

# The Former Chinese Quarter

## Map & History



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## Dejima and the Equally Important Chinese Quarter

The Chinese Quarter and Dejima, both extremely important and historical heritages which only exist in Nagasaki within Japan. Dejima played a large role in the modernization of Japan. Similarly, the Chinese Quarter also had a huge impact on Nagasaki and Japan during its isolationist period, which led to many people coming to Nagasaki to study Chinese poetry, painting, and calligraphy under the Chinese people in the quarter. These people even outnumbered the people who came to Dejima. Furthermore, the amount of trade with the Chinese and the profits that came from it surpassed that of the trade with the Dutch, greatly influencing the economy of Nagasaki at the time.

## Lighting Up the Former Chinese Quarter, the Nagasaki Lantern Festival



The Chinese Quarter During the Nagasaki Lantern Festival

The Nagasaki Lantern Festival was originally a celebration of the Chinese New Year (Spring Festival) by the Chinese immigrants which mainly took place in Shinchi Chinatown. Nowadays, it's become a staple event of the winter time in Nagasaki. During the festival, Chinatown and the heart of the city are decorated with roughly 15,000 Chinese paper lanterns. The Former Chinese Quarter becomes crowded with people, with events such as the "Candle Prayers Across Four Temples" taking place.

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# Take a Stroll Through the Former Chinese Quarter, Telling the Deep History of Exchange with China

Come experience the hills and narrow stone stairways etc. They'll put you in a nostalgic mood.

## 1 Monument Square



The remains of dry moats and the restored *neribe* (mud and tile walls) can be seen here.

## Kannondo Shrine

Municipally Designated Historic Site



**The Impressive Stone Arch Gate**  
Estimated to have been built in 1737, the current building was rebuilt in 1787 and was remodeled in 1917. The Goddess of Mercy and Guan Yu are enshrined in the main hall. The stone gate at the entrance is from the days of the Chinese Quarter.

## Fukken Hall Tenkodo Shrine

Municipally Designated Tangible Cultural Property



**A Consolidated Showcase of China's Interactions with Japan**  
In 1868, people from the Fujian Province of China established the Hachibin Hall. In 1897, it underwent a complete remodeling and was renamed the Fukken Hall. While the hall was destroyed in the atomic bombing, the main gate and Tenkodo Shrine still stand today. A unique feature of the building is the mix of Chinese and Japanese style architecture. This combination of the two countries' architectural styles makes the building a consolidated showcasing of China's exchanges with Japan. In 1913, Sun Yat-sen came to a welcome luncheon hosted by Chinese immigrants at this place and took a picture together with the prefectural governor.



## 6 Chinese Quarter Symbol Gateway (Daimon)



Standing at the entrance to Kannai-machi is this 8.7 meter tall Chinese gate. A popular spot for commemorative photos.

## 7 Chinese Quarter Symbol Gateway (Yudomon)



A stone gate that sits at the entrance of the Hirobaba Shopping Street.

## Tenkodo Shrine

Municipally Designated Historic Site



**Enshrining the Holy Heavenly Mother (Mazu), the Goddess of Seafaring**  
The origin of this shrine dates back to 1736, from the people of the Nanjing region who would pray to the Holy Heavenly Mother for safe voyages at sea. In an old illustration, the Chinese characters for "Holy Heavenly Mother" are written on the red flags on the flagpoles outside of the gate. The current building was remodeled in 1906.

## Dojindo Shrine

Municipally Designated Historic Site



**Enshrining Tudigong, the God of the Earth Who Watches over our Daily Lives**  
In September of 1691, this shrine was established after some Chinese ship owners who wished to build a stone shrine for Tudigong received permission to do so. In 1784, the shrine was lost in a fire, but thanks to the efforts of three temples it was restored. In 1950, the dilapidated parts of the structure were removed, leaving behind just the stone shrine. In 1977 however, it was restored to its original appearance.

## 2 Moat of the Former Chinese Quarter

The remains of the moat which surrounded the Chinese Quarter. Currently it is being used as a water channel.



## 3 Morii Bridge

A stone bridge built over the moat from the Meiji Era and was donated by the local Isoji Mori, who also donated both Sakae Bridge and Mori Bridge.



### Who Was Isoji Mori?

After Japan ended their isolationist policies and opened up the country, the Nagasaki Magistrate's Office was dissolved and the district of the Chinese Quarter was left without an administrator. Isoji Mori purchased the land and began to resume maintenance on the district.

## 4 Storehouse Museum (Former Mori Family Storehouse)



The Former Mori Family Goods Storehouse was relocated to its current location and repaired. It opened as this museum. Panels detailing the history of the Chinese Quarter, trade with China, the everyday lives and annals of the Chinese residents, and several types of porcelain which were excavated are exhibited here.  
Open: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM  
Open Year Round, Free Admission

## 5 Juzenji District Urban Development Information Center



Located next to the Storehouse Museum, this center is dedicated to the spread and collection of information regarding the Chinese Quarter, and for social exchange in the local area.  
Open: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM  
Closed on Weekends and National Holidays  
Inquiries: 095-829-0267

Mii-chan of Kannai



## Chinese Culture Experiences at the Former Chinese Quarter

### Chinese Tea Experience



Relax and enjoy Chinese tea while listening to the history of the Chinese Quarter. (You can also rent traditional Chinese clothing.)

Cost: ¥3000 per person Capacity: 1 - 18 people  
Required time: about 60 minutes (Reservation required)

### Tai Chi Experience

Come experience the basics of Tai chi and learn some Kung fu exercises. Control your body's movements and restore the balance between your body and mind.

Cost: ¥2000 per person Capacity: 5 - 40 people  
Required time: about 90 minutes (Reservation required)

### Erhu Experience

Learn how to play the Erhu, a Chinese instrument. You can also enjoy the experience while wearing Chinese clothes.

Cost: ¥2000 per person Capacity: 5 - 15 people  
Required time: about 60 minutes (Reservation required)

[Reservations and Inquiries]

Juzenji District Urban Development Information Center Tel./Fax. 095-829-0267  
Reception: Juzenji District Urban Development Information Center (Located on map at 5)  
\*These experiences are available only in Japanese.



# The Chinese Quarter: A Window for International Exchange

## An Increase in Ships Arriving from China

It is said that the first ship from China that arrived in Nagasaki came in 1562. In 1571, Nagasaki opened up its ports and soon after even more ships from China came to the city. Upon entering the Edo era, trade with Portugal and China flourished. In 1635, ships from China were prohibited from entering Japan except for the ports in Nagasaki. During Japan's period of foreign isolation, Nagasaki began trading with the Dutch in lieu of their previous trade with Portugal. But when compared to trade with China, revenue from trade with the Chinese was approximately more than double than that from the Dutch. Due to this, the economy of Nagasaki was greatly influenced by the number of Chinese ships that came to the city.



Scene of the Arrival and Trade of the Chinese Vessel by Yushi Ishizaki / Courtesy of the Nagasaki Museum of History and Culture

### Imports from China

Silk, textiles, Chinese medicine (ginseng, licorice root, etc.), incense (agarwood, sandalwood, etc.), sugar, minerals (lead, mercury, etc.), dyes, leather, Chinese paper, Chinese ink, brushes, books, Shan Shui paintings, pottery, etc.

### Exports from Japan

Copper, copperware, *tawaramono* (goods in straw bags with dried abalone, dried sea cucumber, and shark fin), Kombu, dried squid, dried bonito, shiitake mushrooms, etc. (Silver was also exported up until the 18th century.)

## The Birth of the Chinese Quarter

At first, the Chinese people who came to Nagasaki for trade would stay in the city, but in response to the sudden increase in ships from China coming to Nagasaki and in order to properly manage trade with China, in 1689, the Chinese Quarter, a place where the Chinese people could stay during their time in Nagasaki, was built in present-day Kannai-machi. The Chinese Quarter spanned across approximately 36,000m<sup>2</sup> and was surrounded with a mud and tile wall. Outside the wall were wet and dry moats with a fixed amount of unoccupied land that was surrounded by a bamboo fence.

## The Goods from China Went to the Shinchi Storehouse, the Merchants and Crew Members Went to the Quarter

A great fire occurred within Nagasaki City in 1698. Around 20 ships worth of goods that were stored in storehouses in Kabashima-machi and Goto-machi were lost to the fire. As a result of this, in 1702, the merchants who owned the storehouses created the "Shinchi Storehouse" (present day Shinchi Chinatown). Since then, goods from the Chinese ships were stored in that storehouse. The Shinchi Storehouse was surrounded by a mud wall and on the south side there were four sluice gates. Goods would be brought in and sent out through these gates.



Port of Nagasaki by Okyo Maruyama / Courtesy of the Nagasaki Museum of History and Culture  
\*Depiction of the Port of Nagasaki in the Late Edo era

After undergoing a rigorous inspection, Chinese merchants and ship crew members would enter the Chinese Quarter with only their personal belongings and would stay there until the day they left to go back to China. At the entrance of the quarter were two gates. Beyond the first gate, Daimon, were guardhouses in order to prevent unauthorized entries and exits from the quarter. Past the second inner gate, the Ninomon, inside the quarter were around 20 two-story longhouses, allowing for up to approximately 2000 people to stay in the quarter at one time. During their stay, some people could receive permission from the Magistrate's Office and go out and climb Mt. Konpira in order to visit Chinese temples or pray for safe voyages at sea.

## Did Japanese People Go Inside the Chinese Quarter?

If Japanese people wanted to go inside the Chinese Quarter, a gate permit was required. In the plaza between the two entrance gates to the quarter, the Daimon and Ninomon, Chinese people would purchase daily necessities, like fish and vegetables, lacquerware, and Imari porcelain from Japanese sellers. Gate permits were issued to merchants who had been granted permission to trade within the area. Aside from merchants, permits were also granted to builders for construction works as well as courtesans who were allowed entry up until the second gate, Ninomon.



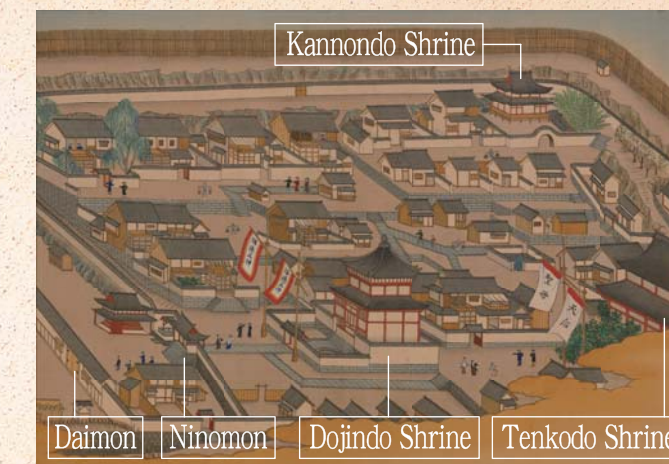
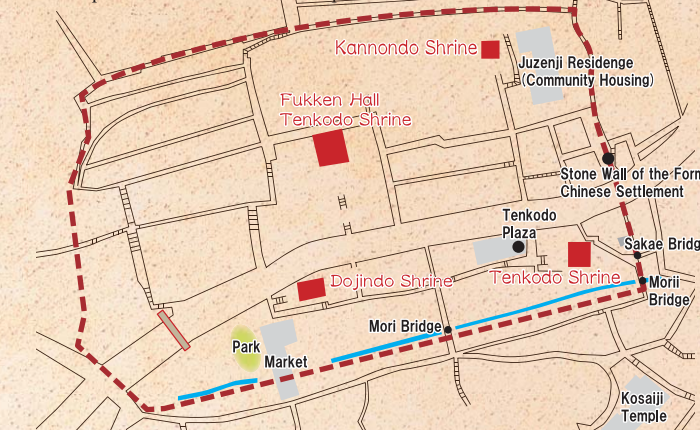
Gate Permit (1839) / Courtesy of the Nagasaki Museum of History and Culture

## When Did the Chinese Quarter Go Away?

In 1784, there was a large fire at the Chinese Quarter which destroyed all but one part of the entire area. Since then, the Chinese people in quarter were permitted to build their own structures. In 1859, after Japan ended its period of isolation, the Chinese Quarter was slowly abolished and many of the Chinese people went to go live in the foreign settlement in Shinchi and Oura. In 1871, there was another large fire at the Chinese Quarter. A majority of the buildings were lost to the fire, but the stone foundations of the building still remain today.

## The Areas of the Chinese Quarter

\* Compare the locations of the temples



Map of the Chinese Quarter / Courtesy of the Nagasaki Museum of History and Culture

# The Chinese Culture of Nagasaki Which Was Passed Down from the Chinese Quarter



Scroll of the Chinese Quarter by Yushi Ishizaki / Courtesy of the Nagasaki Museum of History and Culture

Walk down the path of 300 years of history.



There were roughly 20 two-story longhouses in the Chinese Quarter. People of high status such as the ship-owners lived on the second floors which were very well constructed. The crew and sailors would stay in the large room on the first floor. The parade in the upper portion of the photo is from the scenery of the reenactment of the Mazu Parade at the Nagasaki Lantern Festival. This road, which goes from Dojindo Shrine to Tenkodo Shrine, has over 300 years of history.



"Dragon Dance" from the Scroll of the Chinese Quarter by Keiga Kawahara / Courtesy of the Nagasaki Museum of History and Culture

I see! This was the original Dragon Dance.



The Dragon Dance was a celebration that took place during the 15th day of the 1st lunar month. People from the town neighboring the Chinese Quarter, Kago-machi, learned this dance and today it is passed down as a ritual offering dance of the Kunchi Festival.



"Saishu Nagashi" from the Scroll of the Chinese Quarter by Keiga Kawahara / Courtesy of the Nagasaki Museum of Culture and History

You burn the boats?!



The "Saishu Nagashi" is an event from China where models of Chinese ships which are decorated as offerings are burned in memorial of people who have passed away. Nagasaki's *Shoro Nagashi* (Spirit Boat Procession), which takes place every year on August 15, is said to have originated from this tradition.



Scenes of the Chinese Quarter, Author Unknown / Courtesy of the Nagasaki Museum of History and Culture

What is on the menu for today?



In the space between the Daimon and Ninomon, the Chinese residents would purchase foodstuffs and firewood, as well as copper goods. This was a plaza for commerce between the people of China and Nagasaki.



"Courtesans Providing Entertainment at the Chinese Quarter" from the Scroll of the Chinese Quarter by Keiga Kawahara / Courtesy of the Nagasaki Museum of History and Culture

Chabudai were originally not Japanese?



Of the Japanese people allowed within the Chinese Quarter were courtesans. Ensembles of courtesans playing the *shamisen* and Chinese people playing the *erhu* could be seen at the time. Also, many things came about through the influence of Chinese culture, such as having a meal while sitting and surrounding the dining table (the origin of *Chabudai*) and the local Nagasaki cuisine of Shippoku Cuisine.



"Watching the Performances" from the Scroll of the Chinese Quarter by Keiga Kawahara / Courtesy of the Nagasaki Museum of History and Culture

What kind of performance is it?



At the festival celebrating the birth of the God of the Earth, there were Chinese dances, which would be performed alongside performances with instruments such as the *yueqin*, flute, gong, and bugle. There was also Ming and Qing era Chinese music which has continued to be passed down as tradition today in Nagasaki.

# The Gods Worshipped at the Shrines

## God of the Earth (Dojindo Shrine)

Also known as Tudigong, he protects the earth and people's homes, and is worshipped as a god of harvest, wealth, and health. Next to tombs in Nagasaki, you can see small stone monuments with the Japanese for "Dojin" (Japanese name for Tudigong) written on them. This aspect of the Chinese faith in Tudigong has taken root in the customs of Nagasaki.



## Mazu

(Tenkodo Shrine, Fukken Hall Tenkodo)  
The familiar goddess of the Mazu Parade of the Nagasaki Lantern Festival. Chinese people who crossed the sea to Japan would pray to her on their boats for safe voyages at sea. Once they arrived in Japan, they would pray to her at Chinese temples, as well as the Chinese Quarter.



## Guan Yu

(Tenkodo Shrine, Kannondo Shrine)  
A famous military general popularized by the Records of the Three Kingdoms originally known as Guan Yunchang. He was deified and has been worshipped as a guardian deity since ancient times. He was also well versed in finances and is said to have invented the abacus. As such, he is also worshipped as a god of fortune.



## The Goddess of Mercy (Kannondo Shrine)

Known by the Japanese as Kanzen or the abbreviation, Kannon. With a serene expression on its face, this Buddha is very well known throughout China and Japan as a goddess of mercy.

