

Buy some to take home!

Perfect Minamikyushu Souvenirs

Heart Tea

500 yen each
Rich flavors abound when hot water is poured over these heart-shaped tea leaves.
Buy here → 2

Marubouro

390 yen per bag
A traditional sweet in Minamikyushu, pairs perfectly with tea.
Buy here → 4

Chirancha Roll

210 yen each
Roll cake made with Chiran tea, and filled with cream and adzuki beans.
Buy here → 1

Yumefuki Teabags

670 yen for five bags
This black tea was awarded three stars by an institution in the UK, a country famous for its tea culture.
Buy here → 2

Honey Baumkuchen

1,400 yen each
Made with honey and high-quality eggs from chickens that are carefully fed and watered.
Buy here → 1

Aijo Tappurin

1,058 yen for five
Luxurious pudding served in an eggshell.
Buy here → 4

Chiran Tea Soap

1,000 yen each
This faintly aromatic soap is made with tea, and helps make the skin beautiful.
Buy here → 3

Imo Karinto

166 yen each
A simple crunchy snack made from sweet potatoes.
Buy here → 4

Chachamaru Green Peas

194 yen each
Peanut and green pea crackers coated with a sweet coating mixed with organic Chiran tea.
Buy here → 2, 4

Shop List

1 Ranko—The Tamagoya Sweet Factory たまご屋のスイーツ工房RANKO
0993-83-4839

DATA 8067-1 Chiranchohori, Minamikyushu
5 minute drive from Chiran IC exit on Ibusuki Skyline
10AM-6PM Tue. (open when Tue. is a holiday) 10 spaces

2 Satsuma-Eikokukan Tea World 薩摩英国館ティーワールド
0993-83-3963

DATA 13746-4 Chiranchohori, Minamikyushu 2 minute walk from Bukeyashiki-iriguchi bus stop Entry fee: 350 yen; free for visitors to Bloomsbury (see Page 2) or shop only. 10AM-5PM (Bloomsbury 11:30AM-5PM (last orders) Tue. 10 spaces

3 Minamikyushu City Chiran Tourist Information Center 南九州市知観光案内所
0993-83-1120

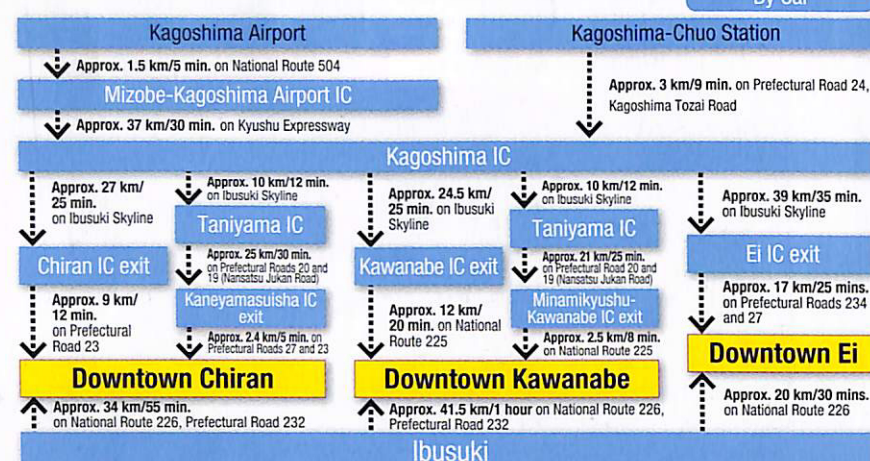
DATA 17859 Chiranchohori, Minamikyushu 3 minute walk from Tokkokannon-iriguchi bus stop 9AM-4PM Open year-round Parking available nearby

4 Michi-no-Eki (roadside market) Kawanabe Yasuragi-no-sato
0993-58-3131 道の駅 川辺やすらぎの郷

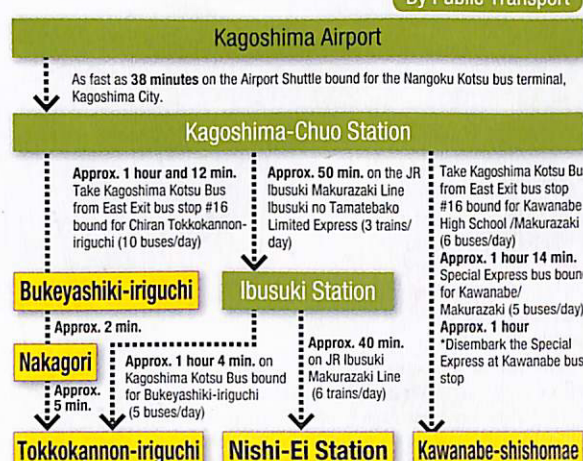
DATA 6910 Kiyomizu, Kawanabecho, Minamikyushu 10 minute drive from Kawanabe IC exit on Ibusuki Skyline 8AM-7PM (9AM-6PM Dec. to Mar.) Open year-round (restaurant closed Wed., except when Wed. is a holiday.) 107 spaces

Getting to Minamikyushu City

By Car



By Public Transport



Only 70 minutes by car from Kagoshima Airport! 50 minutes from Kagoshima-Chuo Station! 40 minutes from Marine Port Kagoshima!

Special Edition

Kagoshima

Minamikyushu City

Free Take one!



Minami-kyushu City is right here!

All about Minamikyushu!

Minamikyushu City was created in the 2007 merger of the towns of Chiran, Kawanabe, and Ei. It is located in the southern part of the Satsuma Peninsula in Kagoshima Prefecture, enjoys a mild climate, and is known as the biggest producer of tea and sweet potatoes in Japan. It is also the hometown of Nobel Prize laureate and physicist Isamu Akasaki, the inventor of the blue LED.

Kawanabe 川辺

Famous for having some of Japan's largest magabutsu, or Buddhist relief carvings, which tradition tells were carved by Heike clan exiles in memory of their ancestors. Kawanabe-style Buddhist altars are made using the same techniques, and they are prized as a nationally-designated traditional craftwork.



Chiran 知覧

This is one of Kagoshima's most important tourist areas, home to Japanese gardens, samurai mansions reminiscent of the time of the Edo period, and what was once the southernmost base of the Tokkotai—the "special attack" pilots more commonly known in the west as the kamikaze.



Ei 伊予

Scenic viewpoints are scattered, including Bandokorobana, described by famed cartographer Ino Tadataka as offering "a superb view of the world." Also popular is Kamafuta Shrine, a shrine where worshippers place wooden pot lids, or kamafuta, on their heads when they visit.



Welcome to Minamikyushu City!

Ojattamonse

Meet Minamikyushu's mascot Ochamura!

*Ojattamonse means "welcome" in the Kagoshima dialect.

Satsuma's
"Little
Kyoto"

Chiran Samurai Residences

Visiting the Gardens

Former samurai homes line this 700 meter long street, giving visitors a vivid glimpse of the era of the samurai. Breathe in the history as you walk through this beautiful neighborhood full of gardens.

Chiran Samurai Residence Complex

It is said that during the Edo period, one in four people in Satsuma Domain were samurai. The lords of Satsuma aimed to "build a castle using people" by placing their vassals in charge of local governments and defense throughout the domain in what it called its "outer castle" system. The Chiran samurai residences have been designated as worthy of inclusion in the national Groups of Traditional Buildings list for their simple yet sturdy construction, and the beauty of the bending roads lined with stone walls and hedgerows. The seven gardens are also nationally-designated places of scenic beauty, and are open to the public.

Info on Visiting the Gardens

☎ 0993-58-7878 (Chiran Samurai Residence Complex Office) **DATA**
Chiranchohori, Minamikyushu ☑ Short walk from Bukeyashiki-iriguchi bus stop ☑ Entry fee: 500 yen (includes access to all seven gardens)
☑ 9AM to 5PM ☑ Open year-round ☑ Paid parking available nearby (200 yen per hour)

Must see! The Seven Gardens

Experience the essence of the Japanese soul – the wabi and the sabi—with a visit to these gardens said to have been built by master gardeners from Kyoto.

1 Saigo Keiichiro Garden 西郷恵一郎邸庭園

Stones are stacked in the shape of a mountaintop at the back of the garden, while *inumaki* trees cut at varying heights represent a mountain range in the distance. It is known as the "Crane and Turtle Garden" for the stacks of crane-like stones, and massive stones on the ground symbolizing turtles.

Check it out!

Access the internet through the free Wi-Fi and post photos of your trip to Facebook and other social networks.

2 Hirayama Katsumi Garden 平山克己邸庭園

This garden was designed around the concept of "borrowed scenery" to incorporate the beautiful form of Hahagadake, a mountain in the background. The stacked-stone "main peak" of the garden is located in a corner on the northern end of the garden, while *inumaki* hedges are cut to mimic the mountains around Hahagadake. The beautifully expressive garden offers a complete unity when viewed from any angle.

Check it out!

The remains of an outhouse can be found near the gate. It seems to have been built so the residents could hear the conversations of people walking by on the street.

3 Hirayama Ryoichi Garden 平山亮一郎邸庭園

This simple garden is designed solely from plant life, with no stone elements at all. *Inumaki* trees are trimmed in wave-like forms that culminate in three tall peaks, with a group of rhododendrons in the front trimmed into a *tsukiyama* or artificial hill. The garden is famous for its use of borrowed scenery.

Check it out!

The rhododendrons blossom between late May and early June, giving the garden a more festive atmosphere.

4 Sata Mifune Garden 佐多美舟邸庭園

At 446 square meters, this is the largest and most resplendent of the gardens at the Chiran Samurai Residence Complex. A large dry waterfall built of stone can be found before the study in the southeast part of the garden. Stone lanterns can be found atop the *tsukiyama*, while enormous rocks are laid in the flat area at the foot.

Check it out!

The beautiful roofed gate near the entrance to the residence displays a sign recognizing the owner of the home as the head family in Chiran Fumoto.

5 Sata Tamiko Garden 佐多民子邸庭園

This garden makes use more varieties of rock and stone than the others. Built in the *shinzan yukoku* style using a variety of unique techniques that result in a profoundly-moving view like that found in landscape paintings.

Check it out!

See the incredible plum trees planted in Satsuma ware pots. The home belonged to a branch of Sata Mifune's family.

6 Sata Naotada Garden 佐多直忠邸庭園

The hedges in this dry garden are pruned like distant mountains, with Hahagadake playing a role as borrowed scenery. The 3.5 meter tall stones and the dry waterfall seem like elements from an ink wash painting. Flowers on different trees bloom throughout the year, and plum blossom season is particularly beautiful.

Check it out!

This garden was built between 1741 and 1744, and since no artificial structures block the view of the Hahagadake mountain range, visitors can see the same view seen by the people who lived here during the Edo period.

7 Mori Shigemitsu Garden 森重盛邸庭園

This is the only *chisen*- or pond-style garden in the complex, fed by water from a spring in the back of the garden. In the beautifully-contoured pond, strangely-shaped rocks are brought together to depict the nearby mountains and peninsula, while on the opposite shore, caves are represented using rocks with holes in them.

Check it out!

The roof of the storehouse was designed to be removable to ensure that items stored within wouldn't be damaged by smoke during fires.

Here's something else!

Traditional houses built by Chiran carpenters

In traditional *futatsuya* style houses, the house was separated into two connected sections, a living area, and a kitchen and unfloored space. But in Chiran, the two parts of the house were connected in a unique L-shape, and Chiran-style *futatsuya* houses are now considered to hold an important place in the history of traditional Japanese residential architecture.



It also serves as a rest area for people touring the samurai residences.
Try a local sweet and Chiran tea for 300 yen.

Gourmet Dining near the Chiran Samurai Residence Complex

Takian 高城庵

☎ 0993-83-3186

Traditional Japanese dining located near Mori Shigemitsu Garden (See #7). Try the full-course meal and experience some Satsuma cuisine, or try the *ocha udon* for 660 yen, which has special noodles made by incorporating Chiran tea into the dough. **DATA** 6329 Chiranchohori, Minamikyushu ☑ 3 minute walk from Bukeyashiki-iriguchi bus stop ☑ 10:30AM-2:30PM (last orders)
☑ January 9 ☑ Parking available nearby



☑ Zaru Udon Set (with *ocha udon*)—1,100 yen

La Chaumiére ラシヨミエル

☎ 0993-83-2626

This French restaurant is located on the same street as the samurai residences. Select either fish or meat for a main in one of the three course meals available at lunch. Operates as a café from 2PM onwards. **DATA** 6293-1 Chiranchohori, Minamikyushu ☑ 2 minute walk from Bukeyashiki-iriguchi bus stop ☑ 11:30AM-6:30PM (last orders) (Reservations required for dinner) ☑ Tue. evenings, 3rd Tue. every month, Wed. ☑ 6 spaces
☑ Lunch courses from 1,780 yen



Cafe Cochi カフェコチ

☎ 0993-76-8255

This café is built in a renovated traditional house that is more than 100 years old. The owner-chef specializes in Western dishes made with lavish amounts of produce grown right here in Minamikyushu. **DATA** 93 Chiranchohori, Minamikyushu ☑ 2 minute walk from Nakagori bus stop ☑ 11AM-7:30PM (reservations required in evenings, closes at 4PM Sundays) ☑ Irregular closures ☑ Municipal parking available in front of restaurant.



☑ Cochi curry, made with beef tendon simmered for five hours—Set, 980 yen

Satsuma-Eikokukan Bloomsbury 薩摩英国館 ブルームスベリー

☎ 0993-83-3963

This museum teaches visitors about tea, and about the relationship between Satsuma Domain and Britain at the end of the Edo period (350 yen entry.) The museum also has a café where guests can sample snacks made with organic, pesticide-free tea grown by the museum.



DATA 13746-4 Chiranchohori, Minamikyushu ☑ 2 minute walk from Bukeyashiki-iriguchi bus stop ☑ 11:30AM-5PM (last orders) ☑ Tue. ☑ 10 spaces
☑ Tea-simmered pork sandwich (with pot of black tea)—1,080 yen



Visit the art museum, which has beautiful plum blossoms in early spring, and stunning bamboo in early summer. Visitors can see paintings and traditional craftsworks.

Try some Chiran Matcha Soft Ice Cream while you enjoy your walk!

A 600 meter long channel where colorful carp swim.

Access to Bukeyashiki Street is free, but a 500 yen entry fee is required for access to the gardens (all seven included). Pay the fee at locations showing the symbol.

Yabitsu Bridge was built in 1852 and spans the Fumoto River.



Enjoy the beautiful scenery and good luck spots!

The Ei area is replete with a beautiful variety of scenery, from the coastline into the countryside. Refresh the soul on this comfortable trip to the various "power spots" considered auspicious by the local population.

Advice for your drive

Getting from downtown Ibusuki to Ei in Minamikyushu is a simple drive along National Route 226. Turn off Route 226 onto the Agricultural Road past Sebira Park to visit Onodake Park. From there, return to Route 226, and make your way to Kamafuta Shrine and Bandokorobana Nature Park. Each destination has information signs posted nearby, ensuring visitors won't get lost.



Start

Downtown Ibusuki

↓ Approx. 18 km/25 minutes

1 Sebira Park

↓ Approx. 10 km/15 minutes

2 Onodake Park

↓ Approx. 15 km/30 minutes

3 Kamafuta Shrine

↓ Approx. 3 km/6 minutes

4 Bandokorobana Nature Park

5 Seahorse Ways

6 AB Cafe

↓ Approx. 17 km/25 minutes

Goal

Downtown Chiran

All about Ibusuki!

Located next to Minamikyushu City, Ibusuki is famous for its natural hot sand baths, rarely found anywhere in the world. The region offers a wealth of sightseeing spots, from Mt. Kaimon, the volcano known as "Satsuma's Mt. Fuji", to Kyushu's largest caldera lake, Lake Ikeda.



Scenic Spot

1

Sebira Nature Park

瀬平自然公園

0993-83-2511 (Minamikyushu City Commerce and Tourism Department)

This park is located on National Route 226 on the coast. The view of Mt. Kaimon beyond the line of pine trees is stunning, and the park has often appeared in the media. Famed authors and poets Tekkan and Akiko Yosano visited in 1929, and the park has a monument to them inscribed with a poem.

DATA Nagasaki, Eichokori, Minamikyushu 21 minute drive from Ei IC exit on Ibusuki Skyline ¥ Open to the public P 25 spaces

One of the most popular scenic spots in Kagoshima with its spectacular view of Mt. Kaimon.

Scenic Spot

2

Onodake Park

大野岳公園

0993-83-2511

(Minamikyushu City Commerce and Tourism Department)

This park is located on Mt. Ono, a sacred mountain celebrating the god of tea and where people pray for longevity. The nearby Onodake Shrine is said to have been built more than 700 years ago. A rare shrine to the syncretized worship of both Shinto and Buddhism, the stone statues of the Buddha's guardians, the Nio, are a highlight of any visit to the shrine.

DATA Eichokori, Minamikyushu 19 minute drive from Ei IC exit on Ibusuki Skyline ¥ Open to the public P 117 spaces

The view from the summit observation point is a five-minute walk from the parking lot.

3

Kamafuta Shrine (Itate-tsuwamono-nushi Shrine)

金蓋神社 (射桶兵主神社)

0993-38-2127 (Kamafuta Shrine Administration Committee)

People visit this shrine to pray for good luck and victory. The unique method of worship has visitors place a pot lid on their heads, and it is also known for the famous athletes who visit. Behind the shrine, the view from Kibo-no-misaki (see Page 7) is excellent.

DATA 6827 Eichobepu, Minamikyushu 21 minute drive from Ei IC exit on Ibusuki Skyline ¥ Open to worshippers P 70 spaces



Some say it's good luck to set your smartphone's background to a photo of this painting on the ceiling of the shrine hall.

Good Luck!



From right: mini charm 500 yen, ema 500 yen, protection amulet 500 yen, amulet for safe travel 800 yen

Modern worshippers come for various reasons, but apparently during wartime, visitors would place the lids on their heads in the hopes of ensuring their loved ones would return home safely.

4

Bandokorobana Nature Park

番所鼻自然公園

0993-83-2511 (Minamikyushu City Commerce and Tourism Department)

This park was the location of a Satsuma domain maritime security station during the Edo period, and guards here kept a watch on the ocean approaches. The view was praised by Ino Tadataka, a cartographer known for walking the length of Japan while mapping the country. Enjoy the wonderful scenery from the promenade or the observation deck.

DATA 5202 Eichobepu, Minamikyushu 20 minute drive from Ei IC exit on Ibusuki Skyline ¥ Open to the public P 60 spaces

Ring the bell—the more the better—at the former guardhouse for good luck in life and love. The Bandokoro Bell is known by the nickname, Tatsu-no-otoshigo.

Good Luck!



Scenic Spot

See the incredible reefs and the beautiful view of Mt. Kaimon.



5

Seahorse Ways

タツノオトシゴハウス

0993-38-1883

This tourist-focused seahorse nursery lets visitors see the lives of these creatures considered to be a symbol of luck. Did you know it is the male seahorse who gives birth and raises its young? Learn all about the strange and wondrous seahorse! The facility offers a wealth of original merchandise that makes great souvenirs.

DATA 5202-2 Eichobepu, Minamikyushu 20 minute drive from Ei IC exit on Ibusuki Skyline ¥ Free to the public 10AM-4:30PM Tue. (open when Tue. is a holiday) P 60 spaces (Parking at Bandokorobana Nature Park)

Enjoy the view from the café window with a cup of coffee for 200 yen!



Good Luck!

Refresh your outlook on life watching the seahorses swim in the aquarium.

Small charms with real seahorses inside: 300 yen each

6

AB Cafe

エビカフェ

0993-38-0160 (Located within Iseebisou)

This café is found within Iseebisou, a hotel on the grounds of Bandokorobana Nature Park. Enjoy sandwiches, sweets, drinks and other snacks made with local produce. Take a break on the deck made of naturally grown wood, which is open to the public, no purchase required.

DATA 5202 Eichobepu, Minamikyushu 20 minute drive from Ei IC exit on Ibusuki Skyline 10:30AM-4PM Irregular closures P 30 spaces

The Bandokorobana Parfait is salted ice cream drizzled with chocolate to resemble lava—500 yen



Scenic Spot



Chiran Peace Museum

知覧特攻平和会館

☎0993-83-2525

The Nakajima Ki-84 Hayate was considered to be the best Japanese fighter aircraft of the Second World War, and this museum is home to the only surviving example left in the world. The museum also has exhibits of photographs and letters belonging to the pilots of the Tokkotai, the famed kamikaze pilots. Multilingual support is available by tablet if you'd like to learn more during your visit.

DATA 17881 Chiranchohori, Minamikyushu ☑3 minute walk from Tokkokannon-iriguchi bus stop ☑Entry fee: 500 yen ☑9AM-4:30 PM (last entry) ☒Open year-round ☑500 spaces



☎ Tokoshien, a statue of a Tokkotai pilot standing near Chiran Peace Museum



☎ Take your time viewing the exhibits for a powerful reminder of how precious peace is.

Hotarukan Tomiya Restaurant

ホタル館富屋食堂

☎0993-58-7566

This war museum is a reconstruction of an army dining hall called Tomiya used at the end of the Second World War. Everything has been carefully reproduced, from the exterior design, to the thick columns. Within the museum, learn about Tome Torihama, the woman known as the "mother of the Tokkotai," and see letters and other belongings that serve as a record of her relationship with the pilots.

DATA 103-1 Chiranchohori, Minamikyushu ☑Across from Nakagori bus stop ☑Entry fee: 500 yen ☑9AM-5PM ☒Open year-round ☑Free parking available nearby

The only surviving example of the Imperial Army Ki-84 Hayate fighter.

Wait, there's more!!!

6 Sightseeing Spots in Minami kyushu City!



Scan the QR code to get quick info on sightseeing and dining in Minamikyushu! You can select routes as well, so it's very helpful when creating a tour itinerary.

Daikon Yagura

大根やぐら

The *Daikon Yagura*, or Radish Towers, are a sign that winter has arrived here in Minamikyushu. Between December and January, these bright-white towering structures of hanging radishes can be found in the middle of farmer's fields. The breeze coming off the East China Sea helps get the vegetables ready to be made into delicious pickled daikon.



☎☎ A scene found only in Minamikyushu.

Tea Fields

茶畑

Tea fields as far as the eye can see—that is the true heart of Minamikyushu. The warm climate and fertile soil have made the area one of the leading producers of green tea in Japan. The yellowish-green leaves of early spring gradually transform into a vivid, rich green in early summer. This is a sight worth seeing.



☎ Mt. Kaimon—Satsuma's Mt. Fuji—can be seen in the distance.

☎ A landscape straight from a painting.



☎ Around 200 reliefs of Buddhist figures are carved into the approximately 20-meter-tall rock face.

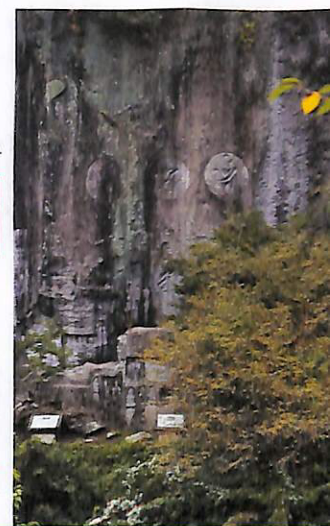
Kiyomizu Iwaya Park

清水岩屋公園

☎0993-56-5465

Visit this park any time of year for a fulfilling nature experience, through the cherry blossoms in spring, fireflies in early summer, or the changing colors of autumn. Other highlights include the Kiyomizu *magaibutsu* relief carvings, which are famous throughout Japan, and the Sakura-no-yakata, a traditional Japanese-style structure built using the same techniques used to build Kawanabe Buddhist altars.

DATA 3882 Kiyomizu, Kawanabecho, Minamikyushu ☑10 minute drive from Kawanabe IC exit on Ibusuki Skyline ☑Free entry to park ☑6AM-10PM ☒Open year-round ☑500 spaces



Kibo-no-misaki

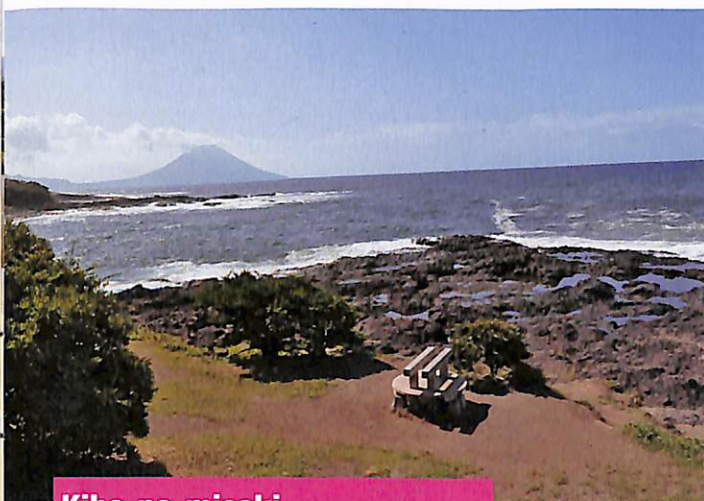
希望の岬

☎0993-83-2511

(Minamikyushu City Commerce and Tourism Department)

Kibo-no-misaki, or Cape of Hope, is a scenic spot located behind Kamafuta Shrine (see Page 5). Go through the small torii gate next to the shrine and find the East China Sea spread out before your eyes, with Mt. Kaimon in the distance. Take a commemorative photo on a bench shaped like a pot lid.

DATA 6827 Eichobepu, Minamikyushu ☑21 minute drive from Ei IC exit on Ibusuki Skyline ☒Open to the public ☑70 spaces



☎ Iwo Jima and other islands can be seen when the weather is clear.

☎ The cherry blossom trees near Sakura-no-yakata are also famous.

