Nine Best Stalactite Grottos in Japan

- Hida Great Stalactite Grotto Tourism Co., Ltd.
  1147 Hiyomo, Nyukawa-cho, Takayama City,
  Gifu Pref. 506-2256
  TEL: 0577-79-2211
  FAX: 0577-79-2643
  URL www.syonyudo.com

- Akiyoshido Cave Information Desk
  Akiyoshi, Shuho-cho, Mine City, Yamaguchi Pref. 754-0511
  TEL: 0837-62-0018
  FAX: 0837-62-1334
  URL www.akiyoshido.com

- Nanatsugama Stalactite Grottos
  Office, Saikai City Tourism Association (NPO)
  2541-1 Kitago, Nakaura, Saikai-cho, Saikai City,
  Saikai-cho, Saikai City, Nagasaki Pref. 857-2222
  TEL: 0959-33-2306
  FAX: 0959-33-2308
  URL www.sakai.city.jp

- Abukuma Cave Management Office
  1 Higashi-Kamayama, Takinemachi-Sugaya-aza,
  Tamura City, Fukushima Pref. 963-3601
  TEL: 0247-78-2125
  FAX: 0247-78-2127
  URL http://www.city.tamura.lg.jp

- Ryusendo Cave Office
  1-1 Kannari, Iwaizumi-aza, Iwaizumi-cho,
  Shimohei-gun, Iwate Pref. 027-0501
  TEL: 0194-22-2566
  FAX: 0194-22-5005
  URL www.town.iwaizumi.iwate.jp/~ryusendo/

- Nippara Stalactite Grotto
  Nippara, Okutama-machi, Nishitama-gun, Tokyo 198-0211
  TEL: 0428-83-2099
  FAX: 0428-83-8352
  URL www.nippara.com

- Shoryudo Cave
  Okutama, Tokyo
  Nippara Stalactite Grotto

- Abukuma Cave
  World of mysterious beauty created through an eternal flow of time
  - Abukuma Cave Management Office
    1 Higashi-Kamayama, Takinemachi-Sugaya-aza,
    Tamura City, Fukushima Pref. 963-3601
    TEL: 0247-78-2125
    FAX: 0247-78-2127
    URL http://www.city.tamura.lg.jp

- Ryusendo Cave
  Space of mystery surrounded by great nature
  - Ryusendo Cave Preservation Association (public interest incorporated foundation)
    1434-8 Shigakawa, Tosa-Yamada-cho, Kami City,
    Kochi Pref. 785-0203
    TEL: 0887-53-2144
    FAX: 0887-53-2145
    URL www.ryusendo.or.jp/

- Shoryudo Cave
  Mysterious world with secrets from the ancient past
  - Shoryudo Cave Tourism Company
    1520 Sumiyoshi, China-cho-oaza, Oshima-gun, Kagoshima Pref. 891-9223
    TEL/FAX: 0997-93-4536

Japan Stalactite Grottos Tourism Association
URL http://www.syonyudo.net/
**How are stalactite grottos produced?**

Rainwater and limestone are needed. While falling to the ground, rainwater absorbs CO2 in the air. In addition, when soaking into the ground, the rainwater also absorbs CO2 generated by decayed creatures, and then acidifies.

Meanwhile, limestone, whose main ingredient is calcium carbonate, has the property of dissolving in acidic water. Stalactite grottos are caves resulting from a combination of these two substances, and a dissolution of limestone by acidic rainwater over a long period of time.

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**Designated as a natural monument of Kagoshima Prefecture, Shoryudo Cave is a 600 m course in the 3,000-meter-long Shirahoro Cave that was revealed to the general public the same year. The development of stalactites throughout the cave is marvelous. Of particular note is ironstone, whose level is one of the largest in Japan.**