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SOUTHERN JAPAN: FOOD & ADVENTURE

March 20 - April 2, 2021

14 DAYS

Explore Kyushu, the southernmost island of Japan, and see a different side of Japan. Rich variety of foods, perhaps their famous ramen. Some of the best hot springs to purify your skin and calm your spirits. Take your breath away at the remote Yakushima, a natural wonder. Appreciate the history including samurais and wars against the oppressive Tokugawa shogunate. Come to Kyushu to have new experiences of the old.

Breakfast - B Dinner - D

MARCH 20 . . .

Arrive in Fukuoka Airport in Fukuoka anytime and transfer to hotel. Rest, dine, and recover from jet lag. **Stay in Fukuoka for 2 nights.**

MARCH 21 . . .

Go to Dazaifu by train, eat the famous yatai ramen in Fukuoka. Walk around Fukuoka city to see the nightlife. **B**

MARCH 22 . . .

Drive to Beppu and see the 7 Hells, pits of smoldering hot springs. Meet the resident alligators basking in the steam. Eat the famous sashimi caught fresh from the Beppu Bay, or some pudding steamed from the Hells. Soak in a hot springs. **Stay in Beppu for 1 night. B**

MARCH 23 . . .

Drive towards the mountains to the scenic town Yufuin and eat some cheesecake and do some shopping. Continue on over the Kuju Mountains, Kyushu's highest mountain range to the famous, gorgeous Kurokawa Onsen. Stay at a ryokan, take a private bath and eat a sumptuous dinner at the ryokan. **Stay in Kurokawa for 1 night. B, D**

MARCH 24 . . .

Drive toward Aso, see the panorama of the Aso mountains, shaped like a reclining Buddha. Eat ice cream and enjoy a cup of coffee at a cafe in the middle of the farmland with a full view of the Aso Mountains. Drive up to the smoking caldera of Mt. Aso. Take a stop at a deaf-owned cake shop before going to Kumamoto City. **Stay in Kumamoto for 1 night. B**

MARCH 25 . . .

A walking tour of the Kumamoto City. Eat horse sashimi, if you dare. Visit the rugged Kumamoto Castle, recently damaged by the earthquake, but still standing tall, a testimony to the skill of ancient builders. Eat Kumamoto's famous black ramen. Leave for Nagasaki in the afternoon. **Stay in Nagasaki for 3 nights. B**

MARCH 26 . . .

Make an unforgettable visit to their Peace Museum and Park commemorating the atomic bomb

it suffered almost 75 years ago. Visit the historical area of Dejima, where foreigners were confined during the Edo period. **B**

MARCH 27

Two surprises today! One will include a ferry ride in the morning, and the other include a beautiful view. You will have free time in the afternoon. **B, D**

MARCH 28

Long drive to Kagoshima, the southernmost part of Kyushu, and behold the Vesuvius of Japan, Sakurajima. Enjoy Kagoshima's delicious liqueur, shochu, and some of their local and varied Satsuma cuisine. Easy walking tour of Kagoshima City. Eat waffles made by Deaf people, Satsuma Waffles. Stroll around downtown and stop by the picturesque Sengansen garden villa. Learn about the samurai Saigo Takamori, a hero of Japan, who also inspired the movie The Last Samurai. **Stay in Kagoshima for 2 nights.** **B, D**

MARCH 29

Drive to the Ibusuki Peninsula, the location of sand bath by the sea where you will be buried in sand up to your neck for 10 minutes! Visit the Chiran museum, where the last letters and memoirs of kamikaze pilots are stored, and ponder about what their thoughts might have been before their flew on their final mission. Return to Kagoshima for dinner. **B**

MARCH 30

Take a ferry to the amazing Yakushima Island, where deer and monkeys roam freely. Take a short hike into the dense forest of Yakushima to see a mossy paradise, Shirotoni Unkyo. Eat a dish of flying fish. **Stay in Yakushima for 2 nights.** **B**

MARCH 31

Go see the giant cedars thousands of years old. Take a bath in the tidal pool, only available two times a day for a couple of hours, when the tide's low. Visit some waterfalls and see more monkeys in the wildest portion of the Yakushima coast, the western part. Visit a Deaf-owned farm and have a BBQ dinner. **B, D**

APRIL 1

Some free time in the morning to see some final sights on the island, if desired. Take the ferry in the afternoon back to Kagoshima. Drive to the airport hotel. **Stay in Kagoshima for 1 night.** **B, D**

APRIL 2

Kagoshima airport to catch your flights. **B**

SOUTHERN JAPAN TOUR PRICE

\$3,450 per person/double occupancy (for a group of 8+)

\$500 deposit per person is required to reserve space on a first come, first serve basis.

The remaining balance must be paid in full no later than 90 days before the start of the tour.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE?

- Small tour group size.
- Total of 13 nights in moderately priced hotels all guaranteed by Hands On Travel, with private bathrooms and breakfast included.
- Welcome and farewell dinners.
- Services of a deaf group leader on call 24 hours a day.
- Services of local deaf guide(s).
- All transportation expenses connected with the tour itinerary.
- All admission fees for attractions and museums mentioned in the itinerary.
- Informative travel preparation packet.
- Pre-tour and/or post-tour itinerary consultation.
- \$100 credit off your next full tour with Hands On Travel.

IMPORTANT POINTS:

- Airfares at the start and end of the tour are not included.
- All lunches and dinners not mentioned in the itinerary and personal expenses are not included.
- It is essential to consult the HOT terms and conditions before booking.
- There is a lot of walking expected during the tour. Appropriate physical fitness is required.
- Tour itinerary and price are subject to change.
- For more information, please contact Tour Manager Martin Dale-Hench at martin@handson.travel

TOUR PROTECTION:

- Hands On Travel recommends that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. Travel protection plans include coverage for Trip Cancellation, Trip Interruption, Emergency Medical and Emergency Evacuation/Repatriation, Trip Delay, Baggage Delay and more. To learn more about how to help protect you and your trip investment, visit the following link: <https://www.handson.travel/resources/protection/>.