

Japan National Tourism Organization London Office
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First Luxury Boutique Hotel for Pristine Yakushima Island

In March 2010, the first luxury boutique hotel will open on Yakushima Island, an World Natural Heritage Site in Japan. Until now the island has only offered budget backpacker-style accommodation aimed at nature enthusiasts visiting the island to see its famous 1,000 year old *yakusugi* trees. The opening of Sankara Hotel & Spa is sure to draw a new breed of luxury travellers to the island.

The name Sankara is taken from the word Sanskrit which means 'bounty from heaven'. At Sankara guests can explore the natural beauty of Yakushima Island, whilst enjoying the hotels elegant gourmet dining, luxury accommodation and exemplary service.

Sankara has 24 luxury villa-type rooms and five suites; each guest room includes a spacious bedroom and a balcony with splendid views of the surrounding area. Other facilities include a pool, three restaurants and a Sankara Spa. The hotel's French restaurant offers guests gourmet menus using local, seasonal ingredients, including fish and marine stock from nearby waters, as well as organic farm produce and wild plants. Sankara Spa treatments include their own innovative skin programme to heal your body and mind using Asian oils. Sankara Hotel & Spa is ideally suited for guests seeking a truly unique getaway experience.

Sankara Hotel & Spa is located on Yakushima, a subtropical island off the southern coast of Kyushu, in Kagoshima prefecture. The Michelin Green Guide highly recommends the island, awarding it 3 Michelin stars in the inaugural Michelin Green Guide to Japan. The island is covered with an ancient cedar forest that contains

some of Japan's oldest living trees. The awe-inspiring trees are over 1,000 years' old trees and are called *yakusugi*, which is a combination of Yukushima and the Japanese word for cedar, *sugi*.

Some areas of Yakushima are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Yakushima Island is a pristine, yet to be discovered destination for nature lovers, ideal for those seeking a truly unique getaway experience.

For more information please visit www.sankarahotel-spa.com and www.yakushima-town.jp.

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