

PORTS

TOKYO (YOKOHAMA), JAPAN



An hour from the port city of Yokohama is the booming city of Tokyo. A visit to vibrant Tokyo reveals a mix of traditional and modern attractions: See the Imperial Palace, participate in a tea ceremony or shop in the legendary Ginza district. Tours also take passengers to the Meiji Shrine and the Senso-ji Temple. Many visitors opt to join an excursion to Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park for a boat trip on the lake, a cable car ride to Mount Komagatake and an unforgettable view of Mount Fuji.

Language: Japanese

Currency: Japanese Yen (JPY)

SHIMIZU, JAPAN



Shimizu is one of Japan's most beautiful ports because of nearby Mt. Fuji and Miho no Matsubara, a seashore with beautiful green pine trees and white sands. Experience various cultural presentations, such as performances of Geisha dances and the Japanese tea ceremony. Enjoy a variety of delicious treats, such as tuna sashimi, black sea bream, shirasu, sakura-ebi shrimp, mandarin oranges, and freshly-picked strawberries.

Language: Japanese

Currency: Japanese Yen (JPY)

KYOTO, JAPAN



This capital city is reached through the ports of Kobe and Osaka. The major attractions here are the Gold Pavilion, the Honeymoon Shrine, and the Hall of the 1,001 Buddhas. Visits to the ravishing wisteria and cherry gardens are also popular, and the ancient sake brewing district might be well worth a visit to nearby Kobe.

Language: Japanese

Currency: Japanese Yen (JPY)

KOCHI, JAPAN



Kochi is home to almost half of the island of Shikoku's population, and even more of its attractions. Its widespread bus network and historic trams make Kochi a fun and accessible stop for many travelers. Kochi Castle, a remarkably well-preserved castle from feudal times, sits atop a hill downtown, and remnants of another castle can be found near Urado Bay. The city is also home to Makino Botanical Garden and several miles of street markets. If you happen to travel in August, be sure not to miss the city's most famous festival: Yosakoi, which features thousands of dancers performing throughout the city.

Language: Japanese
Currency: Japanese Yen (JPY)

HIROSHIMA, JAPAN



The city was built up from five small fishing villages on sandy islands in the delta of the Otagawa River. Hiroshima has been completely rebuilt, except for what is known as the A-Bomb Dome, the remnants of the former Industrial Promotion Hall. The Dome is easily viewed from the Peace Memorial Park across the river where a variety of monuments commemorate those who died.

Language: Japanese
Currency: Japanese Yen (JPY)

JEJU ISLAND, SOUTH KOREA



This fishing port, located on the northern end of Jeju Island, provides a good base for exploring the island's treasures, from lovely beaches to more traditional sites like Kwanumsa, a Buddhist temple founded in 1908 by a woman monk. Local legend has it that Jeju Island is watched over by the strange stone sculptures called "tolharubangs," also known as the "Grandfathers." They are squat, ugly figures with bulging eyes made from volcanic rock. Mount Hallasan, a long-extinct volcano, towers over the island. Below it are fertile fields, forested areas, quaint villages, and fine hotels near white sandy beaches.

Language: Korean, English
Currency: South Korean Won (KRW)

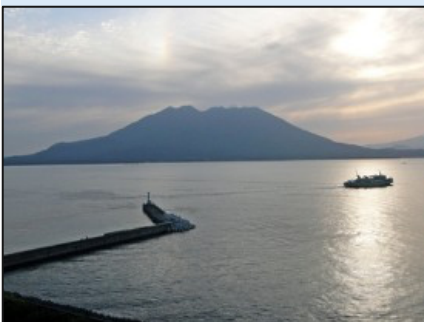
NAGASAKI, JAPAN



Nagasaki is a scenic and amicable town. "Madame Butterfly" fans will want to place the Glover House at the top of their list; the 19th-century European-style house served as the setting for Puccini's ardent opera. The gardens at Peace Park and the Arita pottery center are also popular attractions.

Language: Japanese
Currency: Japanese Yen (JPY)

KAGOSHIMA, JAPAN



Like Naples, to which it is always compared, Kagoshima is dominated by the smoking cone of a volcano, towering Mt. Sakurajima. See where St. Francis Xavier arrived in 1549, the West's first contact with Japan. Wander the colorful stalls of the morning market. Visit the exquisite Iso-teien garden and villa.

Language: Japanese
Currency: Japanese Yen (JPY)