

Breathtaking 360 Degree Panoramic Tour of the Kanmon Straits



The Kanmon Straits have periodically stood in the historical spotlight, witnessing such events as the Battle of Dan-no-ura in the Genpei War, the duel between Miyamoto Musashi and Sasaki Kojiro on Ganryu Island, and the 19th century Battles for Shimonoseki between the feudal Choshu Domain and four Western powers.

Due to the extremely narrow topography of the straits, a mere 650 meters wide at their narrowest point, the current is fast and changes direction several times a day. Consequently, since ancient times the straits have been considered treacherous to navigate; nevertheless, they form a strategic choke point for marine traffic, with over 600 vessels plying the straits every day.

Since ancient times, “Kanmon” has enjoyed prominence as a port town. Today, Mojiko and Shimonoseki—on either side of the straits—as districts retaining Kanmon’s rich heritage and flavor, are each embracing measures to revive their historical buildings and features.

In 2001, in order to preserve the breathtaking seascape of the Kanmon Straits for future generations, Kitakyushu City and Shimonoseki City jointly enacted the Kanmon Seascape Regulation, and designated Kanmon Seascape Preservation Districts based on that regulation, taking measures to preserve, nurture, build, and pass on to posterity the seascape of the Kanmon Straits.

On this tour, you can observe the revitalization of the old towns of Mojiko and Shimonoseki, as well as the efforts to preserve the Kanmon seascape, straddling two prefectures across the straits. A Kanmon Straits cruise, lasting approximately one hour, is scheduled. (The cruise courses and times may change depending on the weather and the number of participants.)

Date and time: November 12 (Fri.), 9:00-17:00

Participation Fee: 8000 yen

No. of participants: 300 (Advance reservation required, ~~by October 8.~~

→Limit of online reservation has been extend to **October 20.**

Method of payment: The payment is handled by Nishitetsu Travel Co.,Ltd., through their payment system, together with accommodation and Architectural Tour. For details, Please see the Registration and Hotel Reservation site . URL <http://www.nishitetsutrans.com/niccs/isasia2010/index.html>

Meeting place: Kitakyushu International Conference Center (exact meeting place will be announced later)

Schedule: 9:00 Depart from Kitakyushu International Conference Center; travel by bus to Mojiko Retro District.
9:30~16:00 Tour of Mojiko Retro District and Shimonoseki’s Karato District (free sightseeing time).
➢ Optional Kanmon Straits cruise.
(Cruise lasts approx. 30 mins.; three sailings scheduled)
• Mojiko to Shimonoseki route (will circumnavigate Ganryu Island)
• Shimonoseki to Mojiko route (will pass under Kanmon Bridge and head for Suo-Nada)
➢ Ferries linking Mojiko and Shimonoseki run every 20 minutes, taking five minutes, enabling easy movement between the two cities.
➢ Guided tour of early-modern buildings in the Mojiko Retro District, conducted by ISAIA staff.
➢ Optional presentation on Mojiko town revitalization.
➢ A passport system is planned to be used for entrance to buildings in the Mojiko Retro District, enabling visitors to enter without paying admission fees.
16:30 Depart Mojiko Retro District by bus.
➢ If you wish to return before the end of the tour, please take the train from JR Mojiko Station to Kokura Station. (The train fare is not included in the tour.)
17:00 End of tour at Kitakyushu International Conference Center.

Tour locations: (1) Mojiko Retro District (Free sightseeing)

- Early-modern buildings:
the Old Mitsui O.S.K. Line Building, the Old Moji Customs Building, the Old Moji Mitsui Club, the Kyushu Railway History Museum, etc.
- Modern buildings:
Mojiko Hotel, Kaikyo Dramaship, Retro High Mart, etc.

External links:
<http://www.en.mojiko.info/index.html>
<http://www.kcta.or.jp/>

(2) Shimonoseki District (Free sightseeing)

- Buildings in Shimonoseki’s Karato District:
Karato Market, the Kaikyokan (Aquarium), the Former British Consulate, the Former Akita Co., Ltd. Building, the Kindai-Sennin Kenshokan (Shimonoseki Memorial Museum of Modern Forerunners), etc.

External links:
http://www.city.shimonoseki.yamaguchi.jp/seisaku/kokusai/gaikoku/top_e.html

(3) Kanmon Straits seen from ship (during cruise)

