

Fukuoka City



Fukuoka City is roughly equidistant from major Japanese cities such as Osaka, Tokyo and Sapporo and major East Asian cities like Busan, Seoul, Shanghai, Beijing and Taipei. As a result it is a key stop on major regular international routes, positioned in the ideal spot for interchange with South Korea, China and other Asian countries.

To the north is the Genkai Sea, separated from Hakata Bay by the Uminonakamichi and Itoshima peninsulas, while the Se-furi mountain range to the south and the Sangun range to the east demarcate the crescent-shaped Fukuoka Plain. A number of rivers feed into Hakata Bay, such as the Tatara, the Naka and the Muromi, but none are very large. The average annual temperature is a relatively warm 17.1 °C (2011).

The population of the city continues to grow, reaching an estimated total of 1,483,322 people in 722,687 households as of 1 March 2012. According to the 2010 national census, Fukuoka has one of the lowest average ages of any of Japan's major cities, only 41.9. There is a major concentration of tertiary-sector industry in the region, with a large portion of all industry being in wholesaling, retailing, food and beverage establishments, and service. The city is also an important center for industries utilizing and preserving traditional crafts, including traditional industrial art objects of Japan such as Hakata-ori fabrics and Hakata dolls, and local specialty craft products such as Hakata magemono (wood craftwork).

The city is served by an outstanding transportation network, centered on Fukuoka Airport (a major regional airport) and Hakata Port (a Specially Designated Major Port), plus an extensive rail network centered on Tenjin and Hakata stations, including the Shinkansen "Bullet" train, JR lines, city subway and Nishi-Nippon Railroad, as well as the Trans-Kyushu Ex-

pressway and Urban Expressway roadways.

Fukuoka is a city with its own unique personality. It combines the fascination of a major metropolis with the natural beauty so well represented by Hakata Bay, and enjoys a rich and vibrant culture and tradition nurtured over the centuries. Visitors come to enjoy urban tourism inside the city, to enjoy leisure activities in natural environments surprisingly close to the city center, to enjoy the history evidenced in the Korokan diplomatic guest house from ancient times, the Kin-In gold seal discovered here that was a gift from the Chinese Emperor centuries ago, and the ancient fortifications built to defend against the Mongol invasions. The city offers the Hakata Gion Yamakasa Festival, the Dontaku Festival, the Asian Month festivities promoting better understanding of other lands and cultures, and many other events; and of course the rich bounty of the Genkai Sea and other cuisine delights both local and visiting gourmets.

Many people from both throughout Japan and the world have come to Fukuoka, the center of government, economy, culture and fashion for Kyushu, and the range of facilities to welcome tourists continues to grow, such as Fukuoka Tower, Marine World Uminonakamichi, Bayside Place Hakata Futoh, Canal City Hakata, Hawks Town, Marinao City Fukuoka, Hakata Riverain (Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, etc.), and Hakataza theater. The transportation infrastructure continues to develop, with the extension of the Shinkansen rail network to cover Kyushu in March 2011, and same-train service from the Osaka region, and the KTX jetfoil route now open from Seoul to Busan. In the spring of 2012, an open-roof double-decker bus service was started, touring key tourism sites in the city, joining other programs expected to draw even more visitors from Japan and internationally.



Asian Month: visitors have the chance to experience authentic ethnic arts and food from all over Asia



The Kyushu National Museum: presenting the emergence of Japanese culture from the perspective of Asian history.



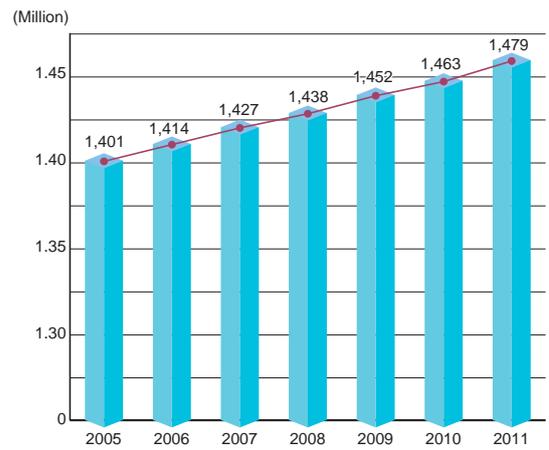
Ohori Park: an urban park with a beautiful lake, surrounded by trees.



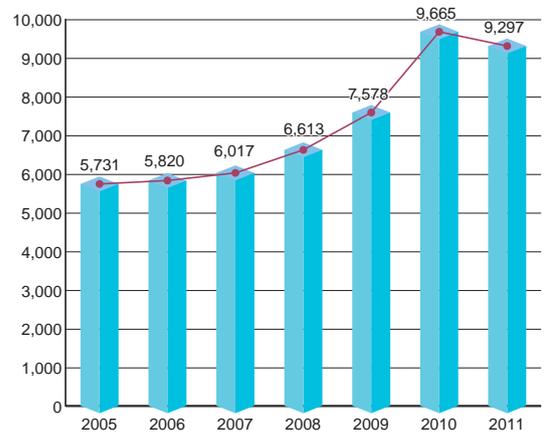
Hakata Gion Yamakasa: a summer festival for the men of Hakata.

DATA

Population of Fukuoka City (As of 1 October 2011)



International students in Fukuoka Prefecture (As of 1 May 2011)



International students in Fukuoka Prefecture by nationality and region (As of 1 May 2011)

