

『Momijigari: Viewing the Autumn Leaves』
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When summer ends, and mountains and roadside trees begin to change their colours in red and yellow, you know that autumn is around the corner for momijigari. Momijigari refers to going out in the mountains for autumn leaves viewing. Japanese culture treasures nature in each of the four seasons and has a rich tradition of celebrating cherry blossoms in spring and coloured leaves in autumn.

The autumn leaves of Japan are said to be particularly beautiful because of the richness of their colour. Japan is home to many broadleaf trees, such as maple, ginkgo, rowan, beech and zelkova, whose leaves produce a stunning variety of red, orange and yellow colours. The distinctive Japanese backdrop of mountains, valleys, shrines and temples no doubt also contribute to the beauty of these autumn leaves. Today I'd like to let you in on the pleasures of momijigari here in Miyazaki.

You can enjoy autumn leaves:



1. Radiant in the Ravines

Several of the top 100 waterfalls in Japan are in Miyazaki. Splendid autumn leaves can be seen in sunlit spots all along the ravines.

Top Koyo spots: Takachiho Gorge, Gokase Valley, Kaeda Valley, Sekino-o Waterfall

2. Along Mountain Walks

Surrounded on all sides by the Kirishima mountain range is the Ebino Plateau, which is completely grown over with pampas grass in autumn, while the mountains are coloured red and yellow. Go out for a hike to enjoy the beautiful sight of autumn leaves alongside cobalt-blue crater lakes.

Top Koyo spots: Ebino Plateau, Takachiho Peak, Kaeda Valley



3. Soaking in an Open-air bath

As the air gets chillier, why not spend a luxurious moment admiring the autumn leaves from inside a toasty open-air bath?

Top Koyo spots: Ebino Plateau, Nishimera Onsen, Hōrigawa Onsen, Aoidake Onsen

※The peak for autumn leaves is short, so if you are planning to go, make sure you check the information for each area's viewing period before setting off.

※The original Japanese version of this article will be uploaded onto the website of the Miyazaki International Foundation soon.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions regarding this column, please contact the Miyazaki International Foundation (MIF):

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Also, if you ever have any questions or concerns about daily life in Miyazaki, please feel free to get in touch with the Miyazaki Support Center for Foreign Residents:

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