



# Kyūshū

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## Best Places to Eat

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## Best Places to Stay

- » Hakuuikan (p616)
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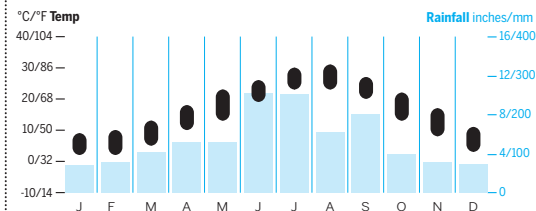
## Why Go?

Japan's southern- and westernmost main island is its warmest, friendliest and (we're partial) most beautiful, with active volcanic peaks, rocky, lush and palmy coastlines, and onsen virtually everywhere. Much Japanese history was made in Kyūshū (九州) – Jōmon ruins, Shintō's sun goddess, wealthy trading ports, cloistered foreigners, samurai rebels and one of the earth's greatest wartime tragedies all loom large.

Today, burgeoning Fukuoka is a multicultural metropolis. In picturesque Nagasaki, tragedy contrasts deftly with a colourful trading history, Kumamoto's castle is one of Japan's finest, and the volcanic Aso caldera is the world's largest. Coastal towns such as Karatsu and Arita are legendary pottery centres. Steam pours from the very earth in Beppu, while the relatively lightly populated prefectures of Kagoshima and Miyazaki have wide open vistas outside their laid-back capitals. Peppered throughout are relaxing hot-spring towns and hiking opportunities.

## When to Go

### Fukuoka



**Apr–May** Temperate weather, and blooming azaleas on the volcanic slopes.

**Jul–Aug** Beat the night-time heat at *yatai* (food stalls) in Fukuoka.

**Oct–Nov** Pleasant temperatures bring energetic festivals, such as Nagasaki's Kunchi Matsuri.

## Kyūshū Highlights

- 1 Join the night owls for beer and yakitori skewers at a **Fukuoka** (p572) *yatai* food stall
- 2 Be moved – and charmed – by **Nagasaki** (p581)
- 3 Soak in a **Beppu** (p625) onsen au naturel
- 4 See where the last samurai made their last stand at **Kumamoto-jo** (p597)
- 5 Marvel at Japan's unique ceramics traditions in **Arita**, **Imari** and **Karatsu** (p578)
- 6 Commune with Shintō's sun goddess in **Takachiho** (p623)
- 7 Recharge in a riverside **rofemburo** (outdoor baths) in tranquil **Kurokawa Onsen** (p604)

