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01 Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) columns

○ A Visit to Miyayama, Hioki City!

Kim Juhee, Korean CIR, Kagoshima Prefecture

Do you know which city in South Korea has a sister-city relationship with Kagoshima Prefecture? It is “**Jeonbuk State**”. Kagoshima and Jeonbuk State share a special connection that dates back many centuries. Around 400 to 500 years ago, potters who came to Kagoshima from the Korean Peninsula played a major role in the development of **Satsuma ware**, one of Kagoshima’s most renowned traditional crafts. Many of these potters are believed to have originated in what is now the Jeonbuk region, particularly from **Namwon City**.

Building on these historical ties, Kagoshima Prefecture and Jeonbuk State, as well as Hioki City and Namwon City, have established sister-city relationships and continue to actively promote exchanges today. When I think about this history, I sometimes wonder if I, too, came to Kagoshima as CIR along with this special connection.



Photo: Jeonbuk State Official Website

I decided to follow in the footsteps of our ancestors and explore the **Miyama area of Hioki City**, a place with a special connection to Korea. In this article, I would like to introduce a day trip around Miyama where you can enjoy its history, traditional pottery, and delicious local food.

●Setting Off for Hioki City!

Hioki City is easily accessible from Kagoshima City by car or train. Since our destination, Miyama, is located a little outside the center of Hioki City, traveling by car is recommended.

I also drove there, and it took about 40 minutes from Kagoshima City using the expressway. As you leave the city behind and make your way to Miyama,

you'll be surrounded by Kagoshima's beautiful natural scenery, making the drive itself an enjoyable part of the journey.

● You Can't Explore on an Empty Stomach! Lunch in Miyama

After arriving in Miyama, the first place I headed to was a restaurant for lunch. After all, when traveling, it's always **"food before flowers"**!

This restaurant is a popular specialty shop known for its fresh pasta. Unlike the dried pasta you typically find, the fresh pasta was soft and delightfully chewy, with a texture that really stood out.

I ordered the **"Tenshi no Ebi"** garlic butter pasta, made with whole-headed shrimp. The moment I took my first bite, I thought, *"This might just be the best pasta I've ever had!"* it was truly delicious. The combination of the shrimp's rich umami, fragrant garlic butter, and wonderfully chewy fresh pasta was simply exquisite.

The restaurant is very popular, so there may be a wait on weekends. If you're planning to visit, I recommend arriving around opening time!



▲ So hungry! I ordered the large portion! (Haha)

● Discovering Miyama's History at Chin Jukan Kiln



Photo: Chin Jukan Kiln Official Website

Now that we've had a good meal, let's head to the main destination of this trip!

That destination is **Chin Jukan Kiln**.

Miyama is an essential place to visit when exploring the history of Satsuma ware.

Following the Japanese invasions of Korea in

the late 16th century, potters who came to Japan from

the Korean Peninsula settled in this area and began

producing ceramics. This tradition has been passed down through generations to the

present day.

Among them, the **Chin Jukan family** is a prestigious family of ceramic artists that has carried on the tradition of ceramic production for more than 400 years. Today, the 15th-generation Chin Jukan continues this tradition and creates new works.

One of the events that helped bring Satsuma ware to international attention was the exhibition of its works at the **Paris Exposition**. Satsuma ware became known beyond Kagoshima as one of Japan's representative ceramic traditions around the world.



Photo: Chin Jukan Kiln Official Website

You can experience this history firsthand at the **Chin Jukan Kiln's collection gallery**. Here, visitors can admire a wide variety of works created over the centuries while learning about the history of the Chin Jukan family.

As I looked at the pieces adorned with delicate and beautiful decorations, I could truly appreciate the centuries-old ceramic-making techniques and the dedication of the artisans who have preserved this tradition through the generations.

After viewing the collection, visitors can also purchase works at the shop. From tableware for everyday use to vases and decorative pieces, a wide variety of ceramics are available, part of the fun is choosing a souvenir.

In particular, knowing that the techniques brought by potters from Korea developed into the unique culture of **Satsuma ware** here in Kagoshima, and that this tradition continues to this day, made the pieces feel even more special as I admired them.

●Wrapping Up the Miyama Journey with a Cup of Tea

The final stop on our Miyama adventure is a cup of tea at a charming little café. Here, you can enjoy your tea while taking in the tea fields stretching out right in front of the café.

As I slowly sipped my tea while gazing out over the lush green tea fields, I felt as though I was bringing my busy day of exploring to a peaceful and relaxing close.



▲Matcha Chocolate Latte and Hojicha Latte

Historic pottery, delicious food, and beautiful tea fields—Miyama in Hioki City is a place where you can truly experience the longstanding connection between Korea and Kagoshima. If you're looking for a unique destination in Kagoshima, why not take a trip to Miyama, where the histories of Korea and Japan come together?

○ China Travel Series: Shanghai~

Kim Juhee, Korean CIR, Kagoshima Prefecture

Welcome to the second installment of our “**China Travel Series.**” This time, let's explore Shanghai, known in China as the “**Magic City.**”

Shanghai has a population of approximately 25 million, roughly 16 to 17 times the population of Kagoshima Prefecture. At the same time, its land area is only about 70% that of Kagoshima Prefecture. While Shanghai is home to some of China's most modern and dynamic developments, the city also continues to preserve traditions that have been passed down for generations.

① Travel Hotspot

Oriental Pearl Tower

Standing 468 meters tall, this iconic television tower rises above **Lujiazui** in Pudong, one of the world's leading financial and commercial hubs, where towering skyscrapers line the skyline. As one of Shanghai's most recognizable landmarks, it offers an excellent vantage point for taking in the beauty of the city.

At the top of the tower, visitors can experience a thrilling **“walk in the sky”** on a fully glass-enclosed observation deck. You can also enjoy fine cuisine while taking in the breathtaking night views from one of Asia's highest revolving restaurants. It is a **must-visit attraction for anyone traveling to Shanghai**.



Photo: Oriental Pearl Tower HP

② Yu Garden

In the heart of bustling Shanghai, the tranquil private garden of **Yu Garden** quietly awaits. Originally built by a government official during the Ming Dynasty as an expression of filial devotion to his parents, the garden was named “Yu Garden,” with **“Yu”** meaning “peace” and “happiness.”

Here, visitors can admire traditional Chinese pavilions and towers, enjoy delicious local cuisine, and experience a quieter, more serene side of Shanghai.



Photo: Yuyuan Garden HP

③ Disneyland

As the only Disney theme park in mainland China, this is a place where you can leave your adult worries behind and become a carefree child again. While maintaining the authentic Disney style, the park also skillfully incorporates elements of Chinese culture. Under the dazzling fireworks, you're sure to rediscover the “inner child” you once had.

Popular food

① Shengjian Bao

Shengjian bao is a traditional local snack with a history of more than 100 years.



Photo: Shengjian Bao HP

In 2019, it was added to Shanghai's list of **Intangible Cultural Heritage**.

With its golden-brown, crispy bottom, fluffy dough, and rich, slightly sweet soup filling, shengjian bao is irresistible. Take a bite and the flavorful soup bursts out, creating a delicious taste that you'll want to keep coming back.

② Crab Roe Noodles

Shanghai is famous for its crabs, and among its many crab dishes, **Xie Huang Mian (crab roe noodles)** is truly a delicacy. It takes several Shanghai hairy crabs to produce enough rich crab sauce for a single bowl of noodles, which is why the dish tends to be relatively expensive. However, the crab's savory, aromatic flavor pairs beautifully with the smooth noodles, creating such a satisfying taste that one bite is enough to make all your worries disappear.



Photo: Disneyland HP



Photo: Crab Roe Noodles HP

02 The Governor's activities

○ Participants of the 33rd Kagoshima Prefectural Youth International Cooperation Experience Program Visit to Report on Their Return to Japan

From **July 19 to July 26**, 17 junior and senior high school students from Kagoshima Prefecture who participated in an international cooperation experience program in Laos visited the Kagoshima Prefectural Government Office to report on their return to Japan.

During their time in Laos, the participants took part in homestays and visited the activities of members of the **Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers**. During their report, they shared their experiences, saying that they were able to **“grow as individuals,” “broaden their perspectives through this experience,”** and that they **“would like to work for an international organization in the future.”**

We look forward to seeing these young participants use their experiences in Laos to make a positive impact on the world stage in the future.



▲Photo with the Student Participants



▲Participants Giving Their Return Report

○ Kagoshima Japan-Korea Friendship Association General Assembly and Members' Networking Event (30th July)

Governor Koichi Shioda attended the FY2026 General Assembly and Members' Networking Event of the Kagoshima Japan-Korea Friendship Association, where he addressed the attendees.

Governor Shioda expressed his appreciation to the Association's members for their continued efforts to promote exchanges between Kagoshima and Korea.

He also expressed his hope that the friendship and ties between Kagoshima and Korea will continue to deepen in the years ahead.



▲ Governor Shioda delivering his address



▲ Scenes from the General Assembly and Members' Networking Event

03 Kagoshima event information

○ Satsuma Kuroshio “Kibaran Kai” Makurazaki Port Festival

(Aug 1–2)(Fireworks only on Aug 2nd)

“Kibaran Kai” is the largest summer festival in the southern Satsuma region. It began in August 1951 with prayers for safe voyages, good catches, bountiful harvests, prosperous businesses, and the promotion of local industries.

In addition to Makurazaki's unique hospitality and various events, the festival features a powerful group dance and the Tairyō Mikoshi (“Great Catch” portable shrine). The fireworks display, with 10,000 fireworks coloring the night sky, moves the hearts of the people.

It is a popular fireworks festival in Kagoshima Prefecture, featuring Kyushu's largest three-shaku-dama fireworks, and is a two-day port festival held in Makurazaki City, located in the southern part of the Satsuma Peninsula in Kagoshima Prefecture. The fireworks display held on Sunday is one of the three most popular fireworks displays in Kagoshima.

The fireworks display features a total of 10,000 fireworks, including starmines and set fireworks. At the finale of the fireworks display, the three-shaku-dama, the largest in Kyushu and funded by donations from citizens, is launched to the sound of sirens, making it famous. This year, too, the festival was bustling with many visitors.



▲Scenes from Kibaran Kai © K.P.V.B



▲Three-shaku-dama Fireworks © P.K.N

○ Kagoshima Kinko Bay Summer Night Grand Fireworks

(Aug 29)

A summer tradition of Kagoshima that began to commemorate the millennium. Held against the backdrop of Sakurajima, one of the world's leading active volcanoes, and the calm waters of Kinko Bay, this is one of the largest fireworks displays in Kyushu, showcasing Kagoshima's world-class natural scenery.

Event Time: 7:20 p.m.–8:30 p.m. (*Fireworks launch: from 7:30 p.m.*)



▲ Fireworks Display © K.P.V.B ▲

🌞 **Coming UP in September and October !**

◇ September

6th 2026 12th Isa Half & Relay Marathon (Isa City)

12th 2026 Shibushi Minato Festival (Shibushi City)

22nd 2026 Sendai Great Tug-of-War (Satsumasendai City)

◇ October

10th ~11th Akune Midokoi Festival (Akune City)

(October 11: Fireworks Display)

17th ~18th Kagoshima Jazz Festival (Kagoshima City)

October 31–November 1 Shochu Street (Kagoshima City)

Please come and enjoy these events! 🎵



○ A History of Exchange Between Kagoshima and the United States

Exchanges between Kagoshima and the United States date back to the end of the Edo period, approximately 160 years ago, when the Satsuma domain sent a group of people to overseas.

In 1865, the Satsuma domain sent 19 young people to Britain in an effort to introduce Western culture and modernize the domain. They are known as the “Satsuma Students.” One of them, Kanae Nagasawa, later traveled to the United States and made a significant contribution to the development of the wine industry in California. Nagasawa, who successfully established a wine-making business and came to be known as the “Grape King,” is remembered as one of the stories that symbolizes the exchanges between Kagoshima and the United States.

The spirit of international exchange has been carried on in Kagoshima Prefecture today. In the “Kagoshima Prefecture International Strategy” formulated by the prefecture, the United States, along with China, Taiwan, and South Korea, is positioned as a country or region with which Kagoshima aims to further deepen human and material exchanges. This demonstrates the importance the prefecture places on strengthening its relationship with the United States in a wide range of fields, including the economy, tourism, and international exchange.

The United States is also an extremely important partner for Kagoshima in economic terms. The United States is the largest market for exports of agricultural, forestry, and fishery products from Kagoshima Prefecture, accounting for approximately half of total exports, with an export value of



The Monument to the Young Satsuma Students(© K. P. V. B)

approximately ¥310 billion in FY2025. Kagoshima's renowned Wagyu beef, farmed yellowtail, tea, and other products are highly valued and enjoyed by many consumers.



Kagoshima Food Products Popular in the United States ©

Governor Koichi Shioda has been actively promoting Kagoshima in the United States through top-level sales activities in recent years. In April this year, he visited Texas and Washington, D.C., where he promoted the appeal of Kagoshima's food products to local supermarkets, importers, and other businesses. Approximately 300 people attended a reception held at the Official

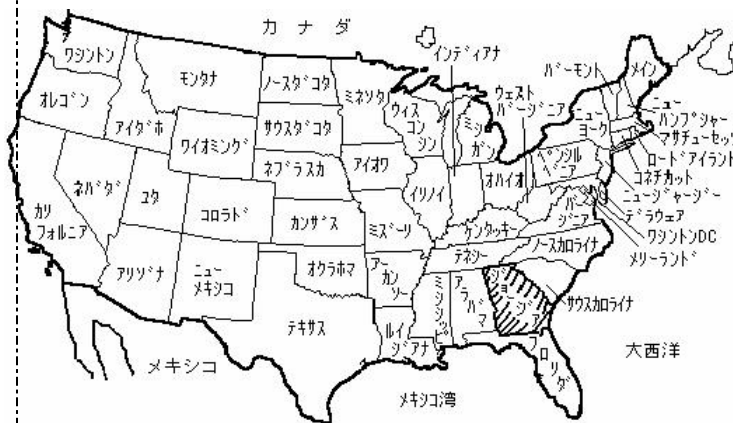


Governor's Top Sales Activities in April 2026 © Kagoshima Prefecture

Residence of the Ambassador of Japan in Washington, D.C., where Kagoshima products, including Wagyu beef, yellowtail, and authentic shochu, were promoted.

Furthermore, in terms of people-to-people exchanges, Kagoshima Prefecture has continued its exchanges with the State of Georgia. Kagoshima Prefecture and the State of Georgia entered into a sister-state agreement in 1966, and

2026 marks the 60th anniversary of this partnership. To date, the two regions have deepened mutual understanding and friendship through youth exchanges, seminars introducing the State of Georgia, and other activities. These exchanges provide valuable opportunities for the younger generation, who will shape the future, to deepen their understanding of different cultures and broaden their international perspectives.



Location of the State of Georgia



Seminar Introducing the State of Georgia © Kagoshima Prefecture

More than 160 years have passed since the Satsuma domain sent young people overseas. Exchanges between Kagoshima and the United States have continued to develop, evolving from the form of study abroad in the past into trade, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges.

Building on the spirit of international exchange established by those who came before us, we will continue our efforts to further deepen the bonds between the two regions in the years to come.



Diamond Sakurajima © K.P.V.B

Editor's note(International Strategy Division, Policy Planning and Coordination Department, Kagoshima Prefectural Government)

Hello everyone!

As this hot weather continues, I hope you're all doing well. As this is a season when many festivals are held, we asked our Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs) what kinds of festivals are held in their home countries!

Kim Juhee(Korea): In Korea, festivals are held with the aim of promoting local specialty products and helping people learn more about the local culture and history. In Jeonju, Jeonbuk State, which is a sister region of Kagoshima Prefecture, the "Jeonju International Sori Festival" is held every summer. "Sori" means "sound" in Korean, and the festival makes use of Jeonju's unique characteristic as a city where traditional music flourishes. Visitors can enjoy not only traditional Korean music but also a variety of music from around the world. This year, the festival was held from August 12 to 16 🎵 🎶

Benjamin Moran(UK): There are no festivals quite like those in Japan, but Easter, which celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ, is an important holiday. People exchanged Easter eggs and enjoy traditional dishes such as lamb. Easter is celebrated on the Sunday following the first full moon after March 21, according to the Christian ecclesiastical calendar. 🐣

Xu Kui(China) China also does not have festivals quite like those in Japan, but there are traditional festivals that have been passed down among various ethnic minority groups. The Torch Festival is a traditional festival celebrated by ethnic groups such as the Yi people, who live in southwestern China. It is particularly popular in Sichuan, Yunnan, and Guizhou provinces. The festival is usually held around the 24th day of the sixth month of the lunar calendar, and in some areas, it lasts for several days. People carry torches through towns and villages, and gather around the fire to sing and dance. They also wear traditional clothing and perform traditional songs and dances. In some areas, traditional competitions such as horse racing and wrestling are also held. Fire is believed to drive away evil spirits and misfortune and to bring a good harvest and good health to families. For this reason, the festival is also a time to express gratitude for nature and pray for abundant harvests and the happiness of families. Today, the Torch Festival has grown into a large-scale event that attracts not only local residents but also many tourists. The sight of countless torches lighting up the night sky, with people singing and dancing together, is one of the most beautiful and iconic scenes of the festival. 🔥

Feel free to check out all the festival ! !

Looking forward to our next issue!

The Kagoshima Southern Wind Tidings is accepting submissions on the following topics:

☆**Kagoshima photo gallery**

We are looking for photos that have a Kagoshima feel to them, or photos of Kagoshima that you have found overseas. Please send them with a brief description of the photo (e.g. mountain of volcano ash collection bags).

We are also accepting any other information or stories you would like to share with our readers.

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Discover Kagoshima, tourism site
www.kagoshima-kankou.com



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