

Autumn

The cool breezes of autumn mark the start of the season of migrating birds in Kujukushima and the rest of western Kyushu. Some come to spend the winter while others, including the Chinese sparrowhawk (*akahara taka*, *Accipiter soloensis*) and the crested honey buzzard (*hachikuma*, *Pernis ptilorhynchus*) pass through the region on their way to the nearby Goto Islands and on to Southeast Asia. It is also the season of vibrant autumn foliage, a striking phenomenon in this warm temperate climate.

- Use the QR code to get more information about the photos on display. Free WiFi is available.

<PHOTOS>

Sociable Seagulls

Before winter arrives, large groups of seagulls (*kamome*) gather in the islands. The sight of hundreds of them perched on individual fishing buoys has become a scene associated with autumn for locals.

Autumn Statice (*Hamasaji*)

This tough plant (*Limonium tetragonum*) is highly salt tolerant, so it is a common sight along the shoreline during the autumn blooming season. Its name, which literally means “beach spoon,” comes from the leaves’ resemblance to a spoon (*saji*).

Kujukushima Islands Day

On September 19 the city of Sasebo celebrates Kujukushima Islands Day. A variety of events and activities are held to highlight the many delights of the islands to both visitors and locals.

Autumn Colors

The hazelnut and wild cherry trees found on many of the islands of Kujukushima turn bright red during autumn, creating a striking contrast with the surrounding blue sea.