The Himuka Myth
From Japan’s Creation to the First Emperor

Izanami and Izanagi
Long ago, there was no land in this world. One day, the two Gods Izanagi and Izanami were told by the other Gods: “create land.” They stuck a spear into the sea and stirred. This created the first piece of land and Japan was born.

Ninigi and Princess Konohanasakuya
Thereafter, many Gods were born, one of them being Amaterasu, the Sun Goddess. Amaterasu’s grandson, Ninigi, descended from the Gods’ world to Mt. Takachiho in Miyazaki Prefecture, to bring peace to Japan. He taught people how to grow rice before going to a nearby village. He took to the beautiful surroundings of the village and decided to live there. One day, he met Princess Konohanasakuya whom he instantly fell in love with. They later got married and had three children.

Yamasachihiko and the Fishing Hook
Their youngest child, Yamasachihiko, went south when he grew up. One day, he lost the fishing hook belonging to his older brother, Umisachihiko, and had to go into the sea to retrieve it. There, he met Princess Toyotama and married her. He found the hook in a fish’s mouth 3 years later and came back onto land at Aoshima to return it.

Emperor Jimmu
After Ugayafukiaezu got married, he had a son called Sano. Sano grew into a fine adult who wished to bring peace to Japan. So, he got on a ship at Mimitsu and left for the east (towards the Kansai region). He eventually became the first emperor of Japan, Emperor Jimmu.

The Cave Child
Yamasachihiko and Princess Toyotama rode on a turtle to Nichinan. The turtle turned into stone when they arrived. Princess Toyotama gave birth to Uegafukiaezu at Udo Shrine. She created a room in the cave using bird feathers to protect her son. However, she left her son behind when she had to run away. A rock that drips milk-like water can be found in the cave. Uegafukiaezu grew up healthily by drinking that water.

Emperor Jimmu
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Other Myths
Saitobaru Burial Mounds
Before Princess Konohanasakuya got married, there was an ogre who wished to marry her. The princess’s father told the ogre, “If you want to marry my daughter, build me a house made of stones in one night.” The ogre built the house and went to sleep. The princess’s father was shocked when he saw the house. In order to prevent his daughter from having to marry the ogre, he took one of the stones from the house and threw it away. When the ogre woke up, the princess’s father told the ogre, “Since the house isn’t completed, you can’t marry my daughter.” This house is the one unfinished burial mound in Saito.

Misato
1,300 years ago, King Teika, the ruler of Baekje (an ancient Korean kingdom), lost a war and fled to Japan with his people. However, on the way, he was separated from his son. King Teika settled down in what is now modern Misato. One day, he was found by his enemies and was killed. The villagers later began to worship him as a god. Every year in January, the Shiwasu Festival is held to reunite the King and his son.
The Mythology of Miyazaki Prefecture

Access

The bus and train services in Miyazaki Prefecture run infrequently. We recommend taking a train to the station nearest to your intended destination, then travelling the rest of the way by bus, taxi or car.

One Day Bus Pass

You can buy a one day bus pass at Miyazaki Airport, Miyazaki Station, or Miyazaki Bus Centre. There are some routes on which the one day bus pass cannot be used, so please make sure to confirm your route before buying it.

Important Locations

The gods of Japanese mythology are said to have descended upon Japan in “Takachiho”, but there are actually two different places with that name.

Takachiho

Takachiho Town

Mt. Takachiho

In the Kirishima Mountain Range
near Kobayashi City

Opinion is divided as to whether Ninigi and Princess Konohanasakuya met in Nobeoka or Saito.

Mt. Atago

Nobeoka City

We recommend visiting Takachiho Gorge, Amano-Iwato Shrine and Kunimigaoka Hill, and watching the Takachiho Kagura dance.

It takes 65 to 90 minutes to travel by bus from Nobeoka Station to Takachiho, or 50 minutes by car.

This is a great hiking spot and October to November is the best time to hike. There are plenty of hot springs nearby – do try taking a dip in them! Check the route and the weather conditions before you go.

Saitobaru

Saito City

Aoshima

Miyazaki City

Udo Jingu Shrine

Nichinan City

Mimitsu

Hyuga City

Nango

Misato Town

Aoshima is famous for the Devil’s Washboard, Aoshima Shrine and Aoshima Beach. We recommend the Naked Man Festival (held in January) and the surfing.

It is a 10 minute walk from Aoshima Station.

The nearest bus stop is Aoshima bus stop.

Udo Jingu Shrine is open from 6am to 7pm from April to September, and from 7am to 6pm from October to March.

We recommend going by car. Udo Jingu Shrine is a 10 minute walk away from Udo Jingu bus stop.

Emperor Jimmu is said to have set sail on his expedition from Mimitsu. It is a traditional town with shrines and a museum. Mimitsu can be accessed by bus or train, and is a 20 minute walk from Mimitsu Station. We recommend taking a taxi.

Accommodation in the town can get booked up quickly at the end of January due to the Shiawasu Festival. Make sure to book your accommodation well in advance if you plan to visit during this period. We recommend going by car. (There are only 4 buses a day that go to Nango.)

We recommend visiting Takachiho Gorge, Amano-Iwato Shrine and Kunimigaoka Hill, and watching the Takachiho Kagura dance.

It takes 65 to 90 minutes to travel by bus from Nobeoka Station to Takachiho, or 50 minutes by car.

This is a great hiking spot and October to November is the best time to hike. There are plenty of hot springs nearby – do try taking a dip in them! Check the route and the weather conditions before you go.

Saitobaru is famous for its cherry blossoms and rapeseed flowers in spring, and its cosmos flowers and the Tomb Festival in autumn. Saito is also known for its delicious eels. Admission to the Saitobaru Archaeological Museum is free.

Saitobaru is a 15 minute bus ride from Saito Bus Centre.

Aoshima is famous for the Devil’s Washboard, Aoshima Shrine and Aoshima Beach. We recommend the Naked Man Festival (held in January) and the surfing.

It is a 10 minute walk from Aoshima Station.

The nearest bus stop is Aoshima bus stop.

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A Word from Miyazaki Prefecture’s Coordinators for International Relations

Thank you for reading this pamphlet. Miyazaki Prefecture is known for its many myths, so we made this pamphlet to let more people know about them. There are many other myths that we did not include in this pamphlet, so do look them up yourself if you are interested. We hope you enjoy your time in Miyazaki!