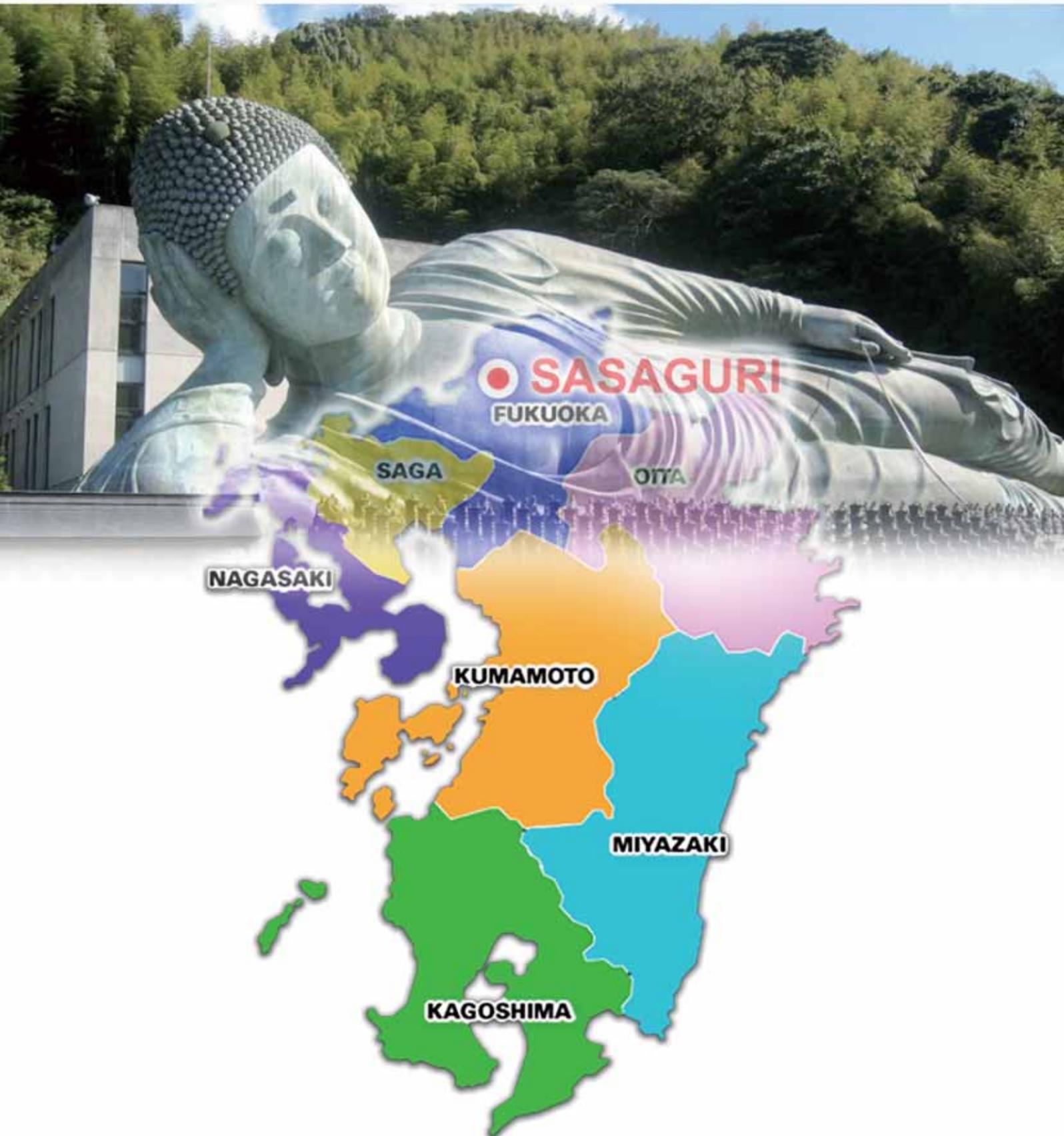


Sasaguri Sightseeing Spots



March 18th, 2010

Introduction

Sasaguri English Booklet

Compositions about Sasaguri sightseeing spots

This simple English booklet contains short compositions of 24 sightseeing spots in Sasaguri town written by nine Japanese students who are also residents of Sasaguri. The students hope to give the readers a glimpse of Sasaguri town's renowned places such as Nanzoin's Sleeping Buddha (featured on the cover) through their compositions and photographs. Below are specific definitions of each term used in the title.

1. Sasaguri: *a town located in Kasuya district, Fukuoka City, Kyushu Island, Japan.*
2. Sightseeing^a: *the activity of visiting places of interest in a particular location.*
3. Spot^a: *a particular place or point.*

^a = *Defined by Apple's Dictionary version 2.0.3*

Sasaguri English Class

Sasaguri English Class aims to:

1. Create a simple English booklet that briefly introduces renowned places in Sasaguri such as shrines, temples, recreational areas and natural sceneries.
2. Provide guidance and advice to students to writing English compositions about 2 or more topics based on their chosen themes.
3. Provide guidance and advice to students to verbally presenting their written compositions to the class.
4. Visit some of Sasaguri sightseeing spots.

Sasaguri English Class's main objectives are as follows:

1. Divide students into groups.
2. Each group decides on their theme of their composition.
3. Students decide on the topics and content based on their themes.
4. Students write short compositions about their chosen topics.
5. Students refine their compositions based on their teacher's corrections and advice.
6. Students verbally present their final composition using audio-visual aids.

Location

Map of Sasaguri Town

The locations of 24-sightseeing spots

On the map there are names of 24-sightseeing spots that the students had written about in their compositions. JR train stations are labeled as A, B, and C, which were the three themes where students had grouped into respectively. Within the vicinity of these train stations, students had chosen the sightseeing spots (1 to 24) as their topics for their compositions but were not limited to these 24 spots.



Compositions

Group A: Sasaguri station

CREATE SASAGURI [1]

(KURIEITO SASAGURI)

Create Sasaguri is north of Sasaguri station. It is a Cultural Facility. There are multipurpose rooms, which have a total seating capacity of over 600, a library and other rooms for group activities.



OASIS SASAGURI [2]

Oasis Sasaguri is north of Sasaguri station and next to Create Sasaguri. It has a hall, a lobby, a karaoke room, an athletic gym and a big public bath. Everyone is welcome to use the facility.



HONMYOUIN TEMPLE [3]

Honmyouin temple is located north of Sasaguri station. It takes 10 minutes on foot. This temple is the 33rd temple out of a total of 88 temples however, it is referred to as “Uchihajime”. Uchihajime means starting point of pilgrimage. If you intend to visit all the 88 temples, you are highly recommended to start from Honmyouin temple. The total distance traveled from temple number 1 to number 88 is about 44 km.



FUDARAKUJI TEMPLE [4]

Fudarakuji temple is located three blocks from Sasaguri station. It is the 79th of the 88 temples, however, it is the last temple that pilgrims visit.



MT. WAKASUGI [5]

Mt. Wakasugi, a symbol of Sasaguri town is known as a sacred place. It is 681 meters in height and has more than half of Sasaguri 88 pilgrimage temples all over the mountain. There are many routes taken to visit those temples on the way to the summit.



OKUNOIN [6]

On the top of Mt. Wakasugi, there is a temple named Okunoin. It is the place where Kukai made his spiritual training. On the way to the temple, we can see the Twin Stones called “Hasami-Iwa”. The fascinating thing about the twin stones is that the space between these stones is about 30 cm, but no matter if you are heavy, you will pass it if your heart is honest.



RECREATION AREA [7]
(KABUTO NO MORI)

The sports park has a soccer ground, baseball ground, tennis court, jogging road and playground for the children.



WAKASUGI RAKUEN [8]

Wakasugi Rakuen is a campsite. Visitors are free to choose the camping spots within the campsite. Near the campsite, there are sightseeing spots such as Okunoin, Komenoyama and the Ruins of Takatori Castle.



FOREST OF YAMATO [9]
(YAMATO NO MORI)

These are the biggest Japanese cedars in Fukuoka Prefecture. They were discovered in April 2000.



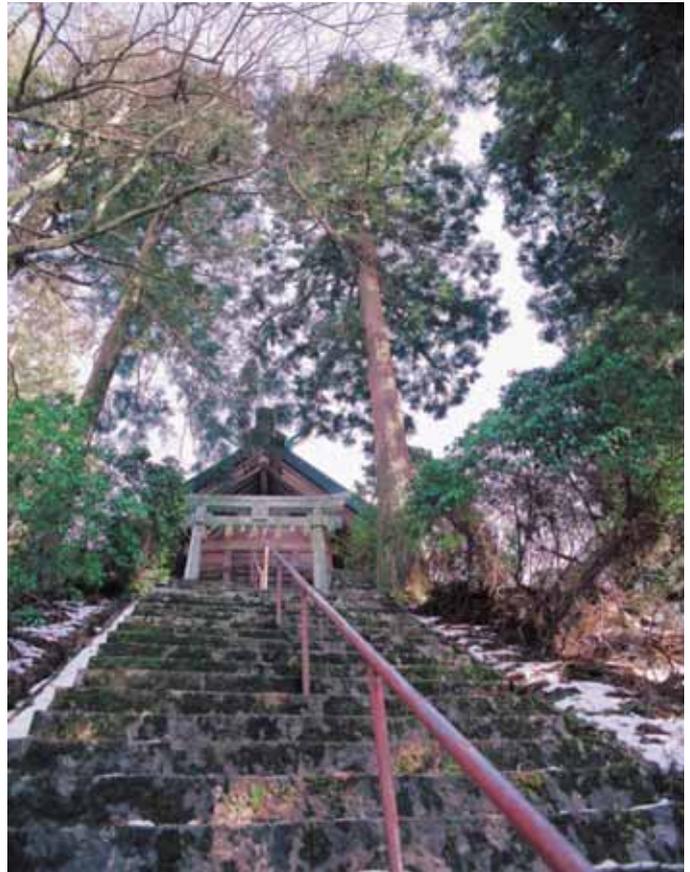
SUGA SHRINE [10]

Suga Shrine was built in 1775. Sasaguri Gion annual festival takes place in July. The float is carried through the town. At night you can see the fireworks. Many street vendors set up stalls to sell their goods.



TAISO GU SHRINE [11]

Taiso Gongen came from China in 724. He is a god who brings forth rain. Taiso Kagura is dedicated to the rain god in April and October.



Group B: Chikuzen Yamate Station

JR CHIKUZEN YAMATE STATION [12]

This station has 100 stairs and is an unattended station, however, you can see attractive wall paintings.



NARUFUCHI DAM KARYU PARK [13]

The park has beautiful green lawn and amazing scenery of water flowing from the dam. It is a very relaxing sight.



MINEO TENBOUDAI [14]

You can see Route 201 through the trees from Mineo. Car lights at night provide colorful and luminous scenery.



**FOREST THERAPY BASE [15]
(ARATAKOUGEN)**

Sasaguri town is rich in nature. About 70% of Sasaguri is covered with forest. Aratakougen is one of Sasaguri's forests, which is recognised as a "forest therapy base". People who visit the Aratakougen can enjoy the programs for health and relaxation.



NINOTAKI TEMPLE [16]

Ninotaki temple has a beautiful waterfall next to it. A lot of people visit this temple for the purpose of "takigyou" (spiritual training) and refreshment in fresh air in the waterfall vicinity. There is an inn where visitors can use for lodging.



**FOREST OF JYUGEI [17]
(JYUGEI NO MORI)**

We are able to bathe in fresh air and sunshine in this area. Also, it is possible to have barbeque parties. It is a great spot for relaxation with nature.



NARUFUCHI DAM [18]

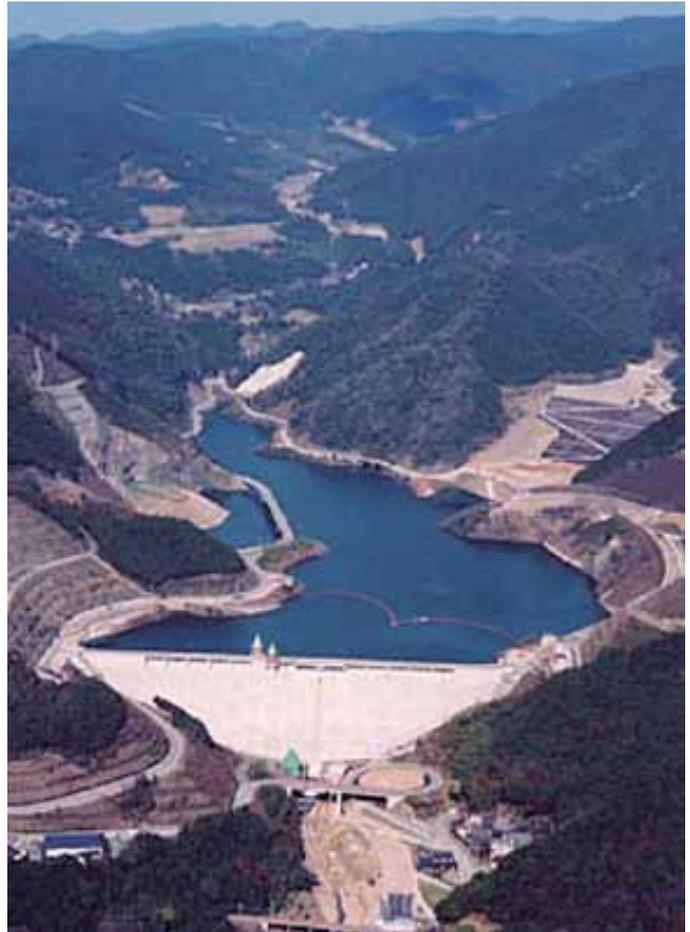
Maximum amount of water reserve:

4,400,000 m³ tons

Height: 67.4 m

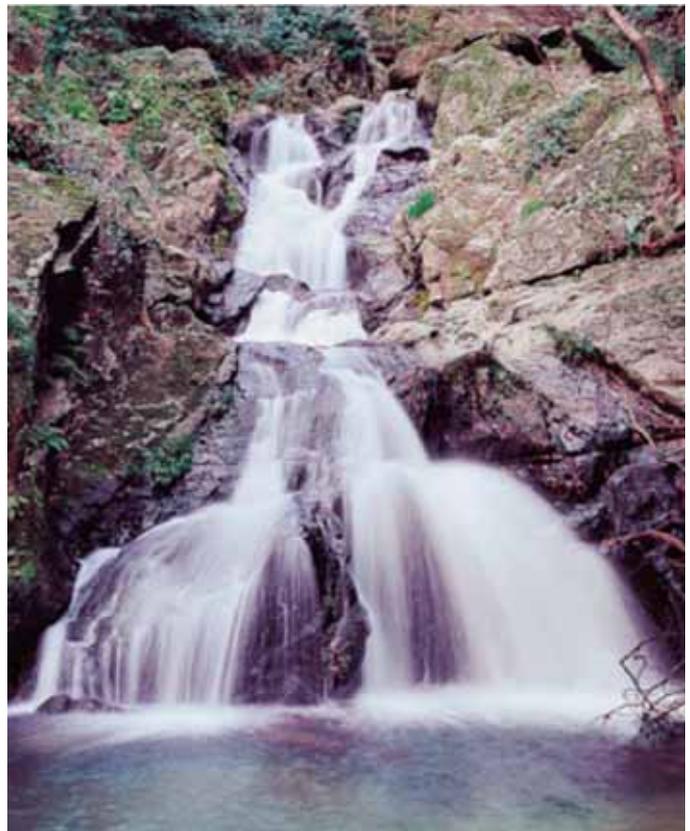
Length: 3080 m

This is a water tank for Sasaguri town's people.



**WATERFALL OF GOTOH [19]
(GOTOH NO TAKI)**

Gotoh means five-story pagoda (a Hindu/Buddist temple or sacred building). It resembles water flowing from five-story pagoda. We are able to enjoy the view of seasonal change camellia, cherry blossom in spring, and bursts change of brilliant colors of leaves in fall.



Group C: Kidonanzoin Mae Station

NANZOIN TEMPLE [20]

Nanzoin is the most famous temple in Sasaguri and has the biggest bronze “Sleeping Buddha” in the world. Many years ago, a Nanzoin Chief Priest was known to have won lotteries many times.

Nanzoin have sent medical supplies to the children of Myanmar and Nepal for many years.



SLEEPING BUDDHA [24]

The lying figure makes itself at home very much. It is the biggest bronze statue in the world. The statue is 41 meters long, 11 meters high and weighs about 300 tons, roughly the size of a jumbo jet.



Acknowledgement

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