

Fukuoka

Kyushu · Japan

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Fukuoka is the largest city on Kyushu, Japan's southwestern island. It sits on Hakata Bay, close to the Korean peninsula, and has been a trading port for centuries. The city feels relaxed for its size. Beaches, parks and mountains are near the centre, and the food scene is among the best in Japan.

Fukuoka suits a trip of two to four nights. Use it for tonkotsu ramen, evening food stalls, shrines and festivals. It is also a good base for day trips to Dazaifu, Itoshima and Yanagawa, and for Shinkansen trips to Kumamoto and Nagasaki.

When to visit

Spring (April–May) and autumn (October–November) are the most comfortable seasons, with mild, mostly dry days. June is the rainy season. July and August are hot and very humid, and typhoons can disrupt travel in late summer. Winter is cool and mostly dry, with occasional light snow.

The biggest event is Hakata Gion Yamakasa, held from 1 to 15 July. Teams of men in loincloths race heavy floats through the streets. The final race starts at dawn on 15 July. Book hotels well ahead if you plan to see it.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	9° / 15° Feels like 5°	1° / -2°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	11° / 18° Feels like 7°	2° / -2°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Fair Fair for sightseeing	15° / 21° Feels like 12°	5° / 0°	Dry air · Calm winds
April	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 26°	9° / 4°	Dry air · Calm winds
May	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 29°	14° / 9°	Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	28° / 32°	19° / 15°	15 rainy days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds
July	Poor Poor for sightseeing	31° / 35° Feels like 35°	23° / 20°	17 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds
August	Poor Poor for sightseeing	32° / 35° Feels like 36°	24° / 21°	17 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds
September	Fair Fair for sightseeing	28° / 33°	20° / 15°	13 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds
October	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 29°	14° / 9°	Calm winds
November	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 23°	9° / 4°	Dry air · Calm winds
December	Fair Fair for sightseeing	12° / 17° Feels like 8°	4° / -1°	Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: April, May, October

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights



- A Fukuoka Castle was built by the Kuroda clan in the early 1600s. The main keep is gone, but the large stone walls remain, and the park around them is a good place to walk, especially in spring.
- B Ōhori Park is a large lake park next to the castle site. Walk or jog the loop path, or visit the Japanese garden.
- C Fukuoka Tower is a 234 m mirror-glass tower by the sea. The top deck has views over Hakata Bay and the city.
- D Kushida Shrine is the shrine at the heart of old Hakata. It is the centre of the Yamakasa festival, and it is a short walk from Canal City.
- E Sumiyoshi Shrine is an old seafarers' shrine near Hakata Station. It is dedicated to safe travel at sea.
- F Sōfuku-ji is an old Zen temple in Hakata. It is a calm stop in the old part of the city.
- G Canal City is a large shopping and entertainment complex built around a canal. It is useful on a rainy day, and it is close to the Nakasu food stalls.
- H Yūsentei Park is a small Edo-period garden and pond in the south of the city. It is a good choice when you want a quiet hour.
- I Uminonakamichi Seaside Park is a large seaside park north of the city. It is known for seasonal flower fields, and you can rent a bike to ride around it.

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What to experience

- Watch the Hakata Gion Yamakasa festival in July. The main race starts at dawn on 15 July. The festival is centred on Kushida Shrine.
- Join the crowds at the Hakata Dontaku festival on 3 and 4 May, during Golden Week. Parades and dancers fill Meiji-dori.
- See a day of the Kyushu sumo tournament in November at the Fukuoka Kokusai Center.
- Rent a bike at Uminonakamichi Seaside Park in flower season and ride between the fields.
- Visit Marine World Uminonakamichi for the dolphin and sea lion shows.
- Walk or jog the lake loop at Ōhori Park at dusk.

Day trips

Fukuoka has several easy day trips by train. Times are one way from central Fukuoka.

- Dazaifu: about 25–40 minutes by Nishitetsu train from Tenjin, with one change at Nishitetsu Futsukaichi. Dazaifu Tenmangu is a famous shrine to the scholar Sugawara no Michizane, and the path to it is lined with small shops.
- Itoshima: about 40–45 minutes by train from Hakata to Chikuzen-Maebaru, then a bus to the coast. The peninsula has beaches, cafes and the white torii at Futamigaura. A car makes it easier to see more than one area.
- Yanagawa: reached by Nishitetsu train from Tenjin. The town is known for its canals and flat-bottomed boat rides.
- Ⓐ Kumamoto: about 35 minutes by Shinkansen from Hakata. It has a large castle and a famous garden.
- Ⓑ Nagasaki: about 1.5 hours by train, with a change at Takeo-Onsen. It is a good long day trip, or an overnight stop.



Where to explore

Two major Kyushu cities are easy to reach by Shinkansen from Hakata Station. Others are farther out and suit a longer stay.

- Kumamoto is the nearest big city to the south, about 35 minutes away.
- Nagasaki is on the west coast. It is known for its harbour and its trade history.
- Karatsu is a castle town on the northwest coast.
- Beppu is a hot spring town in the east, about 2 hours away by Sonic limited express.

Getting there

- **By air**: Fukuoka Airport is only 5 minutes from Hakata Station and about 12 minutes from Tenjin by subway. The domestic terminal is directly linked to the subway. The international terminal is not, so take the free shuttle bus to the domestic terminal first. Direct flights serve Tokyo, Osaka and many cities in Korea, China and Southeast Asia.
- **By Shinkansen**: Hakata Station is the main rail hub. Shin-Osaka is about 2 hours 20 minutes away, and Kumamoto about 35 minutes. Nagasaki takes about 1.5 hours, with a change at Takeo-Onsen. Book on the JR Kyushu site.
- **By limited express**: The Sonic train runs from Hakata through Kokura to Beppu and Oita. Beppu takes about 2 hours.

Getting around

- **Subway**: Three lines link the airport, Hakata Station, Tenjin and Nakasu. IC cards such as Suica and ICOCA work on the subway, so you can tap in. A 1 Day Pass is also sold. See the Fukuoka City Subway site.
- **Bus**: Nishitetsu buses leave from the Hakata and Tenjin bus centres. A bus runs between Hakata, Canal City and Tenjin, and another goes to Marinoa City and Seaside Momochi.
- **Nishitetsu train**: This line runs from Nishitetsu Fukuoka Station by Tenjin to Dazaifu and Yanagawa.
- **Taxi**: Taxis are useful at night, when the subway has stopped.
- **On foot**: Hakata and Tenjin are 5 minutes apart by subway. Each area is easy to walk, and the city is flat.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

Hakata and Tenjin are flat and easy to walk. The two areas are about 5 minutes apart by subway.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The city is flat and has some riverside and park paths. Traffic in the centre is busy.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** No, for the city. The subway and trains cover everything central. A car helps only for the Itoshima peninsula and other rural parts of Kyushu.
- **Driving side**: Traffic keeps to the left.
- **Licence**: Japan accepts only an International Driving Permit under the 1949 Geneva Convention, carried with your home licence. Drivers from some countries need an official Japanese translation of their licence instead, available from JAF. Verify before travel.

Food & drink

Fukuoka is known for Hakata ramen: thin noodles in a creamy pork-bone broth. Other local dishes are mentaiko (spiced pollock roe) and motsunabe, a hot pot of beef offal.

The best-known food areas are the open-air yatai stalls. They open in the evening, and the biggest group stands along the river in Nakasu. Others are in Tenjin. Seats are few and close together, and cash is the safest way to pay. Some stalls charge a small seating fee.

What to eat & drink

DINNER

Sushi · 寿司 (Sushi)
Vinegared rice paired with raw fish, seafood, or vegetables; ranges from casual conveyor-belt shops to high-end counters.

Ramen · ラーメン (Ramen)
Wheat noodles in a meat or fish-based broth, with countless regional styles.

Tempura · 天ぷら (Tempura)
Lightly battered, deep-fried seafood and vegetables.

Okonomiyaki · お好み焼き (Okonomiyaki)
A savory grilled pancake with cabbage and a choice of fillings, popular in Osaka and Hiroshima.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Onigiri · おにぎり (Onigiri)
Rice balls wrapped in seaweed, often with a savory filling; an everyday convenience-store staple.

Yakitori · 焼き鳥 (Yakitori)
Grilled skewers of chicken, popular at izakaya alongside beer or sake.

DRINKS

Green Tea · 緑茶 (Ryokucha)
The everyday non-alcoholic drink, served hot or cold.

Sake · 日本酒 (Nihonshu)
Rice wine served warm or chilled, a traditional accompaniment to a meal.

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Safety & health

Fukuoka is very safe for visitors, including at night. Petty crime is rare. Keep an eye on your belongings in crowds, as anywhere.

Heat and humidity in July and August can be tiring, so drink water and rest often. Typhoons can bring heavy rain and stop trains and flights in late summer. Check forecasts before a day trip.

History

Hakata was Japan's main gateway to mainland Asia for centuries. A gold seal found in the Fukuoka area is linked to a diplomatic mission to China in 57 AD. In the Middle Ages, Hakata was a rich port. Temples such as Sōfuku-ji date from this period.

Mongol fleets tried to invade the bay in 1274 and 1281. Storms helped to stop them, and the storms became known as the kamikaze, or "divine wind".

In 1600 the lord Kuroda Nagamasa named his new castle town Fukuoka. He built Fukuoka Castle between 1601 and 1607. Fukuoka and Hakata stayed separate towns, one for samurai and one for merchants. They merged in 1889, and the city took the name Fukuoka. Many Hakata traditions remain, such as the Yamakasa festival at Kushida Shrine.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Japan at a glance:

CURRENCY
JPY ¥

ELECTRICITY

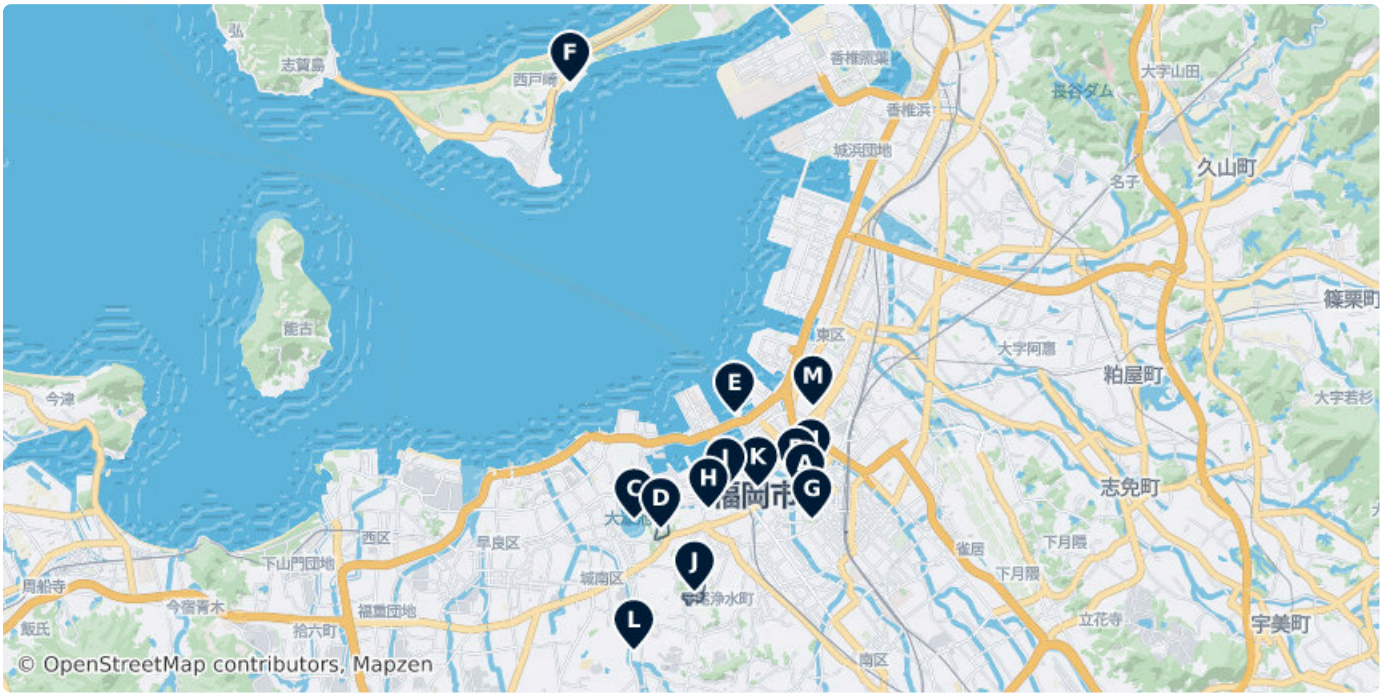
Type A / Type B
100 V

LANGUAGES
Japanese

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Fukuoka Essentials

Fukuoka's landscape features historic sites like the 8th-century Kushida Shrine and the ruins of Fukuoka Castle. Modern landmarks include the 103-meter Hakata Port Tower and the terraced greenery of ACROS Fukuoka. The city's coastal identity is reflected in the seafaring traditions of Sumiyoshi Shrine and the extensive Marine World Uminonakamichi aquarium. For relaxation, Ohori Park and the Edo-period Yūsentei Park provide tranquil spaces, while Canal City Hakata offers urban entertainment alongside traditional open-air yatai food stalls.





A Canal City

Canal City Hakata is a large shopping and entertainment complex in Fukuoka, Japan.

(33.59028, 130.41223)

canalcity.co.jp



B Kushida Shrine

Founded in 757, the shrine is considered to be the oldest Shinto shrine in the city.

Fukuoka, Japan (33.59298, 130.41046)

Mo–Su 04:00–22:00

yokanavi.com/en/spot/26906/, +81 92 291 2951



C Ōhori Park

Opened in 1929, this park has quickly become a popular relaxing destination for locals and tourists alike.

〒810-0051 福岡市中央区大濠公園1-2 (33.58590, 130.37668)

ohorikouen.jp/map/, 092-741-2004



D Fukuoka Castle

Also known as Maizuru Castle, this historic sight is situated on top of Fukusaki Hill, overlooking the city.

〒810-0043 福岡県福岡市中央区城内1-4 (33.58430, 130.38224)

fukuokajyo.com, +81 92 732 4801



E Hakata Port Tower

Hakata Port Tower is a 103 metre high lattice tower with an observation deck in a height of 73.5 metres in Hakata-ku, Fukuoka, Japan.

Japan (33.60427, 130.39755)

Mo–Su 10:00–21:40

port-of-hakata.city.fukuoka.lg.jp/index.php



F Marine World Uminonakamichi

Opened in 1989, this marine world features 70 aquariums full of marine animals and plants.

海の中道海洋生態科学館（マリンワールド海の中道）, 海の中道 (Umino-nakamichi);志賀島和白線, Fukuoka, Japan (33.66141, 130.36335)

marine-world.jp, +81 92 603 0400



G Sumiyoshi Shrine

Visit this Shinto shrine which is considered to be the oldest one on the Kyushu island. It is dedicated to gods of safe seafaring.

3 Chome-1-51 Sumiyoshi, Hakata Ward, Fukuoka, Fukuoka Prefecture 812-0018, Japan (33.58590, 130.41369)

chikuzen-sumiyoshi.or.jp, +81 92 291 2670

H Chikae

Traditional Japanese restaurant featuring large seawater tanks where diners can view the daily catch. Specializes in regional Kyushu seafood and seasonal kaiseki cuisine.

Fukuoka, Japan (33.58774, 130.39213)

Mo–Su 11:00–22:00

I Night yatai food stands

Open-air food stall in the Tenjin district specializing in Hakata ramen and yaki-ramen, a stir-fried noodle dish original to this specific stand.

Fukuoka, Japan (33.59123, 130.39564)

Mo–Su 18:30–01:00



J Fukuoka Municipal Zoo and Botanical Garden

The Fukuoka Municipal Zoo and Botanical Garden, also known as the Fukuoka City Zoological Garden, is a zoo and botanical garden established...

Fukuoka, Japan (33.57333, 130.38926)

zoo.city.fukuoka.lg.jp/general/index_en



K ACROS Fukuoka Prefectural International Hall

This building boasts a wonderful rooftop garden which merges with the park.

Fukuoka, Japan (33.59147, 130.40242)

acros.or.jp/english/



L Yūsentei Park

Yūsentei Park is a park in Jōnan-ku, Fukuoka, Japan. It was originally built in the mid-Edo period for Kuroda Tsugutaka, the 6th domain head...

東油山唐人線, Fukuoka, Japan (33.56319, 130.37662)

+81 92 711 0415



M Sōfuku-ji

Sōfuku-ji is a Rinzai temple in Hakata-ku, Fukuoka, Japan. Its honorary sangō prefix is Yokodakezan.

Fukuoka, Japan (33.60547, 130.41387)



N Ryuguji Temple

This petit temple was originally situated on a beach. Legend has it that after a mermaid had been spotted on the beach, the temple was named...

(33.59450, 130.41340)

Fukuoka Shrines and Temples

Fukuoka's spiritual landscape features historical sites dating back to the 8th century. This selection includes Kushida Shrine, the city's oldest Shinto site, and Sumiyoshi Shrine, dedicated to seafaring deities. The list highlights diverse architectural styles, from the Rinzai Zen traditions at Sōfuku-ji and Tenpuku-ji to the mermaid folklore of Ryuguji Temple. Visitors can explore mountain-side sanctuaries like Iimori and Sefuri shrines, or discover smaller neighborhood sites that preserve local traditions and the region's religious heritage.





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yokanavi.com/en/spot/26906/, +81 92 291 2951



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chikuzen-sumiyoshi.or.jp, +81 92 291 2670



C Sōfuku-ji

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Fukuoka, Japan (33.60547, 130.41387)



D Ryuguji Temple

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(33.59450, 130.41340)



E 飯盛神社本社（下宮）

Shinto shrine located on Mount Iimori in the Nishi-ku district.

Japan (33.53836, 130.30942)

iimorijinja.jp/top.htm



F Bokushimiwa Shrine

Shinto shrine located in the Nishi-ku district of Fukuoka.

(Unnamed Road), Japan (33.63199, 130.30259)

G 勝楽寺

Buddhist temple.

(33.61988, 130.42413)

H 天福寺

Zen temple belonging to the Myoshin-ji branch of the Rinzai sect.

(33.53229, 130.37239)

I Hitomaru Shrine

Shinto shrine in Shingu dedicated to the celebrated poet Kakinomoto no Hitomaro.

Japan (33.70471, 130.43671)

J Shito shrine

Ancient Shinto shrine in the Itoshima region, mentioned in 10th-century historical records.

(Unnamed Road), Japan (33.57419, 130.22220)

K 脊振神社(上宮)

The upper sanctuary of the shrine, situated near the 1,055-meter summit of Mount Sefuri.

Japan (33.43642, 130.36870)

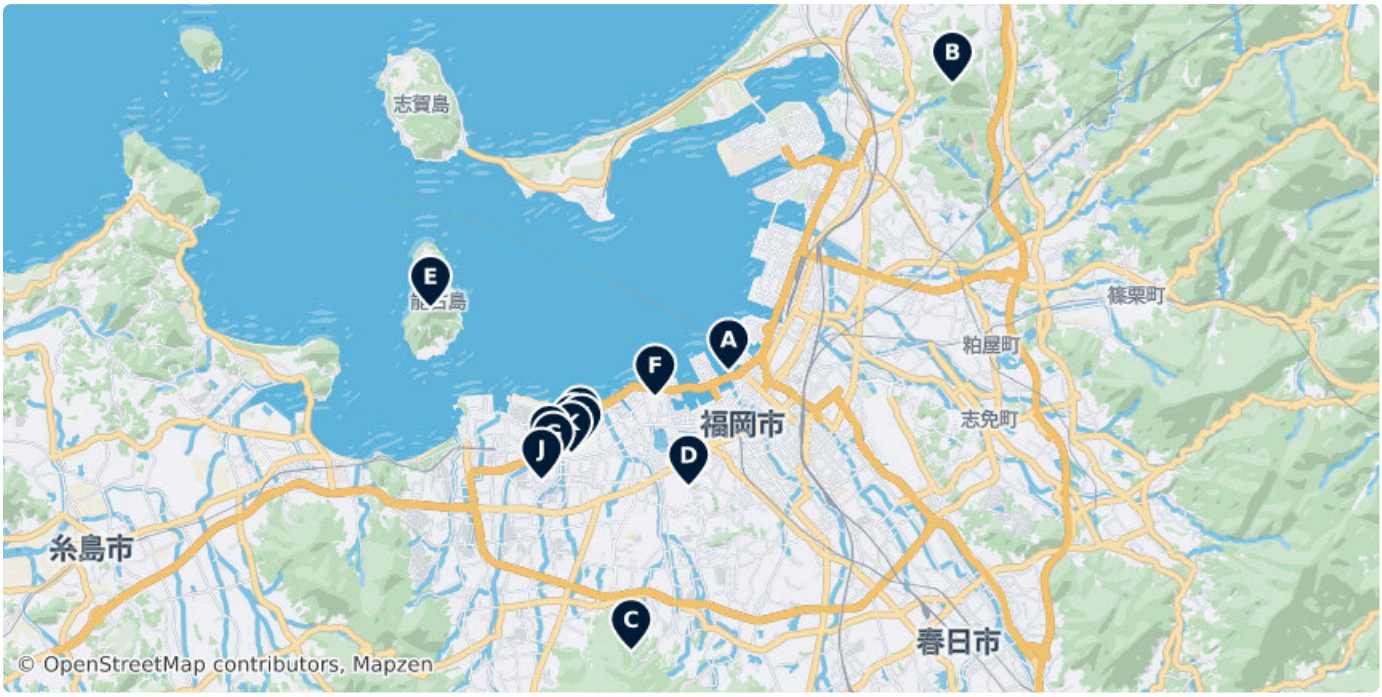
L 白山神社

Shinto shrine.

Japan (33.61891, 130.23175)

Fukuoka Viewpoints

Fukuoka's landscape offers a mix of urban observation decks and natural summits. This collection includes the 103-meter Hakata Port Tower and the 367-meter Mt. Tachibana, which features medieval castle ruins and ancient camphor forests. Key spots like the Katae Observatory on Mt. Abura provide expansive night views of the city, while Nishi Park's Momiji-dani offers seasonal scenery. The selection spans coastal vistas, public parks, and mountain lookouts across the region.





A Hakata Port Tower

Hakata Port Tower is a 103 metre high lattice tower with an observation deck in a height of 73.5 metres in Hakata-ku, Fukuoka, Japan.

Japan (33.60427, 130.39755)

Mo–Su 10:00–21:40

port-of-hakata.city.fukuoka.lg.jp/index.php



B Mt.Tachibana

A 367-meter peak featuring medieval castle ruins and a protected forest of giant camphor trees.

Japan (33.67976, 130.46824)

C 片江展望台

Elevated vantage point on Mt. Abura known for panoramic views of the Fukuoka city skyline.

Japan (33.53061, 130.36680)

D South Park West Lookout

Observation point in Minami Koen overlooking the central city area.

(33.57386, 130.38492)

E Observation deck

Coastal observation deck providing views of the bay and surrounding shoreline.

(33.62082, 130.30344)

F もみじ谷

A valley in Nishi Park known for its maple trees and seasonal autumn foliage.

(33.59748, 130.37439)

G times室見2

(33.57970, 130.34221)

H times百道3

(33.58436, 130.35106)

I 2-times百道

(33.58651, 130.35065)

J times南庄2

(33.57548, 130.33851)

K ももちパレス

(33.58247, 130.34793)

L 駐車場

(33.58455, 130.34831)

M times室見3

(33.58169, 130.34103)

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