Shinto Shrines and Buddhist Temples - a Visit not to be Miss in Kumamoto!

Kumamoto’s Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples lead you to experience Japanese culture and traditions. Discover our unique beliefs and how we see gods, spirits and Buddha in nature and human beings.
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Okutsu-in is an inner temple of Renge-tenjyo, the head temple of Shingon in Kyushu Buddhism. Located in Kyushu, Japan, built in the 11th century, it is also a beautiful building such as Six-chambered pagoda and low-storied gateway, and the Bell, the largest temple bell in the world.

After Sekigahara, the last civil war of Japan occurred in 1607; Izumi-jinga was established for peace and the evolution of the people. Located in Kumamoto Prefecture, a garden built by a feudal lord of Kumamoto in the 17th century, it is also a beautiful building such as the Japanese traditional garden.

Aso jinja is said to have been established in AD 282, enshrined 12 gods including Taizen-razu, a creator god of Aso. These buildings such as the main hall and three gates including the two-storied front gate have been designated as Aso-jinja national important cultural properties.

It was originally established in Settsu by Kato Kiyomasa in 1465, translated onto Kumamoto castle premises when Kiyosasa became a feudal lord. Now it’s located at the foot of Shochiyado, a mountain of Kumamoto. Every summer over 100,000 people visit Tennoz, a magnificent scale of Buddhist service.

Fujisaki Hashimaru started its history in 935 when Kato Samurai transferred a devoted duty from Kyushu to pray for a civil war to end. As one of the biggest shrines of Kumamoto city, many of local residents worship here at various opportunities such as children’s celebrations and weddings.

Uta is called Myoken-ji. Myoken belief was introduced into Kumamoto in the 7th century. The current Yatsushiro jinja was built in the 12th century and overall renovation was done in 2015. Myoken-ji, one of the three biggest festivals of Kumamoto features a unique parade including a dragon dance.

It’s also called Myoken-ji. Myoken belief was introduced into Yatsushiro in the 5th century. The current Yatsushiro jinja was built in the 12th century and overall renovation was done in 2015. Myoken-ji, one of the three biggest festivals of Kumamoto features a unique parade including a dragon dance.

Kato Kiyomasa, a feudal lord governed Kumamoto in the late 16th century, and opened the foundations of this city, and is still loved by the citizens. He is also known as one of the bravest military commanders. Kato jinja enshrined Kiyomasa as a god and is known as “a place of victory” after Kumamoto victory.

It’s a family temple of the Hosokawa feudal lords that succeeded Kumamoto from the Kato. There are graces of the Hosokawa, including Hosokawa Tatsumi’s wife, Harusa, who cured her faith as a Christian. Located in Tahara Minato Park, you may enjoy both nature and a beautiful Japanese garden.

Ritsurin has been established in 1001, famous for its castle and moat. It’s also called Myoken-ji. Myoken belief was introduced into Kumamoto in the 7th century. The current Yatsushiro jinja was built in the 12th century and overall renovation was done in 2015. Myoken-ji, one of the three biggest festivals of Kumamoto features a unique parade including a dragon dance.

Utsukushi is said to be established in the 14th century by a Zen priest who came from China. It’s also known as a place related to Miyamoto Musashi, a great swordsman of the Edo era. He spent his late years in Kumamoto and wrote “Genji Monogatari” (the Book of swordsmanship) in Kyushu, a caving in the temple premises.

Since established in 864, it has been worshipped as a local guardian shrine of Kumamoto region. The main hall (Honden) was built by Nagamori Sakanoue, a feudal lord of Sakanoue in the 17th century and 5 buildings have been designated as Japan’s national treasure. You will find magnificent architecture and carvings.

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