**Basashi**

This is a local specialty of Kumamoto. Generally, horse meat is eaten with toppings such as grated ginger, garlic, or chopped spring onions. Soy sauce is poured on top. The fat in the horse meat melts at a low temperature, so the marbled meat is also refreshing when raw. Sushi made with horse meat is also popular.

| Location/View | Access | Season | Year-round | Related links | KUMAMOTO CITY OFFICIAL GUIDE “Food Guide”
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**Contact Us [Kumamoto Prefectural Tourism Federation]**
TEL: +81 96-382-2660
Website: https://kumamoto.guide/

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**Higo Beef**

Higo Beef is popular among women because it has less fat than other types of beef, but still tastes good.

| Location/View | Access | Season | Year-round | Related links | OFFICIAL KUMAMOTO TOURISM GUIDE
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**Kumamoto Ramen**

Originally a variation of Kurume ramen, Kumamoto ramen has developed into the present, unique style over the years. The local’s favorite noodles are distinguished by its rich pork-broth, the thick and firm noodles, and the seasonings of garlic chips and browned garlic oil. The noodles have made Kumamoto a recognized “ramen district” in the nation, arguably joining the ranks of Sapporo and Hakata. There are many Kumamoto-style ramen shops found throughout Japan; however, for an authentic Kumamoto version, you ought to try one at where they were born.

| Location/View | Access | Season | Year-round | Related links | OFFICIAL KUMAMOTO TOURISM GUIDE
https://kumamoto.guide/en/foods/foods_01.html Kumamoto Ramen Noodles
---|---|---|---|---|---|

**Contact Us [Kumamoto Prefectural Tourism Federation]**
TEL: +81 96-382-2660
Website: https://kumamoto.guide/
Arcaded street ("Kami-toori · simo-toori · shin-shigai")

Kumamoto City (with its population over 700,000) has the largest shopping arcade in western Japan. The arcade is over 1 km long and located at the castle town section of Kumamoto Castle in the heart of Kumamoto City. Inside the arcade are department stores, electronics stores, drug stores, clothing stores, etc. There are also many restaurants and bars, and you can enjoy the wide range of delicious food that Kumamoto has to offer.

Location/View: Tetori-honnai-Chuou-ku, Kumamoto City, Kumamoto

Access: Short walk from Kumamoto SAKURA MACHI Bus Terminal

Season: Year-round

Related links: KUMAMOTO CITY OFFICIAL GUIDE

Contact Us [Kumamoto Prefectural Tourism Federation]
TEL: +81 96-382-2660
Website: https://kumamoto.guide/

Kumamoto Castle

Kumamoto Castle, one of Japan's Three Great Castles, was built in 1601 by Kato Kiyomasa. The Tenshukaku Castle Towers and Honmaru-goten Palace had to be completely rebuilt after being burned to the ground in 1877, a fate only Uta-yagura turret and a few other structures survived. However, in April 2016, both buildings sustained huge damage in the Kumamoto Earthquake. As part of the Kumamoto Castle Special Opening, part of the castle park has been reopened to the public since fall 2019. About 600 cherry trees bloom around late March.

Location/View: 1-1, Honmaru, Chuou-ku, Kumamoto City, Kumamoto 860-0002 Japan

Access: 30 min. via car from port (15km)
Short walk from Shiromegurin, Kumamoto Castle bus stop

Season: Year-round

Related links: KUMAMOTO CASTLE OFFICIAL WEBSITE
OFFICIAL KUMAMOTO TOURISM GUIDE
https://kumamoto.guide/spots/detail/12303

Contact Us [Kumamoto Castle General Office]
TEL: +81 96-352-5900
Website: https://kumamoto-guide.jp/kumamoto-castle/en/

Aso-Nakadake crater

The Aso caldera extends for 24 km from north to south and 18 km from east to west. Mt. Nakadake, which is located inside this caldera (one of the world's largest), is an enormous volcanic crater with a diameter of 600 m, a depth of 130 m, and a bumpy lava rock circumference of 4 km. From there, you can fully enjoy a view of Aso, which is surrounded by dynamic natural surroundings. During times of strong volcanic activity, tourists may not be allowed to go near the crater.

Location/View: Kurokawa, Aso City, Kumamoto Japan

Access: 110 min. via car from port (60km)

Season: Year-round

Related links: Sightseeing Aso City, Mount Aso
https://kumanago.jp/en/

Contact Us [City Aso economy part sightseeing community building department]
TEL: +81 967-22-3174
Website: http://www.city.aso.kumamoto.jp/tourism/
Suizenji Jojuen Park

Suizenji Jojuen Park is a traditional Japanese garden landscaped around a natural spring pond. The placement of the pond, trees, and hills were supposedly meant to represent parts of the 53 Stations of the Tokaido, a famous route that ran from Edo to Kyoto, and included in the landscaping is a miniature Mt. Fuji. Izumi Shrine is located on the north side of the park.

Location/View | 8-1, Suizenji-koen, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto City, Kumamoto, Japan
Access | 40 min. via car from port (20km)
Season | Year-round
Related links | KUMAMOTO CITY OFFICIAL GUIDE https://kumamoto-guide.jp/en/spots/detail/75

Contact Us [Suizenji Jojuen Park]
TEL: +81 96-383-0074
Website: http://www.suizenji.or.jp/

Hinokuni Festival

This festival is held for two days and involves the participation of all Kumamoto City residents. The Otemoyan-so-odori dance, the main event of the festival, takes place in the main street of the city. The melody of the Otemoyan folk song and intense samba rhythm resonate around the city, filling the air with the dancers’ excitement and emotion.

Location/View | Throughout Kumamoto’s City Centre
Access
Season | At the beginning of August.

Contact Us [Kumamoto City event promotion department]
TEL: +81 96-328-2948 E-MAIL: eventsuishin@city.kumamoto.lg.jp
Website: https://kumamoto-guide.jp/hinokunimatsuri/