

Kirishima-Kinkowan National Park: “KIRISHIMA EXPERIENCE BUS” Starts Trial Service!

In accordance with the March 2016 interministerial initiative of “Our Vision to Support the Future of Japan Through Tourism,” the Ministry of the Environment is promoting the “Project to Fully Enjoy National Parks” with the aim of branding Japan’s national parks as world class. While there are 34 national parks in Japan in total, eight of them have been selected for leading and focused implementation of the project. They are: Akan-Mashu National Park, Towada-Hachimantai National Park, Nikko National Park, Ise-Shima National Park, Daisen-Okii National Park, Aso-Kuju National Park, Kirishima-Kinkowan National Park and Keramashoto National Park.

At Kirishima-Kinkowan National Park, a trial shuttle bus service has begun in its Kirishima area running between Kagoshima Airport and Ebino. Coined the “KIRISHIMA EXPERIENCE BUS,” the passenger shuttle bus operates for 20 days from late October through early December, mostly on weekends and national holidays. The Kyushu District Transport Bureau of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism is implementing the Intermodal Transport Improvement Trial Project in the Kirishima Mountain Range Area with a view to improving the intermodal transport options in the area and offering better accessibility to, and thus attracting, more foreign tourists.

We are hoping more visitors from abroad will take this opportunity to visit the National Park.

1. Background and objectives

In the Kirishima area of Kirishima-Kinkowan National Park, the improvement of public transportation availability, especially the convenience of intermodal transport, has been a challenge. Mountain climbing and trekking in the Kirishima Mountain Range area (Mt. Karakuni, Onami-ike Crater Lake, etc.) and Ebino Highland are major visitor activities and are quite attractive to foreign tourists. However, bus services from nearby airports and stations to trailheads and between trailheads are extremely limited, not to mention there is no public transportation at all from the Ebino City side, Miyazaki Prefecture. Poor availability of intermodal transportation means has prevented people from relishing the natural beauty of the area.

In this context, the Kyushu Regional Environment Office of the Ministry of the Environment has cooperated with the Kyushu District Transport Bureau of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism in starting a trial service of the KIRISHIMA EXPERIENCE BUS with a view to studying the viability of an improved intermodal passenger transport to various points of interest in order to offer to the increasing number of in-bound tourists easier access to the typically Japanese breathtaking landscape of the Kirishima area of Kirishima-Kinkowan National Park. Through close alliance between the public and private sectors involved, we are looking forward to welcoming more and more visitors from overseas into this area.

2. The bus service

Name: KIRISHIMA EXPERIENCE BUS

Project owner: Kyushu District Transport Bureau of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

Partner: Kyushu Regional Environment Office of the Ministry of the Environment

Dates: The following 20 days between October 27 (Sat) through December 9 (Sun), 2018:

October: 27th (Sat), 28th (Sun), 29th (Mon)

November: 3rd (Sat), 4th (Sun), 5th (Mon), 11th (Sun), 12th (Mon), 17th (Sat), 18th (Sun)
19th (Mon), 23rd (Fri), 24th (Sat), 25th (Sun), 30th (Fri)

December: 1st (Sat), 2nd (Sun), 7th (Fri), 8th (Sat), 9th (Sun)

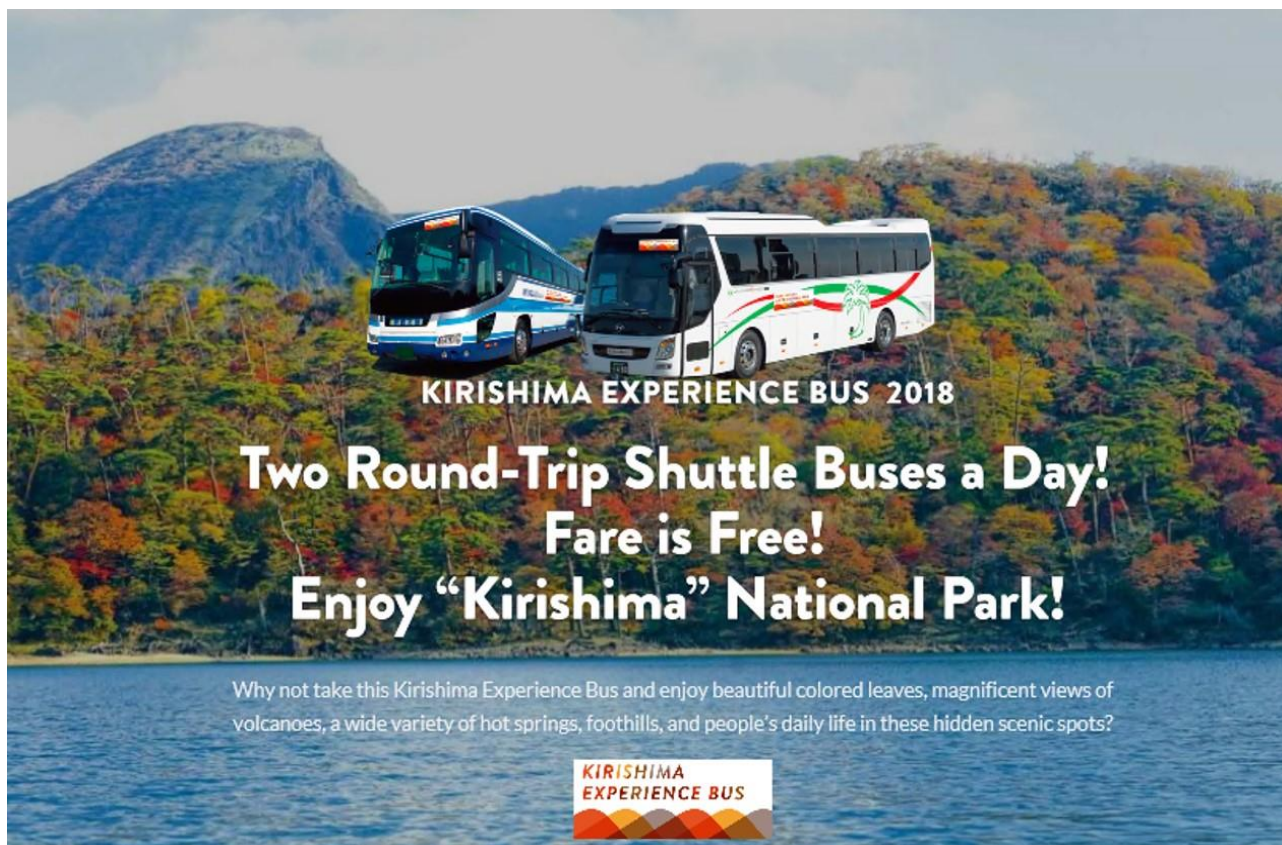
Route: Two round trips a day with the following stops:

Kagoshima Airport → JR Kareigawa Station → Maruo (Kirishima Hot Spring Resort)
→ Onami-ike Crater Lake Trailhead → Ebino Highland → Shiratori Hot Spring Ueyu →
JR Ebino Station → Michi-no-Eki Ebino (Roadside Rest Area, near Ebino IC)

How to use: No bookings are required (First-come, first-served), Fare: Gratis

Additional information:

- A bilingual guide will be on board to explain the scenic views and charms of the area.
- Businesses in the area offer attractive experience programs during the trial service period.
- Bus passengers will receive coupons for free or price discount services in the area.



KIRISHIMA EXPERIENCE BUS 2018

Two Round-Trip Shuttle Buses a Day!
Fare is Free!
Enjoy “Kirishima” National Park!

Why not take this Kirishima Experience Bus and enjoy beautiful colored leaves, magnificent views of volcanoes, a wide variety of hot springs, foothills, and people's daily life in these hidden scenic spots?

KIRISHIMA EXPERIENCE BUS

KIRISHIMA EXPERIENCE BUS

KIRISHIMA EXPERIENCE BUS Official website

※ In Japanese, English, Korean and Chinese (traditional and simplified)

<https://kirishimaexperiencebus.com/>



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