

SEA LINK

情繫碧海

TEXT/文 SIMON ROWE
PHOTOS/攝影 AKIRA ETO

Fukuoka is a city that lives and breathes its maritime connection, from its sumptuous seafood to the marine-inspired architecture

從頂級海鮮以至充滿海洋氣息的建築設計，顯見福岡與海洋有著密不可分的關係

The shores of Momochi Beach have seen a building boom in resorts and hotels

百道浜海灘旁，度假村與酒店如雨後春筍



A COOL SEA BREEZE wends its way up the River Nakagawa, rippling the outgoing tide and ruffling the entrance flags of a small restaurant perched on its banks. To anyone who can read simple Japanese, the restaurant's name is Kaji-Honten and the two characters for *fugu*, daubed in fat black strokes across its white façade, announce that it serves no ordinary fare.

Fugu means blowfish, a delicacy in Fukuoka city, and tonight, inside the sliding doors, around a horseshoe-shaped counter tended by women in pastel kimonos, customers will feast on this carefully prepared dish in its myriad styles – be it tempura, sashimi or hot pot.

It is not just its selection of local sake and succulent seafood, which includes squid and shellfish, that make Kaji-Honten enjoyable. The way its chefs skilfully juggle their live seafood from a large central tank to the kitchen, the friendly banter of regular patrons and the polite explanations of the menu items by a female staffer to first-time diners also add to this authentic eating experience in a city whose lifestyle and livelihood is inextricably linked to the sea.

清涼的海風吹至那珂川，河面上泛起陣陣漣漪，岸邊一家小餐館入口處的旗幟亦隨風飄揚。這家名為Kaji-Honten的日本料理店，白色的外牆寫有「河豚」兩個黑色字，字體蒼勁雄渾。略懂日文的人一看便知道，店內供應的是非一般的珍饈美食。

河豚又名雞泡魚，是福岡的美食。華燈初上之際，餐館內身穿粉彩色和服的女服務員，殷勤地服侍圍坐在馬蹄形餐枱前及餐廳內的顧客，為他們送上各式精心炮製的河豚料理，包括河豚天婦羅、刺身及火鍋。

Kaji-Honten之所以大受歡迎，不單是因為餐廳提供當地優質的清酒，以及新鮮的墨魚、貝類等海產，還有其道地的款客方式，以及能讓人領會到這個城市與海洋密不可分的生活面貌：手法熟練的廚師，從大水箱中把鮮活的海產網起後送往廚房；談笑風生的熟客，以及女侍應親切有禮地向首次光臨的客人解說菜單上的菜餚。

來自博多灣的強烈海風，讓空氣中充滿了海水的氣味。海岸旁各式各樣的海鮮餐館、廣闊的海灘、以



Kaji-Honten restaurant (far left) specialises in fugu (middle). An open-air food stall in Nakasu (above)

Kaji-Honten (最左圖) 的河豚菜式 (中圖)。中洲區的露天食肆 (上圖)

Fugu blowfish are a delicacy which must be handled carefully (below)

以鮮美的河豚入饌 需要小心處理 (下圖)

Indeed, the briny smell of the ocean on days when stiff breezes blow off Hakata Bay, an abundance of seafood restaurants, beach space and sleek urban architecture designed with water themes in mind all serve to remind the 1.5 million citizens of Kyushu's largest city that the ocean laps at their doorstep.

Kyushu, Japan's third-largest and most westerly of its four main islands, is inextricably linked to China by way of lucrative trade agreements. Large Japanese corporations such as Toyota, NEC and Toshiba now produce and export to China directly from Fukuoka, an arrangement which is helping the city to enjoy its best economic conditions in decades. Just jump aboard a city bus bound for Momochi Beach to witness the hubbub of maritime industry that facilitates all this trade.

Beyond Hakata Bay lies the rest of Asia. Shanghai is a mere 90 minutes flight away and Busan, in South Korea, can be reached by fast-ferry in less than three hours. With an international airport that receives more than 300 flights a week from 20 Asian cities, Fukuoka is fast becoming a first port of call for many visitors.

It is an easily navigable city too, simply for the fact that downtown can be defined as just two main districts, Hakata and Tenjin, divided by the River Nakagawa and yet connected by numerous bridges.

Both were once independent cities – Hakata, a port town run by merchants, and Tenjin, previously called Fukuoka, a town ruled by samurai. Although they merged in 1889 and took the name Fukuoka (at the behest of the samurai), both districts have retained traces of their former selves. Hakata is still the financial hub and home to lively entertainment quarters, while “old Fukuoka”, which lies across the Nakagawa in Tenjin, brims with restaurants, bars and stores – now decidedly upmarket.

The forces of water have also shaped the

水作為設計主題的現代建築物，雅致時髦，彷彿都在提醒福岡市的150萬名居民，海洋就近在咫尺。

福岡是九州最大的城市，九州則是日本的第三大島，也是日本四大島中位於最西面的島嶼。由於中國與九州訂下條件優越的入口貿易協議，因此雙方關係非常密切。大型日資機構如豐田、NEC及東芝等製造商，目前均在福岡設廠生產商品，並將之直接出口到中國，過去數十年來替這個城市創造了優良的經濟環境。要見證中日貿易帶動海洋工業蓬勃發展的景況，只需登上一部前往百道浜海灘的市區巴士便可知一二。

博多灣與亞洲大陸遙遙相望，從福岡乘搭飛機前往上海僅需一個半小時的航程；乘搭快速渡輪前往南韓釜山，不足三小時便可抵埗。福岡國際機場每周的航班達300多班，主要來自亞洲20個城市，令福岡迅速成為許多國外旅客進入日本的門戶。

福岡市中心被那珂川一分為二，可以簡單劃分為博多與天神兩個主要區域，兩區之間由多道橋樑連接，方便旅客往來兩區觀光。

博多與天神曾經是兩個獨立的城市，昔日的博多區是個商業城市，古稱福岡的天神則由武士統治。雖然兩個城市在1889年合而為一，在武士的命令下取名「福岡」，但兩者各自保留了自己的特色。博多區至今仍是金融及娛樂中心，而藏身在那珂川對岸天神區內的「舊福岡」，則商店、餐廳及酒吧林立，是高檔的消閒區。

水亦塑造了這個城市的生活型態。中洲原本是那珂川與博多河之間的一個無名沙洲，其後由福岡的藩主黑田長政命名為中洲，並在1600年興建多道橋樑，將中洲與舊博多區及福岡區連接起來。時至今日，中洲區內開設有多間像Kaji-Honten這類氣氛親切舒適的海鮮料理店，霓虹招牌高掛的繁華街道上，擠滿了3,500餘家酒吧、餐





Sea life on display at Marine World (above)

海洋世界讓你飽覽海洋生態 (上圖)

Hakata is a major port in western Japan (below)

博多是日本西面的主要港口 (下圖)

Architects have taken advantage of Fukuoka's boom

建築師利用福岡大興土木的機會，紛紛展現創意

way the city enjoys itself. Nakasu, which means “island in the middle”, was originally a sandbank between the Nakagawa and Hakata rivers before a local lord named Kuroda Nagamasa connected it to the old Hakata and Fukuoka districts via a series of bridges in 1600. These days it is home to cozy seafood eateries like Kaji-Honten along with about 3,500 other bars, restaurants, karaoke lounges and hotels which cluster on its noisy, neon-lit streets. Access to Nakasu is no problem – just pick any of the 18 bridges that link it with Hakata and Tenjin.

One of the great city escapes, however, is to jump aboard a ferry for the breezy 20-minute ride across Hakata Bay to Uminonakamichi, home to Marine World, Japan's largest aquarium complex and shark tank.

Back across Hakata Bay and a 30-minute bus ride from Tenjin, the sea, sand, and sometimes surf, can be enjoyed in the raw at Momochi Beach, where beach-volleyball tournaments, sunset walks or the chance to haul in a fish or two off the jetty are among the attractions.

Some of the world's most dynamic architects have taken advantage of Fukuoka's building boom to showcase their ideas on this vast expanse of reclaimed land, known officially as Seaside Momochi district. A leisurely 60-minute stroll along its shoreline will take you past the creations of César Pelli, Steven Holl, Oscar Tusquêts and Rem Koolhaas, to name just a few.

Slicing the Hakata Bay breezes like a huge fin at the east end of Momochi Beach is the Pelli-designed JAL Resort

廳、卡拉OK酒廊及酒店。由於有多達18道橋樑連接博多及天神區，從其他各區前往中洲的交通亦十分方便。

要避開鬧市的喧囂，不妨乘搭渡輪橫過博多灣，到海之中道海濱公園遊覽，順道在20分鐘的船程中享受清涼的海風。公園內有日本大型的水族館海洋世界，以及巨型的鯊魚水族箱。

橫過博多灣再回到市區，從天神乘搭巴士前往百道濱海灘，約30分鐘即可抵達。百道濱海灘有引人入勝的天然風光，不論是在海中衝浪，還是在細沙上玩沙灘排球、在夕陽餘暉中散步、在海堤上享受垂釣之樂，均可令人樂而忘返。

多位充滿創意的建築師乘著福岡大興土木之際，在百道濱海濱區這一大片填海土地上，展現他們的創意。沿著海岸悠閒地散步的一小時行程中，你可以欣賞到César Pelli、Steven Holl、Oscar Tusquêts與 Rem Koolhaas等建築大師的傑作。



FLY WITH US
港龍航程

Dragonair flies daily to Fukuoka, as does its sister airline, Cathay Pacific Airways

港龍航空每天均提供航班前往福岡，而姊妹公司國泰航空每天亦有航班飛往福岡



Marinoa City boasts two Ferris wheels and shops by the sea
Marinoa City擁有兩座摩天輪和各式海濱商店

Sea Hawk Hotel Fukuoka, the largest hotel in Kyushu with 1,052 guest rooms. Pelli, who designed Kuala Lumpur's Petronas Towers, let wind and water themes shape the hotel. The foyer feels as big as a bay, the reception area's walls are rippled like a beach at low tide and there is a vast typhoon-proof glass atrium, which resembles a cone shell, where jazz singers perform in the evenings.

Close to the Sea Hawk is the city's sleekest landmark, the Fukuoka Tower. Its swordfish-like profile and 8,000 glass panels, which resemble the scales of a fish, were designed by Japanese firm Nikken Sekkei and completed in 1989 at a cost of ¥6 billion (about HK\$506 million).

Outstanding 360-degree views of the city are only a 70-second elevator ride from the ground floor to the 123 metre-high observation deck. A short bus ride west of the tower is the colourful Marinoa City mall development, designed by American Jon Jerde. Two enormous Ferris wheels turn slowly over the myriad shops, eateries and the stylish 44-room Evergreen Marinoa boutique hotel.

After sampling Fukuoka's sights and indulging its popular haunts, it can indeed be a city difficult to leave.

在百道濱海灘東面盡頭的福岡海鷹酒店，屬於吉隆坡雙子星塔建築師César Pelli的作品，外形如巨大魚鱗，彷彿能劃破從博多灣襲來的海風。福岡海鷹酒店是九州最大的酒店，共有1,052間客房，設計以風和水為主題：酒店大堂有如海灣般寬敞；接待處牆上的波紋設計，令人聯想起潮退時留在沙上的波浪紋；中庭的巨大玻璃，外形仿如圓錐形的貝殼，而堅固的玻璃足可抵禦颱風吹襲，夜幕低垂後，爵士樂手會在酒店中庭內奏出一首首動人的樂章。

福岡的地標福岡塔就在海鷹酒店附近，這幢大樓由日本的日建設計事務所設計，並於1989年建成，建築費高達60億日元（約5.06億港元）。這幢形狀像劍魚的大樓由8,000塊像魚鱗般的玻璃板覆蓋著。

從大樓地下乘搭升降機，只須70秒便可直達123米高的觀景台，可360度地環顧福岡市的壯闊美景。從福岡塔乘搭巴士往西行，不久便會到達由美國著名建築師Jon Jerde設計的Marinoa City購物城。在各式商店、餐廳和只有44間別緻客房的長榮桂冠精品酒店之間，是兩座正在慢慢轉動的巨型摩天輪。這些建築物及設施構成了一幅美麗的風景畫。

飽覽過以上提及的熱門景點與迷人風光之後，你會發現福岡是一個令人流連忘返的城市。

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EAT AND DRINK

Hotel Evergreen Marinoa
2-12-43 Odo, Nishi-ku
Fukuoka, +81 92 895 5511
www.evergreenhotels.jp/en
Relax over afternoon tea in the lounge of the stylish 44-room boutique hotel, positioned conveniently beneath the Sky Dream Ferris wheel and overlooking the Nishi-Fukuoka Marina Town.

Pescheria Mamma Mia
Momochi-hama 902-1,
2-Chome, Sawara-ku Fukuoka,
+81 92 832 3353

<http://pksp.jp/mammamia>
Great for crispy wood-fired pizzas and sumptuous seafood pasta dishes served up with a smile by the young, fashionable staff.

Ipei
Nakasu 4-Chome
Hakata-ku, Fukuoka
Stop in at Ipei, a cosy traditional street stall (called *yatai*) which overlooks the River Nakagawa from the Nakasu side. Enjoy watching the fish jump on the Nakagawa's incoming tide while the chef prepares your order of fresh Kyushu seafood, served tempura-style.

Blue Bar
Nakasu 1-40, Chuo-ku Nishi
Fukuoka, +81 92 725 8290
Located opposite Ipei and overlooking the river, drop by and order a cold Kirin lager and watch the throngs make their way merrily home across Haruyoshi Bridge.

Kaji-Honten
Nakasu 3-11, 2-Chome, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka, +81 92 291 2219
+0120 293 490 (toll-free)
www.kaji-fuk.jp
See main text.



Pescheria Mamma Mia serves wood-fired pizzas
Pescheria Mamma Mia供應以柴火烤焗的意式薄餅



Kaji-Honten is known for its fugu
Kaji-Honten以河豚菜式聞名



Ipei is a traditional street stall
傳統路邊食肆一平

Sake Ichi-ban
Nakasu 4-Chome, Hakata-ku Fukuoka
+81 92 291 3920
A traditional red-lantern *izakaya* located south of the Hakata Excel Hotel and not far from the river. Be sure to try a glass of sake along with the grilled Pacific saury, baked eggplant in miso sauce and the specialty of salted and seasoned spicy cod roe, called *mentaiko*, for a taste of true local fare.

STAY
Hotel Il Palazzo
3-13-1 Haruyoshi, Chuo-ku
Fukuoka, +81 92 716 3333
www.ilpalazzo.jp

Hyatt Residential Suites
1-3-70 Momochihama
Sawara-ku, Fukuoka
+81 92 846 8585
<http://hyatt-rsf.co.jp/english.html>

JAL Resort Sea Hawk Hotel
Fukuoka
2-2-3 Jigyo-hama
Chuo-ku, Fukuoka
+81 92 844 8111
www.hawkstown.com/hotel

飲食推介

長榮桂冠酒店
福岡市西區小戸2-12-43
+81 92 895 5511
www.evergreenhotels.jp
不妨在精緻的長榮桂冠酒店內享受美味的下午茶點。這間毗連Sky Dream摩天輪的酒店，共有44間別具風格的客房，遊客可於此俯瞰西福岡的住宅區Marina Town。

Pescheria Mamma Mia
福岡市早良區百道浜2丁目902-1
+81 92 832 3353
<http://pksp.jp/mammamia>
此店以燒柴的烤爐烘製意大利薄餅，另外還供應材料豐富的海鮮意粉，穿著時髦的年輕服務員，全都笑容可掬，服務周到。

一平
福岡市博多區中洲4丁目
這是一間日語稱為「屋台」的傳統路邊食檔，位置剛好可眺望那珂川的美景。潮漲時，顧客可一邊品嚐九州海鮮天婦羅，一邊欣賞在那珂川中躍起的魚兒。

Blue Bar
福岡市中央區西中洲1-40
+81 92 725 8290
坐落河岸旁的Blue Bar就在一平的對面。不妨在此點一瓶冰凍的麒麟啤酒，細看喝得微醺的人愉快地橫過春吉橋歸家的情景。

Kaji-Honten
福岡市博多區中洲2丁目3-11
+81 92 291 2219或
+0120 293 490 (當地免費電話)
www.kaji-fuk.jp
詳情請參閱內文。

酒一番
福岡市博多區中洲4丁目
+81 92 291 3920
這間掛著紅燈籠的傳統居酒屋，位於博多東急飯店南面，距離河邊不遠。想一嚐道地口味，不妨一試那裡的烤太平洋針魚、味噌汁焗茄子及風味獨特的香辣鱈魚子（明太子），佐以一杯清酒，體驗道地的日本風味。

住宿選擇
Hotel Il Palazzo
福岡市中央區春吉3-13-1
+81 92 716 3333
www.ilpalazzo.jp

Hyatt Residential Suites
福岡市早良區百道浜1-3-70
+81 92 846 8585
<http://hyatt-rsf.co.jp>

福岡海鷹酒店
福岡市中央區地行浜2-2-3
+81 92 844 8111
www.hawkstown.com/hotel