

Karatsu, Saga, Japan

A feudal castle town on Kyushu's northwestern coast, Karatsu rewards curious cruisers with centuries-old ceramic traditions, a million-pine coastal forest, and some of the freshest squid sashimi in Japan.

 Pier (docked)

 Typical call: 8-10 hrs

 Currency: Japanese Yen (JPY)

 Language: Japanese

 Shuttle to center recommended

🍷 MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date:	Arrive:	All aboard:
Excursion:	Notes:	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Pier — Nishitaku Wharf (West Port) or Tobu Wharf (East Port)

Best For: History, ceramics shopping, coastal scenery, seafood

Walk to center: ~3.5 km to Karatsu Station — taxi or free shuttle recommended

Don't Miss: Karatsu Castle keep, Niji-no-Matsubara pine grove, live squid sashimi

 Getting around:  **Taxi**  ¥1,000–¥2,000

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Karatsu Castle (Maizuru Castle)** — The 17th-century 'Dancing Crane Castle' sits on a hill above the bay.
- **Niji-no-Matsubara Pine Grove** — One million black pine trees stretching 4.5 km along the arc of Karatsu Bay — planted 400 years ago as a windbreak.
- **Yobuko Morning Market & Live Squid** — Japan's most famous morning market runs daily 7:30 AM–noon in the fishing village of Yobuko, 30 minutes by taxi.
- **Hikiyama Exhibition Hall — Festival Floats** — Karatsu Kunchi (Nov 2–4) is a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage festival.
- **Former Takatori Residence** — The palatial late 19th-century home of coal-mining baron Koreyoshi Takatori blends Japanese and Western architecture...

BEST WALKS

- **Castle Hill to West Beach** ~1.5 km | Easy | 30–45 min — From Karatsu Castle, descend the stone steps (or slope elevator) and stroll west along the coast to Nishi-no-hama Beach for classic...
- **Karatsu Station Ceramics Walk** ~1 km loop | Easy | 45 min — From Karatsu Station, browse Gallery Arpino, then follow the Katamachi and Gofukumachi shopping arcades for pottery boutiques, cafés...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 **CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)**

Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr	65°	51°	11d
Jun	78°	66°	15d
Aug	87°	76°	16d
Sep	80°	70°	16d
Oct	71°	60°	9d

 **DAYLIGHT &  MONEY**

Apr 5:50AM–6:50PM · Jun 5:10AM–7:31PM · Aug 5:42AM–7:06PM · Sep 6:03AM–6:26PM · Oct 6:24AM–5:46PM

 Currency: Japanese Yen (JPY)

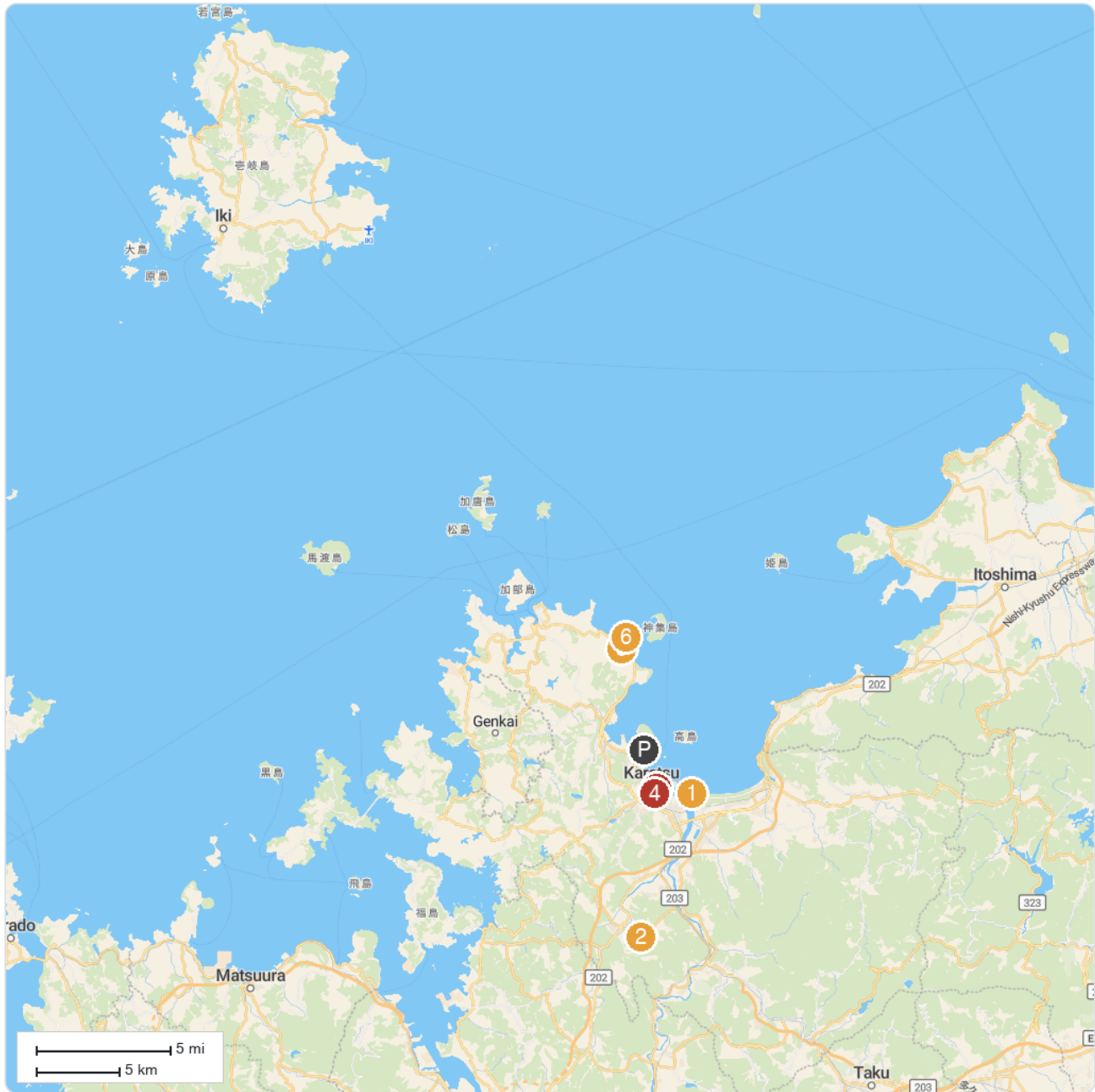
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring yen cash. The Yobuko market, taxis, smaller pottery shops, and temple boxes are cash-only. ATMs at 7-Eleven and Japan Post Bank near Karatsu Station.

Karatsu, Saga, Japan — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- 1 Niji No Matsubara Pine Grove** Historic, three-mile coastal pine forest, ideal for scenic walks.
- 3 Former Karatsu Bank** Historic, elegant Western-style building, now a cultural exhibition space.
- 5 Minatoeki Shrine** Small, traditional shrine near the port, offering local blessings.
- P Cruise port / terminal**

- 2 Shikinooka Park** Hilltop park with seasonal flowers and panoramic Karatsu Bay views.
- 4 Hikiyama Exhibition Hall** Museum displaying magnificent floats from the Karatsu Kunchi Festival.
- 6 Tategami Rock of Minato** Striking, unique rock formation rising dramatically from the sea.