

Multilingual Electronic Newsletter

多言語メールマガジン

かごしま南の風便り



Kagoshima Southern Wind Tidings

VOL.166

▽Topics

[1 Seasonal Tourism Information](#)

PR video release!! AKUNE IINE TRIP, a journey to discover Akune's thumbs up points!

[2 A-Z The A-Z of Kagoshima's International Relations](#)

6 February: Tet Vietnam (Lunar New Year) Festival 2022 in Kagoshima

[3 Coordinator for International Relations \(CIR\) Column](#)

Yakushima ① The Island of Contrasts: giants and dwarfs, mountains and coasts, old and new.

By Wong Yimin (CIR from Singapore)

---

## Seasonal Tourism Information

---

### ●PR video release!! AKUNE IINE TRIP, a journey to discover Akune's thumbs-up points!●

Actress Michiko Hada embarked on a journey to discover Akune's charms, and do take a look at the video where she found many of Akune's thumbs-up points!

In addition, three other videos with the themes of 'Delicious', 'Fun' and 'Desire to Meet' have been released.



They are videos full of the charms of Akune, so please enjoy them and give Akune a thumbs up too!

[⇒⇒ Tourism website of Akune City](#)

---

## The A-Z of Kagoshima's International Relations

---

### ●6 February: Tet Vietnam (Lunar New Year) Festival 2022 in Kagoshima●

The event "Tet Vietnam (Lunar New Year) Festival 2022 in Kagoshima" was held at Aeon Mall Kagoshima in Kagoshima City in celebration of the Vietnamese Lunar New Year.

This event aims to promote mutual exchanges between Vietnamese technical intern trainees living here and prefectural citizens, and to introduce Vietnam to the locals while looking forward to the resumption of Kagoshima-Hanoi flight routes. There are exhibitions of Vietnam lanterns and tourism panels on display, along with events such as the "I♡KAGOSHIMA Photo Contest" which is aimed at Vietnamese living in Kagoshima prefecture.

During the event, there were also Vietnamese seen taking photos while dressed in the traditional Vietnamese costume, Ao Dai.

This event was held alongside thorough measures against the spread of the new coronavirus, but many shoppers stopped by and enjoyed the atmosphere of Vietnamese Lunar New Year.



---

## Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) Column

---

●Yakushima ① The Island of Contrasts: giants and dwarfs, mountains and coasts, old and new.

By Wong Yimin (CIR from Singapore)



Yakushima is an island in Kagoshima Prefecture with UNESCO World Heritage status, and is filled with a rich and unique biodiversity including some of Japan's oldest living trees.

It has always been a dream destination ever since I first watched the movie Princess Mononoke as a child, and its mossy, mysterious forests have always felt as elusive and unreachable as the far side of the moon. However, dreams are meant to be fulfilled and thanks to everyone, an opportunity to visit the island arrived! As a Coordinator of International Relations (CIR) here in Kagoshima Prefectural Office, part of our contributions to this newsletter is to explore and share the charms of Kagoshima to everyone and this time, it will be about Yakushima.

What is your image of Yakushima? Before this visit, I had a vague impression of an island filled with the signature green mossy forests. But I would find out very soon that it is that, and so much more.

### 11.24 「Day 1」

#### Arrival

On the day of departure, I met up early with my fellow traveller and Korean CIR colleague in the morning to catch the jetfoil Toppo. As the sleek little boat sped out past the protective embrace of Kagoshima bay and entered open waters, I felt a rush of exhilaration. Our adventure has begun!



*On the jetfoil Toppo, with a glimpse of Mt Kaimon before we left Kagoshima bay*

After a ride of about two hours, we were warmly welcomed at the harbor by Section Chief Mr. Tanaka, Manager Mr. Yonehara and their driver from the Yakushima Prefectural Office.



*Welcomed by beautiful skies at Yakushima*

## Yakusugi Museum

Our first stop: Yakusugi Museum!

Before a visit to the actual thing, it makes sense to understand and learn about it first; and what better place to do that than at a museum?



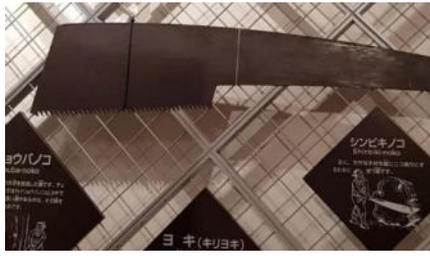
*The beautiful textures of the wood burl*



*A huge branch of Jomon-sugi, broken off by snow*

Yakusugi Museum is a fascinating place with lots of displays and information about the Yakusugi (Japanese cedar); how these ancient giant trees were harvested in the past, their current protected status, and their characteristics. As we explored the exhibits, the pleasant aroma of cedar wood pervaded the space and was a constant, welcome companion.

It was fun to learn that the name “Yakusugi” is only given to trees which are over 1,000 years old, and younger cedars are called “Kosugi”, meaning child cedar. A tree could be 900 years old and still be considered a child here! There were also exhibits of some of the actual tree trunks, and their sheer sizes are astounding, with tree rings stretching back thousands of years.



*Giant saws for giant trees*



*A giant cross-section of Yakusugi wood with labels corresponding to human time periods and stretching far back into antiquity*

We also learnt that a single Yakusugi tree can have numerous epiphytes growing on them; where for example the magnificent 3,000-year-old Kigensugi cedar alone has over 30 different plant species coexisting together on it. What a party!



*A branch of the Kigensugi cedar and information about its many, many epiphytes*



*An exhibit where you can rub a section of Yakusugi wood with sandpaper and smell the aroma of the released oils*



*The museum floor made up of loose cedar blocks and makes an almost musical sound when trodden on*

## Lunch



*'Flying Flying Fish Set Meal' at Awaho. (literally the flying fish that flew) Cute!*

Next was our first meal in Yakushima, and also my first time trying the local delicacy, flying fish (tobiuo).

It was delicious both visually and gastronomically; the firm flesh and crispy wings was complemented perfectly by the tang of the sweet-spicy sauce. The entire wing part was fully edible(!), and was almost like biting into a crunchy savory snack.

## Into the Mountains



We were kindly driven around by the friendly and chatty driver, and were treated to great views of Yakushima's beautiful skies and mountains.

It is intriguing to learn that due to the extremely tall mountains on the island, there is a huge variety of plant life ranging from subtropical coastal vegetation, cedar forests, to finally subalpine scrub forest as the elevation increases.



*A recent landslide which left a perfectly heart-shaped scar on the face of the mountain*

It is literally the vegetation of the entire of Japan reflected in miniature on this island!



*Yakushima deer (yakushika) and Yakushima macaque (yakusaru) that we met along the way*

## Kigensugi Cedar



*3,000-year-old Kigensugi*

Our first stop was to Kigensugi Cedar, to see it in person after learning about it in the museum.

Its magnificent visage is impossible to convey fully with photos alone, and it is amazing to think that it has been standing guard here for the past three millennia or so while empires rose and fell.



*Beautiful wood grain*

## Yakusugi Land

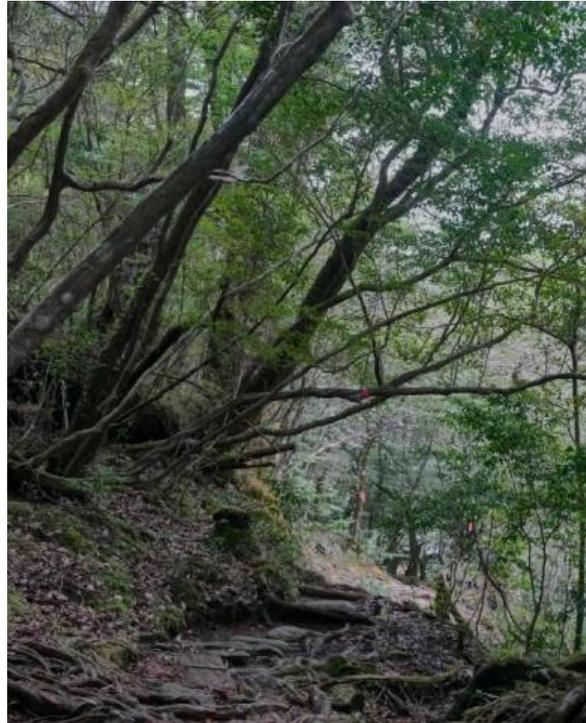
Next up was a short hike in Yakusugi Land.

To a mountain climbing beginner like me who is not good with heights, honestly this was a scary experience. Many thanks to my colleagues for their patience and kind help to this beginner...

However, the primordial scenery interlaced with ancient giant cedars was gorgeous and the sense of serenity was nothing short of amazing.

Was it a terrifying experience? Yes.

Did I regret it? A resounding No.



*Beautifully-flowing mountain stream*



*A beautiful suspension bridge at the start when the trail was still easy...*

## Dinner



*Flying fish Hitsumabushi*

Dinner consisted of more tasty local foods, this time in the form of flying fish meat over piping hot rice.

It was served in the *Hitsumabushi* style, which normally uses unagi (Japanese eel) but here it was arranged deliciously with flying fish instead.

We were told to first try it as it is, followed by adding the provided condiments, and lastly adding their house dashi (soup stock). It was savory and delicious!



*The lovely sunset sky as we made our way back*

## Hotel

The hotel we stayed in had a cute and comfortable room and a gorgeous sunrise view.

We had a good rest, and were all ready for the next day, the star of the trip: Shiratani Unsuikyo!

(※To be continued in the next issue.)



*Amazing sunrise view from the hotel*



*Eco Hotel Sora*



Website of Kagoshima Prefectural Government

<http://www.pref.kagoshima.jp/>



Editor's Note (International Affairs Division, Kagoshima Prefectural Government)

\*

How did you find this month's edition of Kagoshima Southern Wind Tidings?

We as editors will continue to strive to have this prefectural multilingual newsletter be a bridge of information that connects Kagoshima with everyone.



「Kagoshima Southern Wind Tidings' bulletin board」 is looking for the following content!

☆Kagoshima Photo Gallery

We would like to invite you to send us photos that remind you of Kagoshima, or photos of Kagoshima that you might have seen overseas. Please also attach a brief description along with the photo. (e.g. a mountain of volcanic-ash bags)

☆Knowledge about living in Kagoshima

Please share with us information related to life in Kagoshima. (e.g. delicious ways to enjoy fried fish cakes, or how to deal with volcanic ash.)

We also welcome any other information that you would like to share with our readers.

▲▽▲▽ Inquiries ▲▽▲▽

International Affairs Division, Tourism, Culture and Sports Department

Kagoshima Prefectural Government

10-1 Kamoike-shinmachi, Kagoshima City, Japan 890-8577

TEL: +81-99-286-2306 / FAX: +81-99-286-5522

↓ Email

English : [cir1@pref.kagoshima.lg.jp](mailto:cir1@pref.kagoshima.lg.jp)

Korean : [cir3@pref.kagoshima.lg.jp](mailto:cir3@pref.kagoshima.lg.jp)

Japanese : [minami@pref.kagoshima.lg.jp](mailto:minami@pref.kagoshima.lg.jp)

Kagoshima Prefecture owns the copyright to this report. Any and all unauthorized use of this report (redistribution, reproduction, BBS, publication, etc.) is prohibited.