

Kinko Bay Tidings



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67th Ohara Festival

Kagoshima will once again bring colour to autumn for the 67th Festival, which will take place during the 150th year anniversary of the Meiji Restoration

In the biggest festival in Southern Kyushu, over 20,000 dancers in approximately 250 groups will dance throughout the Tenmonkan business district over the 2-day festival period.

In addition to dancing to native folk songs "Ohara Bushi," Kagoshima's "Han'ya Bushi" and "Shibuya Ondo," Kagoshima will also display other forms of traditional public entertainment.

There will also be many festival stalls, games to try and plenty of local sake on offer to try and buy. The festival will be held over a two-day period from Friday, November 2nd until Saturday 3rd.

The 3rd of November also signifies Japan's national holiday "Culture Day" so what better way to celebrate than to come and witness the historic festival first hand and the best dancers Kyushu has to offer!

Asia Kagoshima 2018 and the 150th anniversary of the Meiji Restoration.

The 2018 Kagoshima Asian Youth Arts Festival will be held on the weekend of the 20th and 21st of October.

Young participants from China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, and as of last year Myanmar will gather in one hall with participants from Kagoshima City for the 13th year of the Asian youth arts festival.

For Kagoshima City, encouraging exchange among the regions of Asia with strong historical and geographic ties is becoming more and more important.

It is not just a time to watch a variety of talented performances; it is considered as an important opportunity to create stronger relations with countries around Asia in order to fa

facilitate peace and prosperity on a broader level in the 21st century.

2018 also signifies the 150 year anniversary of the Meiji Restoration, of which Kagoshima (then known as the Satsuma Domain) played a pivotal role in bringing forth.

During a speech regarding the youth arts festival, Kagoshima City's Mayor Mori recalls the struggles of such pioneers as Saigo Takamori, whose ardent passion and execution abilities led to the establishment of the first modern nation in Asia.

He also refers to other events that were historically significant for cultural exchange during the Edo Period, such as the outstanding international awareness cultivated within the Satsuma Clan – in particular the international trade with the Ryukyu Islands, and the Satsuma students who travelled to Great Britain in 1865 to study advanced technologies, and later contributed to the modernization of Japan.

As the youth and citizens of Kagoshima city gather together with young people abroad through the participation of this event, we can once again look forward to the further deepening of exchange between Japan and the rest of Asia

The appeal of Sakurajima, one of the most prominent active volcanos in the world

Across the Kinko Bay 4km east of Kagoshima city lies Sakurajima, one of the most active volcanos in the world and the symbol of Kagoshima. Sakurajima has an elevation of 1,177 meters at the tallest peak (Kitadake) and a circumference of 52km.

Believed to have formed some 26,000 years ago, there have been 17 major eruptions since its formation and near daily small eruptions since 1955. Despite this, according to a 2015 estimate an estimated 4600 people are believed to be living on the island.

While being one of the most active volcanoes on earth makes it a rare and extraordinary wonder in itself, combined with various parks and walking trails, the island is blessed with natural hot springs and unique beautiful scenery. Why not come and see for yourself what the active volcano island has to offer?