

the most popular green tea in Japan. Some people feel that *Gyokuro* has the richest flavor. Others teas you might want to try would include; *Bancha*, *Genmaicha* and *Macha*, which is a powder tea. Sake: You can not mention Japanese drinks without referring to sake. There are basically two types. *Futsu-shu* is the “every day” sake and *Tokutei mesho-shu* is sake reserved for special occasions. *Ginjo-shu* and *Namazake sake* are served cold. *Honjozo-shu* and *Shunmai-shu* are served warm. *Sapporo* is rated as Japan’s best beer. Bottled water is always recommended.

SHOPPING FACILITIES The Kawabata Arcade, in a city filled with merchants, was the center of the old town. Shopping here is like taking a step back in time. The prices are very fair and there are a number of good restaurants available when you need to take a break.

Canal City has it all. This multi-level mall houses many well known department stores, shops, multi-plex theaters and performance artists together with numerous restaurants that serve great food

Tenjin Underground Shopping Arcade has over 100 shops that offer everything from the latest fashions to specialty items. The arcade has good coffee shops and restaurants.

Tenjin Nishi Avenue is the main downtown shopping district. Top brand stores and boutiques are intermingled with numerous bars and restaurants.

LOCAL CURRENCY Japan’s currency is the yen. They come in denominations of 10,000, 5,000, 2,000 and 1,000 yen. Banks and Post Offices will exchange US, Australian and Canadian dollars, British pounds, and euros. Traveler’s Checks are not usually accepted in city stores and restaurants. Major banks in Fukuoka will cash them.

TELEPHONE FACILITIES If you need to make an international call look for a green public telephone that has a gold front. They can be found in major hotels, bus stations and major shopping areas. Dial the following access numbers to use a personal calling card:

AT&T: 00.539.111 or 00.665.5111 or 00.441.1111
MCI: 00539.121 or 0034.811.811 or 0066.55.121

TOURIST INFORMATION The Tourist Information Center is located in Hakata Train Station. Information and help is offered in English. There are many guide signs throughout the city. They are on the streets, in the subways and near major tourist destinations. They are printed in Japanese, English and Chinese. The Emergency Phone Number is 119

TRANSPORTATION Taxi: Perhaps the easiest way to get around the city is by taxi and there are plenty of them. A very good feature is that most of the taxis in Fukuoka have pamphlets written in English and Chinese with commonly asked questions and answers. It is very helpful in dealing with your driver.

Subway: Fukuoka’s subway system is fast, clean, safe and very user friendly. Nearly every tourist attraction is close to a subway stop. It is also quite helpful that signs, stations and announcements are given in Japanese and English.

Bus: There are two major bus companies in Fukuoka and they have the city very well covered. Bus stops are clearly marked and getting around the city is rather easy. There are two main terminals. The one located next to Hakata Station is very convenient because it links train and bus service.

Ferry Service: Ferries are a great way to view Fukuoka from the

water and the city has a number of very good lines. They operate regularly from Hakata Warf and connect with Nokonishima Island and Shikanoshima Island.

Train: The trains in Japan are justly famous for their efficiency, speed, comfort and convenience. Fukuoka’s main terminal is the Hakata Station. From there, the entire island of Kyusyu is easily accessible. Signs, directions and information are provided in Japanese as well as English.

Car Rental: There are reputable and well known car rental companies in Fukuoka. An international driver’s license and a passport will be required. Keep in mind that city parking can be expensive.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

- Greeting - Konnichiwa
- Good morning - Ohayo Gozaimasu
- Good afternoon - Kon-nichiwa
- Good evening - Kon-Banwa
- Good night - Oyasumi-nasai
- How are you? - Ogenki desuka?
- Thank you very much - Doo-mo ari-ga-to gozaimasu

NOTES

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GENERAL INFORMATION Fukuoka is the premier city on Japan’s southern island of Kyushu. Located on the northern coast of the island, Fukuoka looks west across the Tsushima Straits towards Korea and the mainland of Asia.

Northern Kyushu has been inhabited since as far back as 10,500 BC during the Paleolithic era. Combining archeological evidence and the study of the two oldest surviving books in Japan, The Kojiki (Records of Ancient Matters, 680 AD) and the Nihon Shoki (Chronicles of Japan’s History, 720 AD) many historians are of the opinion that the area in and around modern Fukuoka was the site of the first communal settlement in Japan. Whatever the facts may be, it is clear that the region surrounding Fukuoka proved to be extremely important in the development of the Japanese as a people and Japan itself as a nation.

Fukuoka was originally called Hakata and there are still many references to that name today. Dating back over 1,000 years, the city has long been filled with merchants who traded primarily with nearby Korea and China. In 1601 Nagamasa Kuroda, a powerful feudal Lord, built his castle on the west side of the Naka River that flows thru the center of the city. Kuroda named his castle Fukuoka. This new name basically divided Hakata in two. The old city, Hakata, with her port and merchants was on one side and the new city, Fukuoka, with the lords and their samurai on the other. In 1889 the two halves were officially joined and, with the urging of the samurai, the city was officially named Fukuoka.

Closer to Shanghai, China than to its own capital of Tokyo, Fukuoka is the commercial and cultural center of the island of Kyushu. With a population of 1.5 million, Fukuoka is the second fastest growing city in Japan. Much of the new construction along the shores of ancient Hakata Bay has been done on land reclaimed from the bay itself. The towering skyline is testament to a thoroughly modern city.

Modern Fukuoka has attracted over 2,000 companies from the Information and Communication Technology sector as it strives to become the ICT capital of Japan. With such an abundance of cutting edge industry it stands to reason



PORT EXPLORER

Fukuoka JAPAN

that Fukuoka has the second youngest population in the country. In this young population over 30,000 college and university students are looking to the future as they focus their studies on the sciences and IT related subjects.

Though the city is a leader in the IT industry Fukuoka has not forgotten its centuries old cultural traditions and history. The city is justifiably proud of the reputation it has earned over generations for the production of crafts such as pottery, fabric and the famous Hakata dolls.

As it was in the past, today Fukuoka is still one of the busiest ports in the nation and justly deserves its title as Japan’s Gateway to Asia.

HISTORY Up until the early 1600s the city that we know as Fukuoka was called Hakata. The bay around which the city grew has, from ancient times, been Japan’s gateway to Korea and imperial China. Due to this port-city’s relatively close proximity to the Asian mainland, Fukuoka was often the first place where new ideas, religions, products and even invaders reached Japanese soil.

It is believed that in the area around Fukuoka, approximately 500 BC, rice was first introduced and cultivated in Japan. Some archeologists put the date of introduction as far back as 1,000 BC. With the growing of rice, so too grew the prosperity of the region. Local rulers became powerful and well respected. As exemplified by Guan Wu of the Han Dynasty it was not uncommon for even the emperors of China to show their respect. It was Emperor Guan who, in 57AD, presented the ruler of Fukuoka an Imperial Gold Seal. This seal was later discovered in 1784 on the island of Shikanoshima which sits in Fukuoka’s Hakata Bay.

Fukuoka (Hakata) became the city embarkation point from which Japan sent out its students, scholars, merchants, priests and diplomats to absorb and learn all they could from the Korean kingdoms and Imperial China. And it was to



continued over

Fukuoka that emissaries from these kingdoms first came to Japan. Remains of the Korokan (foreign diplomatic guest house) were discovered in 1987 during Fukuoka's expansion of a modern baseball stadium. Amongst the ruins that date back to the 7th century archeologists discovered Chinese pottery, Korean stoneware and glassware from ancient Persia.

It was what they brought back on their return from the continent to Japan, rather than what the travelers took with them on their departure that would for centuries wield such great influence upon Japanese society and culture...influence felt to this day. Advances in science, medicine and law but especially the philosophies of Buddha and Confucius all came to Japan through the gateway of Fukuoka.

The growing prosperity of Fukuoka and Japan was not to go unnoticed on the mainland. In 1268 the Mongol conqueror whose empire stretched from Central Europe to the South China Sea, Kublai Khan, the mighty grandson of Genghis Khan, looked east across the Korean Straits and set his desire upon and armies against the Land of the Rising Sun. The Khan first sent his emissaries to the Shoguns with his demand that Japan acknowledge his supremacy and acquiesce as a tributary state to his empire. Japan refused.

The Khan attempted to invade in 1274 with his fleet of 900 ships and 30,000 men. Bad weather and poor generalship lead to quick failure and the frustrated withdrawal of the Khan's army.

As the rulers of Fukuoka built a fortified wall around the harbor (some of which can still be seen today) Kublai Khan sent more emissaries to demand Japan's tribute. Hojo Tokimune, Japan's Regent, made clear

his reply by ordering the Khan's diplomats beheaded.

On the 15th of August, 1281, the enraged Mongol emperor, having quadrupled his invading force to 4,400 ships and nearly 150,000 soldiers set out towards Fukuoka determined to conquer Japan. Legend has it that a powerful typhoon sent the Khan's fleet, along with his army, to the bottom of the sea.

Today, in Fukuoka's Kushida Shrine, giant stone anchors, recently discovered by archeologists and recovered from the sea floor, anchors that once belonged to the warships of Kublai Khan's massive armada, now stand as silent testament to the power of a storm more terrible and destructive than a great conqueror...evidence of the beginning decline of a vast empire...the ancient anchors bare witness to a great Mongol invasion that never took place...they are tangible proof to the Japanese of a "divine wind" that at once saved the country yet changed it forever... the "divine wind"...the Kamikaze.

FUKUOKA POINTS OF INTEREST

1 The Uminonakamichi Marine Park is located a short distance to the north on Hakata Bay. There are many attractions at the park. For the kids there is a petting zoo, beautiful gardens, beaches and an amusement park that features a giant rollercoaster and the world's second largest Ferris wheel. However, the marine exhibits are the central theme of the park. The dolphin and sea lion performances are always fun. There are over 70 different aquariums, the largest of which holds 2,000 gallons. The tanks include 20 different species of sharks and countless other examples of sea life from the surrounding waters of Tushima, Amami Oshima and Hokkaido.

2 Fukuoka City Zoo and Botanical Garden is located in Minami Park in the south of the city. The zoo is home to over 160 different species. Accessible from the zoo by bridge is the famous botanical garden. Expert horticulturalists work year round to care for the nearly 2,300 varieties of plants that are grown. The garden's amazing greenhouse is the largest in all of Asia.

3 Ohori Park is a beautiful oasis in the center of this bustling city. Many trees wrap the shore of an expansive lake. Consequently the park provides one of the best bird watching sites in southern Japan. Connected by a graceful foot-bridge, small islands dot the lake. You will be delighted when you discover the secluded classic style Japanese garden.

4 The Fukuoka Art Museum is a jewel that is hidden away in Ohori Park. Though it is usually and inexplicably overlooked by tourists, the museum holds a treasure of works by Japanese masters that once belonged to the feudal nobility. National and international pre-modern and modern paintings, prints, drawings, calligraphy, sculpture, textiles and hand-made crafts are on display. The galleries also include exhibits of Fujiwara Period Buddhist art from the Tokoin Temple. Maizuru Park is beautiful, small, peaceful and less crowded than larger parks like Ohori. This park is within the ruins of the . . .

5 Fukuoka Castle. Though Lord Nagamasa Kuroda's castle was under construction for over 7 years in the early 1600's, it was never completed. From this site, one of the oldest parts of the city, a visitor has a wonderful view of modern Fukuoka.

6 Atago Shrine is dedicated to the gods of romantic love and marriage. The shrine is a favorite of local couples who want to begin or strengthen their relationship. Located on the side of a steep mountain in the western part of Fukuoka, one of the understandable charms and lures of this shrine, especially for lovers, is the ethereal view of the city...particularly at night.

7 The City Museum of Fukuoka is located in the Momochihama district. The museum is home to a number of historic artifacts that outline much of the history of Fukuoka and the surrounding area. The most important exhibit at the museum is, without a doubt, the Official Imperial Seal (Kim in) that was presented to the King of Japan by the Chinese Han Dynasty Emperor Guang Wu in 57 AD. The solid gold seal was discovered by a farmer on the nearby island of Shikanoshima in 1784.

8 The Shofukuji Temple was designed and built in 1195 by Eisai, a Zen Buddhist priest who had recently returned from studying in China. One of the things that he brought back from China, along with his adherence to Zen, was tea. Still a working shrine, it was honored by Japan's Emperor Gotoba, as the country's first Zen temple. Together with other ancient temples and homes this beautiful and peaceful area has been selected as one of Japan's National Historical Sites.

9 Yusentei Park and Villa was built originally as a private garden and second home in 1754 by the 6th feudal lord of Fukuoka, Tsugutaka Kuroda. Today the beautiful garden is open to the public. Tea rooms, walking paths, fountains and ponds provide the visitor a wonderfully tranquil setting in a classic Japanese style setting.

Beyond Fukuoka

The Fukuoka Hakata Machiya Folk Museum is located in the Nakasu-kawabata district. The museum houses artifacts and crafts from the Meiji and the Taisho period which covers the years between 1868 and 1912. This was a period in which Japan was testing Western ideas and becoming more influential on the world stage. The museum also has on exhibit paintings of Japanese masters such as Shigeru Aoki and

Hanjiro Sakamoto.

Shikanoshima Island is easily reached by taking a 30 minute boat ride from the Hakata Futoh Ferry Terminal. The island is a great place for water activities such as jet-skiing, swimming and windsurfing. The beautiful Shiomi Park is also located on the island.

Nokonoshima Island is a short 10 minute trip by ferry from Meinohama. Sitting in Hakata Bay, the main attraction is the beautiful park with its gardens and walking paths. The island is also a great place to go swimming

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Fukuoka and surrounding areas, we suggest you take one of the organized Shore Excursions. For further information consult your Shore Excursion brochure or contact the Shore Excursion desk. When going ashore, guests are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

LOCAL CUSTOMS The Japanese do not expect a visitor to know everything about their rules of social etiquette. Your common courtesy will be appreciated. For example, it is quite OK to bring a small bowl to your mouth if you are eating rice or soup. It is also acceptable to make slurping sounds when eating noodles. They say that slurping will make the noodles taste better too. Using chopsticks can be rather awkward if you are not accustomed to them. Have fun, but keep a few things in mind. The chopsticks are for picking up food...not spearing it. If you are not using them lay the chopsticks to the side. Don't stick them standing up in your bowl of rice. Bowing in Japan is a very important custom. It is a sign of respect. It is normal to bow rather than to shake hands; however, if you are a Westerner you might receive both types of greetings. If you receive a bow it is polite to return it in the same manner in which it was given.

Bargaining: Prices are set and firm. Bargaining is not a custom.

Tipping: This is not a custom which is practiced in Fukuoka. Major restaurants will usually add a service charge of 10 - 15% to a bill.

Local Cuisine: Japanese cuisine is popular the world over. The combinations of fresh ingredients, complex flavors, centuries of tradition and beautiful presentation all come together to create a feast for the eye as well as the stomach. Some of the most popular Japanese dishes include: *Miso Soup*, Dashi stock is combined with soft miso paste. Depending upon the area of the country, other ingredients will be added such as vegetables or mushrooms. Most meals will come with a serving of this delicious soup. *Tempura* is batter-dipped and deep fried seafood or vegetables. *Soba Tsukimi* is a hot bowl of soba noodles topped with a raw egg. *Kitsune Udon* is a bowl of udon noodles combined with fried and seasoned bean curd. Rice Bowl is Japan's answer to fast-food. One of the most popular toppings is tuna that has been marinated in teriyaki sauce. *Kare Raisu* (curry rice) is combined with deep fried pork. Curry is not native to Japan but it is popular in some of its cuisine. *Onigiri* are rice balls that are often filled with sweet fruit or cooked meats. *Chawamnushi* is creamy custard often prepared with chicken and mushrooms. *Gyoza* is a soft dumpling that can be deep-fried, steamed or boiled. A favorite way to fix them however, is pan fried, browning the bottom until it is crunchy. Vegetables or ground meats are used as fillings. *Ramen* is a noodle served in a meat stock with sliced pork or onions. Every locale will have its own variation. *Mentaiko* is cod roe that has been spiced. There are many different varieties and it is so popular that some stores carry it as their only product. It is even sold as a souvenir.

Drink Specialties: *Umeshu* is a very popular plumb brandy. It has been made and served in Japan for over 1000 years. Tea: *Sencha* is perhaps

