

Rich Food Culture

We are proud of Tosa food culture, cultivated by nature and rich tradition.

Katsuo(Bonito)

Kochi Prefecture boasts of having the highest consumption of katsuo in Japan. There are a variety of ways to eat it, but "katsuo no tataki" is the most representative of Kochi. It is prepared by searing the katsuo briefly, then slicing and seasoning it with green onion or myoga (Japanese ginger). Since each shop and region has its own seasoning or special sauce, you can savor a variety of flavors. "Shio tataki", seared katsuo served hot with salt, is one popular variety.



Moray

Morays with their grotesque appearance and ferocious personalities are called the gangs of the sea, but in Kochi households they are regularly eaten. They can be seared, fried or stewed and the light taste and texture are a perfect match for sake.



Fruits

Some famous Kochi citrus fruits are buntan (pomelo), konatsu orange, and ponkan (Chinese honey orange). They are bright yellow, juicy, and sweet.



Inakazushi (sushi from the countryside)

This healthy dish is made with fresh, seasonal ingredients. These ingredients change based on the region and season, but they include many local vegetables such as bamboo shoots and shitake mushrooms.



Imo Kempi (sweet potato sticks)

This snack is made by frying sweet potatoes and sprinkling them with sugar. They are crisp and sweet and have a taste you won't ever get tired of.



A Taste of Sake Culture

Living up to the name "Tosa, land of sake", Kochi Prefecture is known as a place where men and women of all (legal) ages enjoy sake. Kochi has a variety of locally brewed sake rich with regional flare that is characterized as transparent with a crisp and dry flavor that never gets old. Kochi also has unique banquet games such as "Hashi Ken" and "Beku Hai", which are not seen in other regions.



Nibbles for Sake

Shuto (salted and fermented bonito intestines)

Dorome (sardine fry)

Noresore (conger myriaster fry)

Sawachi Cuisine

Sawachi cuisine is a type of buffet in which various dishes are served on big plates and bowls of about 40cm.



Hat bread

This hat-shaped bread was created in Kochi. The top part of the hat is soft, and the brim is crispy, sweet sponge cake. It is available at most bakeries in Kochi.



Aisukurin (derived from ice cream)

Aisukurin, a Kochi specialty, has a texture between ice cream and sherbet. It has a low fat content and a pleasant aftertaste. It is popular for its old and familiar flavor, and it is often sold at tourist spots like Katsurahama.



Kochi's Famous Yosakoi Festival

The Yosakoi Festival, a seasonal Kochi tradition, is an energetic and powerful mid-summer festival of tropical Kochi in which many Yosakoi fans gather from all around Japan every year. The town is filled with a festive atmosphere.



Kochi Yosakoi Museum

Once you enter, be sure to head left to the "Yosakoi Circle" first. Here you can learn about the basics and history of the festival. Afterward, pass through the "Yosakoi Tunnel" to the "Yosakoi Square." In the theater and hands-on corner, you can experience the joys of the Yosakoi festival yourself.

Access: 5 minutes by tram from Kochi Station. Get off at Harimayabashi, and walk for 5 minutes.

Tosa-Fierdom and Samurai Culture

Sakamoto Ryoma

Ryoma paved the way in the transition from feudal times in Japan to the Meiji constitutional government, and then to today's democratic republic.



Kochi Castle

The castle tower, gate, and 15 other structures are designated as nationally important cultural properties. The castle was built in 1603 by Katsutoyo Yamauchi but was lost in the great fire of 1727. The current castle tower is what was rebuilt in 1748.



Access: 10 minutes by tram from Kochi Station. Get off at Kochicho-mae, and walk for 5 minutes.

Godaisan Area

Godaisan Observatory

Mt. Godai is situated in the southeast part of Kochi City, and it is famous for cherry blossoms and azaleas. You can get a great view of the city from the mountain's observation deck, and it is also a famous spot for a night view.



Access: 20 minutes by car from Kochi Station OR MY Yu Bus. Get off at "Godaisan Observatory", "Makino Botanical Garden", or "Chikurinji Temple".

Makino Botanical Garden

Makino Botanical Garden was opened in memory of Makino Tomitaro, a world famous botanist. There is a section introducing his life and a project exhibition room in the exhibition pavilion. There are also restaurants and shops that adults and children alike can enjoy. The buildings are built mostly out of wood, seeming to be in harmony with Mt. Godai. You can also enjoy different plants in the garden each season.



Chikurinji

Why don't you adopt the heart of a traveler and become an "Ohenro-san", or pilgrim, and visit Shikoku's eighty-eight sacred temples? You will be able to encounter beautiful nature and human warmth. Chikurinji is the 31st temple on the holy pilgrimage.



Hirome Market

There are seven sections in Hirome Market, such as "Castle Square" and "Ryoma Street", which hold many unique shops such as fish vendors, butchers, sundries shops, clothing stores, and restaurants. Everyone buys food separately and then sits and eats together at the tables and chairs that are placed throughout the market. After you are done eating, the staff will collect your dishes. You can eat, drink, and shop to your heart's content. At Hirome, locals and tourists alike can be found sharing tables and friendly conversation while enjoying the festivities from morning to late evening.



Access: 10 minutes by tram from Kochi Station. Get off at Ohashi-dori.

Access Guide



MY-YU BUS

KOCHI CITY'S TOURIST BUS

The MY-Yu bus service runs from JR Kochi Station. It is a bus line for tourists, which covers a wide array of great sites around Kochi city. (Harimaya Bashi, Makino Botanical Garden, Katsurahama, etc.)

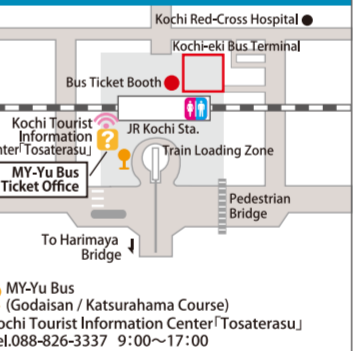
| | 1-day pass | 2-day pass | Godaisan 1-day pass |
|-------------------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| Adults(age12+) | 1,000 yen | 1,600 yen | 600 yen |
| Children(age6-11) | 500 yen | 800 yen | 300 yen |

*1 Free for children under age 6

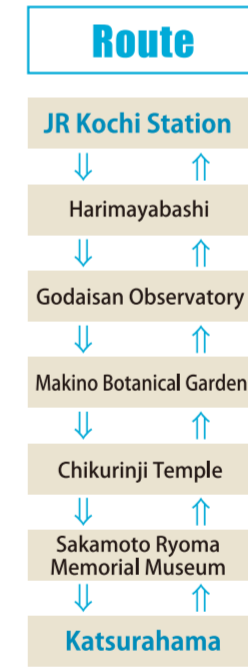
- *1 One free pass for a child under age 6 per adult. Fare is required for the second child and more.
- *2 If you visit Katsurahama after purchasing a Godaisan 1-day pass, pay an additional 400 yen (200 yen with foreign passport) to a MY-Yu bus driver. You can trade the Godaisan 1-day pass for a 1-day pass to Katsurahama on the bus.
- *3 Godaisan 1-day pass is not available on the Tosaden Kotsu bus.



1-day pass/2-day pass (JR Kochi Station to Katsurahama)
Godaisan 1-day pass (JR Kochi Station to Chikurinji Temple)



MY-Yu Bus passes are offered at half price for tourists visiting Kochi. Please show your foreign passport at Kochi Tourist Information Center (Tosaterasu) when you purchase the pass.



How to use the tram

- Get the tram route map beforehand at "Tosaterasu" or "Ryoma Airport", and go to a tram stop headed in the direction you wish to go.
- Check the tram route map and the timetable. You may need to transfer trams at the "Harimayabashi" tram stop, so make sure to check the route.
- The entrance to the tram is either located in the center or the back-section of the tram. Take note that you cannot pay the fare with 5,000 yen or 10,000 yen notes.
- Take the tram ticket from the ticket box when embarking the tram. Tickets will not be issued for tram rides that do not require transfers (200 yen zone).
- Make sure you have the correct amount of money for the ride when getting off the tram. If not, you can still get change. Change is only given for coins and 1,000 yen notes.
- When you hear the name of the tram stop from which you wish to disembark, press the button nearby. If you do not understand Japanese, let the driver know where you want to get off in advance.
- When getting off the tram, put the ticket and the correct amount of money for the ride in the fare collection box. Get change in advance if necessary.
- If you pay the fare and receive a transfer ticket from the tram driver, you do not have to pay additional fares for transfer, if travelling within the 200 yen zone.

Easy Travel Conversation

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Hello. Kon nichiwa (こんにちは) | Thank you. Arigatou (ありがとう) | I'm sorry. Gomen nasai (ごめんなさい) |
| Excuse me. Sumimasen (すみません) | Where am I? Koko wa doko desuka? (ここはどこですか?) | I would like this one. Koreo kudasai. (これを下さい) |
| How much is it? Ikura desuka? (いくらですか?) | I want to go to ○○ ni ikitai desu (○○に行きたいです) | How can I get there? Donoyou ni ikemasuka? (どのように行きますか?) |

How long does it take?
Donokurai jikanga kakarimasuka?
(どのくらい時間がかかりますか?)

Where is ○○?
wa doko ni arimasuka?
(○○はどこにありますか?)

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Convenience store Konbini コンビニ | Drug store Doraggu sutoua ドラッグストア | Sightseeing spot Kankou meisho 観光名所 |
| Rest room Toire トイレ | Souvenir shop Omiyageya お土産屋 | Money exchange Ryogasho 両替所 |

one two three four five six seven eight nine
ichi ni san yon go roku nana hachi kyū
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

zero ten hundred thousand ten thousand
zero jū hyaku thousand sen man
0 十 百 千 万

Kochi City Central Map

Kochi General Tourist Information Center

しゅら まっぷ



Welcome to Kochi!

Kochi City is a scenic and compact city surrounded by beautiful mountains and the magnificent Pacific Ocean. It has a warm climate and long sunlight hours, and the pure Kagamigawa River runs through the city.

In the center of town, you can find Kochi Castle, which was built over 400 years ago and is one of the last 12 castles in Japan to still have its original main keep. Nearby is Sunday Market, which stretches 1.3km with over 430 vendors and has been fueling the daily lives of locals for over 300 years.

In Kochi, varied seasonal fish and produce can be found year round. With representative seafood like katsu no tatakai (seared bonito) and fresh sashimi, Kochi is said to be the most delicious region of Japan. It is also famous throughout the country for its friendly people who love to drink sake. There are always people enjoying delicious food and drink downtown until late hours of the night, so why not try out Kochi's nightlife?



Information for foreign tourists

Kochi International Association
4-1-37 Honmachi, Kochi City
TEL.088-875-0022/FAX.088-875-4929
8:30-17:15
(Closed on Sunday, National holidays, Saturdays in August and during New Year holiday season)

Kochi Tourist Information Center
Kita Honmachi, Kochi City
TEL.088-826-3337
9:00-17:00
(In the Kochi Prefecture Tourism Information-Disseminating Center "Tosaterasu")

Emergency Contacts
Police TEL.110 Ambulance/Fire/Emergency TEL.119

MAP A Kochi City Central Area

ICON DESCRIPTION

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|--|--|--|--|
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| | | | |

Tram line

A Kochi city center shopping street & Wi-Fi area

- ### Explore Obiyamachi, Kochi City's Central Shopping Arcade
- Area 1 Harimayabashi & Uonotana**
The Harimayabashi shopping arcade is constructed from lumber, giving it an old-time appearance. The attached Uonotana street has a fun downtown feeling from the Edo period, with its shade tents and other old-fashioned furnishings. You can also experience the charm of Kochi's Yosakoi festival at the nearby Yosakoi Museum.
 - Area 2 Ichibangai**
Many restaurants surround a department store in this shopping arcade. There are also many izakaya bars nearby, so people can always be seen out late.
 - Area 3 Shinkyobashi & Kyomachi**
This part of the arcade has high-quality décor stores and stores that handle local products like coral and food items. The store "Tenkosu", with many famous Kochi goods, can also be found here.
 - Area 4 Obiyamachi 1-chome**
This area is one of the liveliest in town, with a large range of shops, from longstanding hat and umbrella shops to clothing stores, cafes, restaurants, and izakaya bars targeted toward young people.
 - Area 5 55-bangai**
This tiny side street representative of Kochi has izakaya bars, international cuisine, and yakitori (chicken skewer) restaurants.
 - Area 6 Yanagimachi**
This street is busy with lively locals late into the night, with its string of izakaya bars, café-bars, and karaoke boxes.
 - Area 7 Nakanohashi-dori**
Café-bars, book stores, clothing stores, and sundries shops—here you will find many unique stores.
 - Area 8 Obiyamachi 2-chome**
Asian sundries, Chinese noodles, Vietnamese cuisine, Japanese snacks, and Italian cuisine—this area has many international establishments.
 - Area 9 Obisan Road**
This cobblestone road lined with zelkova trees is home to many sundries shops, clothing stores, and cafes targeted to young people.
 - Area 10 Ohashi-dori**
This shopping arcade right next to Kochi Castle is known as the "Kitchen of Tosa". (Tosa is an old name for Kochi.) Here you can find fresh seafood, including bonito, and many seasonal fruits and vegetables. Hirome Market, a popular food court filled with many Kochi foods, is also nearby.

Distance Map

Walking: 0.8km, 10Min.
Bus: 1.2km, 15Min.

- Kochi Castle
- Sunday Market
- Kochi Sta.
- Yokoyama Ryusichi Memorial Manga Museum
- Mt. Godai Makino Botanical Garden
- Katsurahama Sakamoto Ryoma Memorial Museum
- Statue of Sakamoto Ryoma

B Bus Loading Zone, Kochi Sta.

MY-Yu Bus (Godaisan / Katsurahama Course)
[MY-Yu Bus Contact]
Kochi Visitors & Convention Association
Tel.088-823-1434