

Dazaifu



Dazaifu City Guide Book





大伴旅人家持親子像

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Spring

Dazaifu in Spring — Where Reiwa's Plum Blossoms Bloom Beneath the Auspicious Skies of "Manyōshū"

Welcome to Dazaifu, the historic city where Japan's Reiwa era was born.

In spring, the city bursts into color with cherry blossoms and plum trees—the official flower of Dazaifu—blanketing the landscape in breathtaking beauty.

Close your eyes for a moment, and you may find yourself transported to the days when Dazaifu was the capital of western Japan.

Savor gourmet dishes and delightful sweets made with plums, just as the noble Otomo no Tabito might have enjoyed during the legendary Plum Blossom Banquet. Let the flavors and scenery stir your imagination, and experience the timeless charm of ancient Dazaifu.



▲A Human Formation of the Era Name "Reiwa" at the Historic Dazaifu Government Ruins



▲Products from the "Reiwa Capital Dazaifu Ume Project"



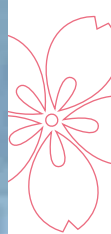
▲Kamado Shrine cherry blossoms



◀Nanohana flowers at Mizuki Fortress Ruins



▲Otomo no Tabito Hakata Doll
— A Tribute to the Plum Blossom Banquet

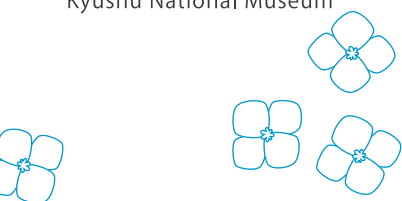




▲Kanzeonji Treasure Hall



▲The summer landscape reflected in the glass wall of Kyushu National Museum



▲The camphor trees and the tower gate of Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine



▲Zazen gathering at Kaidan-in

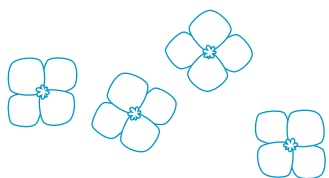


▲Enjoying Sightseeing in Japan's Hottest Summer



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Summer



Summer in Dazaifu — Embraced by Gentle Breezes and the Fragrance of Fresh Green Leaves

How old must this camphor tree be?
How many lives has it quietly watched over, standing here through the
ages?

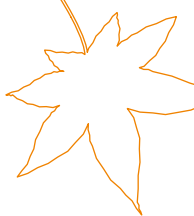
Its leaves bud in spring, blaze red in autumn, fall gently, and then breathe
anew.

In the rhythm of daily life, there are moments when life feels heavy.
But when we sense the grandeur of time flowing through this place —
its quiet strength and deep embrace —
we find ourselves standing tall, ready to face tomorrow with renewed
resolve.



秋

Autumn



Autumn in Dazaifu — Lustrous Colors Stir the Soul

Living in the “Now”

To feel the beauty of this moment —
in the rich nature that has been protected,
in the enduring culture that surrounds us.
To share that joy with someone dear,
to recognize its value together, here and now.
To think about what lies ahead,
for ourselves and for the children who follow.
In a place where tradition and innovation har-
monize,
the “now” blossoms with profound meaning.



▲Lucky charm (amulet) stall at Kamado Shrine



▲Autumn foliage at Komyozen-ji Temple

◀Jinkōshiki Grand Festival at Dazaifu Tenmangu



◀Cosmos blossoms at
Kanzeon-ji Temple



冬

Winter



▲A Snowy Scene at the Temporary Hall of Dazaifu Tenmangū
— A Winter Moment in Reiwa



▲Kyokusui no En festival
at Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine

Winter in Dazaifu — Wishing for the Future, Each with a Heart Full of Hope

The Bell of Kanzeonji Rings — Marking the Beginning of Another Year in Dazaifu

As its timeless sound echoes through the air, one wonders what thoughts crossed the minds of Sugawara no Michizane and the many ancestors who once lived in Dazaifu. This sacred bell, resonating through generations, invites us to glimpse their hopes and reflections. By touching the traditions that have endured for centuries, we connect with the spirit of those who came before. And as the years pass — five, ten, twenty — our own stories will layer like the forest's growth, carving new history alongside Dazaifu's ever-unfolding legacy.



Onisube ritual at Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine
Courtesy of the Dazaifu Tourism Association



The top ten sightseeing spots in Dazaifu



① Dazaifu Government Office Ruins

Dazaifu, the birthplace of the Reiwa era, flourished as a gateway to Asia and a center of politics, culture, and diplomacy. Visit the historic site of the plum blossom banquet by Otomo no Tabito.

② Mizuki Fortress Ruins

Built in 664 to guard against invasion, Mizuki (“Water Fort”) is a 1.2 km-long earthen fortress with a wide water-filled moat facing Hakata — a remarkable feat of ancient engineering.

③ Onojo Fortress Ruins (Mt. Shioji)

Ōno Castle, Japan’s oldest fortress, spans 8 km of ridgeline with grand stone walls. Built in 665, it later became a sacred Buddhist site, now home to 33 serene stone Buddhas amid forested slopes.

④ Homangu Kamado Shrine

Kamado Shrine honors Tamayori-hime atop sacred Mount Hōman. Guarding Dazaifu’s northeast “demon gate,” it’s a beloved site for spiritual connection and seasonal beauty—especially the brilliant autumn leaves at the Lower Shrine.

⑤ Mt. Homan

Mount Hōman, Fukuoka’s most climbed peak, rises to 829.6 meters. Sacred in Shugendō tradition, its summit shrine offers stunning panoramic views, attracting both spiritual pilgrims and adventurous hikers year-round.

⑥ Kanzeon-ji Temple

Kanzeon-ji Temple, founded by Emperor Tenji, honors Empress Saimei and Japan’s early Buddhist heritage. Its treasure hall houses sacred statues, and the grounds feature Japan’s oldest temple bell—a National Treasure of timeless resonance.

⑦ Kaidan-in

Kaidan-in Temple, once part of Kanzeon-ji, is one of Japan’s Three Great Ordination Platforms. Founded in the Nara period, it now serves the Rinzai Zen sect, preserving centuries of spiritual discipline and Buddhist tradition.

⑧ Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine

Dazaifu Tenmangū honors Sugawara no Michizane, deity of learning. Rebuilt in 1591, its main hall is an Important Cultural Property. Seasonal blooms and elegant rituals make this shrine a timeless destination for worship and cultural beauty.

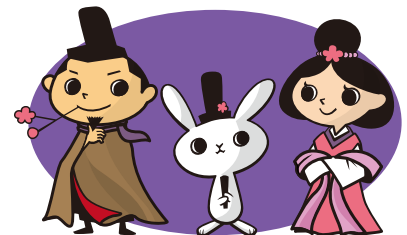
⑨ Komyozen-ji Temple

Kōmyōzen-ji, the “Moss Temple” of Dazaifu, features two symbolic Zen gardens and seasonal beauty. Founded in the Kamakura period, it reflects Michizane’s legendary journey and offers tranquil moments amid moss, stone, and autumn colors.

⑩ Kyushu National Museum

Kyushu National Museum explores Japanese culture through an Asian lens. Featuring dynamic exhibitions and hands-on experiences, it invites visitors to discover Japan’s cultural roots and its connections across Asia in a global context.

PR Character of “Dazaifu — Birthplace of the Reiwa Era”



Traveler Tabito

Reiwa City Dazaifu
Cheering Ambassador

Princess Reiwa

Travel Buddy Tabbitt

Related Websites (<https://>)



Dazaifu City

(www.city.dazaifu.lg.jp)



**Dazaifu
Tourist Association**
(dazaifu.org)



**Koto Dazaifu Heritage
Preservation Foundation**
(www.kotodazaifu.net)



**Kyushu
National Museum**
(www.kyuhaku.jp)



**Dazaifu Tenmangu
Shrine**
(www.dazaifutenmangu.or.jp)



Kamado Shrine
(kamadojinja.or.jp)

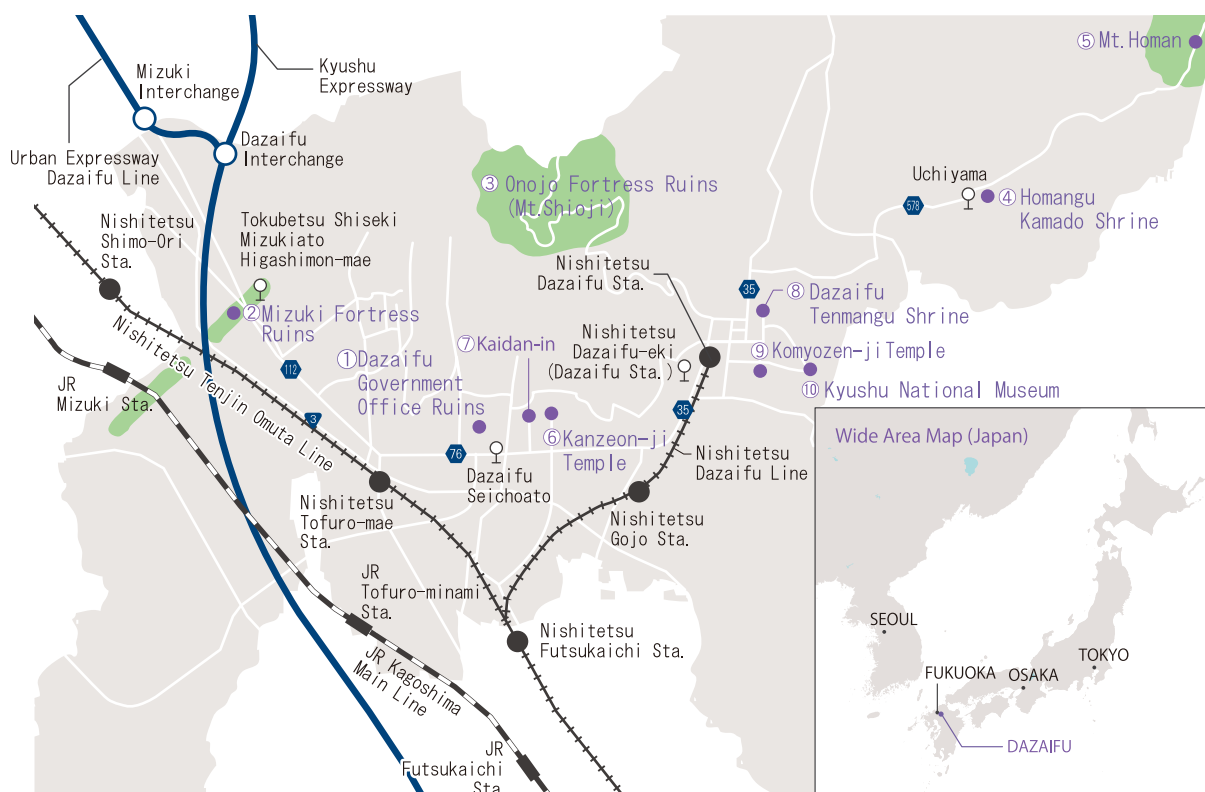


**Kanzeon-ji
Temple**
(kanzeonji.net)



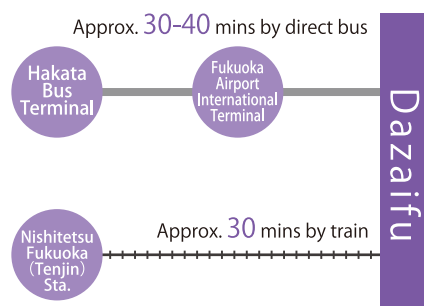
Kaidan-in
(kaidanin.or.jp)

Detailed map of Dazaifu



Access to Dazaifu

Now getting to Dazaifu is even easier and more enjoyable!



Dazaifu Liner Bus Tabito

Use the Dazaifu Liner Bus to get straight to Dazaifu from JR Hakata Station and Fukuoka Airport.



博多 太宰府間バス路線
BATTLEFIELD

[More details](#)



Dazaifu Tourism Train Tabito

Take the Dazaifu Tourism Train and enjoy the surrounding scenery while you travel to Dazaifu from Nishitetsu Fukuoka (Tenjin) Station.



[Timetables](#)



Inquiries: 0570-00-1010 (Nishitetsu Customer Center)

About the cover design



"Hakata Dazaifu Zu Byobu" by Saito Shuho; Privately owned, photograph provided by Kyushu Historical Museum

The "Hakata Dazaifu Zu Byobu" (Folding Screen Picturing Dazaifu, Hakata) is a painting of the Dazaifu town area from Sekiya to Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine that depicts the bustling crowds of people flocking to the shrine town as so often seen during the Edo period.

This painting, alongside photographs of present-day Dazaifu, show how the area has been and continues to be cherished; making it the place it is today.

The image frame and background pattern feature the city flower, the Japanese apricot, and the color red was chosen to be reminiscent of the Dazaifu Government Office Ruins.

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