Life Nurturing and Learning Trip

Izumi Rural Life Experience

Izumi City Association of Vitality and Renewal
Night Stay in Izumi!!

A memorial experience: living on a farm

In Izumi City, with expanded flat land, many farmers such as dairy farmers in the mountain area and orange farmers on the plains accept children for farm stays. Currently, 78 families in five districts, including Noda, Takano, Izumi, Komenotabu, and Okawauchi, are registered in the farm stay accommodation listings, and offer a 2-hour farming and food growing experience.

We hear a lot of pleasant comments from children who have joined this farmstay program and have enjoyed the warm hospitality of the local people through their agriculture and forestry learning experience, and by trying their own hand at making meals and sweets.

Messages from the members of the Izumi Farmstay Program

Message from the Taka District

by Kiyotaka Takeda

The Taka District is located in the middle of the picturesque green mountains and rice paddies. The area is known for its beautiful scenery and its proximity to the Kuma River, which flows through the region. The area is rich in natural beauty, with abundant wildlife and a variety of plants and flowers. In the Taka District, you can experience traditional farming and learn about the history of the region through hands-on activities such as planting and harvesting. The area is also known for its delicious local produce, including fresh vegetables, fruits, and seafood. The Taka District is a great place for families to experience the beauty of nature and learn about the rich culture of the region.

Message from the Komamatsu District

by Yoshideu Sakai

The Komamatsu District is known for its rich history and culture. The area is home to many ancient sites and artifacts, including the famous Komamatsu Castle, which dates back to the 16th century. The district is also known for its beautiful natural scenery, with its many rivers, forests, and mountains. In the Komamatsu District, you can experience traditional farming and learn about the history of the region through hands-on activities such as planting and harvesting. The area is also known for its delicious local produce, including fresh vegetables, fruits, and seafood. The Komamatsu District is a great place for families to experience the beauty of nature and learn about the rich culture of the region.

Message from the Komenotabu District

by Yoshideu Sakai

The Komenotabu District is known for its rich history and culture. The area is home to many ancient sites and artifacts, including the famous Komenotabu Castle, which dates back to the 16th century. The district is also known for its beautiful natural scenery, with its many rivers, forests, and mountains. In the Komenotabu District, you can experience traditional farming and learn about the history of the region through hands-on activities such as planting and harvesting. The area is also known for its delicious local produce, including fresh vegetables, fruits, and seafood. The Komenotabu District is a great place for families to experience the beauty of nature and learn about the rich culture of the region.

Message from the Akune District

by Kiyotaka Takeda

The Akune District is located in the middle of the picturesque green mountains and rice paddies. The area is known for its beautiful scenery and its proximity to the Kuma River, which flows through the region. The area is rich in natural beauty, with abundant wildlife and a variety of plants and flowers. In the Akune District, you can experience traditional farming and learn about the history of the region through hands-on activities such as planting and harvesting. The area is also known for its delicious local produce, including fresh vegetables, fruits, and seafood. The Akune District is a great place for families to experience the beauty of nature and learn about the rich culture of the region.

Message from the Noda District

by Yoshideu Sakai

The Noda District is known for its rich history and culture. The area is home to many ancient sites and artifacts, including the famous Noda Castle, which dates back to the 16th century. The district is also known for its beautiful natural scenery, with its many rivers, forests, and mountains. In the Noda District, you can experience traditional farming and learn about the history of the region through hands-on activities such as planting and harvesting. The area is also known for its delicious local produce, including fresh vegetables, fruits, and seafood. The Noda District is a great place for families to experience the beauty of nature and learn about the rich culture of the region.

Message from the Takano District

by Kiyotaka Takeda

The Takano District is located in the middle of the picturesque green mountains and rice paddies. The area is known for its beautiful scenery and its proximity to the Kuma River, which flows through the region. The area is rich in natural beauty, with abundant wildlife and a variety of plants and flowers. In the Takano District, you can experience traditional farming and learn about the history of the region through hands-on activities such as planting and harvesting. The area is also known for its delicious local produce, including fresh vegetables, fruits, and seafood. The Takano District is a great place for families to experience the beauty of nature and learn about the rich culture of the region.

Message from the Komenotabu District

by Yoshideu Sakai

The Komenotabu District is known for its rich history and culture. The area is home to many ancient sites and artifacts, including the famous Komenotabu Castle, which dates back to the 16th century. The district is also known for its beautiful natural scenery, with its many rivers, forests, and mountains. In the Komenotabu District, you can experience traditional farming and learn about the history of the region through hands-on activities such as planting and harvesting. The area is also known for its delicious local produce, including fresh vegetables, fruits, and seafood. The Komenotabu District is a great place for families to experience the beauty of nature and learn about the rich culture of the region.

Message from the Akune District

by Kiyotaka Takeda

The Akune District is located in the middle of the picturesque green mountains and rice paddies. The area is known for its beautiful scenery and its proximity to the Kuma River, which flows through the region. The area is rich in natural beauty, with abundant wildlife and a variety of plants and flowers. In the Akune District, you can experience traditional farming and learn about the history of the region through hands-on activities such as planting and harvesting. The area is also known for its delicious local produce, including fresh vegetables, fruits, and seafood. The Akune District is a great place for families to experience the beauty of nature and learn about the rich culture of the region.

Message from the Noda District

by Yoshideu Sakai

The Noda District is known for its rich history and culture. The area is home to many ancient sites and artifacts, including the famous Noda Castle, which dates back to the 16th century. The district is also known for its beautiful natural scenery, with its many rivers, forests, and mountains. In the Noda District, you can experience traditional farming and learn about the history of the region through hands-on activities such as planting and harvesting. The area is also known for its delicious local produce, including fresh vegetables, fruits, and seafood. The Noda District is a great place for families to experience the beauty of nature and learn about the rich culture of the region.

Message from the Takano District

by Kiyotaka Takeda

The Takano District is located in the middle of the picturesque green mountains and rice paddies. The area is known for its beautiful scenery and its proximity to the Kuma River, which flows through the region. The area is rich in natural beauty, with abundant wildlife and a variety of plants and flowers. In the Takano District, you can experience traditional farming and learn about the history of the region through hands-on activities such as planting and harvesting. The area is also known for its delicious local produce, including fresh vegetables, fruits, and seafood. The Takano District is a great place for families to experience the beauty of nature and learn about the rich culture of the region.

Message from the Komenotabu District

by Yoshideu Sakai

The Komenotabu District is known for its rich history and culture. The area is home to many ancient sites and artifacts, including the famous Komenotabu Castle, which dates back to the 16th century. The district is also known for its beautiful natural scenery, with its many rivers, forests, and mountains. In the Komenotabu District, you can experience traditional farming and learn about the history of the region through hands-on activities such as planting and harvesting. The area is also known for its delicious local produce, including fresh vegetables, fruits, and seafood. The Komenotabu District is a great place for families to experience the beauty of nature and learn about the rich culture of the region.

Message from the Akune District

by Kiyotaka Takeda

The Akune District is located in the middle of the picturesque green mountains and rice paddies. The area is known for its beautiful scenery and its proximity to the Kuma River, which flows through the region. The area is rich in natural beauty, with abundant wildlife and a variety of plants and flowers. In the Akune District, you can experience traditional farming and learn about the history of the region through hands-on activities such as planting and harvesting. The area is also known for its delicious local produce, including fresh vegetables, fruits, and seafood. The Akune District is a great place for families to experience the beauty of nature and learn about the rich culture of the region.
Izumi - The Village of Cranes and the Old Samurai Mansions

Hands-on Learning Program

Ice Cream Making with Izumi-produced Milk
This is held in Okawauchi, the town of dairy farms. You can learn about milk and try making ice cream with fresh milk and other selected ingredients. Nothing is comparable to the taste of ice cream that you hand-make yourself.

Stone Oven Baked Pizza Making
Try pizza making with an authentic stone oven which was made by the people of Okawa. Children can learn the process right from kneading and forming the crust to putting on toppings. Fresh from the oven, hand-made pizza tastes just superb!

Baumkuchen Making with Green Bamboo
Bamboo is used as a split when baking a special “Bamboo-cuchen.” With fresh butter and eggs, you can try dough forming and all the other processes in its production. Baking a delicious cake with a partner brings children a precious feeling of accomplishment.

Exchange with Farmers
Izumi Plan is in the heart of Izumi City. Its climate is suited for farming and various kinds of crops and fruits are grown all through the year. In a field, surrounded by the fantastic view of the vast plain, children can learn planting, harvesting and the management of orchard trees. Heartfelt exchanges with the people at farm houses also make an important part of this learning program.

Bird Watching
This is held in the Izumi district, which is known as a landing zone for cranes. As many as 280 kinds of birds have been observed in this area, which equals two third of all the birds in Japan. This is definitely one of the best spots in Japan for bird-watching.

[Spots for Studying Cranes]
It is said that cranes started to land in the Arasaki area of Izumi City, since around 1899. In 1916, 10 years after the Shimaum Clan started the reservation, the cranes are thought to come each year from Siberia, flying down southward through Korea, Tin, the Lower Peninsula, the Yatsushiro Sea to finally arrive here in Izumi. There are 7 kinds of cranes seen around this area. In the peak period from mid-October to late March, more than 10,000 cranes pass the winter in this area. The sight of cranes dancing around in the sky is magnificent. It was selected as one of the “100 great views” to be passed down to the next generation” by the Ministry of Environment in 1999.

 audition Center
This crane observation facility is open from November 1st to the 4th Sunday of March every year and attracts many tourists. You can take a close look at the cranes from the observatory with a 360 degree view. Here you can also learn about the lives of cranes with a special panel and video.

[Spots Where You Can Learn about the Old Samurai Mansions]
In the Ed period, the Shimaum Clan divided its domain into Ushijo and Tojo (eastward and southwest areas) in terms of military defense and governance. The Izumi Fumoto area was one of the largest among 120 Tojo areas of the Shimaum Clan. In the central part of the area, there are three samurai mansions that are now open to the public. Oikosyam, which is the old gate of the provisional residence of the land steward, is now the front gate of Izumi Elementary School. You can stroll around the area and enjoy the stately presence of 400 years old mansions with stone walls. The traditional building reservation area of Izumi Fumoto has been designated as an important reservation area by the government. It has gained more attention as a precious historical heritage which conveys the life and culture of samurai in the Ed period.

The Takezaki Residence
The Takezaki family, owned the area in the Takeno period (1575-1593) and assumed the headship of the Takezaki domain. The mansion is the provisional residence of the land steward who was the caretaker of the area. The present buildings are said to have been built before the Mei period.

Opening Hours: 9:00 - 17:00
No entrance charge

The Takezuka Residence
The Takezuka residence is located in the Takeno period (1575-1593) and assumed the headship of the Takezuka domain. The mansion is one of the most important residences in the Takeno period. The present buildings are said to have been built in the initial days of the Takeno period.

Opening Hours: 9:00 - 17:00
No entrance charge

The Graves of the Sasaki Shimaum Family
Sasaki Masanori, the younger brother of Tadakuni, the 8th lord of the Shimaum Clan lived in Koyamaga Castle in Yun and stayed in Sasaki Castle after the war. After his death, his son Sasaki Shimaum, who dominated the vast area of Izumi for 40 years leading to the municipality, in the Munakata period, is now located in Koyamaga, Kamegaya. The oldest lord, Chikahide, who passed on to the 7th lord, Tadakuni, the last residence of Sasaki Castle, is located in the Sasaki district.

[Spots Where You Can Learn about the Old Samurai Mansions]
In the Ed period, the Shimaum Clan divided its domain into Ushijo and Tojo (eastward and southwest areas) in terms of military defense and governance. The Izumi Fumoto area was one of the largest among 120 Tojo areas of the Shimaum Clan. In the central part of the area, there are three samurai mansions that are now open to the public. Oikosyam, which is the old gate of the provisional residence of the land steward, is now the front gate of Izumi Elementary School. You can stroll around the area and enjoy the stately presence of 400 years old mansions with stone walls. The traditional building reservation area of Izumi Fumoto has been designated as an important reservation area by the government. It has gained more attention as a precious historical heritage which conveys the life and culture of samurai in the Ed period.

The Takezaki Residence
The Takezaki family, owned the area in the Takeno period (1575-1593) and assumed the headship of the Takezaki domain. The mansion is the provisional residence of the land steward who was the caretaker of the area. The present buildings are said to have been built before the Mei period.

Opening Hours: 9:00 - 17:00
No entrance charge

The Takezuka Residence
The Takezuka residence is located in the Takeno period (1575-1593) and assumed the headship of the Takezuka domain. The mansion is one of the most important residences in the Takeno period. The present buildings are said to have been built in the initial days of the Takeno period.

Opening Hours: 9:00 - 17:00
No entrance charge

The Graves of the Sasaki Shimaum Family
Sasaki Masanori, the younger brother of Tadakuni, the 8th lord of the Shimaum Clan lived in Koyamaga Castle in Yun and stayed in Sasaki Castle after the war. After his death, his son Sasaki Shimaum, who dominated the vast area of Izumi for 40 years leading to the municipality, in the Munakata period, is now located in Koyamaga, Kamegaya. The oldest lord, Chikahide, who passed on to the 7th lord, Tadakuni, the last residence of Sasaki Castle, is located in the Sasaki district.

Avocado Historic Street
Here you can see a long array of the old gates of samurai mansions and the stone walls along about 1.5 kilometers of streets which make up the 8th and 9th district of Shimaum Clan from the early Ed period. The successive forts of the clan used this street as the Sanrikubangou route (regular mandatory tour road to Edo).
Learning About Minamata Disease

Minamata disease was caused by methyl mercury released into Minamata Bay and other bodies of water by the Chisso Corporation’s Minamata Plant. Although the pollution was halted in 1968, residents along the Shimana Sea continue to speak collectively for the reception of justice for the plight of the disease’s victims. Today, citizens play a leading role in city planning initiatives that address the issue of Minamata disease head-on, for example through efforts to build new partnerships between victims and citizens (maya-no-ai-kai) and programs to communicate the lessons of the Minamata disease to others.

* The word "maya" means to connect two separate ships and to work together. Minamata citizens use it "maya-no-ai" in order to restore a cooperative relationship among people, between nature and human beings, all the citizens must work together to develop a better community through interaction with the victims of Minamata disease.

Listening to Minamata – The Interview Program –

In this program, you visit the houses and work places of various people in Minamata and who were involved with Minamata disease.

You will have a chance to listen to the Minamata disease patients, the caretakers, families, those who were engaged in the fishing industry, people who were afraid to speak about the homen town, and a journalist who pursued the problem of the disease. Exchanging with these people in a small group, you will begin to know the multiple aspects of the disease and have a precious chance to consider your own life and your involvement with society.

1) Storytellers’ houses and public facilities
2) The Minamata area
3) Small groups of up to 10
4) 1.5-2 hours (Spring, Summer, Winter’s New Year’s)
5) Minamata Educational Tour Planning (a non-profit organization) TEL:0966-68-9450

Meet Victims of Fetal Minamata Disease

Hotto House is an adult daycare center for victims of fetal Minamata disease. Don’t just visit to learn about Minamata disease and the handicap it causes—enjoy socializing with members there.

Visiting Hotto House - a program for groups of 50 or less -

You can experience the disease and the wonderful people who were there as you enjoy exchanging friendship with the people of the facility through collaborative activities and their own storytelling.

1) Social welfare corporation Sakamoto, Hotto House
2) Mama-no-cho, Minamata City
3) Groups of up to 50
4) 2 hours (Spring, Summer, Winter’s New Year’s)
5) Minamata Educational Tour Planning (a non-profit organization) TEL:0969-69-9450

Getting to know the activities of Hotto House – a program for groups of more than 50 –

In this program, you will have the chance to listen to the members and know about the activities of Hotto House. A performance by the members and a song exchange are optional parts of the program.

1) Minamata Disease Information Center Auditorium
2) Myo-in-cho, Minamata City
3) Groups of 51 to 200
4) 1-2 hours (Spring, Summer, Winter’s New Year’s)
5) Minamata Educational Tour Planning (a non-profit organization) TEL:0966-68-9450

Minamata Disease Museum

- Visit the Minamata Disease Museum

This project was built to disseminate disease and the wonderful people who were there as well as an exchanging friendship with the people of the facility through collaborative activities and their own storytelling from the families of victims offer an irreplaceable opportunity for relations to experience the disease through firsthand accounts.

1) Museum Tour (B) - Lecture
2) Minamata Disease Museum
3) Myo-in-cho, Minamata City
4) A: No particular limit, 5) Groups of up to 250
6) A: 9:00 – 17:00 (Admission until 16:30)
7) 1 hour (Spring, Summer, Winter’s New Year’s)
8) Minamata Educational Tour Planning (a non-profit organization) TEL:0966-68-2851
9) In this program B, reservation is necessary at least 10 days prior to visit.

National Minamata Disease Information Center

- Visit the National Minamata Disease Information Center

You can learn about Minamata disease from a medical perspective, such as the relationship between mercury and people. The program includes a tour of the facility and a look at the condition facing the disease through firsthand accounts.

1) National Minamata Disease Information Center
2) Myo-in-cho, Minamata City
3) A: No particular limit, 4) Groups of up to 200
5) A: 9:00 – 17:00 (Admission until 16:30)
6) B: 1 hour (Spring, Summer, Winter’s New Year’s)
7) Minamata Educational Tour Planning (a non-profit organization) TEL:0966-68-2400

Thinking About the Environment

There are numerous Ecotours throughout Japan working to implement a sophisticated vision of environmentally friendly town planning. Although Minamata’s Eco Town is small in scale, citizens serve as “Eco Town guides” to show visitors around the development’s facilities, and the program is gaining attention for its focus on citizen participation. They provide the following six tour programs.

■ Eco Town Tour Program

1. Factories A-F
2. Hama-machi, Minamata City (Ferry at Tsukuriura)
3. Groups of up to 40 (per program)
4. 40 minutes / 9:30 – 15:15
5. Saturdays, Sundays, Holidays, New Year’s
6. Minamata Educational Tour Planning (a non-profit organization) TEL:0966-68-9450

■ Visit a Factory Where Empty Bottles Are Recycled

Minamata Sales Office (Ecosto Minamata), Tanaka Shoten Co., Ltd.

■ Visit a Waste Oil Recycling Plant

Minamata Energy Workshop, Kirakusu Kougou Co., Ltd.

■ Visit a Municipal Recycling Plant

Act-B Recycling Co., Ltd.

■ Visit a Plant That Turns Raw Sewage into Fertilizer

Enterprise RBS Co., Ltd.

■ Visit the Minamata Municipal Environmental Center

Kumamoto Prefecture Environmental Center allows visitors to learn about the environment through lectures by environmental professionals upon request. They provide the following hands-on programs A-C.

- Queries on Programs A-C

1. Kumamoto Prefecture Environmental Center
3. A Kumamoto Prefecture Environmental Center
4. Visit the Minamata Municipal Environmental Center, website: Environmental Information Plaza, which leads to environmental material on subjects such as the Earth and recycling. A new room has been opened for group learning.
5. Kumamoto Prefecture Environmental Center
6. Myo-in-cho, Minamata City
7. Groups of up to 200
8. Opening Hours: 9:00-17:00 (Admission until 16:30)
9. Mondays (if the facility is closed, the day before will be closed), New Year’s

Learning About the Agricultural Environment by Studying Agricultural Life

Visitors need to visit the facility and join a group when applying. You can see numerous tiny insects up close by observing various environments in a small demonstration place, which observers experience the change of season and climate.

■ Learn About the Agricultural Environment by Studying Agricultural Life

1) National Minamata Educational Tour Planning
2) Minamata Educational Tour Planning
3) Groups of up to 50
4) 2 hours (Monday is a public holiday, the following day the facility will be closed)
5) National Minamata Disease Information Center TEL:0966-68-2400

Learning About Pollution in Rivers

Visitors sample river water and seawater to conduct a simple experiment where they determine the oxygen content (COD, chemical oxygen demand), and transparency. The facility can be used to explain the reason for the decrease of the water flow and to explain why the extent of pollution varies from river to river.

■ Learn About Pollution in Rivers

1) Kumamoto Prefecture Environmental Center
2) Myo-in-cho, Minamata City
3) Groups of up to 200
4) 15 hours / 15:00 – 17:00
5) Saturdays, Sundays, Holidays, New Year’s
6) Minamata Educational Tour Planning (a non-profit organization) TEL:0966-68-9450

Searching for Reusable Objects on a Farm

A learn program organized by Yu-Yo-ki Spanish Village Fukuura Farm. Visitors search for objects being reused around a farm. Learning how to reuse objects is not only enjoyable but also educational.

■ Search for Reusable Objects on a Farm

1) Yu-Yo-ki Spanish Village Fukuura Farm
2) Groups of up to 20
3) 1 hours / 10:00 – 11:00
4) Saturdays, Sundays, and New Year’s
5) 0966-68-8450

See New Residents Sort Reusable

Residents currently sort 22 types of recyclables for collection at about 30 collection stations located throughout the City. On this outing, visitors listen to a talk about the city’s initiatives for sorting and collecting recyclables.

■ See New Residents Sort Reusable

1) 1-28 Ward
2) Groups of up to 20
3) 45 minutes / 1 hour
4) Saturdays, Sundays and New Year’s
5) 0966-68-8450

■ About programs, with some exceptions, carry a charge. Prior application may be necessary for some programs. Please inquire for details.
Onboard a Shiranui Sightseeing Sailing Ship

The Shiranui Sea’s distinctive sailing ships use the wind and the tides to fish, providing a quiet, ecological experience that lets visitors feel the wind in their hair. Visitors experience raising the sails and nets, fishing for cutlass fish, and sailing aboard ship. They learn about the symbiosis between human beings and the sea through exchanges with fishermen.

Hands-on Programs in the Villages in the Minamata and Ashikita Area

In the mountain areas in Minamata City and Ashikita town, residents serve as instructors to show visitors around the village, local crafts and cuisine and teach the wisdom and culture, and other things. They organize all sorts of programs that help children nurture a rich spirit.

Handson Programs in the Okawa District in Minamata City

Residents in Minamata’s Okawa district, serve as instructors holding lessons on local craft making.

A Focusing on Bamboo Crafts
Resin-dyed bamboo baskets are a useful traditional craft visible in the mountain area. Not only collecting and polishing, children also experience making flower baskets, putting flowers in them, and making lamp shades. They also learn about the ‘Nomura’ kimono, to exchange with bamboo craftsmen.

B Okawa Community Center
C The Okawa District, Minamata City
D Groups of up to 20
E 2 hours
F New Year’s

A Try Making Waraji Sandals
Listening to the life story of instructors, saying that children in former days made their own sandals to go to school, and the history of local industries such as this growing, children learn how to make waraji sandals.

B Okawa Community Center
C The Okawa District, Minamata City
D Groups of up to 20
E 2 hours
F New Year’s

A Make a Furry Basket
Mountains in the Okawa district contain an abundance of materials for making daily goods with such materials as animal skin. The guide will teach how to make a basket using those materials. They also learn the way of using it, for instance, carrying the basket on an old rope or using it as a container for preserving food.

B Okawa Community Center
C The Okawa District, Minamata City
D Groups of up to 40
E 2 hours
F New Year’s

A Walk on a Blessed Trail in the Mountains
An old rural railroad track from the Minamata area still remains in the area. Visitors explore the site of the loop and enjoy the nature of the mountain while enjoying nature at the mountain.

Recommended Programs for Learning about the Way of Life in Minamata

There are things that you cannot experience anywhere else but in Minamata, that's why you can have a close encounter with skilled craftsmen and producers. Children learn about working and the products and the residents’ love for the town through interaction with craftsmen while making crafts.

A Experience Sandblasting with “Re-glass”
The “Re-glass” is a craft done by using sandblasting and other glass containers. The program allows you to experience sandblasting and firing, which is a type of manufacturing process for making glass frames and pendant lights. You can also visit a “Re-glass” workshop utilizing an electric kiln.

B Rin-no-Kaze, Glass Workshop
C Hitotsubashi Orange Railway Minamata Station
D Groups of up to 20
E 2 hours
F Irregular, New Year’s

A Thinking About Our Environment While Focusing on Soap
While listening to tester Takahiro Nagano’s love for soap, visitors experience how recycled soap is made as they learn about the effects of our daily lives on the environment as well as chemical substances.

B Eco-net Minamata
C Fukuro, Minamata City
D Groups of up to 20
E 2 hours
F New Year’s

A Make Chikuraya and See the Pride of “Made in Minamata”
Kawahara has long been known for soy sauce and is proud to be called a “Made in Minamata” soy sauce maker. It’s a kind of soy sauce rich in flavor, while tasting to Minamata-soy is love for the hometown. And nothing beats taking a trip out of a busy city to grabbing a Nishiki soya that you have made yourself!

B Chikuraya Soy Sauce Factory
C Minamata City
D Groups of up to 20
E 2 hours
F Afternoon only

A Try Harvesting Grapes and Making Jelly
Takahiro Nagano, a producer of ‘Fukukawa’ varieties, explains the history and the making of jelly. They can enjoy the benefits of the land by tasting fresh compote grown on a farm which has a gentle Risokou Fukukawa ocean breeze.

B Minamata City
C Groups of up to 20
D 2.5 hours
E October through January only
F February through September (non-harvest period)

Most programs, with some exceptions, carry a charge. Prior application may be necessary for some programs. Please inquire for details.
A vast wilderness and ways of life on an island that has been passed down through generations can be found in the Amakusa and Nagashima area. The area, known as one of the best scenic spots, allows visitors to have an encounter with nature and to experience nature activities.

**Dolphin Watching**
The legions of wild dolphins welcome children. They sometimes jump spectacularly out of the water and come up close to the boat to entertain children. Children are excited to see the friendly dolphins, as well as learning about the lifestyle of dolphins through the story telling from the boatman. Dolphin watching trips are organized at two sites: ① Off the coast of Taijiu Island, Tsusawa-machi ② Leaving from Matsushima-machi ③ Off the coast of Taijiu island, Tsusawa-machi ④ Leaving from Futaba Port ⑤ Groups of 40 up to 350 ⑥ 1-2 hours (Depends on the weather and desired course) Operate all year ⑦Operate all year ⑧ Amakusa Treasure Island Tourist Association TEL:0899-22-2243

**Excavate Fossils at Goshoura**
After a lecture on fossil excavation at Goshoura cretaceous museum on the fossil island, visitors try their hand at excavating fossils at an excavation site near the museum. If they are lucky, they may find a valuable fossil. Basically, fossils found can be taken home, but in some cases if they are valuable, they cannot be taken home.
① Goshoura Cretaceous Museum, Hanakabaya ② The east area of Amakusa (Amakusa City) ③ Groups of 10 up to 80 ④ About 2 hours ⑤ Cretaceous Museum: Mondays (If Monday is a public holiday, the museum will open) ⑥ Amakusa Treasure Island Tourist Association TEL:0899-22-2243

**Peron Boat Ride**
Visitors go boating on a traditional Peron boat on the beautiful blue ocean. As they learn about the history of the boat and how to row, they themselves try rowing in rhythm to the sound of a Chinese gong and drums. This experience teaches the importance of cooperation in order to row the boat faster. Boating is organized at two sites: ① Atsu, Matsushima-machi ② Tomioka, Reihoku-machi ③ April through November ④ April through October ⑤ Groups of 10 up to 150 ⑥ Groups of 21 up to 200 ⑦ 1.5 hours ⑧ Operate all year but tours may be canceled depending on the weather conditions ⑨ Amakusa Treasure Island Tourist Association TEL:0899-22-2243

---

**Course A** (Minamata Disease Learning and Izumi Farm Stay Course)

- Day 1
  - Lunch
  - Farm experience
  - Farming, making ice cream, pizza and more
  - Goodbye Party
  - Izumi Farm Park / Visit to the Sekiyama Chou曼馬溝
  - Izumi Farm Park / Visit to the Sekiyama Chou曼馬溝
  - Izumi Farm Park / Visit to the Sekiyama Chou曼馬溝

- Day 2
  - Lunch
  - Farm stay (in Izumi City)
  - Izumi Farm Park / Visit to the Sekiyama Chou曼馬溝
  - Izumi Farm Park / Visit to the Sekiyama Chou曼馬溝
  - Izumi Farm Park / Visit to the Sekiyama Chou曼馬溝

---

**Course B** (Izumi Farm Stay and Minamata Disease Learning Course)

- Day 1
  - Lunch
  - Farm stay (in Izumi City)
  - Izumi Farm Park / Visit to the Sekiyama Chou曼馬溝
  - Izumi Farm Park / Visit to the Sekiyama Chou曼馬溝
  - Izumi Farm Park / Visit to the Sekiyama Chou曼馬溝

- Day 2
  - Lunch
  - Farm stay (in Izumi City)
  - Izumi Farm Park / Visit to the Sekiyama Chou曼馬溝
  - Izumi Farm Park / Visit to the Sekiyama Chou曼馬溝
  - Izumi Farm Park / Visit to the Sekiyama Chou曼馬溝

---

**Course C** (Izumi Farm Stay Course)

- Day 1
  - Lunch
  - Farm stay (in Izumi City)
  - Izumi Farm Park / Visit to the Sekiyama Chou曼馬溝
  - Izumi Farm Park / Visit to the Sekiyama Chou曼馬溝
  - Izumi Farm Park / Visit to the Sekiyama Chou曼馬溝

- Day 2
  - Lunch
  - Farm stay (in Izumi City)
  - Izumi Farm Park / Visit to the Sekiyama Chou曼馬溝
  - Izumi Farm Park / Visit to the Sekiyama Chou曼馬溝
  - Izumi Farm Park / Visit to the Sekiyama Chou曼馬溝

---

**Course A** and **B** use 4 tour style buses, and Course **C** uses the Shiranui Sea bullet train. Maximum number of passengers is 200.

---

**The Shiranui Sea Area Map**

---

- Most programs, with some exceptions, carry a charge. Prior application may be necessary for some programs. Please inquire for details.
Travel time will be shortened by the full opening of the Kyushu Shinkansen (bullet train) in Spring 2011 and more efficient, faster travel will be possible. The Shinkansen (bullet train) line connecting Shin-Osaka, Kumamoto and Kagoshima-chuo Stations is slated to open in 2011. Use this information as a reference for making school trip plans.

Shin-Osaka

Kumamoto

Kagoshima-chuo

(Current) 3 hrs. 36 min.
(After full-opening) Approx. 3 hrs.

70 min. 55 min.

※Please note that the travel time stated above may be different from the actual travel.

Inquiries on the hands-on learning program in Izumi City and the Shiranui Sea area
Mimamata Educational Tour Planning (a non-profit organization)
HP: http://www.izumi-talken.com
HP: http://www.mkplan.org/ E-Mail: info@mkplan.org
Izumi Office
16-5, Showa-machi, Izumi City, Kagoshima 899-0202
TEL: 0966-79-3320 FAX: 0966-79-3330
Minamata Office
1-1-1, Sakurai-cho, Minamata City, Kumamoto 867-0045
TEL: 0966-68-9450 FAX: 0966-63-5909

Izumi City Hall, Department of Tourism and Exchange
1-3, Midori-machi, Izumi City, Kagoshima 899-0292
TEL: 0966-63-4059 FAX: 0966-63-1331

This brochure is issued to complement the publication of information specific to the Revitalization of the Regional Economy 2009 project; Visitor Attraction and Exchange Project in the Shiranui Sea Area.
Planned and produced by Minamata Educational Tour Planning (a non-profit organization)