

## Kyushu 2023 AQUA Family Newsletter – April 2023

Today, we would like to share information on how to access the competition venues using direct buses, as well as tourism information for the water polo host city Kumamoto City and artistic swimming host city Kagoshima City. Please share this information with aquatics fans across the world using your networks. The Fukuoka OC expresses our gratitude for your kind support and cooperation.

<Information included in today's letter>

### **【1 Event Information】**

### **【2 Tourism Information】**

### **【3 Access Information】**

**【4 Others (information on what will be shared in the next letter, brief overview of what was shared in the last letter)】**

### **【1 Event Information】**

We released the Entry Booklet which contains all the necessary information on entry registration and the Visa Guide with information on entry requirements for Japan on the Event official website prior to the start of registration.

< Entry Booklet and Visa Guide >

<https://www.fina-fukuoka2022.org/en/masters/entry.html>

<Direct Bus>

A World Aquatics Championships affiliated travel agent is planning on selling tickets through the below websites for a direct bus service (pre-booking required) that travels from the city centre of Hakata Station to the venues. (Not available for SW venue Marine Messe Fukuoka Hall A and AS venue Kamoike Park Swimming Pool).

This worry-free bus service will ensure a much shorter and more punctual travel time to the venues compared to public transport and the ride guidance service provided by staff ensures a safe and comfortable ride.

For more information and details regarding purchasing these tickets, please check the below websites.

●Fukuoka venues

[https://va.apollon.nta.co.jp/masters\\_kyushufuk/joho?MODE=top&language=1](https://va.apollon.nta.co.jp/masters_kyushufuk/joho?MODE=top&language=1)

●Kumamoto venue

[https://va.apollon.nta.co.jp/masters\\_kyushukmj/joho?MODE=top&language=1](https://va.apollon.nta.co.jp/masters_kyushukmj/joho?MODE=top&language=1)

< Venue Access >

The official website has been updated with information on how to access the venues.

<https://www.fina-fukuoka2022.org/masters/venues.html>

Each venue has an associated access map. Please feel free to use these maps when travelling to the venues.

## **【2 Tourism Information】**

In today's letter we would like to share tourism information on the World Aquatics Masters Championships host cities Kumamoto City and Kagoshima City.

Both cities have many highlights including delicious cuisine, historical buildings, magnificent nature scenery, as well as many contents to enjoy during your stay. Please visit Kumamoto City or Kagoshima City following the end of your events.

### **( 1 ) Kumamoto City**

Kumamoto City is located near the centre of Kyushu, a location blessed geographically. The city is accessible from Fukuoka City (Hakata Station) at the fastest 33 minutes via Shinkansen bullet train. Additionally, it is easy to access the city centre and tourist spots such as Kumamoto Castle from Kumamoto Station with the use of the city tram.

### **【Food】**

Naturally blessed in many aspects including clean underground water, Kumamoto City is one of Japan's leading agricultural producers. Kumamoto Ramen and Karashi Renkon (mustardstuffed lotus root) are the most notable Kumamoto specialties. However, other than Kumamoto City's local cuisine, trying out Kumamoto's specialty water and the agricultural produce grown from that water will surely make you think "everything I eat is so delicious!" It would be a shame to only sightsee when visiting Kumamoto. Kumamoto's food, one of the best parts when travelling, will be sure to meet your expectations.

### **【Related website】**

<https://kumamoto-guide.jp/en/foods/>

### **【Website for recommended tourist places and sites in Kyushu region】**

<https://fukuoka-kyushu-travel.com/>

### **【Culture】**

Kumamoto Castle is considered one of the three greatest castles in Japan. The first feudal lord of Kumamoto province and well known as a master castle builder, Kiyomasa Kato spent 7 years from the year 1601, building this renowned and famous castle.

This castle is a must see when visiting Kumamoto. Why not begin your tour of Kumamoto with a viewing of one of

Japan's most famous castles?

【Related website】

<https://castle.kumamoto-guide.jp/en/>

【Website for recommended tourist places and sites in Kyushu region】

<https://fukuoka-kyushu-travel.com/>

【Activity】

To the east of the city centre lies one of the highlights of Kumamoto City, the Suizenji area with the Suizen-ji Jōju-en Garden and Lake Ezu. With a perimeter of 6km, Lake Ezu is the perfect place to enjoy standup paddleboarding and cycling. Why not cycle on a bicycle around this beautiful greenscape, a location that has become a popular place of rest and leisure for the city residents of Kumamoto?

【Related website】

<https://kumamoto-guide.jp/en/modelcourse/suizenji.html>

【Website for recommended tourist places and sites in Kyushu region】

<https://fukuoka-kyushu-travel.com/>

### 【3 Access Information】

In addition to the pass introduced in the last letter for travelling around the Kyushu Region, OC would like to introduce the Japan Rail Pass which is a well-suited pass for travelling throughout Japan via railway.

JR KYUSHU RAIL PASS (A pass that allows for unlimited rail travel throughout the Kyushu area at a reasonable price) >

Please see the link below for more information on the bargain excursion pass allowing for travel throughout the Kyushu area which includes the cities where the competition venues will be located; Fukuoka City, Kumamoto City, and Kagoshima City.

<https://www.jrkyushu.co.jp/english/railpass/railpass.html>

<JAPAN RAIL PASS>

A pass that allows for unlimited rail travel throughout all of Japan at a reasonable price.

[https://japanrailpass.net/en/about\\_jrp.html](https://japanrailpass.net/en/about_jrp.html)

Both the JR Kyushu Rail Pass and the Japan Rail Pass can only be used for trains affiliated with their respective groups. Unfortunately, neither the JR Kyushu Rail Pass nor the Japan Rail Pass can be used for local buses or non-JR group trains (for JR Kyushu Rail Pass, non-JR Kyushu trains).

## ( 2 ) Kagoshima City

Kagoshima City is the capital of Kagoshima Prefecture, located at the southernmost point of Kyushu Island. Kagoshima City is easily accessible from other cities, with the city being only at the fastest a 1 hour 16 minute Shinkansen bullet train ride away from Fukuoka City (Hakata Station). When visiting the urban area or Sakurajima, we recommend the purchase of the CUTE pass, which allows for unlimited use of the city buses, the city tram, and the ferries.

### 【Related website】

<https://www.kagoshima-yokanavi.jp/en/feature/one-day-pass2>

### 【Website for recommended tourist places and sites in Kyushu region】

<https://fukuoka-kyushu-travel.com/>

### 【Food】

Due to its warm climate and approximately 200m depth Kinko Bay, Kagoshima City has many tourists visiting the city for its treasure trove of foods.

Some recommendations are the Kagoshima Kurobuta, Kagoshima Berkshire Pigs, which are raised in the great vast nature of the tropics and the Kagoshima Black Beef cuisine which is the best in Japan. Try out the Kurobuta Shabu-shabu which soup was made using a secret recipe as well as the meticulous and soft marbled Black Beef steak. You are sure to become happy!

### 【Related website】

<https://www.kagoshima-yokanavi.jp/en/gourmet>

### 【Website for recommended tourist places and sites in Kyushu region】

<https://fukuoka-kyushu-travel.com/>

### 【Culture】

Tenmonkan, the most popular downtown area in Southern Kyushu, is outfitted with many restaurants serving Kagoshima regional cuisine, cafes providing lunch and sweets, as well as souvenir shops. In the night, the area is lively and full of activity with numerous izakayas, bars, and pubs opening up for business.

### 【Related website】

<https://www.kagoshima-yokanavi.jp/en/feature/sakurajima2>

### 【Website for recommended tourist places and sites in Kyushu region】

<https://fukuoka-kyushu-travel.com/>

### 【Activity】

The symbol of Kagoshima, Sakurajima is only a 15 minute ferry ride from the urban area. Why not enjoy one of the world's most prominent active volcanoes from up close? From digging out your own footbath in the coastline, kayaking, and the pottery made from volcanic ash which can be enjoyed regardless of season, there are a myriad different number of activities available for you to experience the wonders of Sakurajima.

### 【Kagoshima City tourism website activity page】

<https://www.kagoshima-yokanavi.jp/en/activity>

### 【4 Others】

① Information on what will be shared on the next letter A global website introducing Fukuoka City-related tourism information as well as a dedicated page for touring Fukuoka City, Kumamoto City, and Kagoshima City will be opened. Please look forward to the release of the website.

② Brief overview of what was shared in the last letter

<Click here for recommended sightseeing information in Fukuoka City and Kyushu>.

<https://fukuoka-kyushu-travel.com/>

<How to access Fukuoka from overseas>

The following countries and regions have direct flights in service to Fukuoka Airport.

- ① Korea: Seoul, Busan, Daegu
- ② Taiwan: Taipei, Kaohsiung
- ③ Hong Kong
- ④ Philippines: Manila
- ⑤ Singapore
- ⑥ Vietnam: Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City
- ⑦ Thailand: Bangkok
- ⑧ Guam

Please see the below website for more detailed information.

List of direct flights to Fukuoka Airport <https://www.fukuoka-airport.jp/en/flight/schedule/index.html?intdom=int>

Additionally it is possible to transfer to a flight to Fukuoka Airport from any of Japan's major airports (Haneda

Airport, Narita, Airport, Kansai International Airport) as there are many flights from those airports that service this route.

Fukuoka Airport is also conveniently accessible with a transfer flight from Korea.

Haneda Airport→Fukuoka Airport (approx. 2 hours)

Narita Airport→Fukuoka Airport (approx. 2 hours and 20 minutes)

Kansai International Airport→Fukuoka Airport (approx. 1 hour and 20 minutes)

Incheon International Airport→Fukuoka Airport (approx. 1 hour and 30 minutes)

① List of countries with direct flights to Haneda Airport (Tokyo) [https://tokyo-haneda.com/en/flight/city\\_list.html](https://tokyo-haneda.com/en/flight/city_list.html)

② List of countries with direct flights to Narita Airport (Chiba) [https://www.narita-airport.jp/en/city\\_list](https://www.narita-airport.jp/en/city_list)

③ List of countries with direct flights to Kansai International Airport (Osaka) [https://www.kansai-airport.or.jp/en/flight/kix\\_schedule](https://www.kansai-airport.or.jp/en/flight/kix_schedule)

④ List of countries with direct flights to Incheon International Airport (Korea) <https://www.airport.kr/ap/en/arr/pasRegSchList.do>

### 【3 Hotel Information】

Although we request that participants make arrangements for their stay in Kyushu for the World Aquatics Masters Championships on their own, a World Aquatics Championships affiliated travel agent is also selling accommodations plans specifically for Masters participants. We highly recommend utilising this service.

#### <Accommodations Booking>

◆Fukuoka City (SW,DV, OWS Host City)

[https://va.apollon.nta.co.jp/masters\\_kyushufuk/joho?MODE=top&language=1](https://va.apollon.nta.co.jp/masters_kyushufuk/joho?MODE=top&language=1)

◆Kumamoto City (WP Host City)

[https://va.apollon.nta.co.jp/masters\\_kyushukmj/joho?MODE=top&language=1](https://va.apollon.nta.co.jp/masters_kyushukmj/joho?MODE=top&language=1)

◆Kagoshima City (AS Host City)

[https://va.apollon.nta.co.jp/masters\\_kyushukoj/joho?MODE=top&language=1](https://va.apollon.nta.co.jp/masters_kyushukoj/joho?MODE=top&language=1)