



Kyūshū

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Nagasaki	714
Shimbara Peninsula ...	727
Kumamoto	730
Kurokawa Onsen.....	737
Beppu	739
Kagoshima	750
Miyazaki	762

Best Places to Eat

- Tōsenkyō Sōmen Nagashi (p760)
- Kawashima Tōfu (p710)
- Shippoku Hamakatsu (p724)
- Takamori Dengaku-no-Sato (p735)
- Gyōza Kogetsu (p744)

Best Places to Sleep

- Yōyōkaku (p710)
- Hotel Nampuro (p727)
- Hostel Akari (p721)
- Yufu-no-Oyado Hotaru (p738)
- ANA Holiday Inn Resort Miyazaki (p766)

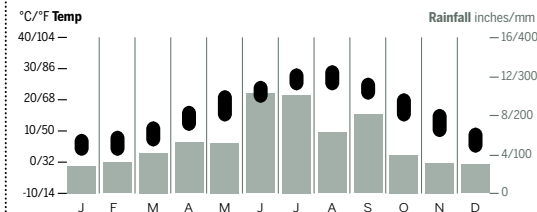
Why Go?

Japan's southern- and westernmost main island is arguably its warmest, friendliest and most beautiful, with active volcanic peaks, rocky, lush and near-tropical coastlines, and great 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 sweet, picturesque Nagasaki, tragedy contrasts with a colourful trading history. Kumamoto's castle is one of Japan's finest, and the volcanic Aso caldera is the world's largest (note that both were heavily damaged in earthquakes in 2016). Saga Prefecture boasts *three* legendary pottery centres. Steam pours from the earth in Beppu, Miyazaki's Nichinan coast boasts vistas, monkeys and Japan's best surfing, while Kagoshima, heart of the Meiji Restoration, smoulders – literally – with active volcanoes. Peppered throughout are relaxing hot-spring towns, trekking trails and family-friendly fun.

When to Go

Fukuoka



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

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

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

Kyūshū Highlights

- Fukuoka** (p704)
Joining the night owls for beer and yakitori (skewers) at a yatai (food stall).
- Hirado** (p711)
Being moved – and charmed – by the unique history of this secluded island.
- Ibusuki** (p758)
Getting buried in warm volcanic sand in this hot-spring resort.
- Kurokawa Onsen** (p737)
Recharging in a tranquil riverside *rotemburo* (outdoor bath).
- Hashima** (p726)
Touring the eerie, deserted 'ghost island' (aka Gunkanjima).
- Pottery Towns** (p715)
Marvelling at Japan's unique ceramics traditions in Arita, Imari and Karatsu.

