



# Kyūshū

## Includes ➔

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Fukuoka .....          | 650 |
| Karatsu .....          | 662 |
| Nagasaki .....         | 665 |
| Hirado .....           | 677 |
| Shimabara Peninsula .. | 679 |
| Kumamoto .....         | 682 |
| Aso-san Area .....     | 687 |
| Kurokawa Onsen .....   | 691 |
| Kagoshima .....        | 692 |
| Satsuma Peninsula .... | 701 |
| Miyazaki .....         | 704 |
| Beppu .....            | 712 |

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Zauo (p657)
- ➔ Kawashima Tōfu (p663)
- ➔ Hamakatsu (p675)
- ➔ Takamori Dengaku-no-Sato (p690)
- ➔ Miyachiku (p706)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Garden Terrace Nagasaki (p674)
- ➔ Hakusuikan (p703)
- ➔ Yoyōkaku (p663)
- ➔ With the Style (p655)
- ➔ Yamada Bessou (p714)

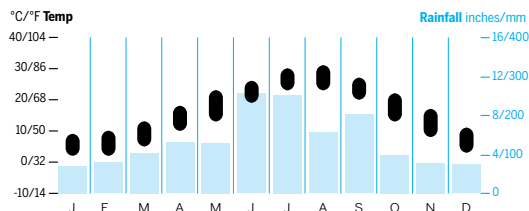
## Why Go?

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. Saga Prefecture boasts *three* legendary pottery centres. Steam pours from the earth in Beppu, and lightly populated Kagoshima and Miyazaki Prefectures have wide open vistas and mountainous terrain 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 Joining the night owls for beer and yakitori skewers at a *yatai* food stall in **Fukuoka** (p656)
- 2 Being moved – and charmed – by the unique history of **Nagasaki** (p665)
- 3 Soaking in an onsen au naturel in **Beppu** (p712)
- 4 Seeing where the last samurai made their last stand at **Kumamoto Castle** (p683)
- 5 Marvelling at Japan's unique ceramics traditions in **Arita** (p664) and **Imari** (p664) and **Karatsu** (p662)
- 6 Communing with Shinto's sun goddess in **Takachiho** (p710)
- 7 Recharging in a riverside *rotemburo* (outdoor baths) in

