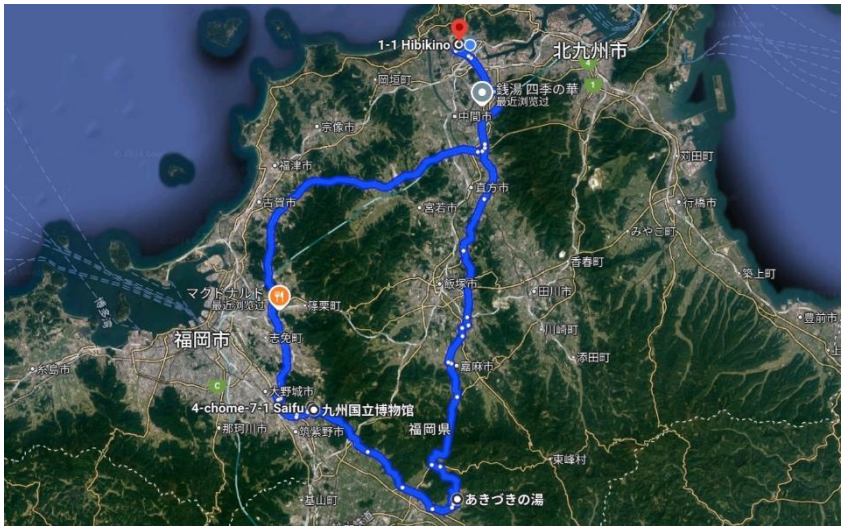


# Plan 2 : Kyushu Culture Route

## Itinerary Guide

2024.10.28



This itinerary combines historical culture, hot spring experiences, and natural beauty, showcasing the unique charm of the region. The journey begins at the Kyushu National Museum, where you can immerse yourself in the cultural allure and explore Japan's and Asia's rich history. The diverse exhibits include precious artifacts from various historical periods, serving as an excellent window into Japan's cultural heritage.

Next, visit the historic Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine, dedicated to Sugawara no Michizane, the deity of learning. Here, you can worship and experience the traditional cultural atmosphere of Dazaifu. In the afternoon, relax with a rejuvenating hot spring experience at Akizuki no Yu, known for its alkaline waters, often referred to as "beauty water" for its skin-nourishing properties. The outdoor baths harmoniously blend with the surrounding natural scenery, allowing you to enjoy beautiful views throughout the seasons.

This journey not only deepens your understanding of Fukuoka's history and culture but also provides a unique hot spring experience for relaxation and healing. In the embrace of nature, you can appreciate the tranquility and beauty of Fukuoka, making it an exceptional and comprehensive experience.

<b>Times</b>	<b>Programmes</b>
8:00~10:00	Depart for Yoshinogari Historical Park.
12:00~15:00	Depart for a visit to Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine and lunch.
15:00~16:00	Depart for Akizuki Onsen.
16:00~17:30	Hot springs and visit.
17:30~19:00	Return to the hotel.

## **Yoshinogari Historical Park**



Yoshinogari Ruins in Saga Prefecture, Japan, is one of the largest archaeological sites from the Yayoi period, with excavations starting in 1986. Covering about 80 hectares, it features numerous village remains, defensive structures, burial areas, and ritual sites, marking it as the political, economic, and cultural center of its time.

The Yoshinogari Historical Park reconstructs ancient buildings to showcase daily life during the Yayoi period. Visitors can explore high-raised warehouses, shrines, and residences, gaining firsthand experience of ancient lifestyles. Interactive areas allow participation in activities such as agriculture and pottery making, enhancing understanding of Yayoi culture.

Artifacts like pottery and tools reveal the technological and social aspects of the era, underscoring the site's cultural significance. The park also recreates ritual scenes, highlighting their importance in Yayoi society. Open year-round, Yoshinogari Historical Park offers educational programs for families and school groups, making it a key destination for exploring ancient Japanese culture.

## Daizaifu Tenmangu



Daizaifu Tenmangu is dedicated to Sugawara no Michizane, the 9th-century deity of learning and a prominent scholar and politician. Born in 845 into a distinguished family, he rose to the position of Minister of the Right but was exiled to Daizaifu by the Fujiwara clan in 901, where he died in 903.

The shrine's origins trace back over 1,100 years when his disciple, Minamoto no Masakado, established it after Michizane's burial. The main hall, rebuilt in 1591, maintains the grand style of the Momoyama period, making it a significant cultural site.

Michizane's commitment to his country earned him widespread respect across all social classes. Today, he is worshipped as a deity of knowledge and protection from misfortune.

A visit is incomplete without exploring the Treasure Hall, which showcases important artifacts, including Michizane's sword and the national treasure "Kan'En," the only surviving 10th-century encyclopedia. In early spring, the shrine's gardens bloom with 6,000 plum trees, reflecting Michizane's affection for the flowers, with the famous "Flying Plum" symbolizing his enduring legacy.

## Daizaifu Starbucks (by Kengo Kuma)



Daizaifu Starbucks, designed by renowned architect Kengo Kuma, is located along the approach to Daizaifu Tenmangu Shrine in Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan. It features a distinctive design with 2,000 interlaced cedar sticks, embodying Kuma's philosophy of integrating nature into architecture.

The building's wooden framework creates a continuous and open atmosphere, while the interior design, characterized by simplicity and warmth, invites comfort. Light filters softly through the wood structure, enhancing the bright and welcoming environment.

More than a coffee shop, Daizaifu Starbucks is a space for relaxation and appreciation of architectural beauty. Its thoughtful seating arrangements ensure customer comfort, making it an ideal spot for enjoying coffee. As a landmark blending modern design with traditional craftsmanship, it offers visitors a unique experience of architectural aesthetics and culture.

## Akiyuki no Yu



Akiyuki no Yu (Akizuki Onsen) is celebrated for its high-quality alkaline hot spring water, with a pH of 9.8, known as "beauty water" for its skin-enhancing properties. Located in Minagi no Mori, Asakura City, Fukuoka Prefecture, it is surrounded by picturesque natural landscapes and rich historical sites, including the Akizuki Castle ruins.

The onsen offers a serene bathing experience in a valley, surrounded by lush mountains. Seasonal views enhance the experience: cherry blossoms in spring and vibrant foliage in autumn. Outdoor baths allow visitors to enjoy the beautiful scenery while relaxing.

Overall, Akiyuki no Yu combines exceptional hot spring water with stunning surroundings and cultural heritage, making it an ideal destination for relaxation and experiencing traditional Japanese culture.