



Gathering Time: 8:50

Gathering Address: International Student Center, The University of Kitakyushu (北九州市立大学留学生会館)



## Times

## Programmes

9:00-12:30

Depart for Kiyokageyama Nyoirinji Temple

12:30-14:00

Depart for AEON mall and lunch

14:00-17:00

Depart for Yoshinogari Historical Park

17:00-18:30

Return to International Student Center, The University of Kitakyushu

# 1. Kiyokageyama Nyoirinji Temple



Kiyokageyama Nyoirinji Temple is located at the foot of the scenic Kiyokageyama in Japan. It was established during the Nara period (around the 8th century) and has a history of over a thousand years. As one of the important temples of the Tendai sect, it enshrines the Nyoirin Kannon, a symbol of compassion and wisdom, believed to fulfill various wishes, especially those related to health, happiness, and wisdom. The temple's architecture is simple yet exquisite, with the main hall exuding solemnity. Surrounded by mountains and forests, the serene environment makes it an ideal place for meditation and worship. The temple's dry landscape rock garden, a masterpiece of Japanese garden art, often attracts art enthusiasts and tourists. Additionally, the temple hosts various Buddhist festivals throughout the year, particularly the "Nyoirin Kannon Festival," which draws many devotees to pray and participate in Zen meditation courses, experiencing the wisdom and tranquility of Buddhism.

# 1. Kiyokageyama Nyoirinji Temple



Nyoirinji Temple has a unique symbolic relationship with frogs. In Japanese culture, frogs symbolize "return" and "restoration," which aligns with the power of Nyoirin Kannon, conveying the beautiful vision of restoring health and returning to peace through faith and prayer. In the temple's gardens and surrounding natural environment, frog statues or decorations are often seen. These frogs not only serve as mascots symbolizing luck and protection but also reflect the temple's philosophy of harmonious coexistence with nature. For many devotees, the frog symbolizes their prayers to Nyoirin Kannon, hoping for the goddess's blessings to "return" to a life of happiness and well-being. Furthermore, the image of frogs frequently appears in the temple's artworks and souvenirs, becoming a symbol of the temple's culture.

## 2. Yoshinogari Historical Park



The Yoshinogari Ruins, located in Saga Prefecture, Japan, are one of the largest archaeological discoveries from the Yayoi period, with excavations beginning in 1986. Covering an area of approximately 80 hectares, the site includes numerous village remains, ancient defensive structures, burial grounds, and areas for production and rituals. Yoshinogari is regarded as the political, economic, and cultural center of that era, revealing the lifestyle, social organization, and development of people during the Yayoi period. The discovery of this site has significantly enriched the understanding of the Yayoi period, becoming an essential resource for studying ancient Japanese history.

Yoshinogari Historical Park, built around the ruins, has reconstructed ancient buildings to showcase daily life during the Yayoi period. The park's main moat and defensive structures illustrate the era's defense systems and social hierarchy. Visitors can explore reconstructed raised-floor warehouses, shrines, and dwellings, gaining an intuitive understanding of ancient life. Additionally, the park features interactive experience areas where visitors can participate in activities such as farming, pottery making, and weaving, deepening their understanding of the Yayoi period's production and lifestyle.

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Artifacts unearthed at the Yoshinogari Ruins, including pottery, stone tools, farming implements, and weapons, reflect the technological advancements and social organization of the time, highlighting the site's importance as a cultural heritage. The park also recreates scenes related to rituals, emphasizing the significance of ceremonial activities in Yayoi society. Open year-round, Yoshinogari Historical Park offers a variety of educational programs, helping families and school groups gain a deeper understanding of Yayoi history, making it a key destination for exploring and experiencing ancient Japanese culture.