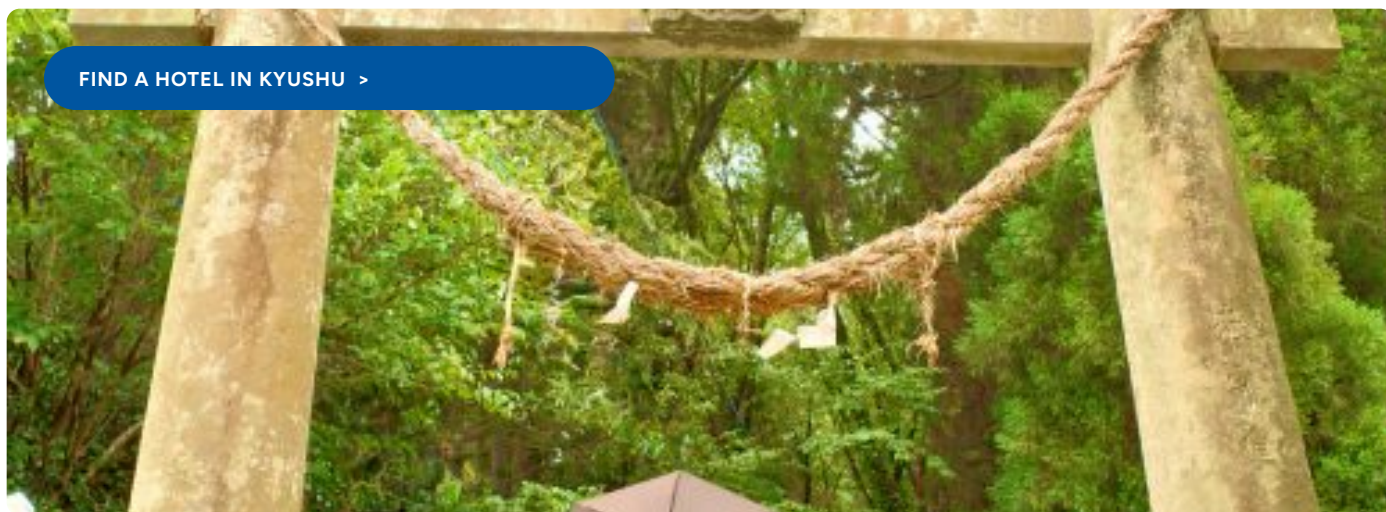


4-DAY TRAVEL GUIDE

4 Days in Kyushu: Fukuoka, Kumamoto, Mount Aso & Takachiho

A 4-day Kyushu itinerary from Fukuoka and Kumamoto to Mount Aso, Kurokawa Onsen and the sacred landscapes of Takachiho.

[FIND A HOTEL IN KYUSHU >](#)

AT A GLANCE

- | | | |
|-----------|--|---|
| 01 | <i>Day One</i>
Fukuoka Highlights: Fukuoka Castle, teamLab Forest & Hakata | Fukuoka Castle Ruins & Ashori Park / teamLab Forest Fukuoka / Fukuoka Tower |
| 02 | <i>Day Two</i>
Kumamoto: Castle, Basashi, and Kumamon! | Kumamoto Castle / Basashi (Horse Sashimi) at Aoyagi |
| 03 | <i>Day Three</i>
Mount Aso, Nabegataki Falls & Kurokawa Onsen | Kamishikimi Kumanoza Shrine / Nabegataki Falls / Kurokawa Onsen Hopping |
| 04 | <i>Day Four</i>
Takachiho: Sacred Shrines & Takachiho Gorge | Takachiho Gorge / Takachiho Shrine |

MAIZURU PARK · MOMOCHI · HAKATA

Day One: Fukuoka Highlights: Fukuoka Castle, teamLab Forest & Hakata



STOP 1 / 8:30 AM

Fukuoka Castle Ruins & Momochi Park

Fukuoka Castle is mostly stone walls, gates, and elevated viewpoints now, but those remains make Maizuru Park much more interesting to wander. This was als...

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STOP 2 / 11:00 AM

teamLab Forest Fukuoka

Think of teamLab Forest Fukuoka as a sister experience to Japan's famous teamLab attractions, with its own playful focus on animals and movement. You can capture digital creatures, balance, climb, and jump through responsive...

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STOP 3 / 12:30 PM

BOSS EDO FUKUOKA

Inside BOSS EDO FUKUOKA, you can choose between rooftop thrill rides, VR games, baseball attractions, Sanrio experiences, and teamLab Forest beside Mizuho PayPay Dome. One highlight is SUBE-ZO, a 100-meter tube slide that...

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STOP 4 / 2:00 PM

Fukuoka Tower

Fukuoka Tower rises 234 meters beside Hakata Bay, with a mirrored triangular exterior that earned it the nickname "Mirror Sail." The observation room sits 123 meters above the waterfront and opens up a wide view over the city...

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STOP 5 / 4:00 PM

Tochoji Temple

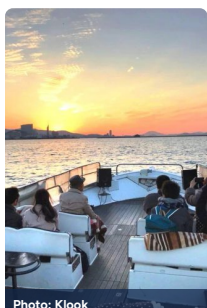
Tochoji is one of Hakata Old Town's most striking temple stops, with a bright five-story pagoda and the enormous wooden Fukuoka Daibutsu hidden inside. The contrast between the quiet grounds and the surrounding city makes it...

[BOOK THIS STOP >](#)


STOP 6 / 5:00 PM

Kushida Shrine

Kushida Shrine is Hakata's guardian shrine, where everyday worship and the energy of the Hakata Gion Yamakasa festival come together. I loved how calm and beautiful the compact grounds felt-you're taking in the shrine...

[BOOK THIS STOP >](#)


STOP 7 / 6:00 PM

Fukuoka Nakasu River Cruise

The Nakasu River Cruise is a quick 30-minute boat ride that gives you a completely different view of central Fukuoka. It slips past Canal City, the...

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STOP 8 / 7:00 PM

Nakasu Yatai Food Stalls

Nakasu's yatai are tiny open-air food stalls lining the river at night, where everyone squeezes shoulder to shoulder around the counter. The Hakata-style ramen at this random yatai was PERFECT. Genuinely one of the best...

[BOOK THIS STOP >](#)

KUMAMOTO CASTLE

Day Two: Kumamoto: Castle, Basashi, and Kumamon!



STOP 1 / 9:00 AM

Kumamoto Castle

Kumamoto Castle's main keep is basically a modern museum inside that landmark black-and-white fortress, with massive stone walls surrounding you. The elevated route gives you this striking look across the grounds-and straight...

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STOP 2 / 11:30 AM

Sakura no Baba J-saien

Sakura no Baba J-saien is basically a castle-town-style welcome mat for Kumamoto Castle-you can eat, shop, and get your bearings before heading in. I loved wandering Sakuranokoji's super-easy-to-browse arcade, where the local...

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STOP 3 / 12:30 PM

Akaushi - Kumamoto Wagyu

Akaushi Dining Yoka-Yoka is right in central Kumamoto, and it's such an easy first hello to Akaushi-the red beef associated with the Aso region. You can go straight for the steak donburi, like I...



STOP 4 / 4:00 PM

Kumamon Square

Kumamon Square is Kumamon's downtown home base, with a stage, playful displays, and a shop absolutely packed with merch. We watched him literally dance his way through a music-filled, super interactive show-and yes,...

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STOP 5 / 5:30 PM

Basashi (Horse Sashimi) at Aoyagi

When in Kumamoto, you have to try basashi. Horse sashimi is their local delicacy and Aoyagi does it SO well. They serve it in multiple ways throughout a full seasonal kaiseki meal. We tried so many...

MOUNT ASO · OGUNI · KUROKAWA ONSEN

Day Three: Mount Aso, Nabegataki Falls & Kurokawa Onsen



STOP 1 / 8:30 AM

Kamishikimi Kumanoza Shrine

Kamishikimi Kumanoza Shrine leads up a lantern-lined staircase through mossy cedars toward a dramatic opening in the rock. We went on a misty morning, and i...

[BOOK THIS STOP >](#)


STOP 2 / 11:00 AM

Daikanbo

Daikanbo is the big panoramic payoff on Mount Aso's northern caldera rim. From up here, you can see across the Aso Valley to the five central peaks, whose outline is often compared to a reclining Buddha. This view shows you...

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STOP 3 / 12:30 PM

Nabegataki Falls

At Nabegataki Falls, you can walk behind a wide curtain of water and look out through the cascade. The waterfall is tucked into the woods near Oguni, with a broad rocky recess that gives you a completely different view from...

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STOP 4 / 5:30 PM

Kurokawa Onsen Hopping

Kurokawa onsen hopping means wandering between ryokan in a yukata and slipping into outdoor baths beside rivers, forests, and even caves. We spent the afternoon bouncing from one bath to the next, and it honestly felt like the...

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STOP 5 / 7:00 PM

Stay at a Ryokan

Staying overnight at a ryokan lets you enjoy Kurokawa long after the day-trippers leave. I've stayed at all three linked below, listed in my order of preference: Ryokan Ichinoi, Inn Noshiyu, then Fumoto Ryokan. Ichinoi is my...

[BOOK THIS STOP >](#)

AMANOIWATO · TAKACHIHO GORGE

Day Four: Takachiho: Sacred Shrines & Takachiho Gorge



STOP 1 / 10:30 AM

Amaterasu no Kakure Café

Amaterasu no Kakure Café is the sweetest little break between Amano Iwato Shrine and Amanoyasukawara. The menu has soft serve, drinks, and light bites, with SO many fun flavors to choose from. We grabbed colorful treats...



STOP 2 / 11:30 AM

Nagashi Somen at Chiho no Ie

Chiho no Ie turns lunch into a game: cold somen shoots down a bamboo channel, and you have to catch it with your chopsticks before dipping it in sauce. You're right in the forest with water...



STOP 3 / 1:00 PM

Takachiho Gorge

Takachiho Gorge is a wildly green canyon where patterned basalt cliffs rise around the Gokase River and Manai Falls—and I LOVED how unusual those formations looked. You can even row right up to the waterfall, which was such...

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STOP 4 / 4:00 PM

Takachiho Shrine

Takachiho Shrine feels wonderfully peaceful beneath its towering cedar trees near the center of town. You can wander among the wooden halls before returning for the nightly one-hour Kagura show, where masked dancers...

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