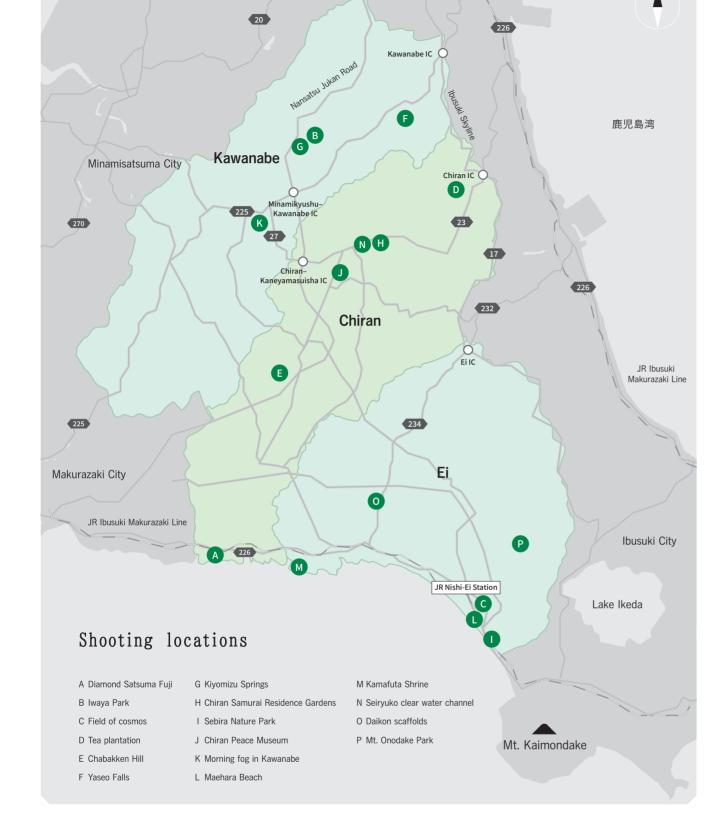


P H O T O







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Commerce, Industry, and Tourism Division TEL:+81-993-83-2511

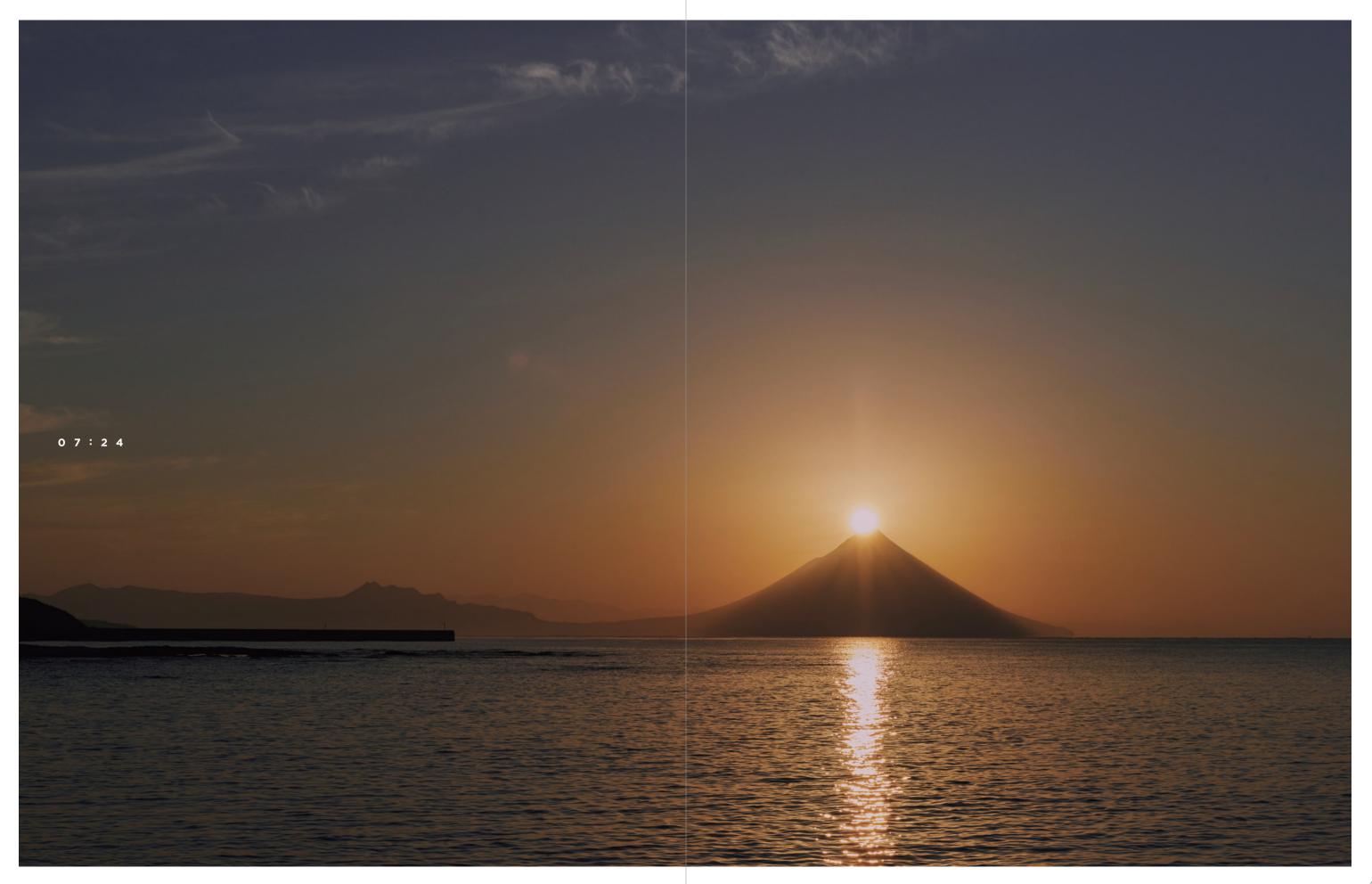
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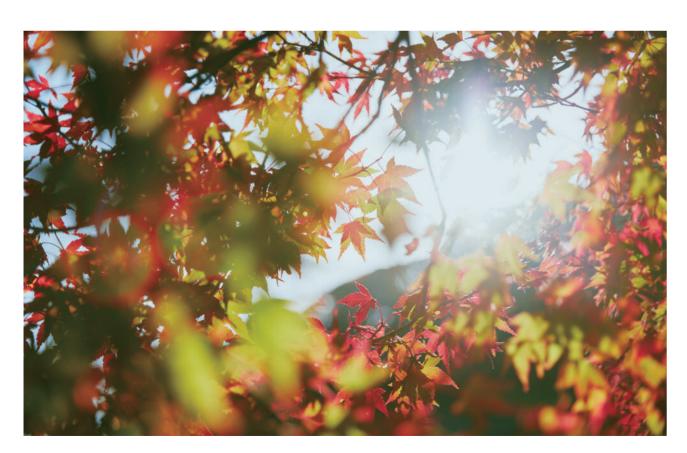
Minamikyushu City
Tourism Association
TEL:+81-993-58-7577



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Enveloped in new foliage

Tea from Chiran is a beautiful, deep green. Its refreshing aroma and mellow sweetness are a testament to the dedication of the people who create it. The growers work in harmony with nature and shower the tea leaves with love, and the tea masters look to the leaves themselves to decide on the finishing touches. The result is Chiran tea, the best tea in Japan. The season when the Chiran tea buds open is strikingly beautiful, and lush young greenery abounds in every corner of Minamikyushu City.

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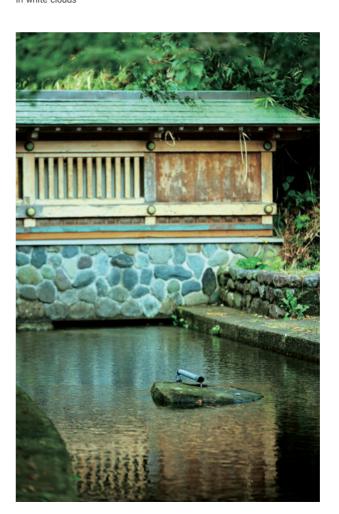




Dazzled by mountain cascades

The scenic Yaseo Falls features more than a dozen waterfalls formed by streams large and small. Toward the end of the 1860s, poet Tomonori Hatta visited this area and penned the following waka (Japanese poem):

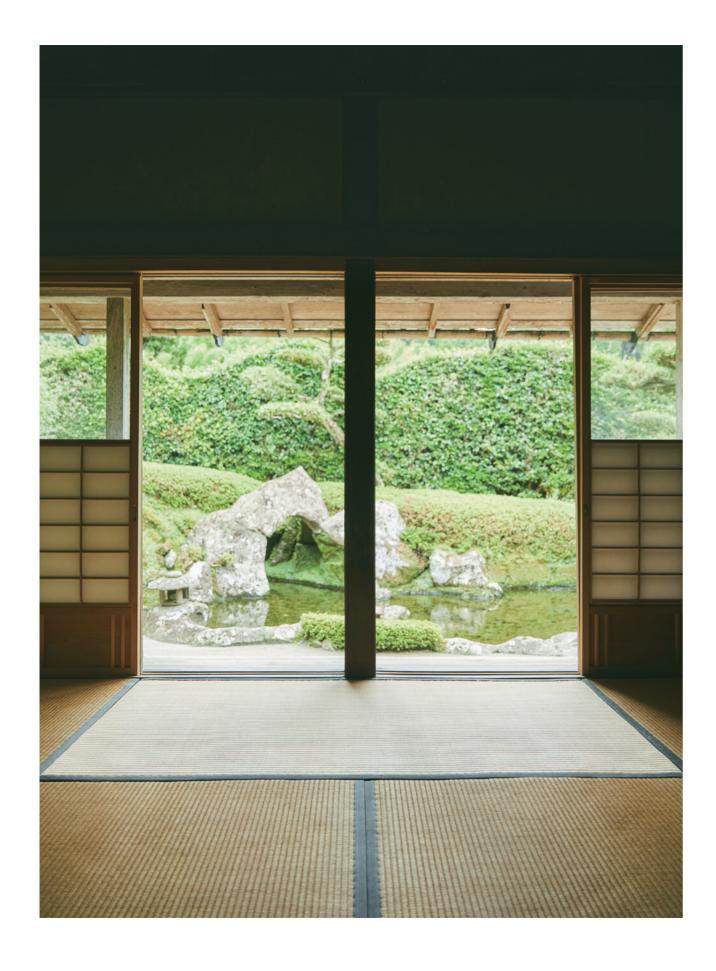
Shirakumo no ikue kasanaru takane yori ochikuru taki no nagare naruramu/Behold the waterfall tumbling from lofty peaks shrouded in white clouds





Enjoy the taste of fresh spring water

Wherever you find delicious food, you will also find good water. Kiyomizu Springs—one of the top 100 springs in Japan—is the source of Minamikyushu's water supply, and yet many residents still come to the springs to draw water. They brew coffee with it, use it as a mixer in alcoholic beverages, and otherwise reinforce their deep connection with Minamikyushu spring water.











Delve into samurai life

Centuries ago, the Chiran Samurai Residence Gardens was one of many fumoto—clusters of warriors' homes strategically scattered throughout the foothills of the Satsuma domain to defend its mountaintop castles. The seven remaining gardens are replete with distinct features that illustrate what Satsuma samurai found aesthetically pleasing and meaningful, from engimono (good luck symbols), scenic backgrounds, and oddly shaped stones set among smartly trimmed trees to the details of the gates, stone walls, and hedges.





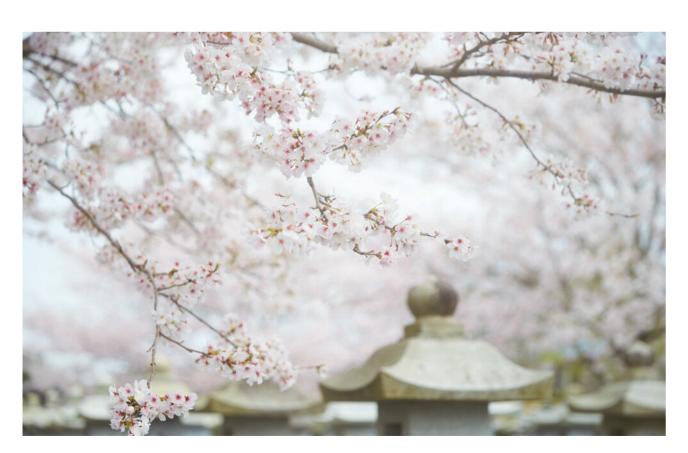




Gaze upon Mt.Kaimondake

Mt. Kaimondake—also known as Satsuma Fuji for its resemblance to Japan's most famous mountain—appears to float above the sea. Most residents of Minamikyushu agree that the best view is from Sebira Nature Park, which is part of Satsunan Kaigan Prefectural Natural Park.









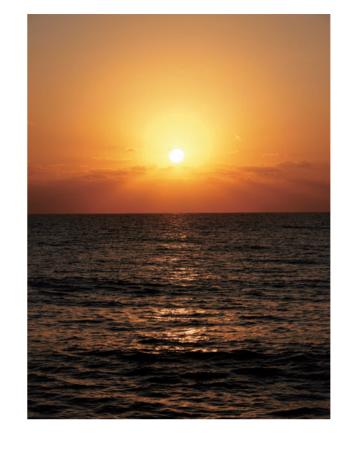




Pray for peace

During the Battle of Okinawa at the end of World War II, many kamikaze pilots took off from Chiran. Chiran Peace Museum solemnly tells the stories of these young men aged 17 to 32 (average of just under 22) who lived forthrightly, wrote their final words to their families, and sacrificed their dreams when they took to the skies over Okinawa.

























Pray for good fortune

Itate Tsuwamono Shrine, a monument to one of the great Shinto gods

(Susanoo-no-Mikoto), is commonly known as Kamafuta Shrine because visitors typically put a kamafuta (rice pot lid) on their heads and pray for strength in martial arts, victory, good fortune, and protection against bad fortune. Its location on the coast of Satsunan Kaigan Prefectural Natural Park makes it a wonderful place for sunrise and sunset views over the ocean.

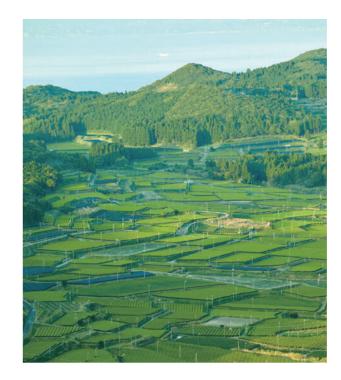






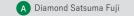
See the signs of winter

Daikon scaffolds herald the advent of winter in Minamikyushu City. The largest among them stand 7 m tall, and their length ranges from 30 to 100 m. From December to January, the daikon are exposed to plenty of sunshine and ocean breezes that bring them to perfect ripeness.











Winter | Early morning

To capture the grandeur. maintain some distance from Mt. Kaimondake and be sure to catch the colors of the sky and the reflection on the surface of the sea



B Iwaya Park

Place multiple eve-catching subjects-for example, the Café Sakura no Yakata building and autumn foliageopposite each other for a well-halanced photo



Autumn | Afternoon

Capture the backlighting to render the silhouettes of the autumn leaves and make the viewer feel as though they are peeking through the trees.

H Chiran Samurai Residence Gardens



Autumn | Afternoon

Use the railway to divide the cosmos and the sky, setting the two elements apart for a crisp clean photo





Spring | Early morning

Buds and morning dew. Focus directly on your subject to guide the viewer's eve where you want it to go.



E Chabakken Hill



Spring | Early morning

Use tea leaves in the foreground for bokeh to create depth and a sense of scale

Sebira Nature Park



Spring | Early morning

Create bubbly bokeh with extremely out-of-focus morning sunlight on the tea leaves to accentuate the nale green of the lush new shoots.



Autumn | Afternoon

F Yaseo Falls

For waterfalls and other tall subjects, shoot from a lower angle without losing the sense of horizontal and vertical to create a sense of dynamism



Autumn | Afternoon

Use a tripod and adjust the shutter speed to change the appearance of the water. This photo was taken with a fast shutter speed, capturing individual droplets and illustrating their momentum.



Autumn | Afternoon

This photo was taken with a slow shutter speed, capturing the flow of the water for a softer image

G Kiyomizu Springs



Autumn | Afternoon

Explore different positions to capture reflections on the water from many angles and create a unique scene.



Autumn | Afternoon

Shoot close to the subject while adjusting the shutter speed to capture the sizzle of the water



Summer | Afternoon

Symmetrical subjects should be centered to avoid discomforting feelings of imbalance



K Morning fog in Kawanabe

C Field of cosmos

Autumn | Afternoon

Create bokeh in the

cosmos non

foreground with a deep focus

to make the vivid colors of the

Summer | Afternoon

Create depth by minding the radial lines from the focal point of the photo as well as the viewer's sightlines.



Summer | Afternoon

Capture the calm atmosphere by paying attention to the color proportions and balance in the area occupied by the green hedges and trees and the gray garden stones.



Summer | Afternoon

Include different subjects in the same frame to highlight the differences between them



Winter | Afternoon

Include elements between the camera and the subject and increase the area of the sky to create a sense of depth and grandeur.



Winter | Afternoon

Backlighting creates a mystical feel with the bright sea peeking out from the pale silhouettes of the leaves in the foreground.



Winter | Afternoon

Even humble pine needles can become extraordinary when they are diagonal to the angle of view against a blue



Winter | Afternoon

With subjects on diagonals and sunlight reflected in the sea, create a three-dimensional shadow effect distinct to rocky coastlines.

M Kamafuta Shrine



Chiran Peace Museum

Spring | Morning

Use bokeh in the foreground to create depth and present the scene such that the kamikaze pilots are surrounded by the cherry blossoms.

Spring | Morning

Including both the cherry blossoms and the elements around them in the angle of view creates a truly one-of-a-kind image.



Year-round

Change the position, height, and angle of the camera to explore the differences and create your own unique perspective.



Spring | Morning

To capture multiple elements at the same time, angle them slightly toward the subject and make sure they do not block each other



Winter | Early morning

A slightly darker shot enhances the magic of the white morning fog. The moon as an accent tightens the photo.



Winter | Early morning

Reflecting the sky and surrounding landscape on the water simultaneously creates a mystical image of the early morning.

O Daikon scaffolds



Winter | Early morning

Include animals and other local features as accents to create a scenic photo that stands out.





Maehara Beach

The sun just before dusk and the reflection on the sea. Each enhances the other when you use the horizon to divide the frame in half.



Shoot when the sun is



Winter | Evening

starting to set to capture the ridgeline in delicate relief.

P Mt. Onodake Park



Winter | Evening

Divide the angle of view between the sky and the sea while minding the horizon and shoot from the side for a sense of expansiveness.



Winter | Early morning

If the location of the subject or its surroundings are distinctive, include elements from a wide angle to create a unique scene.



Winter | Evening

Use the boundary between sky and sea to divide the view in three while minding the horizon, and give the sky more space in the shot to capture the expansiveness.

Shooting locations

22



Year-round

When similarly shaped subjects are lined up. consider a slanted frame to highlight their alignment.



N Seiryuko clear water channel

Spring | Morning

Capture the subject from a lower position to illustrate the presence of the water wheel.



Spring | Morning

Although close-up shots of carp may seem appealing. consider placing the border between the plants and the water on a diagonal for a pleasing angle of view.



Spring | Morning

Create a bokeh in the foreground to create a three-dimensional sense of depth behind the subject.



Winter | Morning

Use the boundary between the sky and the daikon scaffolds to divide the angle of view in three while minding the horizon, and give the sky more space in the shot for a crisp, clean photo.



Winter | Morning

Frame the photo so that the top of the triangular tower extends toward the angle of view to lend a sense of presence and stability to the subject.



Winter | Morning

Explore unusual angles—for



example, a low angle to give a feeling of space underfootto create a fresh image.



Spring | Afternoon

Allowing an expansive tea plantation to occupy most of the angle of view illustrates its vastness from a high vantage point.



Spring | Evening

Capture ample sunlight just before dusk to create a stronger impression of the evening scenery.



Spring | Evening

Use a wide angle of view from the side and include multiple elements-the setting sun. the horizon, and the coastline-to create a magnificent image.



