

Feel the transitions of the seasons and time of day  
Photos of the famed castle

Spring

The 800 cherry trees on the premises add an elegant touch to the imposing black castle walls. The blossoms reach their peak every year over the period of late March through early April.



Summer

When the trees on the castle grounds turn from a light yellow green to bright green, it means that summer has arrived at Kumamoto Castle. The castle looks even more inspiring and imposing when the mid-summer sun hits it, creating a stunning contrast.



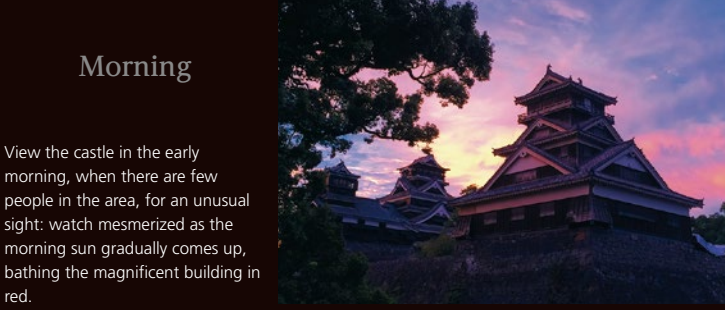
Autumn

Kumamoto Castle is planted with many ginkgo trees. Every December, the leaves turn a golden yellow, lighting up the castle grounds with brilliant swathes of color.



Winter

Though snow almost never falls in Kumamoto, there are years when it snows just once, creating a truly magical scene.



Morning

View the castle in the early morning, when there are few people in the area, for an unusual sight: watch mesmerized as the morning sun gradually comes up, bathing the magnificent building in red.



Night

Main Keep and towers are lit up every afternoon from 8 pm to 11 pm. The illuminated castle against the dark night sky is a symbol of hope for the future of Kumamoto.



After enjoying every inch of Kumamoto Castle,  
see the castle town alive with Japanese tradition!



Fun in the castle town  
Kumamoto cuisine



Kumamoto Beef akaushi-ryori

This lean meat boasts a rich flavor and soft texture, perhaps due to the fact that the cows are raised and grazed in a natural environment in the Aso region. It is ideal for a variety of dishes including grilled beef, steak, etc.



Local sake/wine

jizake • wine

Kumamoto, rich in groundwater running from Mt. Aso, makes an ideal location for shochu, Japanese sake, and wine brewing. Enjoy these beverages together with Kumamoto cuisine!



Karashi Renkon karashi-renkon

The mustard miso has a wonderfully crunchy texture that makes you want more! This local dish was eaten only by members of the Hosokawa clan, lords of Kumamoto Castle until about 150 years ago.

Taipien taipien

This special dish was created in Kumamoto. Featuring a hefty amount of ingredients including vegetables, meat and eggs in a vermicelli soup, it is also highly nutritious.



Milk milk

The milk of cows raised at the foot of Mt. Aso is known for its rich, smooth flavor. Processed dairy items such as yogurt are also popular choices.

Areas associated with famed daimyo Kato Kiyomasa

Kato Kiyomasa, founder of Kumamoto Castle, is still known and loved in the region as a benevolent ruler. The area retains a number of places associated with the man and his achievements.

① Kato shrine

This shrine is dedicated to Kato Kiyomasa. Located on the grounds of Kumamoto Castle, it offers a view of Main Keep from close range. A large summer festival is held here every July.



② Statue of Kato Kiyomasa

Kato Kiyomasa is affectionately known as "Seishokosan" in the area. There are two dignified statues of him, located near Kumamoto Castle as well as near Honmyo-ji Temple.



③ Honmyo-ji Temple

This family temple of the Kato clan was established some 400 years ago. It houses items once owned by Kiyomasa as well as invaluable cultural assets related to the Hosokawa clan.



You might run into the Kumamon!



④ Kumamon Square

The popular "Kumamon" character travels at home in Japan and abroad to promote Kumamoto Prefecture. If you're lucky, you just might get to see him!

Take the convenient tram for your walk around the area



This tram connects Kumamoto station and the city center. Ride any distance for 170 yen.



⑤ Suizenji Park

This Japanese garden, built in 1636, is of the Momoyama period Chisen Kaiyu style (featuring a path around a central pond and spring). On the grounds are a shrine honoring the Hosokawa clans as well as Kokin-Denju-no-Ma teahouse transferred from Kyoto. Having traditional matcha tea here is an experience you'll never forget!



⑥ Shimada Museum of Art

In addition to exhibitions on Kumamoto, we also have numerous collections of exhibit items related to the world-famous author of "The Book of Five Rings": master swordsman Miyamoto Musashi.

Tourist information!

① Tourist Information Center

There are a total of three tourist information centers in the area: Josaiei in front of the Kumamoto Castle, as well as the East and West centers inside Kumamoto station.



● Josaiei Tourist Information Center

Tel: 096-322-5060  
Hours: 9:00-17:30  
Closed: Dec. 30 and 31

● JR Kumamoto Station Tourist Information Center

Tel: 096-327-9500 (Shinkansen Exit)  
Tel: 096-352-3743 (Shirakawa Exit)  
Hours: Shinkansen Exit: 8:00-19:00  
Shirakawa Exit: 8:30-19:00  
Open: daily year-round



● Accommodation in Kumamoto

There is a variety of accommodation to choose from in Kumamoto City. Check info here!



Fruits fruits

This area is home to numerous high-quality fruit items including watermelons, mandarin oranges, strawberries, melons, pears and more.



Kumamoto ramen noodles

kumamoto-ramen

This pork bone ramen noodle dish features seared garlic and thick noodles. The flavor differs by the individual restaurant, so try it at different places!