 p.m. Ibusuki Harbor → 10 min.
- 4:50 p.m. Accommodation at Ibusuki Onsen Hot Springs (Accommodation)

**Day 4**
- 10:00 a.m. Accommodation at Ibusuki Onsen Hot Springs → 10 min.
- 10:57 a.m. Ibusuki Station (Lightseeing train - Ibusuki no Tamatsukiko) (Heading north along Kinkowan Bay, enjoy the views of the Osumi Peninsula and Sakurajima located on the opposite shores.) → 10 min.
- 1:23 p.m. Kagoshima Chuo Station (Lightseeing train - Hayato no Kaze) → 10 min.
- 2:14 p.m. Kariigawa Station → 10 min.
- 2:30 p.m. Activity 17: "Sakurajima Course" Aerial Tour of the Volcanic (30 min.) → 5 min.
- 3:40 p.m. Kagoshima Airport → Local airports