

Practical Travel Guide - 704

KUMAMOTO
and MT. ASO

JNTO

Japan National
Tourism Organization
日本政府観光局

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Tourist Information Centers in the area

KUMAMOTO

Kumamoto (熊本), pop. 739,393 (as of Oct. 2019), 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. Despite suffering damages in the 2016 Kumamoto earthquake, the area is rebound quickly and continues to welcome visitors with “Kumamon”, a well known official character of Kumamoto prefecture.

Access:

By Air:

From	To	By	Approx. Travel Time	Access to downtown
Haneda (Tokyo)	Kumamoto	JAL / ANA / SNJ	1 hr. 55 min.	[To Kumamoto Sta.] by Airport Limousine Bus 60 min. ¥800
Itami (Osaka)		JAL / ANA	1 hr. 10 min.	
Nagoya (Chubu)		JAL / ANA	1 hr. 20 min.	
Nagoya (Komaki)		FDA	1 hr. 25 min.	

By JR Train:

From	To	By	Approx. Travel Time	Price*
Tokyo	Kumamoto	JR Shinkansen “Nozomi” & “Mizuho” (change at Shin-Kobe)	7hrs.	¥27,020
Shin-Osaka		JR Shinkansen “Mizuho”	3hrs. 5min.	¥18,880
Hakata		JR Shinkansen “Sakura”	45 min.	¥5,230

*Fare + express charge (with seat reservation, normal season).

Places of Interest:

1 Kumamoto Castle (熊本城), the city’s leading landmark, is a 10 min. walk from Kumamoto Castle / City Hall tram stop. 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. Now the most of the premise are closed as the result of April 2016 earthquake, however, you can observe the castle and the surroundings, a quite rare view of repair works available only now, from **Kato Shrine**(加藤神社), a shrine well related with the history of the castle located in the northern part of the premise, or the observation area on the 14th fl. of Kumamoto city hall. You can check the latest observation routes and the updates at the official website.
<http://kumamoto-guide.jp/kumamoto-castle/en/admission/>

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. Closed: Mon. (or Tue.

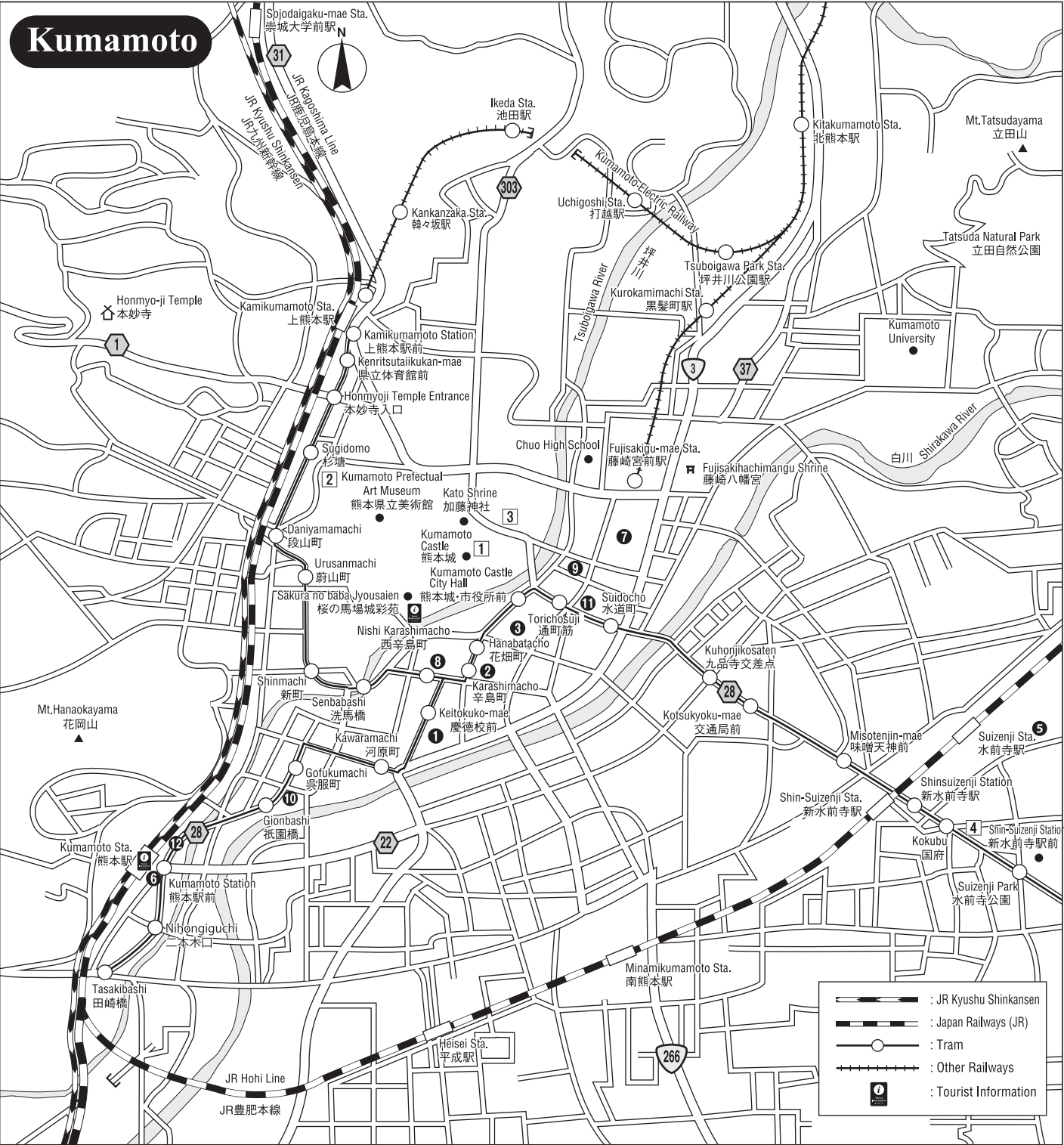
when Mon. is a national holiday) Admission: ¥420. Additional fare will be needed for special exhibition.

3 Kumamoto Prefectural Traditional Crafts Center (熊本県伝統工芸館), a 7-min. walk from Kumamoto Castle / City Hall tram stop, has a great variety of folk arts and crafts such as woodworks, ceramics, bamboocrafts and cutlery, including Higo inlay, Kumamoto’s famous traditional craft. You can also purchase hand-made goods. Open: 9:00–17:00. closed: Mon. (or Tue. when Mon. is a national holiday) [Special & permanent exhibitions room on the 2nd fl.] Admission: ¥210.

4 Suizenji-jojuen (水前寺成趣園), 20 min. by bus or tram 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. You can enjoy the spacious landscape from the Kokin-Denju-no-ma (古今伝授の間) tea house, moved from Kyoto in 1912, with a bowl of Matcha (powdered green tea; from ¥550). Open: 7:30–18:00. (Mar.–Oct.), 8:30–17:00. (Nov.–Feb.) Admission: ¥400.

Suggested Sightseeing Route (4 hrs.):

Kumamoto Sta.	15 min. by tram	Kumamoto Castle / City Hall Stop	10 min. walk	Kumamoto Castle & Kato Shrine	5 min. walk
熊本駅		熊本城・市役所前停留所		熊本城・加藤神社	
Kumamoto Prefectural Art Museum	15 min. walk	Kumamoto Castle / City Hall Stop	20 min. by tram	Suizenji-jojuen (Suizenji park Stop)	
熊本県立美術館		熊本城・市役所前停留所		水前寺成趣園(水前寺公園停留所)	



① – ⑫ 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	¥	⑦ Maruko Hotel (R)	(096)353-1241	(096)353-1217	¥¥
② Kumamoto Tokyu Rei Hotel (BH)	(096)322-0109	(096)322-3050	¥	⑧ Nest Hotel Kumamoto (H)	(096)322-3911	(096)356-5229	¥
③ Hotel Sun Route Kumamoto (BH)	(096)322-2211	(096)322-6987	¥	⑨ Kumamoto Hotel Castle (H)	(096)326-3311	(096)326-3324	¥
④ Higoji (M)	(096)352-7860	(096)352-7860	¥	⑩ ANA Crowne Plaza Kumamoto New Sky (H)	(096)354-2111	(096)354-8973	¥
⑤ Youthpia Kumamoto Youth Hostel (Y)	(096)381-6221	(096)382-2715	¥	⑪ Hotel Nikko Kumamoto (H)	(096)211-1111	(096)211-1175	¥¥
⑥ Toyoko Inn Kumamoto Sta. (BH)	(096)351-1045	(096)351-1046	¥	⑫ The New Hotel Kumamoto (H)	(096)326-1111	(096)326-0800	¥

Remarks:

- ① – ⑫ correspond to those on the map on page 2/5
- H = Hotel
R = Ryokan
BH = Business Hotel
Y = Youth Hostele
M = Minsyuku (family-run inn)

Rate for a twin room
Rate per person
Rate per person
Rate per person
Rate per person

¥¥¥ = more than 15,000 yen
¥¥ = 8,001 yen – 15,000 yen
¥ = 8,000 yen or less
*Standard basis rate (no meals, taxes included)

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 25 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 (by bus):

From	To	Approx. Travel Time	Price	Ticketing & Operator
Kumamoto Sta.	Aso Sta.	2hrs.	¥1,530	“Yamabiko-go” by <u>Sanko Bus</u>
Aso Sta.	Asosan Nishi (West side of Mt. Aso)	35 min.	¥650	Aso Creater Line Bus by <u>Sanko Bus</u>
Asosan Nishi (West side of Mt. Aso)	Kako Nishi (West Crater)	Operation suspended due to volcanic activity	---	<u>Mt. Aso Ropeway</u>

[Note] Train operations on the following sections are suspended due to the earthquake. Please visit local Tourist Information Center for the updates.

- Between Higo-ozu Sta. and Aso Sta. on JR Hoho Line.
- Between Tateo Sta. and Nakamatsu Sta. on Mimim-Aso Railway.

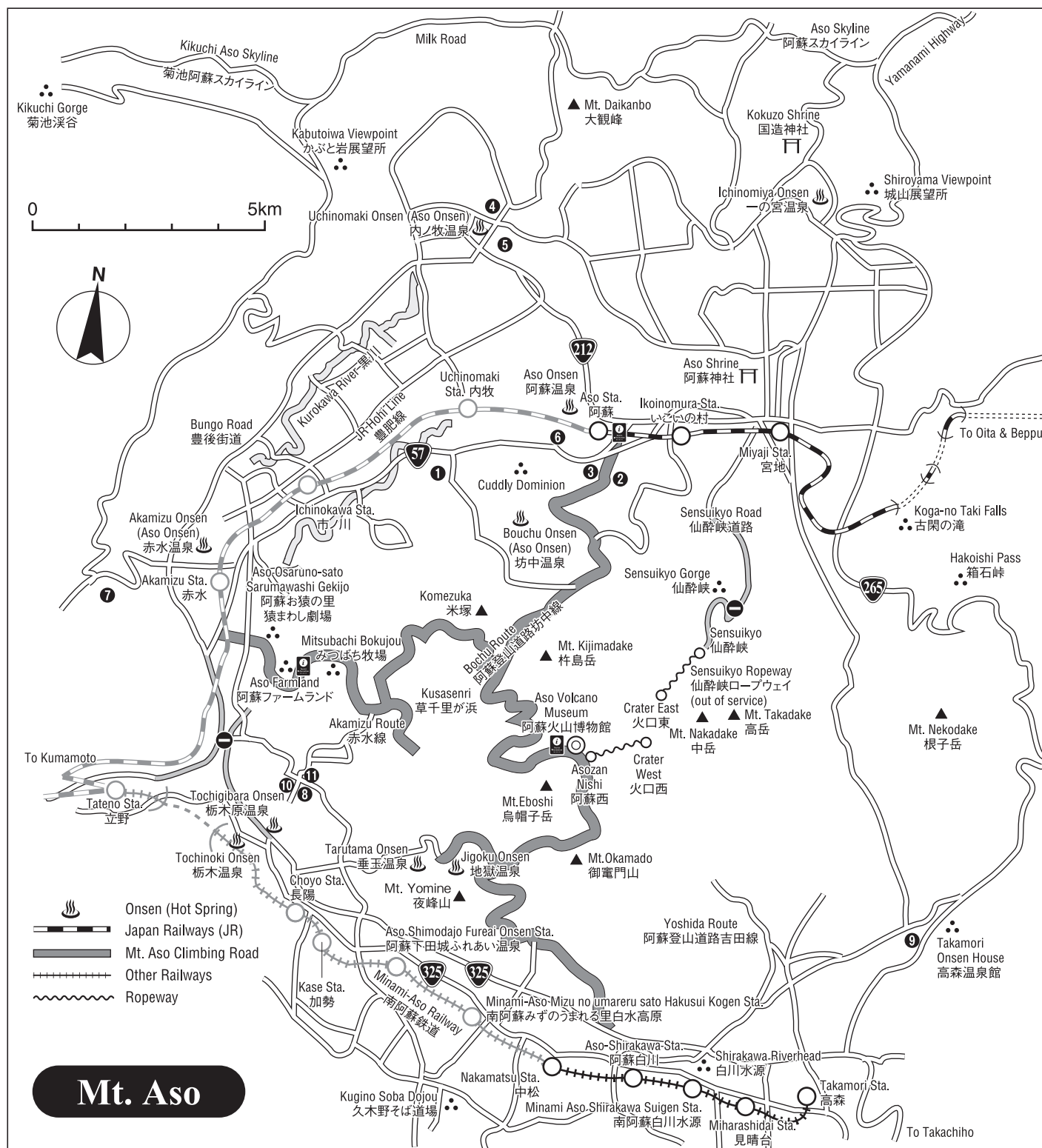
Komezuka (米塚), 20 min. by taxi from JR Aso Sta. It is alt. 954 m high a parasite volcano of Mt. Aso, it is covered with grass. Visitors can be enjoyed the beautiful green scenery from May. It is prohibited to enter the mountain’s area for the conservation.

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), 1 hr. 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 spieces. 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: 9:30–17:00, 10:00–16:30 (mid-Oct.–mid Mar.) Closed: Wed. (Dec. – Feb) Admission: ¥2,400. Note: the shows and programs may be changed or canceled without prior notification.



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	7:31	9:27	9:37	—	The bus terminates at Yufuin Sta.
#3	8:36	10:32	10:42	—	The bus terminates at Yufuin Sta.
#7	12:06	14:02	14:12	17:26	

[Note] Reservation required. Please check the schedule in advance.

Kyushu Sangyo Kotsu (Sanko Bus): <https://www.kyusanko.co.jp/sankobus/english/>

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	¥	⑦ 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	(0967)34-0844	¥	⑧ Evergreen (P)	(0967)67-1769	(0967)67-2585	¥
④ Aso Hotel Ichibankan (R)	(0967)32-0008	(0967)32-0526	¥	⑨ Cream House (P)	(0967)62-3090	(0967)62-3089	¥
⑤ Aso Plaza Hotel (R)	(0967)32-0711	(0967)32-1756	¥	⑩ Pension Akanegumo (P)	(0967)67-2001	(0967)67-2011	¥
⑥ Aso-no-tsukasa Villa Park Hotel (H)	(0967)34-0811	(0967)34-0816	¥¥	⑪ Kulala (P)	(0967)67-1826	(0967)67-1826	¥¥

Remarks:

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

H = Hotel

Rate for a twin room

R = Ryokan

Rate per person

Y = Youth Hostele

Rate per person

P = Pension

Rate per person

G = Guest House

Rate per person

¥¥¥ = more than 15,000 yen

¥¥ = 8,001 yen – 15,000 yen

¥ = 8,000 yen or less

*Standard basis rate (no meals, taxes included)



 Japan Official Travel App






JNTO TIC (Tourist Information Center)

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.

1F, Shin-Tokyo Bldg., 3-3-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0005 Tel. 03-3201-3331 (in Japan)
Open daily from 9:00 to 18:00 (Closed on Jan. 1)
<https://www.japan.travel/en/plan/tic/>



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

<https://www.japan.travel/en/plan/list-of-volunteer-guides/>

[Good to know] Admission and opening times at tourist attractions:

- Last entry to the most of attractions is 30 min. before the closing time.
- In general, if their weekly closing day (most are on Mon.) falls on a national holiday, they are open on the day and are closed on the following day after the holiday(s).
- Most are closed throughout / a part of New Year holiday period (especially Dec. 29–Jan. 3).
- Please visit the official website of each place / your nearest tourist information center for the updates.

**TOURIST INFORMATION in the area****Kumamoto Station Tourist Information Center:**

3-15-30 Kasuga, Nishi-ku Kumamoto City, Kumamoto
Hours: 8:00-19:00.

Tel. (096) 327-9500

Aso Information Center (JR Aso Sta.):

1444-2 Kurokawa, Aso City, Kumamoto
Hours: 9:00-18:00.

Tel. (0967) 34-1600

To find

other Tourist Information Centers,
visit <https://tic.jnto.go.jp/>



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

All information, including transportation schedules, fares, prices and accommodation charges which is contained in this leaflet is based on data as of November 2019, 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.

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