

Ports & Excursions



Kochi, Japan

Kochi sits on the broad alluvial plain facing Urado Bay. This city in Shikoku takes its name from the great feudal castle that sits at its very heart. Completed in 1611, Kochi Castle was the seat of Yamauchi Kazutoyo, a noted warrior who supported Tokugawa Ieyasu in his successful quest to become Shogun. Tosa Province and Kochi Castle were Yamauchi's reward for faithful service. There is an historical irony here: 250 years later, a Kochi native son - a former low-ranked samurai and now ronin named Sakamoto Ryoma - played a pivotal role in bringing the Tokugawa Shogunate to an end and restoring the Emperor of Japan to political prominence. The prize once awarded for faithful service had become a hotbed of support for the Meiji Restoration.

Kochi is one of the wettest places in Japan - and a frequent target for cyclonic storms or typhoons. Southeast of the city, warm oceans currents washing against the Aki Mountains create a subtropical landscape of hibiscus, palm and ficus at Muroto-Anan Quasi-National Park.

Points of Interest

1 Sakamoto Ryoma Memorial Museum

Situated at the popular Katsurahama Beach, this modern museum celebrates the contributions made by Sakamoto Ryoma, a major contributor to Japan's rapid modernization and Kochi's favorite son.

2 Kochi Castle

Originally constructed in 1603 and rebuilt in 1753 after a fire, it is one of 12 Japanese castles to survive the post-feudal age and a classic example of Edo period architecture.

3 Katsurahama Beach

One of Kochi's most popular spots, this scenic beach, known as a good place to "moon view," is home to a number of attractions, including a famous statue of Kochi's favorite son, Sakamoto Ryoma.

4 Kochi Municipal Ryoma's Memorial Museum

Located in Kamimachi where Sakamoto Ryoma, a 19th century political reformer, was born, this museum houses exhibits and dioramas celebrating the town and the history of the Sakamoto family.

5 Mikurodo Cave

It is believed that the 8th century Buddhist monk Kobo-Daishi attained spiritual enlightenment in this cave. So moved by the views of the sky, "Ku," and the sea, "Kai," he renamed himself Ku-Kai.

6 Murotomisaki Cape Observatory

At this site, one of eight "fine views" in Japan, coastal plants blanket the area, anchored by a lighthouse, the largest in Japan. From this picturesque vantage point, enjoy nature trails and photo opportunities.

7 Kazurabashi Bridge & Obokekobo

Take a thrilling walk across a suspension bridge of woven vines that spans across the valley 45 feet above the river below. Then, explore the Oboke/Kobo gorges by boat excursion.

8 Ryugado Cave

One of the most celebrated limestone caves in Japan, this designated Natural Treasure was once home to early man and is punctuated by 20 waterfalls and the ruins of a primitive pit house.

Special Child Pricing Available!

Children age 12 and younger, savings up to 50%. For actual pricing information, click on tour title or Reserve button.