

Welcome to Kashima!

鹿島

Kashima Sightseeing Guide

Kashima City is located in the southwestern part of Saga Prefecture in northern part of Kyushu.
The land is rich in nature and nestled between both sea and mountains.

The Ariake Sea is famous for the largest tideland in Japan,
and the Tara Mountains are also known as the highest peaks in Saga.

There are many places to visit and enjoy here in Kashima
such as Yutoku Inari Shrine and the historical townscape of Hizen Hamashuku.



KASHIMA, SAGA, JAPAN



祐徳稲荷神社 Yutoku Inari Shrine

Inari Shrines are dedicated to their "Inari-gami" the spirit of agriculture and industry, and they are characterized by their red torii(Shinto shrine archways) and statues of foxes. There are approximately 30,000 Inari Shrines throughout Japan, and Yutoku Inari Shrine is one of the three largest in the country. This has been one of Saga Prefecture's most famous tourist spot for a long time, and nearly 3 million people visit here annually.



Ochouzu (Purification Water)

Upon entering the precincts of the shrine, the first things you see are a statue of a fox and a place to purify your hands by washing them. Here, you are to rinse off your hands, rinse out your mouth, and purify yourself.



Myobusha Shrine

Located a short ways up the mountain from the main shrine building, this shrine is dedicated to Byakko (white fox), Inari-gami's familiar. This is the oldest building within the precincts of Yutoku Inari Shrine, and it has been designated as one of Saga Prefecture's important cultural assets.



Red Torii (Archways)

There is a custom of dedicating a torii to the shrine as a way of expressing one's gratitude when a wish is granted after coming to an Inari Shrine to pray. There are a great number of torii lining the precincts of the shrine.



The View from the Inner Shrine

A roughly twenty-minute walk from the main shrine building up a mountain path will bring you to the inner shrine located atop the mountain. The view is beautiful, and you can see both the city and the Ariake Sea.

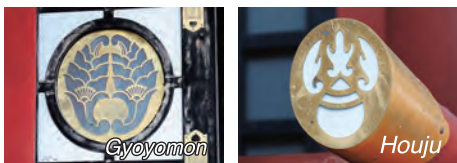
◆ Tel: Yutoku Inari Shrine
0954-62-2151

Honden (Main Shrine Building)

This is the central building in the shrine, and it was built atop a platform reached only by climbing its 117 stairs. The platform here is higher even than the one found at Kiyomizu-dera Temple in Kyoto. This beautiful building is covered in richly-colored lacquer, and it is also possible to enter the building to pray where you can see the colorful wall and ceiling paintings. (Admission fee required)



Inome



Gyo-yomon

Houju

A Variety of Symbols: “Gyo-yomon,” “Inome,” and “Houju”

“Gyo-yomon” is the family crest used by the lord of Kashima in the Edo period. “Inome” is used as a ward against fires. “Houju” is the symbol of Inari-gami. These symbols can be found all throughout the shrine.



Omamori (Good Luck Charms)

There are more than 160 types of good luck charms available. They are fun to look through to choose the ones you need, such as for health, business prosperity, traffic safety, success in studying, success in love, or for a happy marriage, etc.



Japanese Garden

This is a Japanese style garden including a small flowing brook and a pond with a bridge. A variety of flowers are in bloom all year round, and the leaves in autumn are also beautiful. You can take a leisurely walk here as you enjoy the seasons.

Yutoku Monzen Shopping Street

The approximately 400-meter-long promenade leading up the shrine is lined with over 30 shops including souvenir shops and restaurants. Here, you can buy Inari Yokan (sweet bean jelly), a local specialty. In the spring, the rows of cherry blossom trees are a beautiful sight.



Iwasakisha Shrine

This is a small shrine located just below the main building. The spirit of the shrine brings luck not only in love but also in work and business. A great number of heart-shaped ema are hung at the shrine.



Nadeuma (Petting Horses)

There are two horse statues located at the base of the stairway from the main building. It is said that you will be cured of illness if you rub one of the horses on the same part of the body where you are ill.



Omikuji (Fortune Slips)

“Omikuji” contain predictions about your fortune (boon or bane) as well as advice. They are available in (five) foreign languages.



Ema (Votive Plaques)

There is a custom of writing out wishes on wooden plaques about the size of your palm and then hanging them at the shrine. Some of the ema hanging bunched up together are written in foreign languages.

肥前浜宿

Hizen Hamashuku

This area was used as a post town along the Nagasaki-kaido. Road during the Edo period, and later the area developed thanks to the fermenting industry such as sake breweries, fisheries and the seafood processing industry. There are two locations designated as a “National Preservation District for Groups of Historic Buildings”, where you can still see Japanese traditional buildings. You can enjoy walks through the townscape and take tours of distilleries.



Hamanakamachi Hachihongishuku

This area developed mainly through the sake, etc. brewing industry. The townscape is formed from an eclectic mix of large buildings such as breweries, old samurai residences, and western-style buildings. The area is commonly referred to as “Brewery Street.”

Hamashozumachi Kanayamachi

This was a lively area and home to merchants, sailors, blacksmiths and carpenters. The area is characterized by its townscape jam-packed with small thatched or tile-roofed townhouses lined up along its narrow lanes.



Minematsu Sake Brewery (Hizenya)

This brewery is located at the entrance to “Brewery Street.” Tours are available, and you can taste many different kinds of sake, shochu, and liqueur. Here, you will also find “Showa no Heya (room from the Showa period),” a recreation of life in Japan in the past.



Kyu Norita-ke Jutaku

(Old Norita Family Residence)

This old samurai residence is located near the entrance to a back street. This old house was built at the end of the Edo period by a samurai for the Kashima Domain. It is characterized by its thatched roof. The house has been designated as a Municipal Important Cultural Asset.



Statues of Ebisu

In Kashima City, there is a custom of making “Funa no Kobumaki (rolls of rice and carp wrapped in kelp)” to give in offering at statues of Ebisu on the twentieth day of the New Year’s celebrations. Every year, early in the morning on January 19th, a “Carp Market” is held where carp for these is sold, and the market is always crowded and lively.



Relay Stations

These buildings are from the Edo period, and they were used as hubs for relaying people, horses, and packages. Here, you can still see the metal rings used for tethering horses as well as the reception desk. Currently, this building serves as the Tourist Information Center.

◆ Tel: Hizen Hamashuku
Mizu to Machinami no Kai
0954-69-8004

有明海・道の駅鹿島

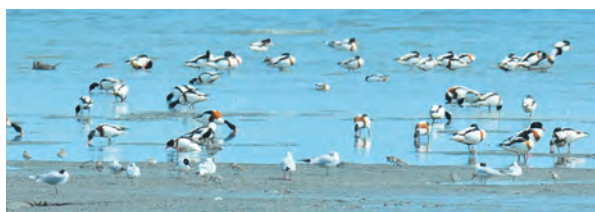
The Ariake Sea and Roadside Station Kashima

The Ariake Sea is famous for the largest tidal range in Japan with approximately 6 meters of differences between high and low tide. It is also famous for the largest tideland in Japan with a various kinds of unique sea creatures. Roadside Station Kashima has been certified as a Foreign Language Tourist Information Center. In the shop, you can buy fresh produce and seafood as well as souvenirs. Barbeque and other foods are also available. This place is also famous for the venue of "Kashima Gatalympic".



Tideland Observatory

This observatory was built on the grounds of Roadside Station Kashima. There is also a small aquarium displaying living organisms from the Ariake Sea. You can view the Ariake Sea through telescopes, and learn about the natural environment.



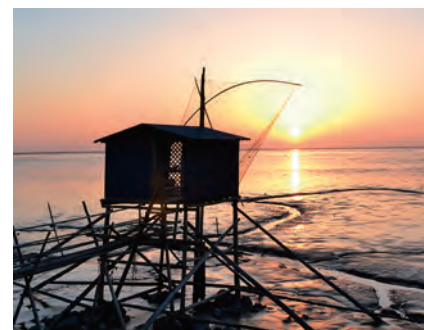
The Hizen Kashima Tideland – A Vital Habitat for Migratory Birds

This area is a nature preserve for plants and organisms that are unique even within the Ariake Sea tideland. This area is listed under the Ramsar Convention, and it is used as a stopover by migratory birds such as sandpipers and plovers. The area has become a bird watching spot.



Tideland Experience (Requires an admission fee)

Changing rooms and warm showers are available at Roadside Station Kashima. You can explore the expansive tideland before you, and play in the mud to your heart's content. You can also experience Mutsukake and Tanajibu, two traditional fishing techniques.



◆ Tel: Roadside Station Kashima
0954-63-1768

多良岳・経ヶ岳

The Taradake and Kyogatake Mountains

This mountain range has long been a focal point for belief in Buddhism and Shintoism. The area has also been designated as a Prefectural Natural Park. Mt. Kyogatake (1,076m) is the highest peak in Saga Prefecture, and the peak is a roughly two-hour trip from the starting point of the hiking trail. Many hikers visit this area.



The Okuhiratani Camping Grounds and Nature Hall

This lodging facility is located near the start of the Mt. Kyogatake hiking trail. The camping grounds are used as a base point when going on hikes and for training purposes. Nearby, you will find the "Hiratani Hot Spring" facility, a shop where farmers sell produce directly, and a spring-water well.



The Nakakoba Dam

There is a park located next to the lake at Nakakoba Dam, which you will come across on your way to the start point of the Mt. Kyogatake hiking trail. 5,000 ajisai (Japanese hydrangea) are in bloom throughout the area. There is also a restaurant serving local cuisine.



鹿島酒蔵ツーリズム

Kashima Sake Brewery Tourism

Brewing sake has been popular in Kashima City since ancient times, and even now, there are six breweries in the city. Kashima sake is “rich” and “sweet.” It is known for its strong flavor that fills your mouth. Kashima sake is highly praised both domestically and abroad as the best sake in Japan.



Events and Brewery Tourism

Every year at the end of March, the breweries jointly hold an “open for business” event. This is a chance to casually meet and talk with the brewers and heads from each brewery. A variety of events are held throughout the city as well, such as in Hizen Hamashuku and Monzenmachi near Yutoku Inari Shrine.

Brewery Tours

You can take a tour to tour the Sachihome Brewery, located near Yutoku Inari Shrine, and the Minematsu Brewery, located in Hizen Hamashuku, freely without reservations. You can come in contact with the brewing culture here while tasting the sake and touring the breweries.

歴史と伝統

History and Tradition

Menburyu (Ritual Mask Dance)

This ritual mask dance is performed by lines of dancers in devil masks, and the dance is Saga Prefecture's most well-known example of folk art. This ritual mask dance is performed at shrines throughout the area to show gratitude for bountiful harvests and to the natural environment.



Kashima Castle Ruins (Asahigaoka Park)

These are the ruins of the castle owned by the Nabeshima family of the Kashima Domain. In addition the former castle gates (Akamon and Ôtemon), you can still see the remains of the moat and the stone walls. The park located within the castle ruins is considered the best place to view cherry blossoms in the prefecture.



Tanjoin Temple

This temple is the birthplace of the Kashima-born high priest, Kogyo-daishi Kakuban. Seasonal flowers proudly bloom within the precincts of the temple. You can experience sutra copying and a fire ritual called gomataki. (Requires a reservation).

Rengon-in Temple

This old temple was established in the Heian period. The golden rays given off by the three statues of Buddha, which have been designated as National Important Cultural Assets, give people today a glimpse of the prosperity of Buddhist culture in the past.



Yutoku Museum

This museum is located next to Yutoku Inari Shrine. The displays include the armor and Japanese swords of the successive generations of lords as well as numerous treasures that have been passed down at the shrine.



お土産・グルメ Souvenirs and Gourmet

Nogomi Dolls

These are simple ceramic bells made in the motifs of things found locally as well as in the shapes of cute Chinese-zodiac animals. The dolls are popular as charms to dispel evil spirits and as good luck charms.



Kashima Nishiki (Brocade)

These are handwoven fabrics in which colorful silk threads are interwoven with Japanese paper slips coated in gold and silver. These fabrics are refined, delicate works of art. They are also known as Saga Nishiki.



Buryu-men (Ritual Dance Masks)

These are devil masks handmade by local woodcarvers for use in the ritual mask dance called Menburyu. They are popular as decorations to ward off evil spirits and as commemorative items.



Seafood from the Ariake Sea

In Kashima City, you will find an abundance of seafood specialties from the Ariake Sea. When you come to Kashima, we would very much like for you to try some of the Ariake Sea seafood specialties at one of the restaurants serving local cuisine.



Fermented Foods

Kasuzuke and Narazuke, dishes made by pickling seafood from the Ariake Sea and vegetables in sake lees, are traditional fermented foods. In addition, there is a dish called Kanizuke, made by mashing and fermenting crab meat, which is a snack that goes perfectly with alcohol.



Seaweed Laver from the Ariake Sea

This area boasts the largest production and sales in Japan. Seaweed laver taken from the Ariake Sea is filled with nutrients, and is a rare pleasure to eat as it is sweet and melts in your mouth.



Inari Yohan (Sweet Bean Jelly)

This is a specialty at Yutoku Inari Shrine. You eat it by pushing up on the bottom of the tube filled with sweet bean jelly, which causes the jelly to come out of the other end, and then using a piece of string to cut the jelly into the size you want. It is also known as Itokiri Yohan.



Mandarin Oranges

These mandarin oranges grow on drooping branches hit by the sea breeze, and they are sweet and juicy. They are in season from October to February.



KASHIMA access



Access to Kyushu

Tokyo~Fukuoka (Hakata)	▶ Shinkansen	Approx. 5 hours
	▶ Airplane	Approx. 1 hour 40 min
Tokyo~Saga	▶ Airplane	Approx. 1 hour 40 min
Nagoya~Fukuoka	▶ Shinkansen	Approx. 3 hours 30 min
Osaka~Fukuoka	▶ Shinkansen	Approx. 2 hours 30 min

From the Saga Airport	▶ Airport Limousine Taxi (☎0954-62-2171) (Adult - One way: ¥1,500, reservation required)	Approx. 50 min
Within the city	▶ Bus, Kashima Bus Center - Hizen-Hama Ekimae Bus Stop	Approx. 10 min
	▶ Bus, Kashima Bus Center - Yutoku Inari Shrine	Approx. 10 min
	▶ JR, Hizen-Kashima Station - Hizen-Hama Station	Approx. 5 min
	▶ JR, Hizen-Hama Station - Hizen-Nanaura Station	Approx. 5 min

From Fukuoka	▶ Car (Nagasaki Expressway), via the Takeo Kitagata IC	Approx. 90 min
	▶ JR (Kamome Express), Hakata - Hizen-Kashima	Approx. 60 min
From Saga City	▶ Car, via National Routes 207 and 444	Approx. 50 min
	▶ JR (Kamome Express), Saga - Hizen-Kashima	Approx. 20 min
From Nagasaki	▶ Car (Nagasaki Expressway), via the Ureshino IC	Approx. 90 min
	▶ JR (Kamome Express), Nagasaki - Hizen-Kashima	Approx. 60 min

KASHIMA information

Transportation

<Bus>

Yutoku Bus	☎0954-69-8077
Yutoku Jidousha Co., Ltd. (Rental)	☎0954-63-3111

<Taxi>

Saikouan Taxi	☎0954-62-2171
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<JR>

JR Kyushu Hizen-Kashima Station	☎0954-62-2326
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<Car Rental>

Toyota Rent-a-Lease	
Saga Kashima Branch	☎0954-62-2277

Accommodations

Sky Tower Hotel	☎0954-63-1188
Shiratama Inn	☎0954-62-4586
Hiratani Hot Spring	☎0954-64-2321
Minna no Ie Guesthouse	☎0954-62-8444
Okuhiratani Camping Ground	☎0954-63-3412
Shizen no Yakata Hiratani	☎0954-64-2579

Hot Springs

Hizen-Yutoku Hot Spring-Takara no Yu	☎0954-62-2815
Hiratani Hot Spring	☎0954-64-2321

Sightseeing Guide (Hizen-Hamashuku Machinami Guide)

Hizen-Hamashuku	
Mizutomachinami no Kai	☎0954-69-8004

Hands-on Activities

Tideland Experience and New Tourism Experience	☎0954-63-1768
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Sightseeing Information

Kashima City Office of Industry,
Section of Commerce, Industry, and Tourism

2643-1 Nodomibun, Kashima City, Saga Prefecture 849-1312

TEL 0954-63-3412 FAX 0954-63-2313

rousei@city.saga-kashima.lg.jp

http://www.city.saga-kashima.lg.jp/

Kashima City Tourist Association
(General Incorporated Association)

4078 Takatsuhara, Kashima City, Saga Prefecture 849-1311

TEL 0954-60-5145 FAX 0954-60-4946

info@kashima-kankou.com

http://kashima-kankou.com/