

Kyushu with Hiroko, November 3 - 15, 2019

Trip Overview

Now it is the time to announce the **Kyushu with Hiroko 2019**. This is the second **Kyushu tour** to be offered and conducted by Hiroko; the first being very successfully held in 2018. It is designed expressly to accommodate those who expressed interest in the 2018 tour, but because of scheduling issues could not join, and for those who have not previously been acquainted with this unique travel, educational, culinary and thoroughly enjoyable experience.

Kyushu with Hiroko 2018 with a very happy full complement of nine participants completed its grand tour last November. The tour was a great success with immense satisfaction expressed by all participants. Please check some of the reviews and do not fail to check out the photos/video of Kyushu with Hiroko 2018.

Please see this link

https://www.dropbox.com/s/80io78lcnqpw60/Kyushu%20with%20Hiroko%202018_Small%20%282%29.mp4?raw1

If you have already received and checked out the review and photos/videos, you may move on to page 5 and see the complete daily itinerary.

Here, unedited are some of the comments and suggestions from the 2018 tour with my comments to make the tour even better in 2019.

*Hiroko, thank you very much for an amazing tour. I really appreciate the overall planning of the tour, your attention to details, the variety of activities, and your infinite knowledge of all things Japanese. It was a lot of fun! All hotels, except one, were different and fabulous. J & S **The “except one” comment refers to the utilitarian airport hotel in Tokyo where we assembled for our flight to Kyushu to begin the tour***

*I would have liked more time at the Kurokawa Onsen. We didn't have time to go to all 3 of the onsens (hot springs) or to see the town, A&N – **For 2019 I will make sure that we have enough time to enjoy the town.***

*I would have liked more free time in Nagasaki to wander around on my own J, S, R, M. – **For 2019 I will slot more free time in Nagasaki***

*Hakata Hotel was rather far from the center of town, J and M. – **For 2019 we will stay at the 2018 hotel which is not up on the hill but, in the city of Hakata for easier access to local attractions.***

We enjoyed so many fantastic onsen (hot spring) bathing. R

Visiting the volcanoes and the historic (built in 620) temple were memorable. A

We loved all the eating. D

*At the vegetarian meal at the temple and old farm house I would have loved to hear from the cooks, or maybe visit the kitchen? R – **For 2019 I will arrange this.** R*

*We loved varied hotels and inns, varied activities and good amount of walking even though at first until we acclimated it was something of a chore and the diverse meals at breakfast, lunch and dinner were excellent. S – **For 2019 we will stay at one Relais & Chateaux Inn***

Unlike other tours we have done with other operators the fact that your tour includes all meals and is truly all inclusive so there are few add on cost. – N & A

Now please move to enjoy reading the complete 2019 itinerary

ABOUT KYUSHU AND THIS TOUR

Kyushu, the southernmost large island of Japan, is chockfull of incredible interests of so many kinds. I had visited Kyushu in past years on business. During such trips I didn't experience what inquisitive and interested visitors can do in Kyushu, so I had little idea of the huge variety of amazing sights and experiences Kyushu can offer to us. But I did know and see enough to decide in 2017 to make Kyushu the next destination for my annual tour to Japan. Thus, was born the initial idea for Kyushu with Hiroko 2018. Since making that decision I have deeply studied the history, culture, natural environment, onsen hot springs, geology, food, art and people of Kyushu. Then, I carefully picked the places, each of which highlights the unique characteristics of Kyushu. In December 2017 I made this circuit on my own to absolutely confirm my expectations for the tour. This tour plan is the result of my study and exploration.

Some of you may have heard these Japanese culinary words: kabocha (squash), kara-age (a deep-frying method without batter), tempura (deep-frying method with batter), chawan'mushi (savory egg custard), kasutera (pound cake) just to name a few. These words describe foods and cooking techniques brought from abroad to Kyushu, reflecting the rich history of foreign influence in just the one area of culinary arts that extends back nearly 1500 years. This unique history of foreign influences and interactions is a major part of the fascination of Kyushu. It is very different from that experienced in the usual more familiar tourist precincts of Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, Kanazawa and Takayama.

Kyushu sits close to China and Southeast Asia. It was, therefore, the window for the introduction to Japan of Asian culture and religion in the earliest years of the first millennium. Kyushu is also the closest sea access to Europe, and it became the window to European civilization, including Christianity, beginning in the early 16th century. The strong influences of these early international contacts remain present everywhere in the island and its culture to this day. We will see and experience them on this tour.

Kyushu is well known as hot spring heaven in Japan due to its unique geology at the intersection of two tectonic plates. Active volcanoes, Mt. Aso and Mt. Sakurajima, tell the history of the changing natural and geographic environment of Kyushu. Both beneficial and the causes of disaster, these volcanoes determine much of Kyushu's human and natural history. A particular consequence of their presence is natural glory found throughout the island.

Kyushu's Christian history is a story of introduction, prosperity, suppression, persecution and rebirth. We will see this miracle first-hand and explore this complex story at many locations and from many perspectives. What happened in Kyushu is unique in world history.

At this particular time when we live with growing international tensions visiting the Nagasaki Atomic Peace Park and Museum will remind us of the horror of atomic weapons and the need for maintaining world peace to preclude their use.

You may know that for 250 years beginning in the 17th century Japan was closed to the outside world with only the Dutch occupying a tiny island, Dejima (“separated island”), just off of Nagasaki. That island compound has been faithfully recreated. It is not Disneyland, but is a living, fascinating and accessible historical site replete with Japanese and Dutch history. One of my Kyushu with Hiroko 2018 tour attendees suggested that a must-read book on Dejima is “The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet” by David Mitchell. The book will surely make your visit to Dejima a very special and meaningful experience.

A foundation of Japanese cuisine is dashi stock which is made by infusing kombu (kelp) and katsuobushi (skipjack tuna) flakes. Katsuobushi comes from the town of Makurazaki in Kyushu. A visit to a factory that produces this indispensable material will reveal the fascinating traditional, artisanal production of katsuobushi. Without seeing this, you cannot say that you know Japanese cuisine.

An equally fascinating and delicious product of Kyushu is shochu, the distilled liquor made variously from rice, barley, sweet potato, potato, brown sugar and more. During the tour we will taste different varieties of shochu as we move from one area to another; the tour will make you a shochu expert.

I look forward to experiencing all of the sights and activities described in this document with you in Kyushu! Please enjoy the itinerary described below.

Please join me on this fascinating, educational, fun and delicious tour to Kyushu in November 2019!

January, 2019

Hiroko

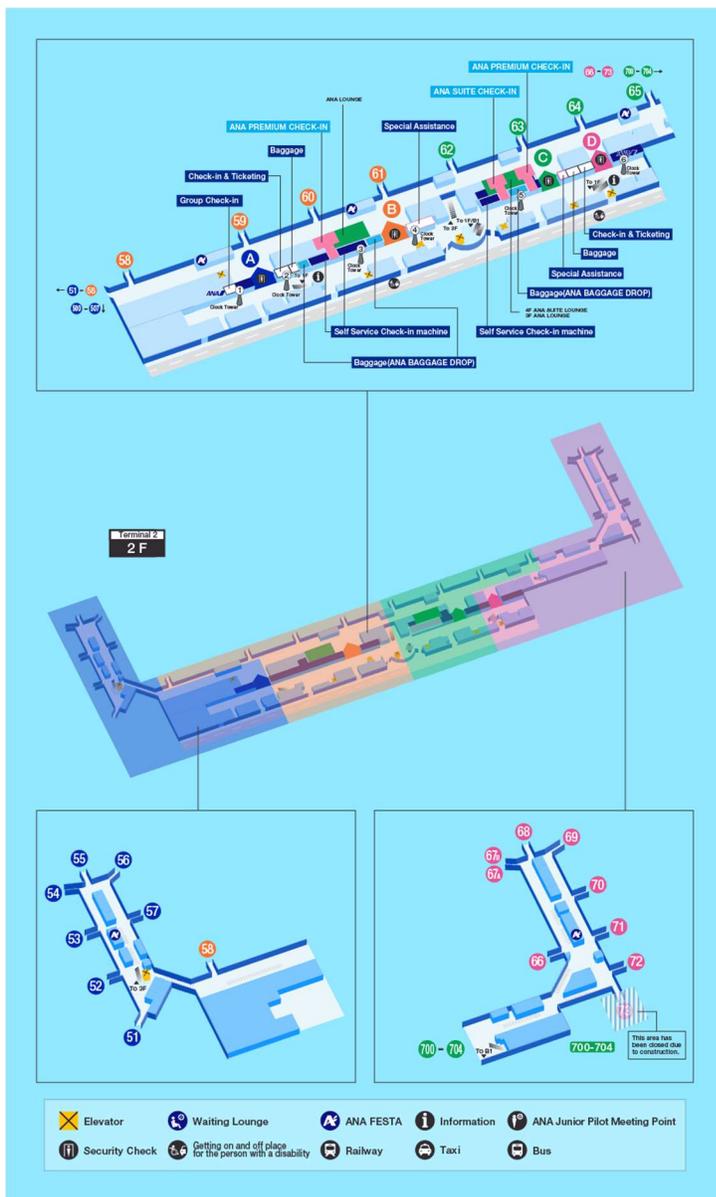
Hiroko Shimbo

ITINERARY

November 3, Sunday

Check in yourself at the Haneda Excel Hotel Tokyo. Find your name at the reception desk under the group name of Kyushu with Hiroko 2019. Your room and breakfast are included in the tour. Join Hiroko at 8:30PM for an after-dinner coffee/tea orientation at Wingroom A at FLYER'S TABLE restaurant in the hotel.

November 4, Monday



After breakfast and checking out the group meets at 7:00AM at Haneda Airport (Tokyo); ANA domestic departure Passenger Terminal 2; 2nd floor. It is 2 minutes' walk from the reception counter at the hotel to the meeting place; the same floor. Please find Hiroko at B Area (see the map on the left).

We take an early morning **flight** to **Oita Airport**. The airline ticket - Haneda to Oita – is included in the tour and will be given to you by Hiroko at the designated meeting location.

Flight time from Haneda Airport (Tokyo) to Oita Airport (Kyushu) is 1 hour 45 minutes.

November 4 continues.....



Located in the northeast area of Kyushu, Oita prefecture faces the Sea of Suo on the east and a lava plateau to the north. The vast volcanic area that occupies the greater portion of this prefectural territory boasts an abundance of hot springs that draws domestic and foreign tourists throughout the year. We will stay two nights in the famous hot spring town of Beppu.

To the north of Beppu is the Kunisaki Peninsula, whose cape reaches out into the Sea of Suo and Sea of Iyo. Kunisaki Peninsula is known for ancient Buddhist culture called Rokugo Manzan. This unique religion contains elements of Buddhism, Shinto and mountain worship. Last year was the 1300th anniversary of the Rokugo Manzan culture on the peninsula and the temples and shrines geared up to celebrate the religion's long history there.

Our first visit is Monjusenji temple in the Kunisaki Peninsula; a temple was built in 648AD. The principal worship is Monju Bodhisattva who is widely known as the Mother of Wisdom. At the bottom of 300+ stairs leading up to the temple fierce Nio (guardians of a Buddhist temple) statues welcome us. At the top (we take it slowly!) in the prayer hall we will participate in-a-once-in-a-life time Buddhist ritual service (last year's attendees called it the Great Fire Service!) conducted by a venerable priest dressed in beautiful white priest's attire. The priest, tending a

large ritual fire, prays for our health and family happiness; and importantly we hope for good weather and safe journey through out our tour. We stop at the Tennenji Temple to admire Magaibutsu, Buddha sculptures carved into the rock cliff.



First enjoy a hot spring bath found in each individual room, and then we will enjoy a local fish dinner in the hotel.



November 5, Tuesday



Today we spend our time in the hot spring town of Beppu, which boasts the largest volume of hot spring water output in Japan, approximately 36 million gallons per day. This is the second highest output in the entire world. Everywhere in Beppu we see hundreds of vents of geothermal steam coming from simple holes in the ground and even out of the town sewer drains.

Hot springs are a major part of the lives of the locals who use inexpensive public bathing facilities. There are hot water supply companies that deliver hot spring water to individual houses through a system of pipes under the town. The price for this service per month is around 10,000 Yen (\$95). This heats your house as well as providing excellent domestic use and delightful bath water. If this is too much money to pay, locals can purchase an apartment which is equipped with individual hot spring bath in each unit. In this case the payment varies from apartment to apartment and is about 600 Yen to 2600 Yen per month.

Hot spring water in Beppu area is also used for cooking food items, heating houses and hot houses and for the production of geothermal power.

This morning we attend a Japanese cooking class taught by a chef Sonoda, the owner of local Restaurant Oryori Hatano.

After the cooking class and lunch, our coach takes us to a ropeway station and then to the top of the 1300-meter-high Mt. Tsurumi for a great view of the city, Beppu Bay and early autumn leaves.

On our way back from the ropeway our coach drops us at the center of Kanawa hot spring town section of Beppu. We stroll through the town and experience the true nature of a classic Japanese hot spring town – souvenir stores, restaurants, baths and tourist sites. Just enjoy the experience.

We return to the hotel and relax in our individual hot spring baths. Our coach takes us to the dinner restaurant, Yamadaya, 100 years old venue. There we will enjoy a wonderful course meal based on wild Tora fugu, blow fish, from the Usuki region. The meal is, of course, prepared by a specially licensed fugu chef.

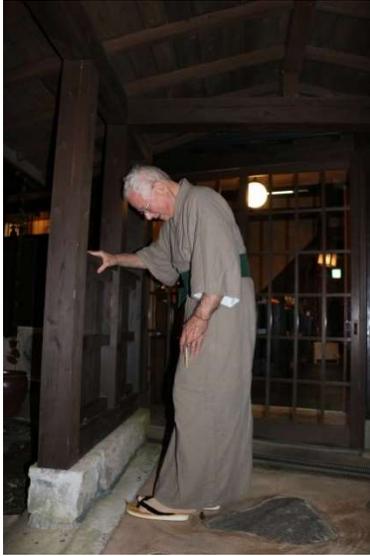


November 6, Wednesday



Today we head to Kurokawa Onsen, a town that has 30 inns scattered deeply in natural beauty alongside the Tanohata River. The atmosphere is traditional, therapeutic and relaxing. The first onsen in Kurokawa area dates back 290 years. Kurokawa Onsen is definitely one of the most beautiful hot spring towns in Japan. All hot spring inns are equipped with rotenburo (outdoor hot spring) and the inns belong to Kurokawa Onsen Association. Kurokawa Onsen Association created a smart, unique and fun program to promote all of the inns in the area to the visitors.

One program is Onsen-Hopping and the other is Kappo-Hopping. We will experience both. An Onsen-Hopping-wooden plaque acts as a ticket and allows us to walk around the onsen town, choose three onsen inns and soak in their outdoor onsen. The Kappo-Hopping plaque allows us to visit three different inns and enjoy each of their offerings of a cup of local sake or shochu served with the inn's own specialty snack. These experiences at Kurokawa Onsen are truly unique and very special! The dinner served at our inn, Waraku, is a local specialty meal. The inn is entirely booked just for us. We will spend a golden time here.



November 7, Thursday



Today we visit the Aso caldera. Aso volcano is a cluster of volcanoes situated within a huge caldera that is 25km (15miles) north-to-south and 18km (11miles) east-to-west. Its history extends back nearly 300,000 years consisting of complex volcanic activities and mountain growth. The area is part of the Aso National Park known for its beauty and grandeur. Within the caldera itself there are six towns and villages and the overall population reaches to 50,000. Two railway lines and several highways pass through the caldera. The main attraction is undoubtedly Naka-dake (1,506meter/4900feet), the currently remaining active crater. Due to the recent eruptions the area immediately around Naka-dake has been closed to the visitors. Mount Aso's eruption alert level was, however, lowered to the lowest value, level 1 in February 2017, but still there remains in effect a no-entry zone of one kilometer (0.6 miles) from the crater. As a result, it is not possible now to approach and see the crater itself.

We visit the Aso Museum and watch a video to learn how the Aso caldera was created. This is followed by a climb up Kijima-dake providing awesome views across the entire Aso caldera, including a view Komezuka, a perfectly shaped volcanic cone. Our lunch is dengaku, in which local vegetables and river fish are cooked over a very hot binchotan charcoal fire in a traditional Japanese irori (open hearth) setting. If you have ever seen a classic Japanese samurai movie you will surely recognize this style of hearth. After lunch our coach takes us south to historical town of Hitoyoshi where we stay one night. Our hotel is just by the river, offering a beautiful view of changing nature. Enjoy the individual bath

equipped in your room which has stunning view of the river. We have meal at a local restaurant.



November 8, Friday



This morning at the historic town of Hitoyoshi we take a man-poled boat ride down the Kuma River, which boasts of having the 2nd most rapid current in Japan. The same ride in the same kind of craft the local Daimyo, Aira, took in feudal days to go down-river in order to begin his biannual trip to Edo (present Tokyo) to pay his respects and tribute to the Shogun. After the ride our coach takes us to a unagi (grilled eel) restaurant which has been operating for over 100 years at the same location.

After early lunch our coach takes us to Onami-Ike, a beautiful crater lake which stands at 1,411 meters (4,500 feet) above sea level. It is a volcanic crater lake with the highest elevation of such a lake in Japan. Onami-Ike Crater Lake was the product of a volcano eruption about 40,000 years ago. The water is cobalt blue. We enjoy walking on a trail through the woods to the top of the Onami-Ike to admire the beautiful lake.

Our coach drives us to our next two nights stay at a venerable Japanese Inn, a Relais & Chateaux property . Relax your body and mind in the superb rotenburo (outdoor hot spring) found in each individual room. We will enjoy local specialty meal at the Inn.



November 9, Saturday



Today we will travel a rather long distance between our ryokan and the next attraction we will meet. We will head down to the prefecture where the most indispensable Japanese food product is produced. It is katsuobushi (stone-hard, dried, smoked skipjack tuna). The infusion of katsuobushi and kombu (kelp) makes dashi stock, the veritable foundation of Japanese cuisine. We visit the Matoba katsuobushi plant and learn and see the fascinating traditional, artisanal production of katsuobushi. Lunch is a bowl of funabito-meshi, a fishermen's lunch.

The coach takes us next to a small, but award winning shochu brewery, Yoshinaga Shuzo, established in 1905. The current president and toji (shochu brewer), Shoichi Yoshinaga, is the 5th generation of his family to operate this brewery and distillery. Yoshinaga Shuzo produces imo-shochu made from sweet potato. Shoichi shows us how his delicious beverage is created in this traditional small space. Even the bottling and labeling are done manually at this artisanal shochu producer. And, of course, you can purchase a bottle or bottles to take home.

We will then head back to our ryokan for relaxation and local dinner. Take a hot spring bath. It assures a sound and restful sleep.



November 10, Sunday



Today we make an exciting transition from the mainland of Kyushu to Amakusa island. Amakusa, which is located at southwestern part of Kumamoto Prefecture, is an island group consisting of two major islands and 100 other islands varying in size. They are part of the Unzen-Amakusa National Park along with the Shimabara Peninsula in Nagasaki Prefecture. Amakusa is remote. This isolation allowed missionaries in the 16th century to convert a considerable percentage of inhabitants and even the local lord to Christianity before the religion was forbidden in the early Edo period during the 17th century. Today there are museums and churches spread across the islands which reflect this religious heritage.

To reach Amakusa our coach takes us in the early morning to the main train station in Kagoshima City. Directly across the bay from Kagoshima you may glimpse the towering, continuously erupting (smoke, ash and occasional large boulders) Mount Sakurajima. From Kagoshima we take a bullet-train on the new Kyushu Shinkansen line to the city of Kumamoto. There we transfer to a small local train to the port and from there it is about a 55 minute lovely water journey by boat through the inlet and Shimabara Bay to Amakusa Island.

On arrival our coach takes us to a lunch place; then to our unique, beautiful and comfortable hotel. After dropping off our luggage we visit Sakitsu church, the iconic of Amakusa church, the Amakusa Museum and Amakusa Collegio (former monastery) Museum. What happened in this isolated part of Japan during 16th

century is an amazing story that you will learn – the rise, spread, banning and continued 250 year secret practice of Christianity on this island. Back at the hotel we enjoy rotenburo (outdoor hot spring) found in each hotel room. The dinner is a vegetable- focused meal based on local ingredients.



November 11, Monday



Today our coach takes us to Tsuji Island, northwest of Amakusa Shimokusa (lower Amakusa Island). The size of the island is merely 0.6km square area. We visit Salt Farm and observe the sea salt making. Amakusa is unique that it is surrounded three different seas; Ariake Sea on the north, East China Sea on the West and Yatsushiro Sea on the East. Tsuji-jima is surrounded by the Ariake Sea. The Ariake Sea, a semi-closed body of water, has the largest difference of tide level in Japan with large tidal flats and very clean water. Near the Hayase straight between Tsuji Island and Shimabara the current rapidly moves, producing abundant plankton blooms. And the water around Tsuji Island is a home of about 200 Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphins.

After lunch we head to Takahama Porcelain Company and each of us makes our own glazing design on a bare previously baked mug. The mug will be fired and become a souvenir of your Kyushu adventure. Amakusa jiki, the raw material for Takahama porcelain, was discovered in this area in the 17th century. It is known for its pure whiteness and solid nature. The quality of the clay has been highly praised as the best porcelain clay in the world. It has been used for years to make the highest quality Japanese porcelain goods such as Arita-yaki (Arita ware) and Seto-yaki (Seto ware). On my research trip two years ago, I drew my favorite owl on the mug. The baked, finished mug was sent to the hotel in Tokyo where I stayed for a few days after the trip to Kyushu. Now the owl mug is my every day morning tea cup in New York City - one of the best souvenirs ever I own. Please think of a design for your own mug. You will receive your own creation by mail at your home address.

We enjoy some strolling around the area before the coach takes us to our hotel.

Enjoy the rotenburo (outdoor bath) in your room. Today's dinner includes a dish made from the locally raised breed of very special chicken called Amao jidori. It's the "Bresse Chicken" of Japan.

November 12, Tuesday



Today we say goodbye to Amakusa and head to Nagasaki. Our 45 minutes smooth, scenic boat ride from the port of Tomioka in Amakusa to the port of Mogi in Nagasaki Prefecture returns us back to the main island of Kyushu. After leaving our luggage at the hotel where we will stay for two nights, we head to Kofukuji Temple. Kofukuji Temple was the first Obaku Zen temple in Japan and dates to around 1620 when the merchants from China's Ming Dynasty began to arrive in Nagasaki. A Chinese priest founded the temple to pray for safety in the perilous sea journey from China to Japan. During this period the Tokugawa government tightened its prohibitions on Christianity. Clever Chinese residents, who were suspected of being devoted to Christianity, built other temples such as Sofukuji, Fukusaiji and Shofukuji to prove to the government that they were not Christians. Kofukuji was presided over by such Zen masters such as the second abbot Mokusu Nyojo, who built the 'spectacles bridge' shown above. It was the earliest stone arch bridge in Japan. The third abbot Itsunen introduced a new style of Chinese painting to Japan. We enjoy traditional matcha tea at the temple, chat with the abbot Matsuo who has spent time in the US. We then head to our next destination on foot, the Dejima Museum. We return to our hotel for refreshment and for dinner we go back to Kofukuji Temple for a rare opportunity of to partake in an elaborate, original Obaku Zen meal (Fucha Ryori) that was introduced by the priest Itsunen. This style of cooking became the basis of Shippoku-ryori, the famous unique Sino-Japanese-Dutch cuisine of Nagasaki.

Dejima ("separated island"), the tiny man-made island just off the shore and connected by a foot bridge to Nagasaki, was constructed in 1636 and was used to house Dutch traders for 250 years during the Edo period (1600 - 1868) when Japan was closed to the outside world. It was a window on the outside world that

allowed the Shogun government to import Western medicine, military goods and other products without “contaminating” Japanese culture, religion and feudal society with “foreign ideas” such a liberal democracy. That this scheme worked for 250 years shows the iron grip that the Japanese government had on its people and society during that period which is also noteworthy for internal peace and extensive Japanese cultural development. The island itself disappeared with more reclamation of the land from Nagasaki Bay, but now island compound has been faithfully recreated as the Dejima Museum on its original, now a land-locked site. Excavation reveals the original stone walls of the island. It is not Disneyland, but is a living, fascinating and accessible historical site replete with Japanese and Dutch history.



November 13, Wednesday

Today in the morning our guide, a native of Nagasaki, takes us to the must-see places in this historic city. These include Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, Peace Park at “ground zero” and Uragami Church. She will take us to a tonkatsu lunch. After lunch the coach drives us to the Nagasaki station. You have free afternoon to discover the city on your own.

Tonight, the group returns to the town center for a Nagasaki sushi dinner, where a chef prepares sushi using the best local fish. The restaurant is closed just for us.

Here are some of the notable highlights we will see in Nagasaki

Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum: The museum covers the history of this event in the accessible form of a story. It begins with the disastrous scene of the attack and includes the events leading up to the dropping of the atomic bomb, the reconstruction of Nagasaki up to the present day, the history of nuclear weapons development, and the hope for a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons.

Peace Park: Once, during the war the area housed a prison. The Nagasaki Peace Park at the site of the bomb hypocenter commemorates the atomic bombing of the city at 11:03AM, August 9, 1945. It is next to the Atomic Bomb Museum and near the Peace Memorial Hall.

Oura Cathedral: Oura Cathedral, designated as Japanese National Treasure, is the oldest wooden church of gothic architecture in Japan; built in 1864 by a French missionary. The church was dedicated to the 26 Christian martyrs who had been executed on Nishizaka Hill during the crackdown against Christianity in the 16th century.

Uragami Cathedral: Uragami Cathedral was located just 500 meters north of the Atomic Bomb hypocenter. It was once renowned for being the largest Roman Catholic Church in the East, but was completely demolished by the nuclear blast. A wooden figure of the Virgin Mary miraculously survived the heat of the nuclear blast.

Glover Garden: Thomas Blake Glover, a Scottish merchant who introduced the steam locomotive to Japan and founded Kirin Brewery, among his many accomplishments, was the first to move to Nagasaki after the opening of Japan to

foreigners in 1859. Glover house was built in 1863 high on a hillside above Nagasaki Harbor. It is believed to be the oldest western-style building in Japan. It is surrounded by many other Western-influenced homes built from 1870 to 1912.

The 26 Christian Martyrs of Japan: On Nishizaka hill at least 400 Christians are known to have been martyred for their Christian faith. The 26 saints of Japan were crucified here in the year 1597. They included missionaries from Spain, Portugal and Mexico, as well as Japanese Christians.



November 14, Thursday



Today we leave for our final destination, Fukuoka, on the northwestern coast of Kyushu by train. It is 2 hours journey by Super Express train, Kamome. We purchase our train lunch boxes or sandwiches at Nagasaki Station and enjoy lunch on the train as Japanese travelers do while gazing out at the changing scenery beyond the window.

Fukuoka is Kyushu's largest and Japan's 5th most populated city. Because of its closeness to the Asian mainland, Fukuoka has been an important harbor city for many centuries.

Fukuoka is a gourmet paradise...providing you are not a strict vegetarian. Motsu nabe (intestine and tripe hot pot), tori-suki (chicken hot pot) and very fresh seafood from the Genkai Sea are abundant. Fukuoka-style tonkotsu (pork bone based broth) ramen is also unique and famous and now popular in US ramen restaurants. There are yatai (outdoor food stalls) offering delicious, home-style comfort foods that are unusual elsewhere in Japan, fun and delicious.

The hotel where we stay is a modern and stylish establishment. We will explore the city - a visit to local shrine, cookware store, and yatai (street stalls) experience - and enjoy our final tour dinner, a tori-suki (chicken hot pot), the Hakata specialty.

November 15, Friday

Today after breakfast we say good bye to each other and our tour is complete. Those who remain a day or two in Fukuoka City will find the attraction of a major Japanese city – museums, shopping, restaurants and cultural attractions. Those who continue to post-tour locations or those who depart for home, have a safe and pleasant trip. Whatever your destinations the mug you created in Amakusa will meet you at the arranged place. Please cherish your Kyushu memories for the rest of your life!