

# Nagasaki: International Trading Port

Nagasaki has long been a naturally favorable port with calm seas, beautiful islands, and good conditions for the entry of large sailing ships.

In 1571, Sumitada Omura created 6 towns in Nagasaki; Shimabara-machi, Hirado-machi, Omura-machi, Yokoseura-machi, Hokaure-machi, and Bunchi-machi. This was the same year when Portuguese ships first entered the port at Nagasaki, which was the start of Nagasaki's development as an international trading port.

In 1635 Chinese trade was restricted to Nagasaki, which prompted the arrival of a great number of Chinese ships to the port. The greatest number of Chinese ships entering Nagasaki's port in any one year was 117 ships in 1688. Following this, between 70 – 80 ships would arrive each year. However, in 1715 the Shogunate limited the number of Chinese ships permitted to enter the port to 30 vessels per year.

Dutch ships on the other hand, periodically came to Nagasaki after the Dutch Trading Post at Hirado was moved to Nagasaki's Dejima in 1641. The greatest number of Dutch ships entering Nagasaki's port in any one year was 43 ships in 1658. Following this, around 3 – 7 ships would enter port each year. From 1715, these ships were restricted to 2 per year, and trade sanctions were later imposed.



"Dutch and Chinese Ships" by Yushi Ishizaki. Nagasaki Museum of History and Culture

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