

Kagoshima Watching

- Vol. 6 -

Fukiage town



SHOUEN NO IKE



Senbon Kusu Trees



Fukiagehama beach

Fukiage Town is located next to Kagoshima city and is about a 40 min drive from the city. What do you know about Fukiage? Most people know about Fukiage town because of the Fukiagehama beach which has one of the three biggest sand dunes in Japan. However, there are many attractive places and things around Fukiage town. Let's have a look!

FUKIAGEHAMA BEACH / 吹上浜

This beautiful beach stretches the length of 47 km from Kushikino to Kaseda city. Fukiage town is located between both cities. This beach was selected as one of Japan's 100 most beautiful beaches. A long beach and green pine trees create a very beautiful scene. During the period from May to August, sea turtles come to lay their eggs. Unfortunately, you can't swim here, because this is one of the most dangerous beaches with its sharp drop off from shore.

SHOUEN-NO-IKE POND / 正円池

This pond is located in the quiet mountains which surround the town of Fukiage. It is off the main road which services town. The attraction here is not so much the pond itself, but the beautiful colors and natural geometric shapes created by the floating water hyacinths. From June to September the pond is colored a light purple glow by the blooming hyacinth plants. It is truly a beautiful sight to experience the interaction of colors, shapes and motion created naturally on this pond.

LAKE SATSUMA / さつま湖

For those of you interested in visiting Lake Satsuma, you are in luck because October is one of the best months to experience all this lake has to offer! Not only you can feel the beauty of the cool autumn season with all of its colors, but there will also be fireworks. 4000 fireworks will be set off and reflected on the 2.5 km circumference surface of the lake. In Spring, you can also see the cherry blossoms bloom as well as many other kinds of flowers.

KUROKAWA CAVE / 黒川洞穴

This is an interesting site, not only because of its natural beauty but more so because of the story it tells. The story dates back nearly 5000 years, to a time of primitive life in Japan. Artifacts such as, stone axes, animal fossils and other interesting items were discovered here. Visiting the site will give you a real sense of history for Japanese ancient culture. More information about what this cave has unearthed can be found at various historic sites throughout town.

SENBON KUSU TREES / 千本楠

The name Senbon Kusu, means when translated to English '1000 camphor trees'. In actuality, however, only about 20 trees compose this small forest near Oonamuchi Shrine. The forest itself is unique because its divinity is associated with a local legend. It is said that the god Oonamuchi came down and stuck his divine camphor staff into the land at which time the stick took root and became the forest we see today.



SYED SALLEH S.M. YATIM
Fukiage Town CIR

Saido is from Jelebu City in the Negeri Sembilan state which is about 1.5 hours drive from the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur. His hometown, Jelebu, has established an international cooperation with Fukiage Town for the last 6 years but he has personally built a relationship with the Fukiage people over the last 20 years. He is now a 3rd year CIR (Coordinator for International Relations) in Fukiage Town. He says "Fukiage Town is similar to my home town. Although Fukiage Town is known for its beautiful sandhill beach in general, Fukiage is also a healthy town with lots of sport facilities like Fukiagehama Park. The people are friendly and passionate. There is a traditional event called Izaku Drum Dance which I enjoyed very much. I was very impressed to see the young Fukiage people training hard for this cultural tradition." He actively promotes internationalization by organizing events, visiting schools and being involved in many local activities. He also introduces his country through the Malaysian Corner at a local product shop 'Himawari-kan'. There, you can find Malaysian crafts, clothes and foods. Come and try a Malaysian snack 'Karipap' (curry flavor fried dumplings). It is Saido Malaysian recipe. If you want to know more about Malaysia, Please come to the International Festa in conjunction at the Fukiage Autumn Festival on October 17. He will open a Malaysian booth where you can experience Malaysian culture through games and food. His CIR friends from Korea, China and other places will also open their booths too!

