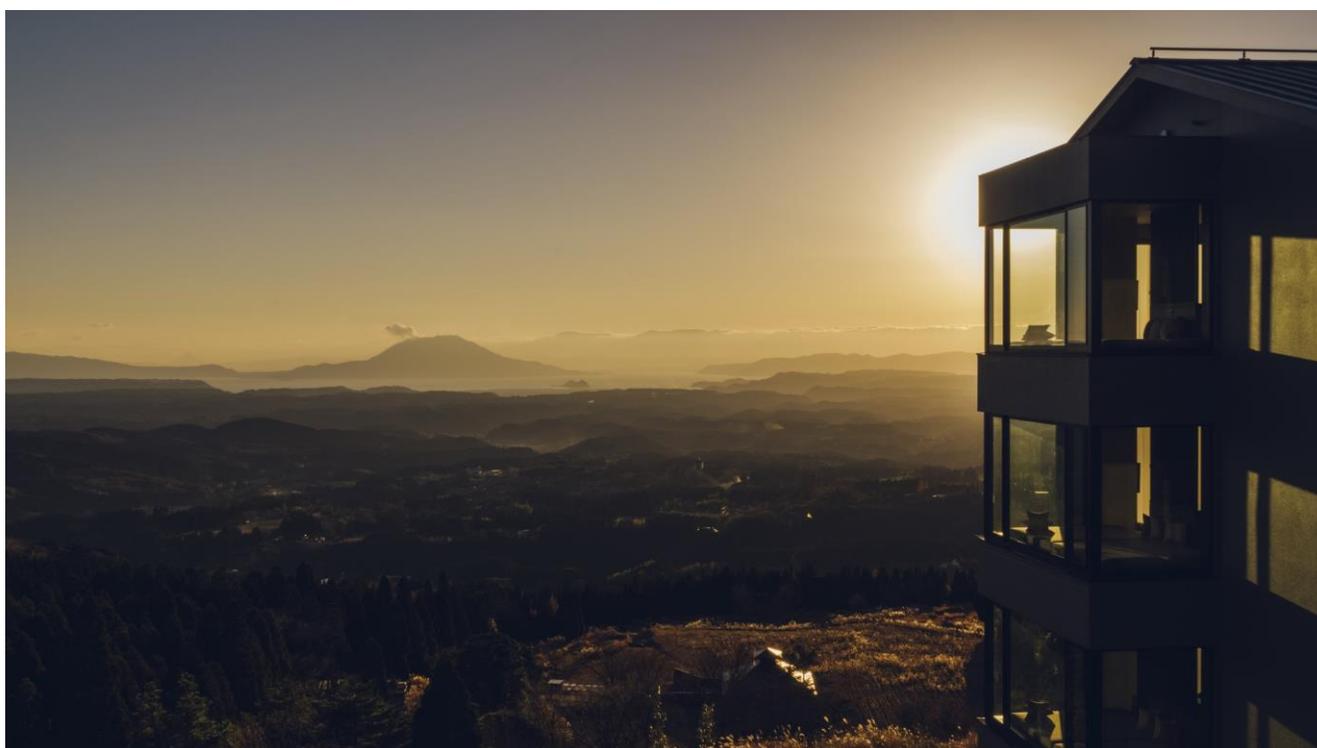


## **Opening of Hoshino Resorts KAI Kirishima on January 29, 2021**

~A hot spring ryokan that overlooks Sakurajima and the surrounding vast nature~

On January 29 2021, Hoshino Resorts KAI Kirishima will open in Kirishima Onsen, Kagoshima Prefecture as the 17<sup>th</sup> property of the KAI brand. Following Hoshino Resorts KAI Aso in Oita Prefecture, this will be the second property in Kyushu. Nestled in the middle of Mt. Takachiho, KAI Kirishima offers a clear view of Sakurajima and Kirishima Plateau from every guest room. Moreover, a bathhouse will be situated in front of a field of silver grass, where guests can enjoy nature in pure relaxation. All 49 guest rooms will be inspired by and incorporate regional, traditional handcrafts such as headboards created with clays made from Shirasu, volcanic white soil that composes much of the area's topography, and lamps made with Satsuma washi paper that illuminates light of a warm color.



### **About the KAI brand**

KAI is a leading brand of upscale boutique hot spring ryokans. Every establishment offers a contemporary take on traditional Japanese inn, ryokan, where the unique and regional culture of Japan resides. From exclusive activities to specialty signature suites, KAI is an invitation to immerse yourself in the rich diversity of Japanese culture.

## Characteristics of KAI Kirishima

### 1. Guest Rooms: KAI Signature Rooms with a clear view of Sakurajima

All 49 guest rooms at KAI Kirishima are KAI Signature Rooms, where the regional culture and traditional handcrafts are incorporated inside the rooms. The property is located on the hillside of Mt. Takachiho so a panoramic view of the Sakurajima and Kinko Bay can be enjoyed. The headboard is made from shirasu, volcanic white soil unique to Kagoshima Prefecture, and its design was inspired by the mountain range of Kirishima.

In addition, only 3 out of all guest rooms are specialty suites of about 70 square meters in size and the room has a three-sided glass space where guests can enjoy the magnificent sight of Mt. Takachiho. The open-air bath in this room type is not only spacious but has a great view to fully let loose of any tension in their body or mind.



Panoramic view from the room



Specialty Suite



Open-air bath in Specialty Suite

### “Satsuma Suzuki” – Local Tinware

“Satsuma Suzuki” began when a tin mine was discovered back in Edo period. During that time, tin was of high value alongside gold and silver, and became a major source of income for the Satsuma Clan. It was considered a luxury item and was also used to make sacred instruments and sake ware due to the fact that it did not rust nor decay, which made it a popular gift. At KAI Kirishima, vases of Satsuma Suzuki can be found in the guest rooms.



Wall decoration of  
Oshima-tsumugi fabric



Vase of Satsuma Suzuki in  
guest rooms



Vase of Satsuma Suzuki in  
the Specialty Suite

### “Satsuma Washi” paper

“Satsuma Washi” papermaking was a side business of many poor locals and samurai of the Satsuma Clan during the Edo period. Lamps made with Satsuma Washi illuminates light of a warm color. The soft light that spreads through Satsuma Washi completes the room with elegance. The design is inspired by the flowers and autumn leaves local to the Kirishima area as well as turtle shell patterns, which is an auspicious design for longevity.



Lighting using Satsuma Washi



Turtle shell patterns



Patterns of Satsuma clan family crest

### “Shirasu” wall – Wall using volcanic white soil

“Shirasu” is accumulated product of volcanic matter from an eruption of the Aira caldera in southern Kyushu from about 30,000 years ago. Shirasu has few impurities and is characterized by its white color unlike other volcanic matter. It also has properties of purifying air, for it does not contain chemicals and does not deteriorate. Moreover, it is an excellent heat insulator and environmentally friendly because of its ability to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. At KAI Kirishima, Shirasu is used in the headboards, decorating the wall around the beds.



Headboards in the guest room

## 2. KAI Cultural Discovery: Dynamic Dance expressing the myth of “Tenson Korin”

The cultural discovery program at KAI is unique to the brand and at KAI Kirishima, a dynamic dance expressing the founding myth of Japan, “Tenson Korin,” can be enjoyed. Tenson Korin is a myth that has been passed down through generations in Japan, for it is the founding myth of the country. It is the story of how Ninigi-no-Mikoto, a god, descended from the heavens onto the Kirishima Mountains to bring order to the world. Through dynamic dance and sounds of Japanese drums, Taiko, this myth will be brought to life.



### 3. Hot Spring: Bathhouse situated within the fields of silver grass

The bathhouse is separate from the accommodation building and can be reached by using a monorail. Its location allows a great view for the outside bath and there are two inside baths with varying temperatures. The hot spring in this area is a mineral spring called sulfur spring with a pH of 5.6 and soaking into this bath, it helps to make the skin more supple and radiant.



### 4. Meals: Kaiseki with seasonal and vibrant ingredients

In a semi-private dining area, Kaiseki meals using seasonal ingredients will be served in delicate Satsuma porcelain. The course will not only be favorable in taste but also pleasing to see. The main dish for the specialty Kaiseki course will be shabu shabu (hot pot) of local pork, where the soup uses dried bonito, a common and popular source of Japanese broth. Normally, the thin slices of pork will be dipped in soy sauce or sesame sauce but here, we are going to recommend simply enjoying it with the flavorful broth.



## 5. Experience: A refreshing breeze through the View Terrace

In the accommodation building, there is a View Terrace where guests can enjoy the refreshing breeze. It is an open-air lounge, where the area is available to guests at any time during the day. The fireplace will be lit up near the time of sunset so it's a great place to spend a quiet and relaxing time. In addition, it is a great place for looking into the starry sky at night.



### Details of the Property

Name: Hoshino Resorts KAI Kirishima

Location: 2583-21 Kirishimayama, Kirishimataguchi, Kirishima-shi, Kagoshima 899-4201

Number of Guest Rooms: 49

Facilities: Accommodation building, bathhouse, dining, travel library, shop

Price: Starting from 20,000 JPY per person per room (for 2 persons in a room, excluding tax, inclusive of service tax and breakfast and dinner)

Access: 15 minutes by car from JR Kirishima Jingu Station, 45 minutes by car from Kagoshima Airport

Website: <https://kai-ryokan.jp/en/kirishima/>

### **About Hoshino Resorts**

Hoshino Resorts was first established as a Japanese inn/ryokan by Kasuke Hoshino in 1914 in Karuizawa in Nagano Prefecture before it began the operation of other resorts in Japan. Today, it has evolved into a highly influential hotel management company and is run by 4th-generation family member Yoshiharu Hoshino. Providing a unique experience focused on the local charms of each destination and a high level of omotenashi, Japanese-style hospitality, the company has expanded rapidly out of Karuizawa since 2001 and now operates more than 40 facilities both in and outside Japan under five distinct brands: HOSHINOYA, KAI, RISONARE, OMO, and BEB.

