

Practical Travel Guide - 704

KUMAMOTO and MT. ASO



日本政府観光局 (JNTO)
Japan National Tourism Organization

JNTO Website : <http://www.jnto.go.jp>



KUMAMOTO

Kumamoto (熊本) pop. 739,570 (as of Nov. 2013) situated in the center of Kyushu, is the capital of Kumamoto Prefecture, and constitutes, along with Fukuoka, the political, commercial and cultural nucleus of the island. With many green woods and delicately crafted

gardens, Kumamoto was a thriving castletown for centuries. It has now developed into a modern metropolis with broad streets lined with high-rise buildings.

Access:

By Air:

From	To	Operated by	Time required	Access to downtown
Haneda (Tokyo)	Kumamoto	ANA / JAL / SNA / SKY	1 hr. 50 min.	50 min. by bus to Kumamoto Sta. ¥800
Itami (Osaka)		ANA / JAL / AMX	1 hr. 5 min.	
Nagoya (Chubu)		ANA	1 hr. 20 min.	
Nagoya (Komaki)		FDA	1 hr. 25 min.	

By JR Train:

From	To	Type of Transportation	Time required	One-way fare	
				Reserved Seat	Non-Reserved Seat
Tokyo	Kumamoto	Tokyo–Hakata by JR Shinkansen “Nozomi” and connecting JR Shinkansen “Mizuho”, “Sakura” or “Tsubame”	6 hrs. “Nozomi”	¥24,750	¥23,020
Shin-Osaka		Shin-Osaka–Hakata by JR Shinkansen “Nozomi” or “Hikari” and connecting JR Shinkansen “Mizuho”, “Sakura” or “Tsubame”	4 hrs. 5 min. “Nozomi”	¥17,040	¥15,780
			4 hrs. 30 min. “Hikari”	¥16,740	¥15,980
		Shin-Osaka–Kumamoto by JR Shinkansen “Sakura” or “Mizuho”	3 hrs. 18 min. “Sakura”	¥18,020	¥17,510
3 hrs. “Mizuho”			¥18,320		
Hakata	JR Shinkansen “Mizuho”, “Sakura” or “Tsubame”	50 min.	¥4,790	¥3,440	

* The one-way fare is regular time price and change by seasons. Please check them in advance.

Places of Interest:

① **Kumamoto Castle** (熊本城), the city’s leading landmark, is a 10-min. walk from Kotsu Center or a 20-min. bus ride from Kumamoto Sta. The castle, towering on a low hill in the city, was originally built in 1607 after seven years of work supervised by Kiyomasa Kato (1562–1611), the local feudal lord, who laid the foundations of the present thriving city of Kumamoto. A large part of the castle burned down in 1877, but the donjon was restored to its former grandeur in 1960. The donjon now has a museum which houses valuable items associated with the Shogun and his lords. Open: 8:30–17:30 (Mar.–Nov.), –16:30 (Dec.–Feb.) Admission: ¥500

② **Kumamoto Prefectural Art Museum** (熊本県立美術館) is in the vicinity of Kumamoto Castle. This modern structure houses a splendid collection of replicas of the ornamentally decorated tombs excavated in the prefecture. Open: 9:30–17:15 (enter by 16:45) Closed: Mon. (or Tue. when Mon. is a national holiday) Admission: ¥260 Additional fare will be needed for special exhibition.

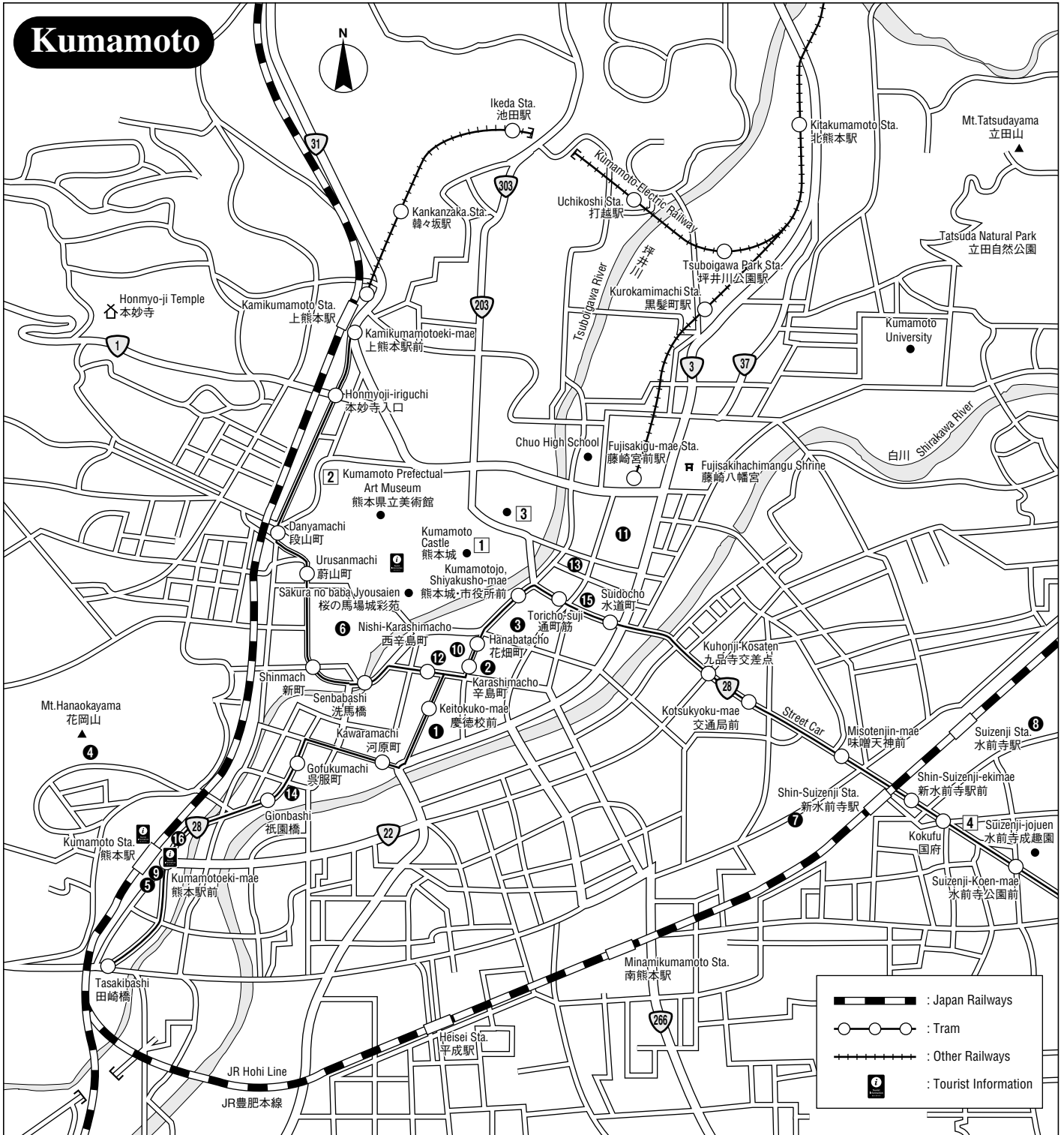
③ **Kumamoto Prefectural Traditional Crafts Center** (熊本県伝統工芸館), a 5-min. walk from Kumamoto-jo Shiyakusho-mae stop, has a great variety of folk arts and crafts such as woodworks, ceramics, bamboo crafts and cutlery, including Higo inlay, Kumamoto’s famous traditional craft. You can also purchase hand-made goods. Open: 9:00–17:00 (enter by 16:30) closed: Mon (or Tue. when Mon. is a national holiday) Admission: ¥200 (2nd floor only)

④ **Suizenji-jojuen** (水前寺成趣園), 20 min. by bus or Streetcar from Kotsu Center, has a typical Momoyama-style hill garden called Jojuen, which was laid out in 1632 in the villa of the Hosokawa Clan, the rulers of this district after the Kato Clan. The park, 64.6 ha. in area, is unique for its unusually large-scale design, featuring models of Mt. Fuji, Lake Biwa and other outstanding scenes along the old Tokaido Road. Open: 7:30–17:30 (Mar.–Oct.), 8:30–16:30 (Nov.–Feb.) Admission: ¥400

Suggested Sightseeing Route (3 hrs.):

Kumamoto Sta. 15 min. by streetcar Kumamoto-jo Shiyakusho-mae Stop 10 min. walk Kumamoto Castle 5 min. walk
 熊本駅 熊本市役所前停留所 熊本城

Kumamoto Prefectural Art Museum 15 min. walk Shiyakusho-mae Stop 15 min. by streetcar Suizenji-jojuen (Suizenji Koen-mae Stop)
 熊本県立美術館 市役所前停留所 水前寺成趣園 (水前寺公園前停留所)



① - ⑯ correspond to those in the Accommodations list on page 3/5
 ① - ④ correspond to those in the place of interests on page 1/5

Accommodations: Kumamoto

Name of facilities	Tel.	Fax.	Room rate (¥)	Name of facilities	Tel.	Fax.	Room rate (¥)
① Hokke Club (BH)	(096)322-5001	(096)354-9498	¥	⑨ Toyoko Inn Kumamoto Sta. (BH)	(096)351-1045	(096)351-1046	¥
② Kumamoto Tokyu Inn Hotel (BH)	(096)322-0109	(096)322-3050	¥	⑩ Kumamoto Kotsu Center Hotel (H)	(096)326-8828	(096)354-1120	¥¥
③ Hotel Sun Route Kumamoto (BH)	(096)322-2211	(096)322-6987	¥	⑪ Maruko Hotel (R)	(096)353-1241	(096)353-1217	¥¥
④ Higoji (M)	(096)352-7860	(096)352-7860	¥	⑫ Nest Hotel Kumamoto (H)	(096)322-3911	(096)356-5229	¥¥
⑤ JR Kyusyu Hotel Kumamoto (BH)	(096)354-8000	(096)354-8012	¥	⑬ Kumamoto Hotel Castle (H)	(096)326-3311	(096)326-3324	¥¥¥
⑥ Minshuku Ryokan Kajita (R)	(096)353-1546	(096)353-1546	¥	⑭ ANA Hotel Kumamoto New Sky (H)	(096)354-2111	(096)354-8973	¥¥¥
⑦ Suizenji Youth Hostel (Y)	(096)371-9193	(096)371-9218	¥	⑮ Hotel Nikko Kumamoto (H)	(096)211-1111	(096)211-1175	¥¥¥
⑧ Youthpia Kumamoto Youth Hostel (Y)	(096)381-6221	(096)382-2715	¥	⑯ Hotel New Otani Kumamoto (H)	(096)326-1111	(096)326-0800	¥¥¥

Remarks:

① – ⑯ correspond to those on the map on page 2/5

H = Hotel	Rate for a twin room	¥¥¥ = more than 15,000 yen
R = Ryokan	Rate per person	¥¥ = 8,001 yen – 15,000 yen
BH = Business Hotel	Rate per person	¥ = 8,000 yen or less
Y = Youth Hostel	Rate per person	
M = Minsyuku (family-run inn)	Rate per person	

MT. ASO

Mt. Aso (阿蘇山), symbolizing Kumamoto, the “Land of Fire,” is a national park with vast grassland, lakes, forests and hot springs at its base. The crater basin, measuring 24 km in length from north to south, 18 km in width from east to west and 128 km in circumference, is the largest of its kind in the world. Aso is the general name for five volcanic

peaks, each well over 1,000 m in altitude, of which Nakadake is active. The largest of the five craters of Nakadake, 600 m across and 160 m deep, is the most active, constantly spewing forth black smoke accompanied by underground trembling.

Access to the Crater:

From	To	Operated by	Time required	Remarks	One-way fare
Kumamoto Sta.	Aso Sta.	JR Hohi Line Limited Express “Kyushu Oudan Tokkyu”	1 hr. 5 min.	4 runs	¥1,680
		JR Hohi Line Local train	1 hr. 30 min.	6 runs	¥1,080
Aso Sta.	Asozan Nishi (West side of Mt. Aso)	Kyushu Sangyo Bus	40 min.	7 runs	¥540
Asozan Nishi (West side of Mt. Aso)	Kako Nishi (West Crater)	Kyushu Sangyo Ropeway	4 min.	every 8~15 min.	¥600

*The one-way fare may change by seasons.

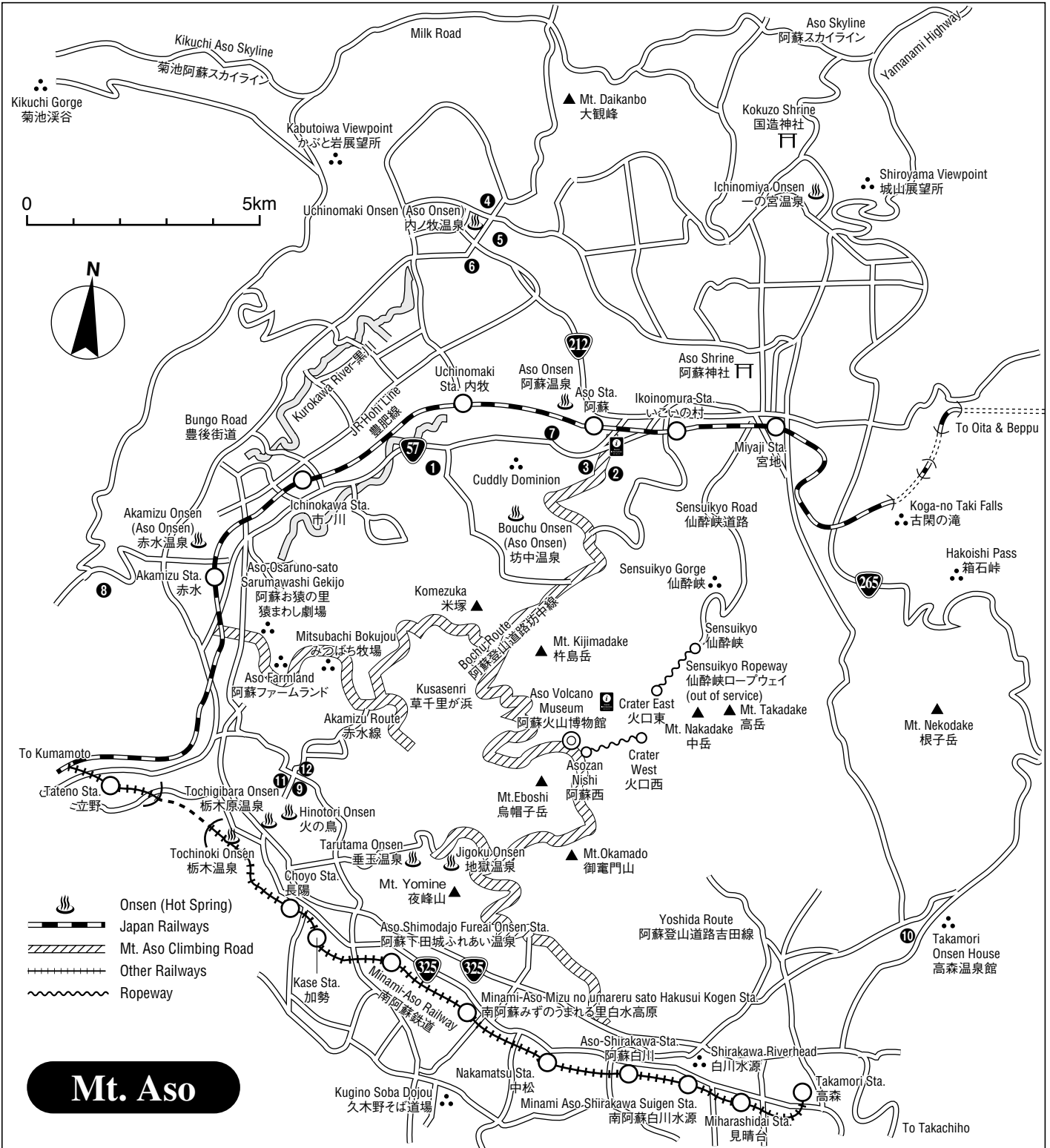
Accommodations: Mt. Aso

Name of facilities	Tel.	Fax.	Room rate (¥)	Name of facilities	Tel.	Fax.	Room rate (¥)
Uchinomaki Spa:				Akamizu Spa:			
① Aso-no-Tokeidai (P)	(0967)32-2236	(0967)32-3429	¥	⑧ Kumamoto YMCA Aso Camp (Y)	(0967)35-0124	(0967)35-1642	¥
② ASO BASE BACK PACKERS (G)	(0967)34-0408	(0967)34-0408	¥	Others:			
③ Aso Youth Hostel (Y)	(0967)34-0804	—	¥	⑨ Evergreen (P)	(0967)67-1769	(0967)67-2585	¥
④ Aso Hotel Ichibankan (R)	(0967)32-0008	(0967)32-0526	¥¥	⑩ Cream House (P)	(0967)62-3090	(0967)62-3089	¥
⑤ Aso Plaza Hotel (R)	(0967)32-0711	(0967)32-1756	¥¥	⑪ Pension Akanegumo (P)	(0967)67-2001	(0967)67-2011	¥
⑥ Hotel Kadoman (R)	(0967)32-0615	(0967)32-0214	¥¥	⑫ Kulala (P)	(0967)67-1826	(0967)67-1826	¥¥
⑦ Aso-no-tsukasa Villa Park Hotel (H)	(0967)34-0811	(0967)34-0816	¥¥				

Remarks:

① – ⑫ correspond to those on the map on page 4/5

H = Hotel	Rate for a twin room	¥¥¥ = more than 15,000 yen
R = Ryokan	Rate per person	¥¥ = 8,001 yen – 15,000 yen
Y = Youth Hostel	Rate per person	¥ = 8,000 yen or less
P = Pension	Rate per person	
G = Guest House	Rate per person	



① - ⑫ correspond to those in the Accommodations list on 3/5

Trans-Kyushu Sightseeing Bus (Kumamoto - Mt. Aso (Aso Sta.) - Beppu):

Name	JR Kumamoto Sta.	Mt. Aso (Aso Sta.)		Beppu Sta.	Note
		Ar.	Lv.		
#1	8:04	9:46	9:56	-	Direct bus (The last stop is Yufuin Sta.)
#3	9:04	11:28	11:38	-	Direct bus (The last stop is Yufuin Sta.)
#5	10:35	12:59	-	-	Direct bus
#7	12:15	14:39	14:49	18:03	

No English-speaking guides. Reservation required. Please check the schedule in advance. Kyushu Sangyo Kotsu: Tel. (096)354-4845

Komezuka (米塚), 20 min. by taxi from JR Aso Sta. It is alt. 954 m high a parasite volcano of Mt. Aso, it is covered with grass. Visitors can be enjoyed the beautiful green scenery from May. It is prohibited to enter the mountain's area for the conservation.

Kurokawa Onsen (黒川温泉), 50 min. by Sanko Bus from JR Aso Sta., there are about 20 spa along Tanoharu River. Almost Onsen are open air bath, they are beside the river, the rocky mountain and in the grove. Kurokawa Onsen is one of the popular Onsen in Kumamoto. Admission and time are depended on each spa.

Nagayu Onsen (長湯温泉), 1hr. 25 min. from JR Aso Sta. to Bungotaketa Sta. (豊後竹田). Then 50 min. by Taketa Community Bus from Bungotaketa Bus Stop to Nagayu Bus Stop. It is called lemon pop Onsen (ramune) because of it is a carbonated hot spring. Admission and time are depended on each Onsen.

Aso Farm Land (阿蘇ファームランド), 15 min. from JR Aso Sta. to Akamizu Sta. then 7 min. by taxi. It is the largest theme park in Kyushu, there are restaurants, spa, ranch, accommodation, athletic fields and so on. Open: 9:00–17:00 (depends on seasons and facilities). Admission is free, but each facilities are required.

Cuddly Dominion, 3 min by taxi from JR Aso Sta. is a unique zoological park that holds 1,100 animals from 95 species. Various kinds of show are take place, and you will see lovely performance of chimpanzees, bears or penguins. You can also feed and touch the animals. Open: 9:30–17:30, 10:00–16:30 (mid-Oct.–mid Mar.) Closed: Tue. & Wed. (Dec. – Feb) Admission: ¥2,300 (children: ¥1,200) Note: the shows and programs may be changed or canceled without prior notification.

Tourist Information Center (TIC)

TIC of Japan National Tourism Organization is your helping hand while in Japan. Its main services are providing travel information and free literature on Japan such as tourist spots, transportation, and suggesting tour itineraries, etc.

1st Fl., Shin Tokyo Bldg., 3-3-1, Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0005 Tel. 03-3201-3331

Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Closed: Jan. 1st)
<http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/arrange/travel/guide/tic.html>



Goodwill Guide Groups offer tourists from overseas local tours guided in English or other languages. The guides are registered with JNTO and display the badge shown. As they are volunteers, there is no charge for their service. You are only expected to pay for their transportation, admission to tourist facilities if you visit any and their meals if you eat with them.

JNTO Website

www.jnto.go.jp/eng/arrange/travel/guide/guideservice.html



TOURIST INFORMATION (Visit Japan Information Network)

JR Kumamoto Station Tourist Information (West Exit):

3-15-1 Kasuga, Nishi-ku, Kumamoto City, Kumamoto
 Open: 8:00–20:00 Tel. (096)352-3743

JR Kumamoto Station Tourist Information (East Exit):

3-15-1 Kasuga, Nishi-ku, Kumamoto City, Kumamoto
 Open: 8:30–19:00 Tel. (096)352-3743

Tourist Information Center (Sakurano-baba Johsai-en):

1-1-3 Ninomaru, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto City, Kumamoto
 Open: 8:30–18:30, –17:30 (Dec.–Feb.) Tel. (096)322-5060
 Closed: Dec.29 – 31

ASO Tourist Informaion Office (JR Aso Sta.):

1440-2 Kurokawa, Aso City, Kumamoto
 Open: 9:00–17:00 Tel. (0967)34-0751

Aso Volcano Museum:

1930-1 Akamizu, Aso City, Kumamoto
 Open: 9:00–17:00 Tel. (0967)34-2111

Aso Kumamoto Airport Information Counter:

1802-2 Oyatsu, Kamimashiki, Kamimashiki-gun, Kumamoto
 Open: 6:45–21:30 Tel. (096)232-2810

Note: Transportation expenses, admission fees and other charges may change due to the increase in the consumption tax rate to 8% from April 2014.

All information, including transportation schedules, fares, prices and accommodation charges, which is contained in this leaflet is based on data as of December 2013, and is subject to change without notice. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of all information, regrettably errors do occasionally occur. Therefore, you should check with organizations concerned for updated and accurate information on your chosen destination. JNTO shall not be liable for any loss or damage of whatever nature that may arise as a result, directly or indirectly, from the use of any of the information or material contained in this leaflet.