

Arao City,

Kumamoto *ken* (prefecture), Kyushu, Japan, facing Ariake Bay. It was a poor village until the opening of the Miike coal mine and the arrival of a major railway in the early 20th century. A military munitions factory was established in 1940. After World War II, however, the mine and the factory closed. Arao is now a residential suburb of Ōmuta to the north. The closest major airport to Arao is Fukuoka. (FUK) For further information, please take a look at the Arao City web site. <http://www.city.arao.lg.jp/english/greeting.html>

Climate of Arao City

The average temperature throughout the year is 16.3c (61 Fahrenheit) with an average rainfall of 2,184mm. (86 in) Wind generally blows in a northwesterly direction and there is little snowfall. Seasonal winds are mild. Arao enjoys a moderate climate throughout the four seasons, and as a result is a pleasant environment in which to live.

Population of Arao City

According to the recent survey of March 2003, the total population of Arao is 57,771(m: 27,074, f: 30,697). There are 14,505 citizens, 25% of the whole population are over 65 years old, and the percentage of this age group is increasing. The total population of Arao exceeded 63,000 in 1985, however since Mitsui Coal Mine's closure, the population slightly decreased. To prevent the population from further decline an attractive new housing estate has been developed.

Arao city is located at the farthest northwestern point of Kumamoto Prefecture. The northern border of Arao neighbors Omuta City of Fukuoka Prefecture. To the east lies Tamana City and Nankan Town of Tamana County. To the south, Taimei and Nagasu Town of Tamana County. The west of the city faces the Ariake Sea, beyond that lie Nagasaki and Saga Prefectures.

