

KAGO LIFE_Spring

Info for life in Kagoshima

I will be leaving Kagoshima this March, so for this issue I would like to introduce my favorite place in Kagoshima – Sakurajima Yogan Nagisa Trail!



Sakurajima seen from Karasujima Observatory



Kinko Bay seen from the trail

My favorite part of Kagoshima 🍷🐱

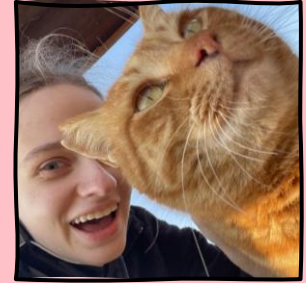
Article by Rebecca, Layout by Soyeon



Sunbathing ☀️



Such pretty eyes!



Besties ❤️

The Sakurajima Yogan Nagisa Trail is a 3 km-long trail, connecting Sakurajima Yogan Nagisa Park (famous for footbaths) with Karasujima Observatory. I always make a round-trip when walking, which takes around an hour. There are plenty of benches alongside the path, making it easy to take a break and rest.

I love this trail because you can enjoy the scenery of Sakurajima and Kinko Bay in the quiet nature. And, above all, there are a lot of cats! When I am stressed, I go to Sakurajima on the ferry, breathe in the fresh air on the trail, play with the cats, and rest my tired feet in the footbaths afterwards. Spending a day like this makes me realize how much I love Kagoshima. Please check it out for yourself when you have a chance!

🌸 Brush up on your Japanese with SAKURA! 🌸

Article by Rebecca. Layout by Soyeon

What is SAKURA?

🌸 About SAKURA

SAKURA is a program run by the Kagoshima City International Exchange Center, where you can study Japanese necessary for daily life, one-on-one with a volunteer. It is held twice a year, over 8 weeks with one 90-minute session per week.

🌸 Schedule (First Run 2025)

The first SAKURA of 2025 will be held over 8 weeks from May to July. When applying, pick from the times below (①-⑫). The participation fee is ¥1000 (pay once for 8 sessions). For info on how to apply, check out the code to the right.



Time \ Day	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
10:00 AM-11:30 AM	①	②	③	④	⑤
1:30 PM-3:00 PM	⑥	⑦	⑧	⑨	⑩
6:30 PM-8 PM	⑪	⑫	x	x	x

Who are the teachers?

The teachers are volunteers, not professional Japanese teachers, but they do receive 12 training lectures before becoming volunteers. Some of them can speak foreign languages, and all of them will speak easy Japanese slowly with you. You will be matched with a volunteer who can come at the same times you pick.

How to study at SAKURA

At SAKURA, materials are only prepared for beginners. Otherwise, you must design your own curriculum. If you know you want to study Japanese but don't know what to do at SAKURA, here are a few suggestions!

- 🌸 Talk about your week in Japanese and receive corrections
- 🌸 Try using the grammar you have been studying
- 🌸 Read an Easy Japanese news article with the volunteer
- 🌸 Read a recipe with the volunteer to learn Japanese for cooking
- 🌸 Make a Japanese speech/presentation and receive feedback

Decide your activities at SAKURA based on what you want to do in Japanese!

Participants' voices

Here's what a few past SAKURA participants had to say!



SAKURA greatly contributed to my improvement in Japanese! I feel like it especially improved my confidence. I am now able to read and communicate, and I was always happy when the volunteer understood me.

The best parts of SAKURA are the one-on-one support, the flexibility, and the super-duper friendly volunteers. I think it's especially effective for people with a clear goal in their Japanese studies.



You too can brush up your Japanese with SAKURA!

A Journey to search for Manhole Cards

Article by Soyeon and Kaili

Have you heard of Manhole Cards? They are a collector card created by GKP (Sewerage PR Platform) with municipalities and given for free to those who visit designated spots, to spread awareness of Waterworks Bureaus. We made a small trip with the Magnions (Kagoshima City's PR character) to receive three cards in the city. We will show you how to get there by city bus or tram, and sightseeing spots nearby.

Manhole Cards

Manhole Cards contain a variety of information. First, let's take a look at the color. Manhole Cards in Kyushu are pink, making Kagoshima's cards pink as well. The numbers on the bottom left are the coordinates of the manhole on the card. The pictograms on the bottom right are sorted by 31 types. Information about the design is written on the back of the card.



1 Waterworks Bureau Main Building_Kamoikeshinmachi 1-10

From City Hall

12 Bus at "Shiyakusho-mae"

Get off at Masagoihoikuen-mae, walk 2 min.

Our first stop is the furthest from City Hall – the main building of the Kagoshima City Waterworks Bureau. We left from the City Hall side, so we went using the city-operated 12 Bus. Please use the 16 Bus if you want to depart from Tenmonkan or Kagoshima Chuo Station! When you ride the 16 Bus, you will get off at the Kencho-mae stop and walk 3 minutes to the Waterworks Bureau.

You can receive the Manhole Card at the Sewerage Pipeline Construction Division on the 4th floor of the Waterworks Bureau. After answering a survey in Japanese or simple English, speak to a staff member and they will give you the card. There are also pin buttons next to the survey papers, which you can take for free. We had the special opportunity to interview a Waterworks Bureau staff member, who told us more about the Manhole Cards. There are 17 card types in Kagoshima Prefecture, and over 1,000 types in all of Japan. There is also a book for viewing in the Waterworks Bureau that shows all of Japan's Manhole Cards, so please check it out!



We would love for you to show interest in waterworks and sewage!

Times and places to receive card	【Weekdays】 8:30-17:15	4F Sewerage Pipeline Construction Division
	【Weekdays】 17:16-20:00	
【Weekends, holidays, Dec 29-Jan 3】 8:30-17:15		Security Office

2 Tourism Exchange Center_Uenocho-cho 1-1

From Waterworks Bureau

Ride 11-2 Bus at Kencho-nishi bus stop

Get off at Kyokenkoen-mae, walk 3 min.

Walk to Amuran

Next, we rode the 11-2 bus to the Tourism Exchange Center. You can also take the 11 Bus. You can also ride the 16 Bus at the Kencho-mae bus stop. The Tourism Exchange Center is across the street (diagonally right) from the bus stop. There is a sign in Japanese, English, Chinese, and Korean. It is open every day, but Manhole Cards are only given out between 9 AM and 6 PM. After receiving the card, we walked to Amu Plaza. Have you ever ridden on Amuran? Yes, I'm talking about the giant ferris wheel in the middle of Amu Plaza, with a diameter of about 60 meters and a height of 91 meters. From the ferris wheel, you can see Kagoshima's symbol Sakurajima, Kinko Bay, Sakurajima ferry, and the city area of Kagoshima. We rode on a see-through gondola, which made the scenery look even more gorgeous. We recommend riding at night to see all the city lights as well.



Business hours	Weekdays 12:00~19:45 / Weekends and holidays 10:00~19:45		
Fee	Adult/¥500	JQ Card member/¥400	Children (ages 3-high school) ¥300
	One gondola ride (4 people) ¥1,200		*¥100 discount with one-day pass

3 Tourism Information Center_Centerrace Tenmonkan 1F

From Kagoshima Chuo Station

Ride tram bound for Kagoshimaeki-mae

Get off at Tenmonkan-dori stop, walk 2 min.

Walk around and enjoy sweets

After riding Amuran, we got on the tram bound for Kagoshimaeki-mae at the Kagoshima Chuoeki-mae tram stop and headed to Tenmonkan to receive the last Manhole Card. You can receive the card at the Tourist Information Center on the first floor of Centerrace Tenmonkan between the hours of 9 AM and 7 PM.

After receiving the card, we walked around Tenmonkan to enjoy some sweets. First, we had Shirokuma, Kagoshima's specialty. Shirokuma has been around since 1949 and began as a simple shaved ice with white and red syrup as toppings. It came to be known as Shirokuma because the arrangement of the cherry, angelica, and dried grapes resembled the face of a white bear. There is plenty of homemade condensed milk and syrup on the fluffy ice! You can choose from over ten types. Next, we headed to Kakashi Yokocho to try the fried donuts, which use fresh eggs and are slightly sweet, and kasutadon, a fluffy treat which uses custard cream made with eggs from Kagoshima. There are many other sweets including karukan and doradon, so please give them a try! We also recommend that you try searching for the special Manhole lids between Kagoshima Chuo Station and Tenmonkan and finding the manholes on the cards!



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