

Multilingual Electronic Newsletter

多言語メールマガジン

かごしま南の風便り



Kagoshima Southern Wind Tidings

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● Minamiosumi ① Southernmost tip of mainland Japan ●

— By Wong Yimin (CIR from Singapore)



Have you ever wondered how the southernmost tip of mainland Japan is like?

Minamiosumi Town is located at the very southern tip of Kagoshima, and is also the southernmost tip of Kyushu and mainland Japan. With lush subtropical greenery and a warmer climate, it gives off an atmosphere that is starkly different from the rest of Japan.



*Location of Minamiosumi,
right at the very tip of
Kagoshima*

On the day of the trip, we set out towards Osumi Peninsula early in the morning and were warmly welcomed by the kind folks of Minamiosumi Town Hall.

After some introductions, we then headed out with two members of the town hall to our first stop; the Great Camphor of Nanbansen Keiryu!



*Passing by a mist-shrouded
Sakurajima in the morning*

Great Camphor of Nanbansen Keiryu

This majestic tree has been standing guard near the Ogawa River for around a thousand years.

Around 500 years ago, this area used to be a bustling trading area for European traders. When they call at port, their sailing ships (called *Nanbansen*) will dock here and use this very same tree as a post to tie their mooring lines to.



Great Camphor of Nanbansen Keiryu, standing proudly near the Shioiri Bridge

As a result, the name *Nanbansen Keiryu* was born (literally meaning anchor of European ships).

Over the years, the surrounding landscape has changed but the great camphor tree still stands as a nod to the history of this area. Today, instead of trading ships plying this same Ogawa River, there will be dragon boat races held during the annual Nejime Dragon Boat Festival.



Ogawa River opposite the tree

Standing beside this tree and gazing out over the river, it is fascinating to imagine how this same area would have looked like back then.

Former Sata Herb Garden

We also stopped by the Former Sata Herb Garden, which was a small medicinal herb garden belonging to the 20th head of the Shimazu Clan, Shimazu Tsunakata.



The plants inside include European-imported herbs and rare tropical plants such as longans and lychees, along with many tropical ferns and plants not often seen around Japan.

*Former Sata Herb garden, and
bunches of scarlet lychee fruits*



During our visit, lychees were in season and the lychee trees hung heavy with brilliant red fruits.

Entrance to Cape Sata

Next, down south to Cape Sata we go!

The route down is lined by subtropical and tropical plants such as Chinese fan palms and cycads, and has the sparkling blue ocean on one side. Coming from a tropical country, parts of this road gave me an unexpected nostalgic feeling, almost if I was back home.



*The tropical-looking view along the drive
down to Cape Sata*

Upon arriving at the entrance, we were welcomed by a member of Minamiosumi Town Tourism Association and a former employee of Minamiosumi Town, both whom had kindly agreed to guide us around the area. And off we go!



Majestic banyan tree at the entrance



Tunnel at the start of the trail

The trail started off through a short tunnel, which then opened up to a path through a breezy open area with gorgeous views of the ocean and surrounding islets.

The gentle winding path then passes by more vibrant ferns and plants before dipping into a subtropical forest not unlike one from a southern island.



Pathway down towards the cape and the accompanying views

Misaki Shrine

This forest is where Misaki Shrine sits, dating back to just a little before the Nara Period (AD 710–784) and is nestled among thickly growing cycads and jungle greenery.



This shrine is said to be good for relationships and has a unique architectural style unlike usual Japanese shrines.



With its striking red roofs among the draping tropical ferns, it is an interesting sight indeed!

Cape Sata Observatory

After passing through the jungle, the gently sloping path brings us back upwards and to Cape Sata Observatory.

Here, you will be greeted with a vast panorama comprising of the Pacific Ocean, East China Sea and Kinko Bay. If the weather is clear, you can even see as far as Yakushima and Tanegashima. Alas, it was cloudy on the day we went and unfortunately was unable to catch a glimpse of the islands.

Nonetheless, the majestic views, soothing sea breeze and gentle sound of the waves was great, and the sight of the endless horizon of the sea was at once both calming yet breathtaking.



*Clean horizon line at the
Observatory*



(※To be continued in the next issue, No. 171!)

The A-Z of Kagoshima's International Relations

- Visit by the Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Osaka-Kobe ●

Mr. Martin Eberts, Consul-General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Osaka-Kobe, paid a courtesy call to Vice Governor Fujimoto at the Prefectural Office on 17 June.

The Consul-General mentioned his visit to Tanegashima the day before, and about his impressions after his tour of JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) on the island. There was also discussion about the agreement signed in April this year between Japan's JAXA and Germany's DLR (German Aerospace Center), and also about Japan-Germany cooperation in a wide range of fields, including the high-tech sector and exchange programs.

The Vice Governor also talked about the 45th Kirishima International Music Festival, which was founded by late German violinist Gerhard Bosse and continues to this day. They also discussed cooperation in promoting Kagoshima's agricultural and fishery products in Germany in the future, and about continuing exchanges between Kagoshima Prefecture and the Federal Republic of Germany.



Left: Consul General Eberts / Right: Vice Governor Fujimoto

Seasonal Tourism Information

- Golden Torii Gates: Ability to improve monetary luck? ●

Today's photo is of the Golden Torii Gates in Ibusuki City!

It is a spot near Lake Ikeda which is said to be able to improve monetary luck, and enshrines the Golden Torii Gates and Kinhoryu, the Fountain of Happiness.

Please aim your offering money towards the golden baskets on top of the torii gates!



Golden Torii Gates

Photos by @xmakixx33 (from Instagram)

This is a recommended spot for the upcoming seasons!



Water spouting from the dragon's mouth!



Sunflower basking in the sun

Latest Updates

- Event: 「Please come to Minamikyushu! 『Path of Windchimes』」 ●

The 3rd installment of 「Please come to Minamikyushu! 『Path of Windchimes』」 will be held again in 2022! This is an event where visitors will be welcomed by the soothing tones of windchimes, and is held at Fujidana Park in Chiran Town, extending to surrounding areas such as the Chiran Samurai Residence Garden, around Chiran Fumoto Park, and Iikura Shrine in Kawanabe Town near the river.

It has been very well-received, so this year it will be held as a city-wide windchime event with increased locations and incorporating collaborations with various individuals and groups such as local shopping street associations.

※ Please refer to the official website of Minamikyushu City for more details on this event.

[Official Website of Minamikyushu City \(minamikyushu-kankounavi.com\)](http://minamikyushu-kankounavi.com)

Do come and enjoy 『Path of Windchimes』, the symbol of summer!

南九州市へおいでよ!

ふうりんの小径

南九州市の風と風鈴の音色にひととき耳を傾けて
ざわついた日常から抜け出しほっと一息

ふうりんと出会えるスポット

2022年7月16日土曜日から8月28日日曜日まで

◇主なスポット
知覧武家屋敷藤棚公園
川辺町宮 飯倉神社
麓公園 武家屋敷各庭園 等
(その他 各商店街や各店舗にて展示予定)

お問い合わせ先
南九州市観光協会 0993-58-7577

南九州市観光協会HP

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Editor's Note (International Affairs Division, Kagoshima Prefectural Government)

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How did you find this month's edition of Kagoshima Southern Wind Tidings?

We as editors will continue to strive to have this prefectural multilingual newsletter be a bridge of information that connects Kagoshima with everyone.



「Kagoshima Southern Wind Tidings's bulletin board」 is looking for the following content!

☆Kagoshima Photo Gallery

We would like to invite you to send us photos that remind you of Kagoshima, or photos of Kagoshima that you might have seen overseas. Please also attach a brief description along with the photo. (e.g. a mountain of volcanic-ash bags)

☆Knowledge about living in Kagoshima

Please share with us information related to life in Kagoshima. (e.g. delicious ways to enjoy fried fish cakes, or how to deal with volcanic ash.)

We also welcome any other information that you would like to share with our readers.

▲▽▲▽ Inquiries ▲▽▲▽

International Affairs Division, Tourism, Culture and Sports Department

Kagoshima Prefectural Government

10-1 Kamoike-shinmachi, Kagoshima City, Japan 890-8577

TEL: +81-99-286-2306 / FAX: +81-99-286-5522

↓ Email

English : cir1@pref.kagoshima.lg.jp

Korean : cir3@pref.kagoshima.lg.jp

Japanese : minami@pref.kagoshima.lg.jp

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