

POWER SPOT SHRINES Part1

It is the end of the year, and Christmas decorations and illuminations light many places.

In Japan, it is the season housewives are busily working for Spring cleaning to greet the god of New Year.

The shrines are also busy for not only preparing for the New Year, but for "Toshi-koshi-no Oharae (年越しの大祓)", too.

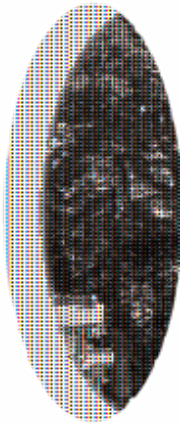
"Oharae (大祓)" is a Shinto Ritual held at shrines and court to cleanse one's mind, drive out evil spirits through a priest's Shinto prayer and removing one's evils, sins, and vice to a paper shaped like a person, passing through a big hoop made of kaya grass (plants of the sedge family). Oharae (大祓) is held twice a year, June 30th and December 31st. It is not the day which is highly marked as Christmas or Valentine's day here anymore, but it is not a bad thing to know the old custom in Japan.

Whatever, it is the season lots more people think about visiting shrines.

Here are the shrines which are famous as "Power Spots"

KIRISHIMA JINGU (霧島神宮)

Kirishima area



This shrine is said it was built in the 6th century. It enshrines *Ninigi-no Mikoto* (瓊瓊杵尊) of the myth of national foundation. There is a 800 year old cedar tree which is said that it is the actual power spot in the precincts.

Kumen Daiko (Nine Musk Drum Performance) perform at this shrine on the 1st of January (0:00 / 2:00) and the 11th of February (10:00) is very powerful and popular.

Address: 2608-5 Kirishima-taguchi, Kirishima city



KAMAFUTA JINJA (竈蓋神社)

Nansatsu area

This shrine is located at the seashore in Ei town. The view of the shrine with the sea, green trees and *Kaimon-dake* is excellent.

"Kamafuta" means "a pot lid". It is said that if you put a pot lid keeping on your head and walk from the torii gate to the offertory chest, your wish will be granted.

There is a little shop behind the offertory chest, and written oracles and charms are displayed. There is no one to sell these, and you need to put the fee into a hole in the left side door.

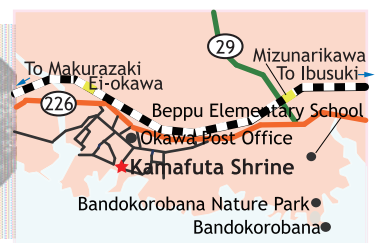
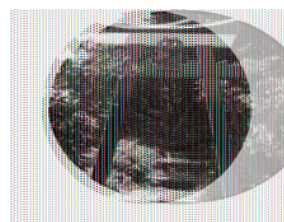
There is a picture of a dragon on the ceiling. It is said that if you take the photo of the dragon, the ball in its hand looks sparkling in the picture. If you want to visit the shrine, make sure you take your camera.

On the left side of the shrine, little pot lid shaped clay works are sold 100 yen each. (Nobody is there. Put the fee into the hole near the clay works.) If you can throw the clay works into the pot at the bottom of the cliff on the right side of the shrine, your wish will be granted, too.

"Itate Tsuwamono Jinja (射楯兵主神社)" is the formal name, and the road sign for this place near the shrine has only the formal name on it.

There is a beautiful view point which is called "Kibo-no Misaki (希望の岬 / Cape of Hope)" through the path on the left side of the shrine, and here is the power spot.

Address: 6827 Beppu, Ei town, Minami-kyushu city (Near Okawa Post Office)



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National Holiday

December 23 (Sun)

Tennou Tanjobi

天皇誕生日

The Emperor's Birthday

*December 24 (Mon) is the observed holiday.

Events

RYUMONJIYAKI TOUKI MATSURI (RYUMONJI WARE POTTERY FESTIVAL)

(りゅうもんじやき とうき まつり / 龍門司焼陶器祭)

Ryumonji ware pottery will be sold at a special price of 20% off.

Some events such as making pottery with a lathe (2000 yen ~), guessing the weight of a vase and other things will be held. A sale of special products will also be held, too.

Date: December 14 (Fri) - 16 (Sun)

Time: 8:30 - 17:00

Place: Ryumonji ware pottery, Kajiki town

Info: Executive (Ryumonji-yaki Kigyo Kumiai) / 0995-62-2549

URL: <http://ryumonjiyaki.jp/>



HOKAHOKA SHIWASU MARKET

(ほかほか しわす いち / ほかほか師走市)

An annual event in *Kajiki* before the new year. About 100 stalls at which they sell new year goods, convenience goods, pottery, trees, seedlings and light meals

Date: December 8 (Sat) - 9 (Sun)

Time: 9:00 ~ 17:00

Place: Kamoda-omoi street, Kajiki town

Info: Executive (Kamoda-dori Shoten-gai) / 0995-63-4311

OZAKI IKI-IKI MATSURI & OZAKI BONTAN GARI

(OZAKI IKI-IKI FESTIVAL & OZAKI BONTAN PICKING)

(おざき いきいき まつり & おざき ぼんたん がり / 尾崎いきいき祭り & 尾崎ボンタン狩り)

Bontan (Pomelo) village *Ozaki* will hold this festival. Fresh local vegetables, processed food and other special products will be sold at a bargain price.

There is a bontan garden next to the festival area. You can pick huge bontan there! Bontan is a kind of orange and grows to be 500grams ~ 2kg. It has a thick skin. The fruit itself has not much juice, but is sweet and smells nice. Right after picking the fruit, it's sour, so it's better to keep it for a month or so.

Date: December 9 (Sun)

Time: 9:00 ~ 15:00

Place: in front of Ozaki district Kominkan, Akune city

Info: Akune city Hall (Nosei-ka) / 0996-73-1211

AKUNE UMAINE SHIZENDANE FESTIVAL

(あくね・うまいね・しぜんたね まつり / アクネ・うまいネ・自然だネまつり)

People will exhibit and sell Akune's special products such as agricultural products, marine products, industrial products. Some events such as a *taiko* performance, local arts, a raffle and other things will be held.

Date: December 15 (Sat) ~ 16 (Sun)

Time: 19 (Sat) 9:30 - 16:00

20 (Sun) 9:00 - 15:00

Place: Sogo Undo Koen, Akune city

Info: Akune city office (Suisan Nosei-ka) / 0996-73-1211

KASEDA TOSHI-no ICHI

(かせだ としの いち / かせだ歳の市)

This market has been held at the end of the year since the *Meiji* era (1883). *Honmachi-dori* will kept completely free of cars during the event, and shops will sell special products of the area, marine products, cutlery and other things.

Lightweight truck market, an exhibition of the products of *Asahikawa*, *Hokkaido* will also be held.

Some event such as live concerts and a *taiko* performance will also be held.

Date: December 15 (Sat) ~ 16 (Sun)

Time: 8:00 ~ 17:00

Place: Kaseda Yumepika Honmachi-dori, Kaseda, Minami-satsuma city

Info: Minami-satsuma Shoko Kaigisho / 0993-53-2244

KIRISHIMA KUMEN DAIKO

(KIRISHIMA NINE MASK DRUM)

(きりしま くめん だいこ / 霧島九面太鼓)

Every year on December 31st at precisely midnight, this *taiko* group performs on the approach to Kirishima shrine. They perform several pieces leading up to the rousing final act, which is a recital of the story of the gods (*Takachiho no Mine* is one of the places in Japan where *Ninigi-no-Mikoto*, the grandson of the sun god *Ama-Terasu* came down to earth). The whole troupe wears masks for this final set, the drum beats are relentless and the timing is spot on. Bring as much clothing as you can wear / carry, because it is so cold!

Date & Time: January 1 (Sun) 0:00 / 2:00

*If it rains, it will be canceled.

Place: Kirishima Jingu Shrine, Kirishima-taguchi, Kirishima city

Info: Kirishima Jingu Shrine / 0995-57-0001

Sports

IBUSUKI NANO HANA MARATHON TAIKAI (IBUSUKI RAPE BLOSSOMS MARATHON RACE)

(いぶすき菜の花マラソン大会)

This is a big full marathon event which 15,000 people from all over Japan enter. Only people 19 yrs old and above can enter this race.

Enjoy running the certified marathon course looking at Lake *Ikeda*, Mt. *Kaimon* and yellow rape blossoms along the road in the new year air!

The local volunteers will welcome you with sweet potatoes, pickles and many other food and drinks at the aid stations.

Date & Time: January 13 (Sun) 9:00 ~

Entry 12 (Sat) 14:00 ~ 17:30

13 (Sun) 6:30 ~ 8:00

Place: Start at Ibusuki city Rikujo Kyogijo, Ibusuki city

*The application has been closed.

Executive / 0993-22-2550

URL: <http://www13.ocn.ne.jp/~ibu-nano/>



IBUSUKI NANO HANA MARCH

(いぶすき なのはな まーち / いぶすき菜の花マーチ)

Feel the early spring wind, while walking along the road full of rape flowers! There are 12km, 25km, 40 km walk on the 26th, and 5km, 10km, 20km, 30km courses on the 27th. So you can choose one according to your fitness.

This year "Sekkaku Walk Course" which walking to the popular power spot, *Kamafuta Shrine* and the beautiful coast near there (9km) and "Totteoki Special Course" which includes special lunch (10km / 5,000 yen for participation and lunch) are also available.

Date: January 21 (Sat) ~ 22 (Sun)

Time: 7:00 - 17:00 (depending on the course)

Place: 21st Start at Kaimon Sanroku Fureai Park 22nd Fureai plaza Nanohana-kan

Participation Fee: Adult 2,000 yen H.S. Student and below 1,000 yen

*A souvenir and insurance are included.

*Lunch is not included other than "Totteoki Special Course". If you need lunch, please ask at the number below.

Deadline: December 25 (Tue)

* You also can enter on the day, but you can't get a souvenir.

Executive (Ibusuki Nanohana March Jikko linkai) / 0993-22-5519

RUNNING SAKURAJIMA RACE

(らんになんぐ さくらじま たいかい / ランニング桜島大会)

The course is on *Sakurajima* and you can see lava alongside the road. People say it is quite an easy course. There are 5km, 10km and a half marathon. High school students and above can enter.

Easy to access from *Kagoshima* city. By *Sakurajima* ferry it takes only 15 minutes and about 10 minutes walk to the entry place (*Sakurajima Sogo Taiikukan*).

Everybody who enters gets a T-shirt, a meal ticket and a hot spring ticket. A raffle will also be held.

Why don't you run the *Sakurajima* lava road!

Date & Time: February 24 (Sun) 9:00 ~ 15:00

Entry 23 (Sat) 13:00 ~ 17:00

24 (Sun) 7:30 ~ 8:30

Place: *Sakurajima Tamokuteki Hiroba* and *Sakurajima* lava road, *Sakurajima* town, *Kagoshima* city

Participation Fee: 3,500 yen

(An onsen ticket, a meal ticket, a T-shirt and insurance included.)

Deadline: January 10 (Thu)

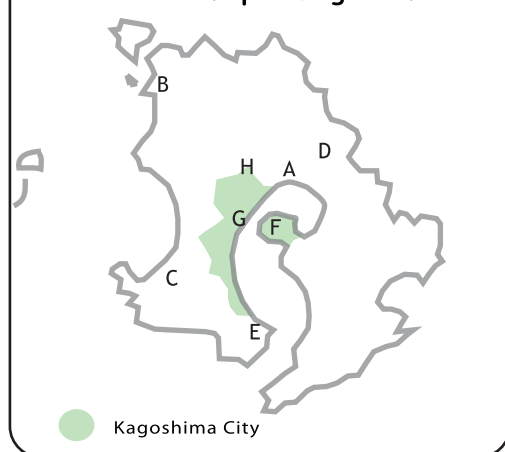
Info: Executive (Running Sakurajima Taikai Jikko linkai Jimukyoku) / 099-293-2967

*You can enter through Sports Entry:

<http://venus.sportsentry.ne.jp/event.php?tid=32884>

Official website: <http://runningsakurajima.jp/>

Location map - Kagoshima



Antique & Flea Markets

CHRISTMAS * DOLPHIN MARKET

(クリスマス * ドルフィンマーケット)

About 30 shops from all over Kyushu sell handmade works, accessories, sundries, antique, Christmas ornaments and other things. 100 customers could win presents by lot.
Date: December 15 (Sat) & 16 (Sun)
Time: 10:00 ~ 16:00
Place: Dolphin Port, Kagoshima city
Info: Executive (Tezukuri Dolphin Market Jikko linkai) / 099-262-5520



KAMOUGO ATELIER*

(蒲生郷アトリエ*)

Handmade works will be sold at the market in front of Kamo Kanko Koryu Center and in a cafe next to the center. If you are interested in selling handmade goods, please contact the number below.

Date: December 16 (Sun)
Time: 10:00 ~ 15:00
Place: Kamou Kanko Koryu Center
& AIRA SWEET CAFE RA VIEW, Aira city
Info: Kamou Kanko Koryu Center 0995-52-0748

Stage

SEOUL GEIJUTSU-DAN (THE SEOUL PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY)

(ソウル芸術団)

Soul Performing Arts Company performs their original musical, traditional dances and other things from all over the world. Good chance to see beautiful Korean performances.

Date: December 9 (Sun) 15:00
Kagoshima Shimin Bunka Hall 1,
Yojiro, Kagoshima city
Time: 15:00
Ticket: A seat 5,000 yen / B seat 4,500 yen
*All reserved seat
Info: MIN-ON Kagoshima 099-226-2433

RYUKYU-KOKU MATSURI DAIKO (RYUKYU KINGDOM FESTIVAL DRUM PERFORMANCE)

(琉球國祭り太鼓 「生魂〜いっだまし〜」)

This is a performance by Ryukyu Matsuri Daiko, a troop from Okinawa. They perform Eisa dance mixed with kata in karate.

Date: December 23 (Sun)
Time: 14:30 ~
Ticket: 1,000 yen *All reserved seat
Place: Kagoshima Kenmin Koryu Center,
Yamashita town, Kagoshima city
Info: Ryukyu Matsuri Daiko 090-6634-2742

SHIKI THEATER COMPANY

GANBA-no DAI-BOKEN (GANBA'S GREAT ADVENTURE)

(劇団四季のオリジナルミュージカル ガンバの大冒険)
Date: March 20 (Wed)
Time: 17:30 ~
Place: Shimin Bunka Hall 1,
Yojiro, Kagoshima city
Ticket: S seat 4,000 yen / A seat 3,000 yen
Info: Kagoshima Onkyo / 099-226-3465

Kyushu Events

FUKUOKA

COSMIC WINTER PARTY

(スペースワールド ホット!ホット!パーティー)
How about a romantic night here at Space World.

Beautiful illumination, Starlight Shangri-La will welcome you with all over the park until April 7 (Sun), 17:00 ~ 21:30.
Christmas Concert with a piano and a singer will be held from December 22 (Sat) ~ 24 (Mon / national holiday).

On New Year's eve, "That's countdown" will be held, too.

Date: November 10 (Sat) ~ February 28 (Thu)
Time: 10:00 ~ 21:30
*10:00 ~ 26:00 on new year's eve.

Place: Space World,
Higashida, Yahata-higashi-ku,
Kita-kyushu city

Free pass: Adults 4,200 yen
E.S.Students 3,150 yen
4 yrs old & below 1,050 yen

*About 200 yen cheaper advance tickets available at convenience stores.

Illumination ticket (17:00 ~)
2,100 yen (Illumination Coupon included)
Countdown free pass: Adults 3,500 yen
E.S.Students 2,500 yen

*Only for December 31.

You can enter from 16:00 ~.

Info: Space World / 093-672-3600

<http://www.spaceworld.co.jp/index.php>

NAGASAKI

HUIS TEN BOSCH, KINGDOM OF LIGHTS

(ハウステンボス 光の王国)

Great illumination which won Yahoo Japan the popular illumination 2010 and 2011.

This year, it will be even more romantic and beautiful with 10,000,000 LED lights will light a tower, a chapel, a palace, a canal, a wheel and the gardens. Enjoy the beautiful nights here!

Date: November 23 (Fri) ~ March 10 (Sun)
Time: Weekdays in December 9:00 ~ 21:00
Fridays, Saturdays and
December 21 (Fri) ~ January 6 (Sun)
9:00 ~ 22:00
December 22 (Sat) ~ 24 (Mon)
9:00 ~ 23:00
December 31st 8:00 ~ 27:00

Place: Huis Ten Bosch, Sasebo city

Info: Huis Ten Bosch 0570-064-110

<http://www.huistenbosch.co.jp/event/hikari2011/>



KIRAKIRA FESTIVAL

(きらきらフェスティバル)

Trees will be lit up, and Christmas trees will be decorated in Shimase park.

The Shopping arcades of Sanka-cho and Yonka-cho, Shimase Art gallery and other places will be illuminated with 1,000,000 lights.
Other events such as "Kirakira Charity Dai-party" (December 5th 19:00 ~ 20:00), "Shimin-de Utau Yorokobi-no Uta" which 1,500 people sing Symphony No. 9 (Beethoven) in German (December 16th 17:30 ~) and many other events will be held during the period, Shimase town is full of lights and joy!

Date: November 15 (Thu) ~ December 25 (Tue)

Time: 17:00 ~ 23:00

(18:00 ~ 23:00 on the 15th of November)

Place: Shimase park, Shimase town,
Sasebo city

Info: Executive (Kira Kira Festival Jikko linkai) /
0956-24-4411

URL: <http://yonkacho.com/index.html>

OITA

BEPPU CHRISTMAS FANTASIA

(べっぷクリスマスHANABI ファンタジア)

If you want to spend a romantic Christmas, this is the place. On the 23rd and 24th, beautiful fireworks synchronized with music will be displayed. 1,000 children will sing Christmas songs at the main site. About 100 stalls sell things including Japanese food, Asian food and the local speciality food.

Date: December 23 (Sun) ~ December 24 (Mon)
*Mostly Saturdays. Please ask for details at the number below.

Place: Matogahama Park & Spa Beach,
Kita-matogahama, Beppu city

Info: Beppu City Tourist Association /
0977-24-2828

MIYAZAKI

TAKACHIHO YOKAGURA

(高千穂の夜神楽)

Kagura dances are national intangible cultural treasures. They reenact the birth of Japan's Shinto gods, and are performed in 33 scenes all night, wearing spectacular costumes and masks. The 33 scenes of Yokagura dance will take place all night. The dance about people welcoming gods, where they become friendly and people then see gods go back to heaven, is very famous in Japan.

*Kanko kagura (観光神楽) takes place all year from 20:00 to 21:00 at Takachiho Shrine as well (admission fee: adult 500yen). This is performed only the 4th scene of 33 scenes.

Date: November 11 (Sun) ~ February 15 (Sun)
*Mostly Saturdays. Please ask for details at the number below.

Place: Various places in Iwado area,
Takachiho town

Info: Takachiho Tourist Association /
0982-73-1213

SHIROMI KAGURA

(銀鏡神楽)

It is another kagura dance which reenacts the birth of Japan's Shinto gods. They dance 33 scenes all night. Above all, the "Wild boar hunt", which shows you how people hunted wild boars in times past, is a very rare dance.

Date & Time: December 14 (Fri) 20:00 ~ 15 (Sat)

Place: Shiromi shrine, Saito city
Info: Saito city Tourism Association

0983-41-1557
Info: Shiiba Village Office / 0982-67-3203

Christmas Illuminations

Full of Christmas atmosphere with songs, shops, and listed here, the Christmas illuminations!

Minato Odori Park

[Kagoshima city]

Date: December 1 (Sat) ~ January 31 (Thu)
Time: 18:00 ~ 22:00
*18:00 ~ 0:15 on the 24th & 31st of December.

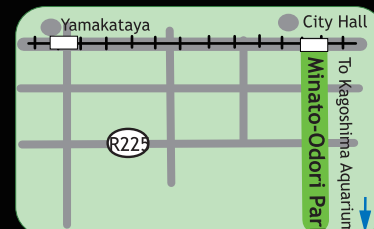
The whole park is sparkling with about 100,000 LED lights on the trees. The fountain and the sculpture are lit up beautifully. The scene is so romantic! Best place to walk with your special person.

Place: Meizan town, Yasui town, Kagoshima city
(In front of Kagoshima city hall)

Info: Kagoshima city hall 099-216-1425

*There is no parking.

All the lights go out and are lighted again at the same time at 19:00, 20:00, 21:00 everyday and 0:00 on the 1st of January.



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[Nansatsu area]

Flower Park Kagoshima

Date: December 8 (Sat) ~ 29 (Sat) & January 1 (Tue) ~ 6 (Sun)
Time: 17:30 ~ 22:00

About 300,000 LED lights lit the whole park up! Beautiful flowers of light are waiting for you! The illuminations here at flower park are very popular every year. Full of gorgeous illuminations such as a castle at the entrance of grass square, and if you walk through there, you will see a world of fairy tale!

Place: Flower Park Kagoshima, Yamagawa, Ibusuki city

Entrance fee: Adult & H.S. Student 600yen

J.H.S. & E.S. Student 300 yen

Info: Flower Park Kagoshima 0993-35-3333



Events

Handbell performance December 16th (Sun) 18:30 ~ / 19:30 ~
Beanbag juggling performance December 21st (Fri) 19:30 ~
Christmas live performance December 22th (Sat)-25th (Tue)
19:30 ~ / 20:20 ~
Handing out of Christmas presents to the first hundred arrivals
(Children only) December 24th (Sat) & 25th (Sun) 17:30 ~
Taiko performance January 1st (Tue) 11:00 ~ / 13:00 ~
Zenzai (sweet red bean soup) Free offering
to the first three hundred arrivals January 1 (Tue) 10:30 ~

JR Sendai Station

[Hokusa area]

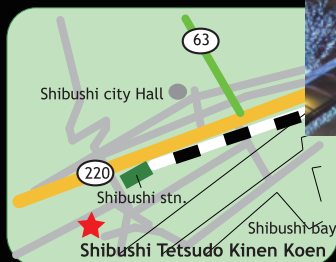
Date: December 1 (Sat) ~ January 15 (Tue)
Time: 17:30 ~ 0:10

From JR Sendai station to Showa street will be decorated by illumination with 50,000 lights. The illumination goes out every 59 minutes on the hour and is lighted again 1 minute later.

Place: In front of
JR Sendai station,
Satsuma-sendai city

Info: Sendai city Tourism
Association 0996-25-4700

Car park: 100 spaces
(Toll car park)



Shibushi Tetsudo Kinen Koen (Shibushi Railway Commemoration Park)

[Osumi area]

Date: December 1 (Sat) ~ January 12 (Sat)
Time: 17:00 ~ 23:00
*17:00 ~ 2:00 on the 25th, 31st of December and 1st of January.

One of the biggest illuminations in the prefecture. About 130,000 LED lights light a steam locomotive and trees in the park.

The popular illumination tunnel which is made to wish that people who walk through may be happy will be waiting for you this year, too.

Place: Shibushi, Shibushi town, Shibushi city

Info: Executive (Illumination Jikko linkai) 099-472-1108

Car park: 100 spaces



An illumination tunnel. It is said if you walk through it with your partner, you will be happy!



[Kagoshima city] Dolphin Port

Date: Until February 28 (Thu)
Time: 17:00 ~ 0:00

You can enjoy various kinds of illuminations.

A main Christmas tree is decorated at the central entrance. Dolphins and wave shaped lights glittering on the water, and 260m of lights along the deck are so pretty!

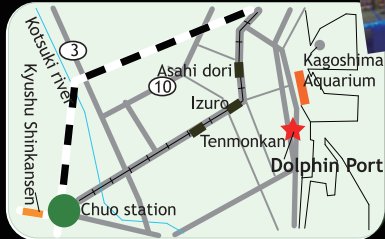
Place: Kagoshima Waterfront, Kagoshima city

Info: Kagoshima Water Front
099-221-5777

Car park: 750 spaces
*30 minutes free



*Christmas illumination:
Until December 25th (Tue)



[Kishima / Aira area] Futawatari Illumination "Hoshi-no Sanpo-michi"

Date: December 1 (Sat) ~ January 7 (Mon)
Time: 17:30 ~ 22:00

The whole community work on this event. Each house on about 1.7km of residential street decorate the house with beautiful illuminations of 130,000 lights.

During the period, stalls will sell food and drink at Todoroki area sports ground.

Place: Futawatari community, Todoroki area, Yusui town, Aira county

Info: Executive 0995-74-3587

Car park: some

Event

On the 23rd, Santa will hand out presents to children. Stage performances will also be held.

Ask for details at the phone number above.



The basic philosophy of Satsuma

Jissinko Iroha-uta (日新公いろは歌) vol.33

Iroha-uta is originally a Japanese short poem. It is a perfect pangram, containing each character of the Japanese syllabary (hiragana) exactly once.

Jissinko iroha-uta are 47 poems each of which begin, respectively, with the original iroha poems first syllabary.

They also became the spirit of Goju kyoiku (郷中教育: The Satsuma education system).

The thirty-third poem (starting with the letter "こ"):

心こそ軍する身の命なれ そろゆれば生き揃はねば死す
(Kokoro-koso Ikusa-suru Mi-no Inochi-nare
Soroyureba Iki Sorowaneba Shisu)

Heart is the most important thing for people who fight. Those whose hearts are united can survive, if not, they die.



LATEST INFO

More hot events are coming! Check them out and join in!

Non-Japanese Residing in Japan - Urgently Accepting Applications

Cost: Free

A Gathering about Protecting Oneself from a Disaster



大正3年(1914年)1月12日の大震災。大震災の直後には大震災も発生しました。

Date: January 20th, 2013 (Sunday) 10am to 1pm

Place: Kagoshima City Welfare Plaza (Yamashita-cho 15-1)

Eligible People: Non-Japanese people living in Kagoshima

Content:

The Kobe Earthquake, The Niigata Earthquake and last year's Great Eastern Japan Earthquake.

What did the non-Japanese people living in Japan at that time do?

What happened?

What were they troubled by?

Learn about the difficulties that they had and learn about the things that you need to live through times like this!

There is lunch included! Let's eat HINAMJYO Food together!

You should definitely be participating if you thought to yourself, "hey what is HINAMJYO?"



For people who wish to participate: by Thursday January 10th please apply to KICS by Email or Fax. When you are sending in your application please tell us your Name (in Furigana), Phone Number, E-mail Address and Nationality.

Sponsor - Where to Apply:

Kagoshima International Citizens' Society (KICS)

〒892-8677 Kagoshima Yamashita-cho 11-1 KICS

TEL&FAX 099-239-9258

kics_tabunka0120@hotmail.co.jp

<http://www.minc.ne.jp/kics/>

Kagoshima city View

- Night View Course -

(かごしまていびゅーやけいこーす / カゴシマシティビュー 夜景コース)

"Kagoshima City View" is a sightseeing bus which goes around tourist spots in Kagoshima city. If you take "Yakei Course (夜景コース)", you can go to see wonderful illuminations at Kagoshima Chuo station, Tenmonkan and Dolphin Port. At the end of the journey, you will pass near *Ishin Furusato-kan* (Museum of Meiji Restoration), and the lit up row of camphor trees are also beautiful. The night view of the city from *Shiroyama* is also marvelous! In December and January, The city increases the number of buses to every Friday and Saturday.

Fee: Adults 180 yen / time

Children 90 yen / time

One-day Pass (Night View Only) Adults 200 yen
Children 100 yen

Tel: Kagoshima city Kotsukyoku 099-257-2117

師走 (Shiwasu)

Japanese has a different name for each month. We call December “*juni-gatsu*” usually, but we also have another name “*Shiwasu*”. It means “the month even monks run around because they are so busy”, Yes, everybody is very busy this month.

Shiwasu Calendar

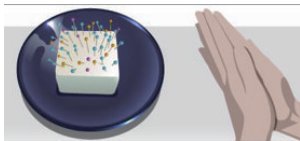
大雪 (Taisetsu)

December 7 (Fri)

The season that it snows not only in the mountains but on the plains, too. It is also the season for catching yellowtail. Bears start to hibernate.

針供養 (Harikuyo)

December 8 (Sat)



It is a custom in which people hold a memorial service for broken needles. In the *Kansai* area this is held on the 8th of December.

In days past, needlework was indispensable for women, so being grateful for needles and holding a memorial service for them was an important event.

Now, this custom is held only by people who use them for their work. They stick needles in *tofu* or *konnyaku* and pray for improvement in sewing. Then needles are offered at a household *Shinto* altar. After that people purify the offering by floating it down a river to the sea, or taking it to a shrine.

*This event is held February 8 in *Kanto* area usually.

煤払い (Susuharai)

December 13 (Thu)

It is the event to clean the house very carefully to greet the New Year.

This event had already started by the *Heian* era, and in the *Edo* era people started to clean on this day (13th), because they cleaned *Edo* castle on the 13th of December, so the citizens followed this lead.

“*Susuharai*” is different from the normal cleaning. It is a very important event to greet the god of the year. This day used to be the start day of purification by abstaining from certain foods for a set period, and this event is the cleaning for it.

冬至 (Touji)

December 21 (Fri)

The winter solstice. On this day, the day time is the shortest and the night is the longest in the year in the northern hemisphere.

In Japan, people say if you have a hot bath scented with *yuzu* (an aromatic citron), and eat pumpkins, you won't catch cold.

天皇誕生日 (Tennou Tanjobi)

December 23 (Sun)

The Emperor's Birthday.

It is a national holiday to celebrate the incumbent emperor's birthday.

The Emperor's birthday used to be called “*Tencho-setsu*” before the end of World War II.

“*Tencho-setsu*”, originally from China, is where people celebrate the Emperor Xuanzong of the Tang dynasty (玄宗 李隆基).

“*Tencho*” means as the sky and the land never change, nothing ever changes.

This day became a national holiday in the *Meiji* era.

* Some of the dates above depend on the lunar calendar, so they change every year.

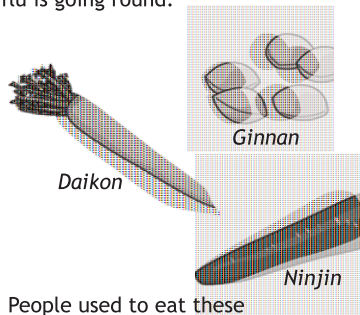
Is Pumpkin The Only Food For Touji (The Winter Solstice)?

The answer is No.

People say that foods which have “n (ん)” in it's name make you lucky! It is because “n” is the last character in *hiragana* order. Since it is the end of *hiragana*, people gave the same meaning as the day of “*touji*” (the winter solstice).

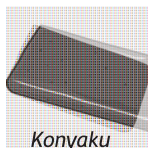
So, *ninjin* (carrot), *daikon* (Japanese white radish), *udon* (thick white noodles), *ginnan* (ginkgo nut) and ...any food which has “n” in it's name are supposed to be lucky food to eat on this day!

Eating these foods is not only to be superstitious, but it is also to take nourishment such as vitamins and carotene for the season when a lot of flu is going round.



People used to eat these vegetables for prevention against flu and cold.

Depending on the region, people eat *konnyaku* (a gelatinous food made from devil's-tongue starch) on this day. It is called “*sunao-oroshi*” which means cleaning dirt or sand out of the digestive system. *Konyaku* is well known as good for the digestive system, and people used to eat it on new year's eve, the day before the calendrical beginning of spring or after year-end house cleaning. Because of these customs, it seems people started to eat it on *Touji* (The Winter Solstice), too.



These days few people take notice of annual functions, but if you look into the reasons and customs, you would be amazed at how much knowledge people in old days had, and how reasonable and wisely they practiced their knowledge through annual functions.

Fortune-telling

December 1 ~ December 31



January Birthday:

Exercise is the best way to get rid of your stress. Get into a habit of something easy such as walking or jogging.

February Birthday:

It is the time of a new start. Break off relations with people who you don't want to see anymore. Cleaning your room makes you lucky.

March Birthday:

A supple mind is necessary to make the best choice. Trust your intuition and seize an opportunity.

April Birthday:

Watch carefully who you meet, what you see through your experiences. Those things will be your treasures in the future.

May Birthday:

Think again about what you really want to do or what you really like. Take your time and think over about yourself, then you'll find the right path.

June Birthday:

It is the time to feel stress. Get yourself back with 10 minutes meditation before you go to bed. And then, you will be able to see what you should do.

July Birthday:

Realize things which you should be grateful for in your daily life and thank these things. Then you will be given more pleasure.

August Birthday:

Your head is clear this month. Avoid places and people which you feel are not on your wavelength.

September Birthday:

It is the time you make a decision and give voice to it. The things will go the way you want.

October Birthday:

People can receive happiness, wealth and success as they imagine. So, do not make any limitation of your imagination and prepare to receive a bigger gift.

November Birthday:

Do not worry about having a hard time. Heaven is always watching you. Everything you do returns back to you. Keep doing good things and forget about people who annoy you, and then all the good things will return to yourself.

December Birthday:

You are aiming to improve something. It is the month you can improve a lot. If you practice more you will find more of your improvement.

Movie Guide

★ Foreign movie ☆ Japanese movie

<p>TOHO Cinemas Yojiro 東宝シネマズ与次郎 Phone: 099-206-6544 (Frespo Jungle Park 2F)</p>	<p>☆ <i>Nobou-no Shiro</i> / のぼうの城 (November 2 ~)</p> <p>☆ <i>Kita-no Canaria-tachi</i> / 北のカナリアたち (November 3 ~)</p> <p>★ Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away (November 9 ~)</p> <p>☆ <i>Aku-no Kyoten</i> / 悪の経典 (November 10 ~)</p> <p>☆ <i>Ninkyo Helper</i> / 任侠ヘルパー (November 17 ~)</p> <p>☆ <i>Evangelion: 3.0 You Can (Not) Redo</i> (November 17 ~)</p> <p>☆ <i>Tsuna Hiichatta</i> / 綱引いちやった (November 23 ~)</p> <p>★ Trouble with the Curve (November 23 ~)</p> <p>☆ <i>Crow's Thumb</i> / カラスの親指 (November 23 ~)</p> <p>★ Skyfall (December 1 ~)</p>	<p>☆ <i>Fuse Teppo-musume-no Torimonochi</i> / 伏 鉄砲娘の捕物帳 (December 1 ~)</p> <p>☆ <i>Kyo, Koi-wo Hajimemasu</i> / 今日、恋をはじめます (December 8~) ☆ <i>Kamen Rider</i> × <i>Kamen Rider</i> /</p> <p>仮面ライダー×仮面ライダー ウィザード&フォーゼ (December 8 ~)</p> <p>★ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (December 14 ~)</p> <p>☆ ONE PIECE FILM Z (December 15 ~)</p> <p>☆ <i>Yokai Ningen Bem</i> / 妖怪人間ベム (December 15 ~)</p> <p>★ Frankenweenie (December 15 ~)</p> <p>★ Les Misérables (December 21 ~)</p> <p>★ The Twilight saga breaking dawn part 2 (December 22 ~)</p>
<p>Mitte 10 ミッテ10 Phone: 099-812-6662 (Amu Plaza 6F)</p>	<p>☆ <i>Nobou-no Shiro</i> / のぼうの城 (November 2 ~)</p> <p>☆ <i>Kita-no Canaria-tachi</i> / 北のカナリアたち (November 3 ~)</p> <p>★ Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away (November 9 ~)</p> <p>☆ <i>Aku-no Kyoten</i> / 悪の経典 (November 10 ~)</p> <p>☆ <i>Ninkyo Helper</i> / 任侠ヘルパー (November 17 ~)</p> <p>☆ <i>Evangelion: 3.0 You Can (Not) Redo</i> / エヴァンゲリオン (November 17 ~)</p> <p>☆ <i>Tsuna Hiichatta</i> / 綱引いちやった (November 23 ~)</p> <p>★ Lockout (November 23 ~)</p> <p>★ Trouble with the Curve (November 23 ~)</p> <p>☆ <i>Crow's Thumb</i> (カラスの親指) (November 23 ~)</p> <p>☆ <i>Inazuma Eleven Go!</i> (イナズマイレブンGO vs ダンボール戦機W)</p> <p>★ The Woman in Black (December 1 ~)</p>	<p>★ Skyfall (December 1 ~)</p> <p>☆ <i>Hal-no Fue</i> / ハルのふえ (December 1 ~)</p> <p>☆ <i>Kyo, Koi-wo Hajimemasu</i> / 今日、恋をはじめます (December 8~)</p> <p>☆ <i>Kamen Rider</i> × <i>Kamen Rider</i> /</p> <p>仮面ライダー×仮面ライダー ウィザード&フォーゼ (December 8 ~)</p> <p>☆ 009 RE: CYBORG (December 8~)</p> <p>★ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (December 14 ~)</p> <p>☆ ONE PIECE FILM Z (December 15 ~)</p> <p>☆ <i>Yokai Ningen Bem</i> / 妖怪人間ベム (December 15 ~)</p> <p>★ Frankenweenie (December 15 ~)</p> <p>★ Les Misérables (December 21 ~)</p> <p>★ The Twilight saga breaking dawn part 2 (December 22 ~)</p>
<p>Gardens Cinema ガーデンズ シネマ 099-222-8746 (Maruya Gardens 7F)</p>	<p>☆ <i>Watashi-no Michi</i> / 私の人生(みち) 我が命のタンゴ (November 24 ~)</p> <p>★ Les Femmes du 6ème étage (French) (November 24 ~)</p> <p>★ Le monde selon Monsanto (French) (December 1 ~)</p> <p>☆ <i>Atomic Bomb Home</i> / 夏の祈り (December 8 ~)</p> <p>☆ <i>Nippon-no Uso</i> / ニッポンの嘘 報道写真家 福島菊次郎90歳 (December 8 ~)</p>	<p>★ Une Vie de Ballets (French) (December 15 ~)</p> <p>★ Animations from All Over The World /</p> <p>世界のアニメーション (December 15 ~)</p> <p>L'HOMME QUI PLANTAIT DES ARBRES / THE MAN WHO PLANTED TREES,</p> <p>Crac, La maison en petits cubes / つみきの家, AZUR ET ASMAR</p>
<p>Closed on the November 13 (Tue)</p> <p>Tenmonkan Cinema Paradise 天文館シネマパラダイス Phone: 099-216-8833 (LAZO Omote Sando 3F)</p>	<p>★ The Intouchables (French) (October 6 ~)</p> <p>★ Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (November 1 ~)</p> <p>☆ <i>Nobou-no Shiro</i> / のぼうの城 (November 2 ~)</p> <p>★ The Conspirator</p> <p>★ Der ganz große Traum (German)</p> <p>★ Safe (November 23 ~)</p>	<p>☆ <i>Tsunagu</i> / ツナグ (December 1 ~)</p> <p>☆ <i>Tsui-no Shintaku</i> / 終の信託 (December 1 ~)</p> <p>★ K-POP DREAM CONCERT 2011</p> <p>☆ GOOD MORNING EVERYONE! /</p> <p>グッモーエビアン! (December 15 ~)</p> <p>★ W.E. (December 15 ~)</p> <p>★ Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away</p> <p>(December 15 ~)</p> <p>★ Les Misérables (December 21 ~)</p>
<p>Rena Theater Kanoya リナシアター Phone: 0994-35-1001 (Rena city Kanoya 3F)</p>	<p>☆ <i>Odoru Dai-sosasen</i> The Final / 踊る大捜査線 The Final (November 23 ~ December 21)</p> <p>☆ <i>Okami Kodomo-no Ame-to Yuki</i> / おおかみこどもの雨と雪 (December 22 ~)</p>	

Movies on TV

December

1	14:00	BS-N	Underworld [Ho]
	19:30	BS-P	The Matrix Reloaded [Ac]
2	18:30	Dlife	Love Actually[LC]
	21:00	KKB	Mission: Impossible III [Ac]
3	21:00	BS-P	Charlies Angels [Ac]
5	21:00	MBC	Quantum of Solace [Ac]
6	19:30	TwlV	Chocolat [F][L]
7	02:58	BS-J	SAINT-JACQUES... LA MECQUE (French) [Dr]
	23:45	BS-P	The Blind Side [Dr]
10	13:00	BS-P	Goodbye Again [Dr]
	21:00	BS-P	Charlies Angels: Full Throttle [Ac]
	21:00	BS-J	El laberinto del fauno (Spanish) [F]
11	13:00	BS-P	Far from the Madding Crowd [Dr]
12	13:00	BS-P	Guess Who's Coming to Dinner [Dr]
	21:00	MBC	Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian [F][C]
13	13:00	BS-P	Cat on A Hot Tin Roof [Dr]
	21:00	BS-T	Permanent Vacation [Dr]
14	13:00	BS-P	The Sandpiper [L]
15	19:00	BS-T	The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep [F]
	19:00	Dlife	Santa Buddies[Ad][F]
16	19:00	BS-N	Mr.Magorium's Wonder Emporium [F][C]
	19:00	Dlife	The Nightmare Before Christmas [An][F]

17	13:00	BS-P	Giant [Dr]
	21:00	BS-J	While You Were Sleeping [LC]
18	13:00	BS-P	Bite The Bullet [W]
	21:00	BS-J	Rambo: First Blood Part II [Ac]
19	13:00	BS-P	Pépé le Moko (French) [Dr][L]
	21:00	MBC	Home Alone 2: Lost in New York [C]
20	13:00	BS-P	It's A Wonderful Life [Dr]
	19:30	TwtV	Out of Rosenheim [Dr]
	21:00	BS-T	Stranger Than Paradise [Dr]
21	02:58	BS-J	Rambo III [Ac]
	13:00	BS-P	Ghosts of The Abyss
22	14:00	BS-N	Crimson Tide [S]
	19:00	BS-T	Lovely, Still [Dr][L]
	21:00	BS-A	The Family Stone [C]
23	03:00	Dlife	There's Something About Mary [LC]
	18:30	Dlife	Notting Hill [L]
24	19:30	BS-P	Titanic [L][Dr]
	20:00	BS11	Nobody's Fool [Dr]
25	13:00	BS-P	Coach Carter [Dr]
26	13:00	BS-P	Confessions of a Shopaholic [C]
27	13:00	BS-P	Freedom Writers [Dr]
	19:00	BS-T	Down by Law [Dr]

KKB = Digital 5
KTS = Digital 8
KYT = Digital 4

BS-P = BS Premium
BS-A = BS Asahi
BS-J = BS Japan
BS-N = BS Nittele
BS-T = BS TBS
BS-F = BS Fuji
TwIV = TwellV

* Schedules are subject to change without notice.

** This information is as of November 30.

[Ac] = Action [Ad] = Adventure [An] = Animated film [C] = Comedy
[Dc] = Documentary [Dr] = Drama [F] = Fantasy [H] = Historical drama
[Ho] = Horror [L] = Love Story [LC] = Love Comedy
[M] = Musical [S] = Suspense [SF] = SF [W] = Western

Music

SHINSEI KAMATTECHAN - J-POP, Rock
(神聖かまってちゃん全国ワンマンツアー)
Date: December 5 (Wed)
Time: 19:00
Place: CAPARVO Hall, Tenmonkan,
Kagoshima city
Ticket: Standing space 3,800 yen (+ 1 Drink)
Info: TSUKUSU 092-771-9009

LUPINTIC JAZZ NIGHT - Jazz
Date: December 7 (Fri)
Time: 18:30
Place: Hozan Hall (Ken Bunka Center),
Yamashita-cho, Kagoshima city
Advance Ticket: 4,000 yen All reserved seat
At The Door: 4,500 yen All reserved seat
Info: Hozan Hall 099-223-4221

CHRISTMAS / AVE MARIA
ST.PETERSBURG CHAMBER ENSEMBLE
DIVERTISSEMENT
(クリスマス／アヴェ・マリア
サンクトペテルブルグ室内合奏団)
Date: December 9 (Sun)
Time: 18:30
Place: Hozan Hall (Ken Bunka Center),
Yamashita-cho, Kagoshima city
Ticket: 4,500 yen All reserved seat
Pair Ticket 8,000 yen All reserved seat
Info: Info: RO ♪ ON Classic-no Kai
099-223-8426

BREAKERZ LIVE HOUSE TOUR - Rock, J-POP
Date: December 12 (Wed)
Time: 18:30
Place: CAPARVO Hall, Tenmonkan,
Kagoshima city
Ticket: 5,250 yen (+ 1 Drink) Standing space
Info: Kyodo Nishi-nippon 092-714-0159

TSUKEMEN LIVE 2012 ~EL DORADO~ - Classic, Popular music, Film score
Date: December 14 (Fri)
Time: 18:30
Place: Minami Hall,
Minami Nihon Shinbun Kaikan,
Yojiro, Kagoshima city
Ticket: 3,800 yen All reserved seat
Info: Kyodo Nishi-nippon 092-714-0159

The50kaintenz
"Do You Remember R&R Tour?" - Rock
(ザ50回転ズ)
Date: December 20 (Thu)
Time: 19:00
Place: SR Hall, Tenmonkan,
Kagoshima city
Ticket: 3,000 yen (+ 1 Drink) Standing space
Info: TSUKUSU 092-771-9009

Misumi Premium
KOSHI KISHITA LIVE My Real Voice Vol.2 - Jazz, J-POP
(misumi Premium 木下 航志ライブ
My Real Voice Vol.2)
Date: December 21 (Fri)
Time: 19:30
Place: Live HEAVEN, Tenmonkan,
Kagoshima city
Advance Ticket: 2,500 yen (+ 1 Drink)
At the door: 3,000 yen (+1 Drink)
Standing space
Info: K&M Corporation 099-223-7710

MIYAMA SPECIAL CONCERT
PICTURE SCROLL OF SNOW MAN AND THE MUSIC
(第3回みやまスペシャルコンサート・「神話の里に
降る音楽物語～スノーマンとミュージック絵巻～」
- Classic, Musical, Hymn
Date: December 23 (Sun) *National holiday
Time: 14:00
Place: Miyama Conseru,
Makizono town, Kirishima city
Ticket: Adults 2,000 yen
H.S.Students & below 1,000 yen
All unreserved seat
Info: Miyama Conseru 0995-78-8000

PRAGUE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA NEW YEAR CONCERT - Classic
(プラハ交響楽団ニューイヤー名曲コンサート)
Date: January 16 (Wed)
Time: 19:00
Place: Kagoshima Shimin Bunka Hall 1,
Yojiro, Kagoshima city
Ticket: SS seat 9,000 yen
S seat 8,000 yen / A seat 6,500 yen
B seat 5,000 yen / C seat 4,000 yen
* Half fare for H.S.Students and below
except SS seat.
*All reserves seat
Info: Kagoshima Shimin Bunka Hall
099-257-8111

AQUA TIMEZ - Rock
"because we are we" tour 2012-2013
Date: January 21 (Mon)
Time: 18:30
Place: Kagoshima Shimin Bunka Hall 1,
Yojiro, Kagoshima city
Ticket: 5,250 yen
Info: K&M Corporation 099-223-7710

heidi. LIVE TOUR 2012-2013 「+@」 - J-POP, Rock
Date: January 21 (Mon)
Time: 19:00
Place: SR Hall, Tenmonkan,
Kagoshima city
Advance ticket: 3,999 yen (+ 1 Drink)
At the door: 4,500 yen (+ 1 Drink)
Standing space
Info: BEA 092-712-4221

Art

KAGOSHIMA CITY MUSEUM OF ART
4-36 Shiroyama cho, Kagoshima city
099-224-3400 / 9:30 - 18:00 / Closed Mondays
Entrance fee: Adults 300 yen
STORE PRODUCT EXHIBITION OF WINTER
New collection of Hashiguchi Goyo III
- Ukiyo-e pictures, Woodcuts
(冬の所蔵品展 ～特集～ 橋口五葉 新収蔵品展Ⅲ)
November 27 (Tue) - January 27 (Sun)

THE WORLD OF TAKEO YAMAGUCHI - Paintings
(山口長男の世界)
November 8 (Wed) - December 24 (Mon)
*December 24 is a national holiday.
YOSHIYUKI CHOSA EXHIBITION -Metal-carving
(帖佐美行の用と美 ～彫金に込めた生命の輝き～)
December 26 (Wed) -
February 11 (Mon / National holiday)

NAGASHIMA MUSEUM
3-42-18 Take, Kagoshima city
099-250-5400 / 9:00-17:00
Entrance fee: Adult 1000 yen
Lunch: 1890 yen (week days only)
2100 yen - 3150 yen (others)
BOLOGNA EXHIBITION OF THE CHILDREN'S BOOK
(2012イタリア・ボローニャ国際絵本原画展)
December 22 (Sat) - January 27 (Sun)
Admission fee: Advanced 600 yen
At the door 800 yen

MIYAKE MUSEUM
1-4319-4 Taniyama-chuo, Kagoshima city
099-266-0066 / 10:00 - 16:30 /
Closed Wednesdays & May 3 - 6
Entrance fee: Adults 300 yen
Lunch: 11:00 - 14:00 / 750 yen - 1100 yen
Tea Time: 14:00 -18:00
Dinner: 18:00- (Bookings are required)
PEOPLE IN CANVASES
- ATTRACTION OF PORTRAIT -
(キャンパスの中の人々 ー人物画の魅力ー) - Paintings
October 18 (Tue) - February 3 (Sun)

WHITE GALLERY
25-7 Shimotatsuo-cho, Kagoshima city
099-248-3904 / 11:00 - 18:00 / Closed Mondays
Lunch: 11:30 - 14:00 / 1050 yen or 1260 yen
Cafe: 11:00 - 18:00 Coffee 400 yen
MOTOFUMI MISAKA EXHIBITION
(秋廣昇 リビング展) - Stained glass
December 15 (Sat) - December 29 (Sat)

KIRISHIMA ART-NO MORI
6340-220 Koba, Yusui town, Aira county
0995-74-5945 / 9:00 - 17:00 / Closed Mondays
Entrance fee: Adults 300 yen
MUSEUM COLLECTION EXHIBITION Part II
(コレクション展 Part II)
December 18 (Tue) - February 17 (Sun)

VISITOR CENTER

Update



Update Newsletter is edited and issued by Visitor Center Update. We have a subscription service for the monthly Update Newsletter. If you would like to have it delivered, please send your name, address, and stamps (80yen per issue) as postage to the Kagoshima Internationalization Council (Visitor Center *Update*). We also offer information on sightseeing, transport service, accommodation and restaurants, all on the net. We'd like to hear from you. Mail us with your suggestions for future articles, and your comments about the content of Update. If you would like to write an article for Update, let us know.

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URL: <http://kic-update.com/> • E-mail: info@kic-update.com