

# Trends in Japan

## Food & Travel

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## Dining and Relaxing at Japan's Southern Gateway

Now conveniently accessible by Shinkansen, Kagoshima in southern Kyushu offers travelers a variety of sights, culture, food, and relaxing hot springs.



Left: The magnificent Sengan-en Garden incorporates a view of the smoking Sakurajima volcano as part of its design.  
Above: Satsuma Kiriko cut glass on display at the Sengan-en Garden gift shop.



Left: Sakura, the newest model Kyushu Shinkansen.  
(Photo: Railman Photo Office)  
Right: Calm, relaxing interiors evoke a Japanese aesthetic.



The sand bath at Ibusuki Sunamushi Onsen warms bathers to the core.



*Kurobuta* pork *shabu-shabu*. Thin slices of rose-colored pork are waved back and forth in simmering soup, then dipped in raw egg.  
(Cooperation: Ajimori)

From left, brands of *imo-jochu*, distilled liquor made from sweet potatoes; *satsumaage*, a snack of seasoned and deep-fried fish paste; freshly caught *kibinago* served as sashimi; *karukan*, a slightly sweet Japanese confectionary with a light, fluffy texture.



## A Spiritual Pilgrimage by the Sea



Experience spiritual tranquility and enjoy delicacies fresh from the sea in the Ise-Shima area of Mie Prefecture.



The rocks, one small and one large, are considered married.



Shops in old traditional buildings line the streets of Oharaimachi.



Above: The main sanctuary of Naiku.

Below left: The main sanctuary building seen from outside the surrounding wall; public entry is not permitted as the grounds are regarded as sacred.

Below right: Kaguraden, a prayer hall stands midway along the approach to the main sanctuary.

(Photos: AFLO)

*Ama* shellfish divers hold fresh lobsters and shells.



*Amiyaki*, fillet of Matsuzaka beef grilled over a high flame (Cooperation: Rikiya)



Thick, juicy abalone simply grilled (Cooperation: Nihonryori Tai)



## Tohoku Cultural Treasure Now Recognized Worldwide

Known throughout the centuries for its rich cultural heritage—resplendent Buddhist temples and breathtaking gardens that change through each season—Hiraizumi is now striving to become the leading light in the recovery of the Tohoku region.



Rapids flow between precipitous cliffs at Genbi Gorge. The dumplings are delivered to the customers in a basket that glides across the ravine on a rope (right).



Geibi Gorge offers the beauty of its ravine to passengers rocking gently in a boat piloted by an oarsman.

*Wanko soba* served in Hidehira-style lacquered dishes (Cooperation: Ekimae Bashokan)



The Konjikido hall is housed in a reinforced concrete building for protection.



Oizumigaike Pond at the Motsu-ji Temple, modeled on the lake in Pure Land Buddhism



Nambu ironware kettle (Cooperation: Kamasada)



*Nambu senbei* comes in sesame and peanut.



Marbled Maezawa beef, ready to be dipped in simmering broth for *shabu-shabu* (Photo: AFLO)

## A Land of Serene Climate and Rich History

A popular travel destination boasting Japan's oldest *onsen*, historical sights and delicacies from the Seto Inland Sea.



Dogo Onsen Honkan, a magnificent public bathhouse built in 1894. You can sense its history while bathing. (Right: the men's side of the *Kami-no-yu* bath.)



Left: *Tai-men*, a signature dish made from the bounty of the Seto Inland Sea.  
Right: *Tai-meshi*, sea bream sashimi served with rice and a soy sauce-based topping blended with egg yolk.  
(Cooperation: Goshiki)



Matsuyama Castle is the symbol of Matsuyama. From the castle keep you can see the city and the Seto Inland Sea (right).



Left: Uchiko with its rows of historical buildings.  
Right: *Tobe-yaki* porcelain sold in the pottery town of Tobe.

*Jakoten* made from minced small fish.



Left: *lyokan*, a sweet and sour-tasting citrus fruit (Photo: AFLO)  
Right: *Taruto*, a Matsuyama dessert