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22nd FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship



Photo: YOSHIKI FUJIWARA

22nd FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship

Balloon Fantasia

Popular anime characters and cute animals make appearance as giant balloons.



After the AM competition, various shaped balloons appear on the launch area.

This is a great opportunity to enter the off-limits launch area and see balloons up close.

La Montgolfier Nocturne (Night Glow)

Illuminated balloons with music in the darkness is a must-see.



See balloons spread out along the river come alive in the darkness as they are lit up by their burners with music. The shout of "Burners on!" is a shutter chance!

Ikoi no hiroba (Shopping area)

Full of deliciousness and enjoyment!



There are special shopping sections for local products of Saga, souvenirs and foods, and many other shops in this area. You can spend all day with your family here watching concerts on the stage or other various shows.

What is FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship?

FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship is held only once every two years, and represents the highest level of competition in ballooning. This is the third time that the World Championship is held in Saga, which hosted the event in 1989 and 1997. Over 100 balloons from around the world contend for the title of World Champion.

Q. What is the competition of Hot Air Balloon?

A. Heating the air in a balloon makes the balloon rise into the sky. Pilots compete for dropping their markers right in the center of the target by controlling the height of balloon to catch the right direction wind as wind blows from different directions at different altitudes.

The competition is held in the morning and the afternoon almost everyday during the event.

Along the Kase River, Saga-city, Saga, Japan

Venue > The JR "Balloon Saga Station" (Temporary Station) is open during the event.

Using public transport is recommended due to heavy traffic.

Access > **Bus** Downtown 30min The event venue
Train Hakata Sta. 40min Saga Sta. 5min Balloon Saga Sta.

※There are express trains which go through to Balloon Saga Sta. from Hakata Sta.

Inquiries > 2016 Saga Hot Air Balloon World Championship Organizing Committee
Tel: +81 952 29 9000

※There are cases in which cancellations are made due to bad weather.

The first Balloon Museum in Japan! Balloon Museum will open in the central area of Saga city in this October.



Image is for illustration purposes only.

The first Balloon Museum in Japan. You can experience Hot Air Balloon all the year round here.

Balloon Museum will open in the central area of Saga city which is famous for balloon and the largest hot air balloon festival in Asia "SAGA International Balloon Fiesta" is held in every autumn. In the museum, there are a large Hi-vision theater which makes the scene alive, the sections of History, Construction, and Introduction of tasks (competitions), Flight simulator, Quiz rally and others. Not only the people who like Balloon, but also the people who don't know about Balloon at all can enjoy. There are the shops for local products of Saga and Balloon goods, and is an open area for Cafe in the museum.

Balloon Museum Satellite Venue

You can see the completed image of Balloon Museum with Computer graphics here. Collections of Balloon items are exhibited and a variety of Balloon goods is sold.

Open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(Sat., Sun. and holidays are closed.)

Tel : +81 952 65 3673

※This Satellite venue will open until Aug. 31.

