

Islands and ports to visit on a cruise ship

Nagasaki

Cruise Ship Port Guide

Nagasaki Prefecture boasts four major peninsulas and close to 1,000 islands. Nagasaki also has eight cruise ship ports, enabling visitors to come in contact with the prefecture's unique history, culture, and natural beauty. Let's take a look at the unique features of each port.



©Shapo

8 Ports in Nagasaki



Kawachi Pass (Hirado).
©NPTA



The Yagura-mon gate which led to
Kaneishi Castle (Tsushima).
©NPTA



Iki, birthplace of mugū
(barley) shochu.



Sasebo burger (Sasebo).
©NPTA



Statue of Sakamoto Ryoma
(Shinkamigoto).



Nagasaki Peace Statue
(Nagasaki).



A church's statue of St. Mary
(Goto).



Unzen Jigoku (Unzen Hell).
©NPTA



Photos provided by Kazuya Furaku, Adobe Photo, Nagasaki Prefecture, Nagasaki City, Sasebo City, Unzen City, Hirado City, Goto City, Iki City, and Tsushima City. / Text by Nobuko Fujiwara



1 Nagasaki's "10 million dollar" nightscape can be taken in from ship deck or a variety of high places in the city.
2 Depending on the weather, you can set foot on "Battleship Island."
3 Luck cakes "Peach Castella" also make good souvenirs.



Nagasaki Port

A beautiful, world-class port in operation since it was opened

Nagasaki Port opened in 1571, and in turn Nagasaki developed through trade with the West. Also the only point of contact with the West during the Edo period policy of national isolation, Nagasaki took in Western industry and culture to become increasingly modernized.

In recent years, Nagasaki Port has become a popular destination for international and domestic cruise ships alike. As ships pass through a peaceful bay and approach Nagasaki Port, passengers are met with a stunning view consisting of an exotic port town and homes clinging to steep mountainside.

From Nagasaki International Cruise Ship Terminal, where cruise ships dock, sightseeing destinations such as Glover Garden and Oura Cathedral are within walking distance. The local tramway can also be used to easily visit places such as Dejima, Shinchū Chinatown, and Peace Park. Take a sightseeing cruise and you can get an up close look at sites including the shipyards of varying sizes along the inside of the bay, and "Hashima Coal Mine (Battleship Island)", a World Heritage site which supported the modernization of industry in Japan. Or you can learn about dinosaurs and Nagasaki's distant past at "the Nagasaki City Dinosaur Museum" in Nemoura, a facility that's sure to become a new popular tourism destination in the area.

Turning to food, you can enjoy such unique Nagasaki delights as champon; and shippoku, a variety-rich cuisine consisting of a mix of Japanese, Western, and Chinese influences. You'll also be able to find highly unique and distinctive foods to bring back as a souvenir.

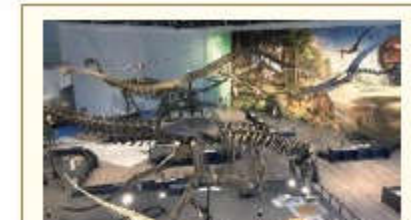
Before leaving port, be sure to conclude a fulfilling sightseeing experience in Nagasaki by climbing to the top of a ship's deck or finding someplace high in the city and taking in a nightscape counted as one of "the World's New Top Three Night Views".



Some 40 Chinese restaurants and shops selling Chinese confections and goods line the streets of "Shinchū Chinatown".



Nagasaki Prefecture is also one of Japan's leading sites for torafugu (pufferfish) aquaculture.



Nagasaki City Dinosaur Museum, a hot destination for families, opens October 2021.





- 1 "Kujukushima", a member of the most beautiful bays in the world.
- 2 "Sasebo Port International Terminal" (Mura Wharf), close to Sasebo Station and the city center.
- 3 "Lemon steak", a local dish equal in popularity to the famous Sasebo burger.

Sasebo Port

Port City's Views & Experiences; Theme Park, Spectacular Scenery, and Local Culinary

A deep-watered and peaceful natural port, Sasebo Port has flourished in the past as both a military and commercial port. "Sasebo Port International Terminal", a five-minute walk from JR Sasebo Station, is close to numerous shops and stores, including a shopping complex, "the Sasebo Gobangai"; and "the BRICK MALL SASEBO", remodeled by historic red brick warehouse. Also near the city center, visitors can sample local culinary delights.

To explore the beautiful "Kujukushima"'s archipelago, kayak, yacht, and pleasure boat are recommended at "the Kujukushima Pearl Sea Resort", 15 minutes drive from the port. 8 famous observatories are popular to see its views and views are recommended at the newly opened park, The Kujukushima Park.

Heading southwest from the downtown, "Saikai Bridge" famous for swift currents and whirling tides is available to see around, as well as "Huis Ten Bosch", one of the largest theme parks in Japan. On the park's vast grounds recreating medieval European townscape and canals, you can enjoy shopping, a variety of attractions, and an abundance of seasonal flowers.

A new terminal has been completed in the Uragsashira district near Huis Ten Bosch and many cruise ships are expected to call from East Asia.



A newly opened park in March 2021, "The Kujukushima Park".



"Huis Ten Bosch", Japan's largest theme park.



"Saikai Bridge" is a National Important Cultural Property, since 1787 near the Uragsashira district. In spring, it is a renowned cherry blossom-viewing destination.



"The Umegae Sake Brewery" since 1787 near the Uragsashira district.



"The Sasebo Cruise Center", a cruise ship dock (capable of accommodating cruise ships in the 160 thousand ton range) and passenger terminal in the Uragsashira district, was built through a public-private partnership between Carnival Corporation; the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism; and Sasebo City.

Unzen City Obama Port

Experience ocean, mountain hot springs, and spectacular scenery

If you're interested in hot springs, you should definitely visit Obamacho in Unzen City. Obama Onsen is a historic hot spring district which was even recorded in the "Hizen no Kuni Fudoki," a historical record compiled in the early Nara period. Situated at the western foot of Mt. Unzen and facing Tachibana Bay, visitors can enjoy traditional hot spring hopping along with ocean views. Obama Onsen is around a one-hour drive from Nagasaki City. Buy a "Yu-Meguri-Fuda" (Obama hot water tour bill) and you can make use of the baths of two hot spring inns and two dedicated bathhouses. "The Obama History Museum" is housed in a former residence built in 1844 which was the home of Honda Yodayu, who laid the foundations for Obama Onsen. Here you can search for souvenirs and also enjoy food and drink from a porch with a view of the residence' garden.

After experiencing Obama's "ocean hot springs" (salt springs), you should also try going a little further afield and visit the "mountain hot springs" (sulfur springs) of Unzen Onsen 700 meters above sea level in Unzen-Amakusa National Park (a 20-minute drive away). Hot spring inns surrounded the famous "Unzen Jigoku (Unzen Hell)" hot spring field, and visitors can also make use of boardwalks to walk around the field. The area's renowned mountains offer different but equally beautiful aspects for each of the four seasons, and from the Meiji period the area flourished as a health resort destination for Europeans and Americans.



- 1 "The Obama History Museum" is wrapped in an atmosphere from a bygone age and offers visitors the chance to learn about Obama's history, trade, and hot springs.
- 2 Ride "the Unzen ropeway" and take a journey through the sky over Unzen National Park.
- 3 Toasted "Yuzenpe" cookies are made with local hot spring water.
- 4 "Hot Foot 105", located in Obama Onsen, is a 105-meter-long hot spring foot bath, the longest in Japan.

Hirado City Kawachi Port

Churches and temples in magnificent unaffected coexistence

Hirado City, situated in northwestern Nagasaki Prefecture, is Japan's farthest western point reachable by land. Once a castle town under the patronage of the Matsura clan, the former rulers of Hirado Domain, Hirado has long flourished as a trade port, starting with trade with the Chinese mainland in ancient times and followed in the 16th century by visits from Portuguese and later Dutch and English ships. It is also the place where Francis Xavier first based his Christian missionary activities in Nagasaki. Until commercial trade with foreign nations came to be limited to the island of Dejima in Nagasaki City, Hirado was an avenue of international culture into Japan. Although skirting a prohibition against the religion, from the Meiji period onward, Christians also built numerous churches in Hirado. Today, two of Japan's Hidden Christian World Heritage sites are located here, one of which being the "Kasuga Village and Sacred Places in Hirado" site.

Hirado is also the location of "Hirado Castle", the seat of the lords of Matsura Domain; and Buddhist temples such as the Kukai-affiliated "Saikyo-ji Temple". In addition, Hirado boasts an abundance of majestic natural beauty, such as Ikitsuki Island, connected by bridge, as well as plateaus and steep cliffs. Further, Hirado is truly rich in delicious cuisine, from seafood to Hirado beef. A 45-minute drive from Sasebo Port, it can be visited as a day trip sightseeing area.



"Hirado Castle" is one of the 100 most famous castles in Japan, and major renovations on it have been completed. There's a museum space in the castle keep which makes use of cutting-edge digital technology. One of the castle's turrets, "the Kaju Yagura", has been turned into a hotel where guests can stay in a real Japanese style.



- 1 This view, in which "the St. Francis Xavier Memorial Church", "Komyo-ji Temple", and "Zulun-ji Temple" can be seen overlapping each other, is one of Hirado's most famous.
- 2 "Casdoco" is a renowned local confection whose recipe comes from Portugal. The Japanese confectionery shop which makes it was amazingly founded in 1502!
- 3 "Obae Lighthouse" stands on Ikitsuki Island northwest of Hirado Island.

Goto City Fukue Port

Mountain scenery, seascapes, and islands of camellia

Fukue Island, a part of Goto City, is the largest of the roughly 152 the Goto Islands and is situated on the archipelago's southern tip. In ancient times, it was the last place envoys headed to Tang China stopped at in Japan, and the area is dotted with envoy ships as well as sites connected to the famous monk Kukai.

Near the port is Fukue Castle (Ishida Castle), the seat of the Goto clan; the clan still exists today, and is currently "ruled" by its 35th head. Some of the many other nearby historic locations include the National Site of Scenic Beauty-designated Goto Clan Garden, and the Samurai House Street. Conversely, there are also many sites in the area connected to Japan's early history of Christianity, such as the well-known brick "Dozaki Church". There are even sightseeing boats which leave from Fukue Port to visit the churches on islands such as Nara Island and Hisaka Island.

Fukue Island is home to dynamic natural beauty, from the steep cliffs of Osezaki Cape and the lighthouse standing on its tip (counted as one of "Japan's 30 most beautiful lighthouses") to the west, to the 315-meter-high, vegetation-covered volcano of "Mt. Omidake". Since ancient times, camellias have grown wild on the Goto Islands, and camellia oil is a popular local product. Be sure to try the fresh-caught seafood, particularly silver-stripe round herring sashimi.



Goto beef is certainly a must-eat, but don't forget to try the fresh silver-stripe round herring as well.



1 "Osezaki Lighthouse" is a landmark for ships crossing the East China Sea. 2 "The Nizo Yamamoto Art Museum", celebrating the Goto City-born Studio Ghibli artist, is located on Samurai House Street. 3 At "Dozaki Church", you can learn about early Christianity in Japan.



left: "Goto udon" is considered "one of Japan's three best varieties of udon noodle"; it is served with a noodle that is thin yet firm.

right: Bookmarks featuring designs from the stained glass windows of various local churches, camellia oil, and Tsubaki Aiko ("Camellia Cat") character merchandise all make great souvenirs.

Shinkamigoto Town Aokata Port

Beautiful seas and "prayer islands"

Kamigoto has white sandy beaches, crystal-clear ocean, and variation-rich terrain. Located in the northern part of the Goto Islands, it consists of seven inhabited and 60 uninhabited islands. It is also dotted with 29 churches. As one can discern from visiting "the Villages on Kashiragashima Island", one of the locations making up "the Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region World Heritage site", Christianity was long passed down in secret here among the area's tiny islands where no prying eyes would see. The area's churches, built after the prohibition against Christianity was lifted, have varying styles, and visitors are encouraged to visit the various sites to explore region's history and faith. From "Kiri Church", standing on a hill, visitors can gaze at the emerald green waters of the strait.

Kamigoto is the location of numerous shrines and temples, and also boasts a rich heritage of Shinto music and dancing. On the grounds of Narao Shrine stands the 670-year-old "Ako Tree", whose roots have split in two to form a natural torii shrine gate.

Local specialty products include Goto udon and camellia oil made from the islands' camellias. After enjoying a bowl of Goto udon, be sure to have some "kankoro mochi", a local treat made by mixing glutinous rice and dried sweet potatoes.



1 "The Ako Tree" is a National Natural Monument. 2 "Kashiragashima Church" is located in the Villages on "Kashiragashima Island area", a World Heritage site. 3 "Harnagurishima Beach" is included in a list of Japan's 88 best beaches.

Iki City Gonoura Port

An island of gourmet delights known in legend and ancient records

Archeological sites dating to the Yayoi period can be found on the history-rich island of Iki. Mentioned in such ancient records as the "Gishwa Jinden" and the "Kojiki," extant historic sites include the National Special Historic Site-designated "Harunotsuji Archeological Site", and some 280 burial mounds.

Standing on a hill, "the Ikkoku Museum" was designed to blend in with the surrounding unchanged landscape. Through the museum's fascinating exhibits, visitors can learn about the connections between the present day and the distant past when the area flourished through trade with mainland China.

In addition to ancient ruins, Iki has numerous distinctive rock formations, such as the naturally-carved Saruwa ("Monkey Rock"), as well as caves, one of the reasons why there are many legends about Iki and oni (traditional Japanese ogres or demons).

There are also many shrines on the island, and the stylized "Iki Kagura", a traditional Shinto musical performance and dance, has been handed down here through the generations. One place you'll want to visit is "Kojima Shrine", but it can only be reached at low tide. Located on sacred ground, it is a mystical power spot known only to a select few.

Katsumotoura, on the island's northern side, was once a fishing town which prospered from whaling and trade with Korea. Today, it is famous for its morning market filled with culinary delights from both land and sea. Also the birthplace of mugi (barley) shochu, here you can still enjoy the area's famous mugi shochu, along with an uni-don (bowl of rice topped with sea urchin) or other fresh seafood.



The 45-meter-tall Saruwa ("Monkey Rock").



1 "Kojima Shrine" is called "Iki's Mont Saint-Michel" by some. 2 At the "Harunotsuji Archeological Site", you can see recreations of structures dating to the period of the site's ruins. 3 Be sure to enjoy "a fresh uni-don" (rice bowl topped with sea urchin). 4 "The Ikkoku Museum" was created based on a design by world-renowned architect Kisho Kurokawa after his death. Cookies (right) modeled after "the Jinnensaki" (stones carved with faces) found at archeological sites on the island make great souvenirs.



Tsushima City Izuhara Port

A bridge to the mainland and a natural treasure trove

A long and thin island located on the northernmost point of Kyushu, Tsushima is 82 kilometers long north to south and 18 kilometers long east to west. It once served as a gateway to Japan for other countries in ancient times. From the Chinese mainland through Tsushima, rice cultivation, Buddhism, Chinese characters, and other concepts were transmitted to Japan. There was also flourishing trade with the Korean peninsula. Just 50 kilometers from Korea's Busan, for a time Tsushima was even a front line of national defense for Japan.

Izuhara Port, the island's entranceway to the sea, is situated on its southeast side. The area is the location of the Yegura-mon gate which led to Kaneshi Castle, residence of the Tsushima So clan who ruled the area in the Edo period. There's also the main building and graveyard of the "Bansho-in Temple", the So's family temple, and the area still retains much of its former castle town air. "Watazumi Shrine", near Aso Bay in the center of the island, has five torii shrine gates, two of which stand in the sea.

There are many plants and animals unique to the island. Conservation activities being conducted on the island's north side protect the rare "Tsushima leopard cat" and "Tsushima horse".

There are an abundance of local tastes and treats you'll want to bring home as a souvenir, including conger eel (Tsushima boasts some of the highest catches in the country), log-grown shitake mushrooms, and wild Japanese honey bee honey.



"The Tsushima leopard cat", an endangered species.



1 The view from "Eboshidaka" (176 meters above sea level). Busan, Korea can be seen. 2 Conger eel sushi. 3 The sea torii gates of "Watazumi Shrine", mentioned in the Japanese legend known as "Yamashichihiko and Umisachihiko." 4 The graveyard of "the Bansho-in Temple", the family temple of the Tsushima So clan, is considered one of Japan's three most beautiful. Old castle town sprawls around the area.



長崎県クルーズ振興協議会(クルーズながさき)
Cruise Nagasaki

<https://www.discover-nagasaki.com/en>