5-DAY TRAVEL GUIDE

5 Days in Kyushu: Fukuoka, Yufuin, Beppu, Kumamoto & Mount Aso

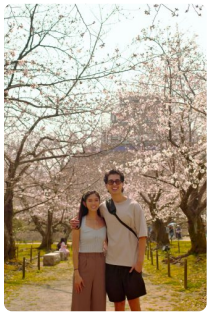
A 5-day Kyushu itinerary from Fukuoka through Yufuin and Beppu to Kumamoto, Mount Aso, Kurokawa Onsen and Takachiho.

AT A GLANCE

01	*Day One* **Fukuoka Highlights: Fukuoka Castle, teamLab Forest & Hakata**	Fukuoka Castle Ruins & Ohori Park / teamLab Forest Fukuoka / Fukuoka Tower
02	*Day Two* **Yufuin, Beppu & Attack on Titan Statues**	Oyama Dam: Attack on Titan Statues / Lake Kinrin / Yufuin Floral Village
03	*Day Three* **Kumamoto: Castle, Basashi, and Kumamon!**	Kumamoto Castle / Basashi (Horse Sashimi) at Aoyagi
04	*Day Four* **Mount Aso, Nabegataki Falls & Kurokawa Onsen**	Kamishikimi Kumanoza Shrine / Nabegataki Falls / Kurokawa Onsen Hopping
05	*Day Five* **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 & □hori 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...

BOOK THIS STOP >

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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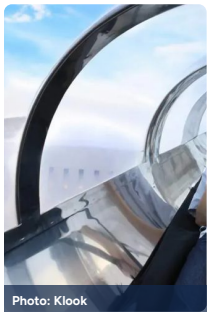


STOP 3 / 12:30 PM

BOSS E□ZO FUKUOKA

Inside BOSS E□ZO 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...

BOOK THIS STOP >

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,...

BOOK THIS STOP >

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...

BOOK THIS STOP >

STOP 8 / 7:00 PM

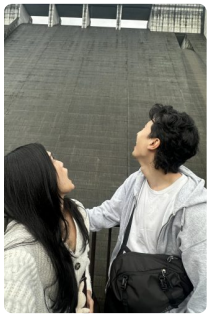
Nakasu Yatai Food Stalls

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 >

OYAMA · YUFUIN · BEPPU

Day Two: Yufuin, Beppu & Attack on Titan Statues



STOP 1 / 8:00 AM

Oyama Dam: Attack on Titan Statues

Oyama Dam turns a massive wall of concrete into one of Kyushu's coolest anime stops. Attack on Titan creator Hajime Isayama is from Hita, and bronze statues of young Eren, Mikasa, and...

STOP 2 / 10:00 AM

Lake Kinrin

Lake Kinrin is Yufuin's quiet little reset! Who would have thought such a peaceful escape with lake reflections, mountain views, and a small torii gate would sit right next to the bustling streets of Yufuin Floral Village! I...

BOOK THIS STOP >

STOP 3 / 11:00 AM

Yufuin Floral Village

Yufuin Floral Village is a tiny storybook world of themed shops, cafés, and character-filled corners. I had so much fun browsing the Ghibli shop, finding Miffy treats, and stopping to feed the animals. It's playful,...

BOOK THIS STOP >

STOP 4 / 1:00 PM

Cook yourself a meal using hot spring steam!

Jigokumushi Kobo lets you cook lunch yourself using steam straight from Beppu's natural hot springs. You load vegetables, eggs, seafood, or meat into...

BOOK THIS STOP >

STOP 5 / 2:30 PM

Seven Hells of Beppu

The Seven Hells of Beppu feel like a geothermal color tour, with vivid blue, red, and earthy pools. You don't bathe here-you wander between surreal landscapes while steam rolls everywhere. I especially loved seeing all 7 Hells...

BOOK THIS STOP >

STOP 6 / 6:00 PM

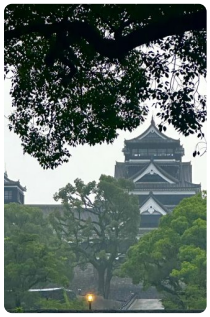
Umi no Hotel Hajime Onsen

Umi no Hotel Hajime gives you the relaxing side of Beppu after a day spent admiring springs that are far too hot to enter. I booked a private open-air bath overlooking the water, and it was SUCH a peaceful finish to the day....

BOOK THIS STOP >

KUMAMOTO CASTLE

Day Three: 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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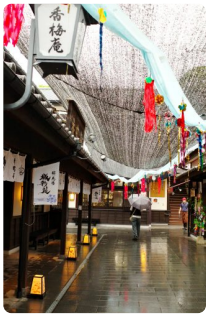

STOP 2 / 11:30 AM

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...

BOOK THIS STOP >

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,...

BOOK THIS STOP >

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 Four: 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...

BOOK THIS STOP >

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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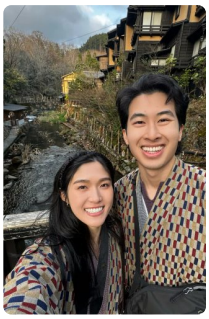

STOP 4 / 5:30 PM

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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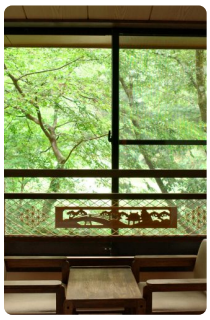

STOP 5 / 7:00 PM

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 Five: 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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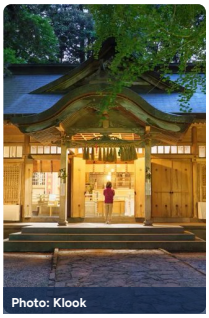

STOP 4 / 4:00 PM

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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