

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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Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) Column

Since arriving in Kagoshima in August last year, I have taken full advantage of what Kagoshima City has to offer. Whether it's gazing across at Mt Sakurajima from the Shiroyama Observation Deck, eating Jambo Mochi in Sengan-en, former summer villa of the Shimazu clan and UNESCO World Heritage Site, or finding myself awestruck at the dolphin show and the curious underwater world on display at the Kagoshima City Aquarium – I've now spent a full year enjoying all of the city's tourist attractions.

So, recently, I'd been looking for a new adventure. With a list of day-trip destinations, I began to narrow down my options and flesh out my plans. And then, I was off! To the southernmost tip of the Satsuma Peninsula, Cape Nagasakibana!

Since I don't have a car, I decided to make my journey by train via the JR Ibusuki-Makurazaki Line, but I'm now convinced that the train is the best option even for those with a car. Looking out from the window across Kagoshima Bay and enjoying the breathtaking scenery, I really got a taste of the true joy of rail travel. With my earphones in, I continued my journey to the sound of City Pop, a genre that has recently been enjoying popularity even outside of Japan.



The view from the JR Ibusuki-Makurazaki Line



The southernmost JR Station in Japan, Nishi-Oyama!

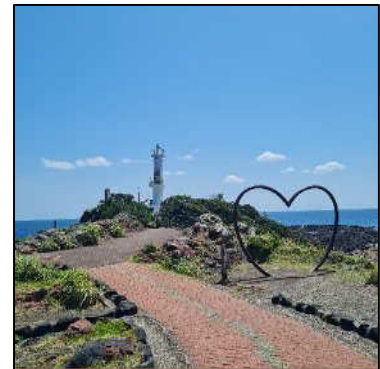
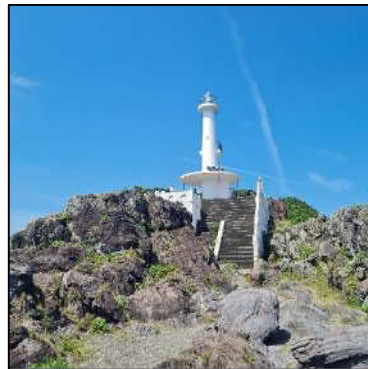
Before I knew it, I was disembarking from my train at the closest station to Cape Nagasakibana, Nishi-Oyama Station. But Nishi-Oyama is not just any old station! In fact, it is the southernmost JR train station in Japan! Even with the Satsuma region's own take on Mt Fuji, Kaimondake, in the distance, the station itself was a surprisingly modest place. Next to the single train track was a platform with just three chairs, and the sparse timetable seemed to suggest that missing your train might mean a two to three hour wait for the next one to come along. But, to me, this was precisely why the station was so charming.

In front of the station stands the “bell of happiness”, along with a postbox painted the same colour yellow as *nanohana* (rape blossom), a classic floral symbol of the Ibusuki region. The postbox is apparently also known as the “postbox that delivers happiness”. If you have the chance to visit Nishi-Oyama Station, why not try ringing the bell and posting a letter to a loved one?



Mt Kaimondake

Cape Nagasakibana is around an hour’s walk away from the station. Weaving through the fields, I found myself pausing time and time again to take in Mt Kaimondake in all its grandeur. Along the way was Tokko Jinja, a shrine dedicated to the man who introduced sweet potatoes to Satsuma, Maeda Riemon, so I made sure to pay a visit.



Nagasakibana Lighthouse

Arriving at Cape Nagasakibana, I felt like I had fallen into a different world. Behind the picturesque lighthouse, a rocky reef stretches on to the ocean, and there I couldn’t help but find my thoughts wandering to a primordial earth. Here, in this region known for its volcanic activity, among the gently lapping waves and humble tidepools, I wondered to myself – is this what the world looked like when life first began?



The rocky reef behind the lighthouse

Then, standing at the edge of the rocks and gazing out across the waves all the way to the horizon, I noticed something strange.

“It looks like there’s some kind of shadow over there...”

As surprising as it was, I could just make out the faint silhouette of Yakushima in the distance! I had visited Yakushima myself in January this year, making the crossing on the high-speed jetfoil “Toppo”, and at the time I remember thinking how far it felt from the mainland. I never imagined the island would be visible from here!



*Islands visible from
Nagasakibana*

Before making my way back to Kagoshima City, there was one more place I wanted to visit – the beautifully unique Ryugu Shrine, standing just across from Nagasakibana Lighthouse. With its design based on a mythical underwater palace, described in the legend of Ryugu as the home of Ryujin, dragon god of the sea, the shrine's vermillion roofs and architectural motifs reminiscent of fish scales really pack a punch!



Ryugu Shrine

I really enjoyed my summer adventure! This scenic region is absolutely brimming with unmissable places, so why not try setting off on your own adventure to Cape Nagasakibana?

The Governor's Activities

●4th July: Encouraging participants in the FY2023 Satsuma Students Dispatch Project●

The governor gave his encouragement to high school students participating in the FY2023 Satsuma Students Dispatch Project.

He heard from the students that, although they were nervous to make their first trip to the UK, they were very much looking forward to participating in a summer programme run by University College London (UCL).

The governor explained that since this would be the first time in four years that the programme would be held in person in the UK, and that the students would be interacting with British high school students, he hoped they would learn a lot and take the opportunity to promote the wonderful Kagoshima Prefecture to the people of Britain.

We look forward to seeing the growth made by each of the participants, through their valuable experiences in the UK, upon their return to Kagoshima.



● 1st August: Debrief from participants in the 30th Kagoshima Prefecture International Cooperation Youth Experience Program ●

15 students attending junior and senior high schools in Kagoshima Prefecture gave a debrief to the governor regarding their participation in the International Cooperation Youth Experience Program, which took place in Malaysia from 23rd – 30th July this year.

Comments from participating group members included: “I was able to learn about, as well as actively practise, respecting foreign cultures,” “I could improve my communication skills through exchange,” and “I want to share my experience with lots of different people.”

The governor asked the group questions about their homestays, their interactions with the local students, the local culture, and so on. We look forward to seeing all of the participants making use of this experience in future for the benefit of Kagoshima and Japan.



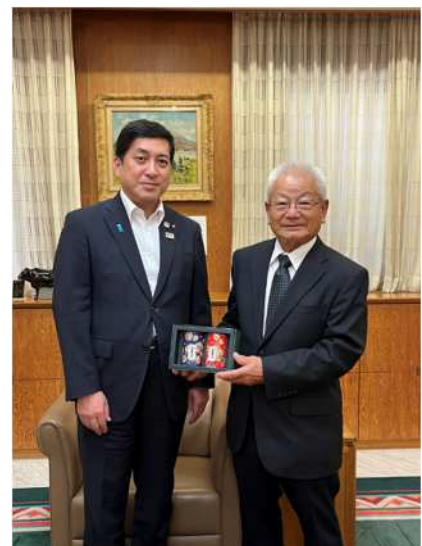
● 23rd August: Visit from the Chair of the Planning Committee for the Southern California Kagoshima Kenjinkai 125th Anniversary Celebration ●

On 23rd August, the Chair of the Planning Committee for the Southern California Kagoshima Kenjinkai 125th Anniversary Celebration, Hisamori Iwashita, paid a courtesy visit to the Prefectural Office.

As well as delivering a letter of intent regarding the holding of the Southern California Kenjinkai 125th Anniversary Celebration in Los Angeles in October next year, Mr Iwashita invited the governor to participate in the event.

The governor asked questions about the status of Los Angeles and San Francisco, among other things, and discussed the topic of members of the Kagoshima community that are active in the region.

Moving forward, we hope to continue to build on our relations with California and further improve exchange and cooperation between us.



International Exchange in Kagoshima

● Three Overseas Technical Trainees have arrived in Kagoshima Prefecture for FY2023! ●

Since 1985, Kagoshima Prefecture has welcomed Overseas Technical Trainees to learn specialist skills within the prefecture. To date, 245 trainees from 27 different countries have come to Kagoshima, learning skills across a variety of different fields.

This year, on 6th September, one trainee from each of Brazil, Paraguay and China arrived in Kagoshima, and the following day they paid a visit to the governor to mark their arrival. The three trainees will be learning about international trade, exterior design, and gastroenterological endoscopy, respectively.

The trainees will be receiving Japanese language training at the Kagoshima Asia-Pacific Intercultural Countryside Center (KAPIC) in Kanoya City until the end of October. Then, from November to February next year, they will each receive instruction in their respective areas of expertise at training facilities within Kagoshima City.

For this issue, we heard from the trainees about their motivations and goals for the Overseas Technical Trainee program.



FUMIOKA Tatiana Yumi (*Brazil, Yumiba Trading Co., Ltd.*)

Hello.

My name is FUMIOKA Tatiana Yumi. I was born in Brazil, and am a third-generation Japanese. I am 27 years old. My grandfather and grandmother are from Uken, a village on Amami Oshima in Kagoshima Prefecture.



In 2020, I graduated in international relations from a university in São Paulo. Since then, I have been working at an international logistics company. This year, I am a technical trainee for Yumiba Trading Co., Ltd.

It is an honour to come to the prefecture of my grandparents. I am really happy to have the chance to study Japanese in Kagoshima. I want to learn about Kagoshima's signature dishes and culture. And, I want to learn a lot about Japan's international trade.

Thank you!

YAMASHITA Tsuchida Nancy Saori (*Paraguay, Tojo Sekkei Co.*)

Hello, my name is YAMASHITA Tsuchida Nancy Saori. I come from a Japanese migrant community in Paraguay.

I graduated in architectural design from a university in Paraguay, and have now been given the opportunity to receive practical training in Kagoshima, the home of my grandparents.

Through this opportunity, as well as gaining lots of useful work experience, I hope to be able to interact with the local people and learn about some of the wonderful places here. I look forward to having lots of new experiences!

Thank you!



YUE An Jun (*China, Kagoshima University Faculty of Medicine*)

Hello, nice to meet you. I am YUE An Jun. I am 34 years old this year. I came from Suzhou in China. I work at the Suzhou Xiangcheng People's Hospital in Jiangsu. I am a gastroenterologist.

I will be undertaking training in the Faculty of Medicine at Kagoshima University. It's my first time in Japan. It is an honour to have this opportunity to come and train in Kagoshima.

I am happy to be able to study Japanese and learn about Japanese culture. From November, I will be studying endoscopic examination at Kagoshima University's Faculty of Medicine – I'll do my best!

Thank you!



What's New in Kagoshima?

●The Ohara Festival is here!●

Every year on the 2nd – 3rd November the Ohara Festival is held in the Tenmonkan area. Dating back to 1949, it is the biggest festival in southern Kyushu.

The festival hosts a variety of events and performances, including the main event, the *sou-odori* (mass dance), where participants perform an elaborate dance to the classic Kagoshima folk song, *Ohara-bushi*, as well as *Kagoshima Hanya-bushi*, *Shibuya Ondo*, and more.

With the *sou-odori* and the *ogoyo* taiko drumming competition during the evening festival, as well as the main festival's *sou-odori*, *ogoyo* taiko drumming competition, marching bands, and *Ohara21* dance performance, the Tenmonkan area will be bustling for the entire duration of the festival.

With the members of each dance group all wearing colorful outfits, the *sou-odori* is a spectacular sight! What's more, you can enjoy an electric atmosphere thanks to the running of the 'flower train', which will have been lit up until the day before the Ohara Festival.

In Kagoshima dialect, "*ogoyo*" means woman, and the taiko and flute performances of the brave and beautiful women of Satsuma during the *ogoyo* taiko drumming competition are another thing you certainly won't want to miss.



Photo credit: Kagoshima Prefectural Visitors Bureau

[Events at the 72nd Ohara Festival]

- 2nd November (Thu): Evening Festival
Sou-odori, Ogojo Taiko Drumming Competition
- 3rd November (Fri, National Holiday): Main Festival
(Part 1) *Sou-odori, Ogojo Taiko Drumming Competition*
(Part 2) Marching Bands / Toko Disney Resort® 40th Anniversary Special Parade
(Part 3) *Sou-odori, Ogojo Taiko Drumming Competition*
(Part 4) Dance Time “*Ohara21*”

Date and Time

Thursday 2nd November: 18:50 – 20:30

Friday 3rd November (Public Holiday): 10:20 – 15:25

Event Venue

Tenmonkan area (Takamibaba Intersection – Izuro – Sanbashi-dori), Kagoshima City



Kagoshima Prefectural Office Website: <http://www.pref.kagoshima.jp/>



Editor’s Note (International Affairs Division, Department of Tourism, Culture and Sports, Kagoshima Prefectural Government)

Hello everyone, it’s Nakamine here.

The days are still hot, but now there is a slight cool breeze in the mornings and the evenings. Autumn is associated with lots of tasty food. This year too, I haven’t wasted any time in enjoying a whole range of autumn delicacies, from potato and chestnuts, to pumpkin sweets and mushroom rice!

What will you make of your autumn this year? I’d love to hear about it!

That’s all for now – please look forward to our next issue!



A request to our readers

Please share with us any news of events in your country or region that might be of interest to Kagoshima Prefecture. We welcome brief and simple submissions, and we always look forward to hearing from you.

- Examples:
- Imports of agricultural, forestry and fishery products from Japan
 - Trends in Japan-bound tourism
 - Local exchange with Japan
 - Etc.

(Enquiries)

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(Related Websites)

(1) Tourism

- [Kagoshima – The Official Tourism Website](#)

(2) Food

- [Kagoshima stores promoting local production for local consumption](#)
- [‘Kagoshima no Shoku’ website](#)

(3) Agricultural, Livestock and Seafood Products

- [The Kagoshima Brand](#)
- [‘Furusato’ certified food products](#)
- [Natural and processed meat products](#)
- [Kagoshima Prefecture Chamber of Tea Industry website](#)
- [Specialty forest products](#)
- [Marine products](#)

(4) Others

- [Kagoshima Internet TV Channel ‘Move! Kagoshima’](#)
- [Official Kagoshima Prefecture Facebook](#)
- [Official Kagoshima Prefecture Twitter](#)
- [Kagoshima Prefecture Official Website](#)