
KITAKYUSHU CITY NEWS LETTER

ISSUE March 6, 2025

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Kitakyushu voted No. 1 among Japan's New Top Three Night View Cities - 3 consecutive years

Mount Sarakura

At the Night View Summit held in December 2024, Kitakyushu City had retained its 1st place ranking within the Japan New Top Three Night View Cities, as determined by a vote of approximately 6,600 night view experts from across the country. This is the third time the city has been recognized, following 2018 (3rd place) and 2022 (1st place).



New sites in Kitakyushu City certified as Japan Night View Heritage Sites !



Kokura Takeakari Festival

Bamboo cut from the local forests of Kitakyushu are crafted into elaborate lanterns, creating a fantastical landscape around Kokura Castle, during the Kokura Takeakari Festival. Held every year, around October and November, the spectacular view of 30,000 bamboo lanterns glowing in the night, enveloping Kokura Castle, attracts thousands of visitors from all over. Civilian volunteers play a key role in the festival, from cutting down the bamboo, to crafting and setting up the lanterns, and even lighting every individual lantern each night of the festival. The success of the event is made possible thanks to the power and support by the civilians of Kitakyushu, making their involvement crucial to the operation.



Kitakyushu Factory Night View Cruise

Kanmon Kisen Co., Ltd. operates the Factory Night View Cruise, which allows visitors to enjoy the night view of steelworks, chemical plants, and other factories, as well as the city lights of Kitakyushu, glowing in the night from a boat. This cruise is extremely popular with local residents and tourists alike. The view from directly below, of the illuminated crimson Wakato Bridge is particularly impressive, making it a popular photo spot.



Semiconductor manufacturing equipment company Taiyo Nippon Sanso Corporation opens research center in Kitakyushu Academic Research Park!

Taiyo Nippon Sanso Corporation, together with its group company Taiyo Nippon Sanso ATI Co., Ltd., has opened the TNSC Innovation Center Hibikino in the Kitakyushu Science and Research Park as a way to promote research and development of semiconductor-related equipment. The stable performance of the MOCVD equipment required for the manufacture of compound semiconductors by both companies is recognized as being at the world's top level. The center will work on optimizing the use of semiconductor-related equipment, as well as on research and development of equipment through joint development with the Nishinippon Institute of Technology, Kyushu Institute of Technology, and others.

Mitsubishi Chemical Group, Japan's largest comprehensive chemical manufacturer, decides to increase production capacity of semiconductor-related Mitsubishi Synthetic Silica!

At the Mitsubishi Chemical Kyushu-Fukuoka Plant, Yahatanishi-ku, Kitakyushu City, the Mitsubishi Chemical Group has decided to increase the production capacity of *Mitsubishi Synthetic Silica**, which is used in the semiconductor manufacturing process, in order to meet the demand associated with the continued growth of the semiconductor market. In recent years, the plant has been continuously building and expanding production facilities for semiconductor-related materials.

*Mitsubishi Synthetic Silica**

Used as a raw material for quartz crucibles in the manufacture of silicon for semiconductors as well as high-purity quartz parts in the semiconductor manufacturing equipment.

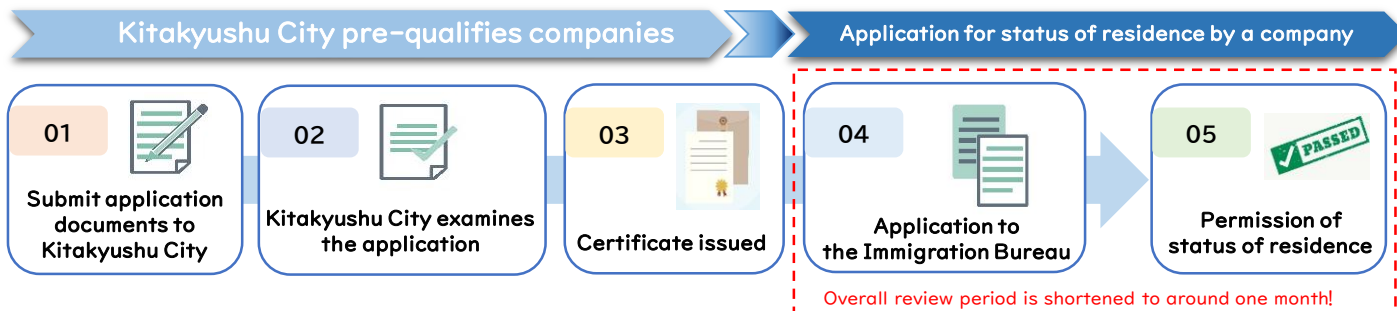


Shortened review period for residence qualification certification for foreign engineers goes into effect!

1 System overview

When a company in the Kitakyushu hires a foreign engineer (from the IT or semiconductor field), Kitakyushu City will screen the host company in advance, shortening the time it takes for the Immigration Bureau to review the engineer's residence status to about one month.

2 Usage flow



〈Previous issues〉

In order to obtain residence status as a highly skilled foreign engineer, screening is required for both the employing company and the foreign engineer. In particular, there are many cases where the screening period is long for small to medium-sized enterprises and start-up companies, which can cause problems with planned recruitments. Therefore, Kitakyushu City has begun accepting applications for certification of companies under this initiative, from January 15, 2025, in order to support the rapid recruitment of engineers by companies in the city by utilizing the National Strategic Special Zone.

Nissan Motors to build automobile battery factory in Kitakyushu!

Nissan Motor's first automobile battery factory to be built in Kitakyushu City; largest investment in Kitakyushu City's history

Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. has decided to build an automotive battery production plant in Kitakyushu City. This is the largest investment to date for Kitakyushu City (153.3 billion yen), which will also create the largest mass hiring of employees (approximately 500 people) in the past 10 years.

A big step forward toward begin a sustainable city

Kitakyushu City has a long history of being a city of manufacturing, as the birthplace of Tobata Casting, the origin of Nissan Motors. In addition to being a city that is home to over 100 automobile-related companies, the largest number in Fukuoka Prefecture, Kitakyushu also has a concentration of cutting-edge environmental industries. With the construction of this factory as a catalyst, the city will further promote the development of a production base for the growth of industries such as electric vehicles and storage batteries. The production base will then help the city to continue the revitalization of the local economy and create a sustainable city that aims to create a sustainable society.

Collaborations with Toyota on automotive battery recycling studies begins in the Kitakyushu area! ****Kitakyushu's circular economy model for automotive batteries****

In April 2022, Kitakyushu City signed a collaboration agreement with Toyota Motor Kyushu Co., Ltd. on carbon neutrality, and has been holding study sessions, including personnel exchanges, and working in collaboration with local companies, such as those associated with Eco-Town, to achieve the 3Rs (rebuild, reuse, recycle) for automotive batteries.

As of February 2024, Toyota Motor Kyushu, Inc. and companies in Kitakyushu Eco-Town have collaborated to start a feasibility study to recycle automotive storage batteries. This has provided basic data needed to continue advancing the recycling business, such as the labor costs of disassembling, detoxifying batteries, and the recovery efficiency of rare and valuable metals. Going forward, they will continue to support these efforts and work toward establishing safer recycling methods, with the aim of establishing a recycling hub for automotive storage batteries in the northern Kyushu area, centered on Kitakyushu Eco-Town.

Recycling of lithium-ion batteries: Local feasibility study

Kitakyushu Eco-Town

Toyota Motor Kyushu, Inc.



(Providing batteries for demonstration purposes)

West Japan Auto Recycling Co.



(Disassembly of batteries, safety verification)

Nippon Magnetic Dressing Co., Ltd.



(Detoxification, cineration, BM production)

Joint verification test of cargo transport using electric aircraft based at Kitakyushu Airport

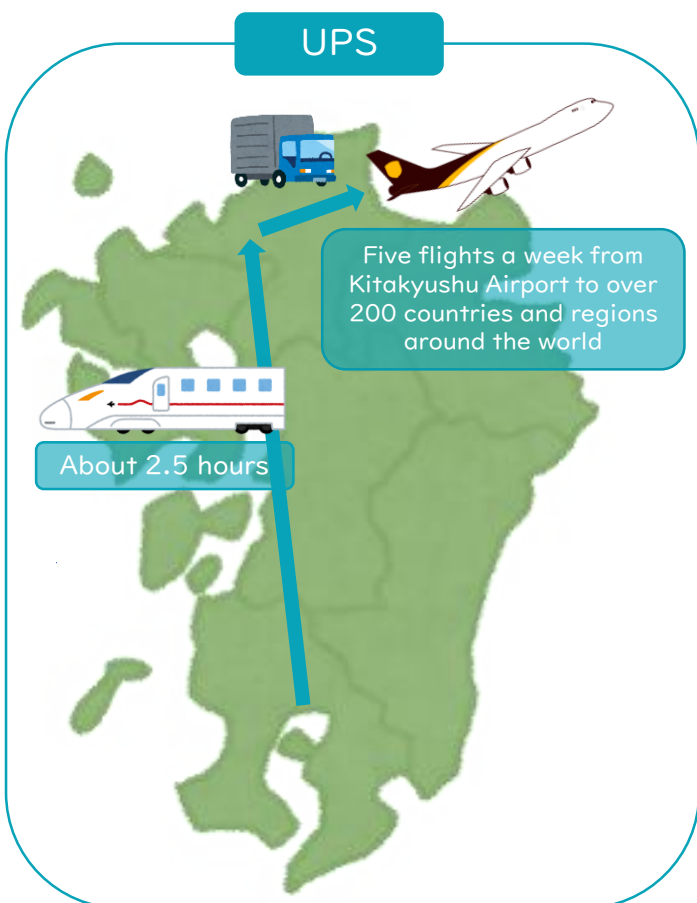
Sojitz Corporation, BETA Technologies Inc, Yamato Holdings Co., Ltd., and Kitakyushu City will conduct joint trials based at Kitakyushu Airport with the aim of implementing a cargo transport service using electric aircraft.

Test flights are scheduled to take place in the summer of 2025 on a route of approximately 280 km between Kitakyushu Airport and Miyazaki Airport. This will be the first point-to-point flight in Japan using an electric aircraft intended for cargo transport. Through this trial, the aim is to build a sustainable logistics network, including revitalizing regional areas through high-speed transport, achieving decarbonization in logistics, and strengthening logistics networks for regional and remote islands.



UPS Japan and JR Kyushu utilize the Shinkansen and international air networks to provide a more convenient and speedy international parcel delivery service.

Kitakyushu Airport connects Kyushu to the world, with next-day delivery to over 200 countries and regions around the world.



By utilizing the JR Kyushu Shinkansen, packages from Kyushu bound for overseas can be loaded onto UPS international cargo scheduled flights at Kitakyushu Airport on the same day they are collected, and delivered to all parts of the world. By connecting JR Kyushu's Shinkansen, known for its speed and reliability, with UPS's global air network, delivery is possible as early as the next business day to major cities in the United States and Asia, and as quickly as two business days to Canada, Central and South America, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

UPS Japan Co., Ltd. launched an international cargo scheduled flight at Kitakyushu Airport and opened a new gateway facility on February 20, 2023. The scheduled flight operates five times a week from Monday to Friday between Kitakyushu Airport, Kansai International Airport, and Shenzhen Baoan International Airport, strengthening UPS' expanding intra-Asia network and connecting businesses in the Kyushu region to more than 200 countries and regions around the world.

New access to Kitakyushu Airport: Kusami Station Express Route is born

(closest station to the airport)

Kitakyushu City and Kyushu Railway Company will begin making express trains stop at Kusami Station, the station closest to Kitakyushu Airport, from April 1, 2025. (There will be a total of 10 express trains stopping at Kusami Station in both directions.)

Effects of express trains stopping at Kusami Station

Improved convenience and speed for travel to **Orio and Kurosaki**



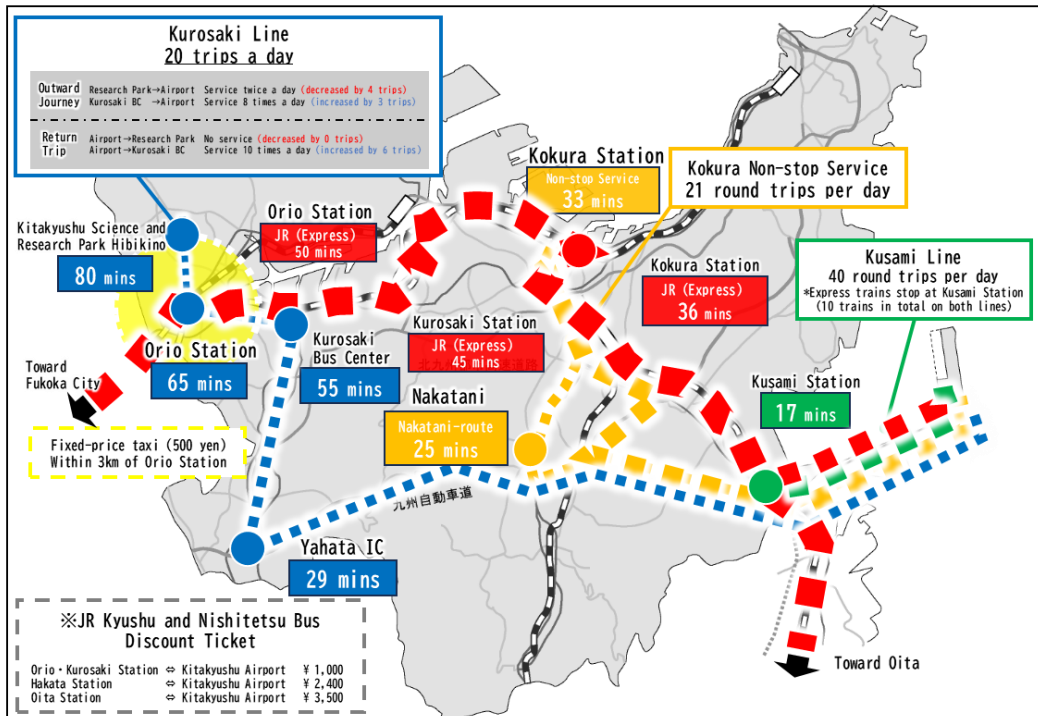
Faster than going to Fukuoka Airport!



Same amount of time to get to Fukuoka Airport!

※Time displayed is the travel time between the station and the airport (including the necessary transfer to the airport bus at Kusami Station)

【Airport Access Route Map (updated)】※ Time is the travel time between each point and the airport



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Kitakyushu City
Promotion Movie