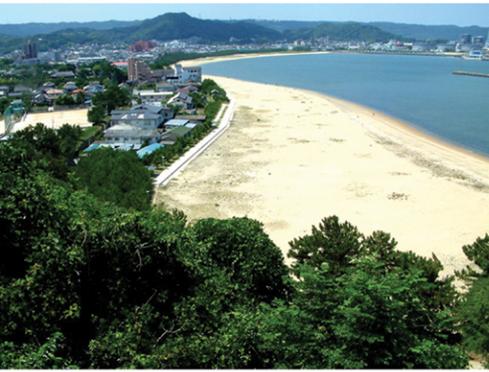


Karatsu



The name Karatsu comes from the Japanese term ‘kara’ (referring to China) and ‘tsu’ (port).

The area of Kyushu known as Karatsu, stretching along the rugged Higashi Matsu-ura-hanto Peninsula coastline of northwestern Saga, boasts some spectacular scenic sights you should experience during your tour in Japan. The name Karatsu comes from the Japanese term ‘kara’ (referring to China) and ‘tsu’ (port), which is appropriate since Karatsu once served as a bustling trading port with China. Many merchants also exchanged goods with Korea, hence the heavy Korea cultural influence found there. Today, thousands of tourists board sightseeing boats every summer to see the many spectacular high cliffs and explore a string of deep coastal caverns, (called Kaishokudo), created by years of erosion from raging waves of Genkai-Nada (Sea of Genkai). Some sightseeing boats actually go through some of these caves. Karatsu is also world famous for Karatsu pottery with many potteries open to the general public. True Karatsu pottery comes in a wide variety of glazes ranging from earthy buff tones to deep ocean blues.

Karatsu pottery is famous throughout Japan and the world with many collections located in major museums worldwide. Karatsu is also known as a ‘castle town’ and features numerous Edo period castles along the Matsuura River for visitors to explore. The city boasts of many other interesting places to see and things to do. Be sure to bring your camera for great photo ops. The Sasebo MWR

Travel & Tours Office frequently offers day trips to Karatsu (next one is scheduled for Saturday, September 18) at a cost of only \$16 for adults, \$12 for children 4 – 14 years old and \$6 for youngsters 3 & under. Call the Travel & Tours Office at 252-3433 for more information.

