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Fukuoka, a Center of History and Culture

Region Serves as Bridge Between Japan and Asia

Situated in the northern part of Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan's four main islands, Fukuoka Prefecture has a unique local culture and cuisine that has developed over its long history. Its proximity to China and the Korean Peninsula has made it a gateway between Japan and the rest of Asia, not to mention a vital transportation hub. Among its historic attractions are the ruins of Dazaifu, an ancient government office, while the many small islands lying off the coast further captivate visitors. Fukuoka is also renowned for its fresh seafood and many street-side food stalls.
Hiroshima, Home to Two World Heritage Sites

Local Specialties Include Oysters and Hiroshima-Style Okonomiyaki

Hiroshima Prefecture faces the scenic Seto Inland Sea to the south and embraces the picturesque peaks and valleys of the Chugoku Mountain Range to the north. Boasting a long history and rich culture, the region is home to two World Heritage sites: the Atomic Bomb Dome, which stands as a symbol of the first city to suffer the dropping of an atomic bomb, and the historic Itsukushima Shrine. In addition to following the path of history from ancient to modern times, the opportunity to taste popular local specialties like oysters and Hiroshima-style okonomiyaki (savory pancakes with fried noodles and cabbage) should not be missed!
The Timeless Elegance of Kanazawa

City of Culture Offers a Journey Back in Time

Located on the Sea of Japan in the middle of Japan’s main island of Honshu, the city of Kanazawa flourished as a castle town from the late sixteenth to the late nineteenth century. The arts and culture that developed over these three centuries, as well as many of the old buildings and districts built during this period, continue to color the life of the city today. Kanazawa is also known for its savory local dishes made from an array of ingredients - the bounty of the sea and mountains. Vestiges of the Edo period (1603-1868) culture of samurai and commoners can be found all around town even today.
The Ogasawara Islands

Rare Plants and Animals Abound in Tropical Paradise

Surrounded by the Pacific Ocean, the 30-plus islands that make up the isolated Ogasawara Islands group boast pristine natural environments and are known by some as the "Galapagos of the Orient." Located approximately 1,000 kilometers south of Tokyo, the islands are home to indigenous plant species found in few if any other places in the world, and numerous marine activities including swimming with dolphins and whale watching can be enjoyed in the cobalt blue waters.