

Beppu Tourism

『Hospitality License』

(Textbook)

Beppu City Tourism Association

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I. History

■ Hono-o Honome Shrine

This shrine is said to have been founded to offer prayers to calm the great eruption of Mt. Tsurumi in 867 (Jogan 9 of the Heian period), which caused many deaths and severe damage from debris flows. The "Upper Shrine" (Kamigu) is located at the summit of Mt. Tsurumi. The "Middle Shrine" (Nakagu), situated midway up the mountain, is known as the Otake Gongen deity. The "Lower Shrine" (Shimogu), located in Honome-cho, is called the Tsurumi Gongen deity.



Tsurumi Gongen of the Lower Shrine

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I. History

■ Oni no Iwaya Tumulus

Located next to Shonin Elementary School, this burial mound is believed to have been constructed in the early 6th century.

Tumulus No. 1 has a diameter of 31 meters, and Tumulus No. 2 measures 37.5 meters in diameter. Both are circular burial mounds with horizontal stone chambers inside and are among the largest of their kind in Oita Prefecture.



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I. History

■ Battle of Ishigakibaru

Fought on September 13, 1600—two days before the Battle of Sekigahara—this battle in Beppu is often referred to as the "Kyushu version of the Battle of Sekigahara." The Otomo clan, aligned with the Toyotomi side (Western Army), was defeated here, leading to its downfall. Otomo Yoshimune of the Western Army fought against the forces of Kuroda Josui (Kanbei) of the Eastern Army and was defeated. Yoshihiro Muneyuki, a Western Army commander who distinguished himself in the battle, is enshrined at Yoshihiro Shrine.



Site of Yoshihiro Muneyuki's Military Camp in Kankaiji

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I. History

■ The Otomo forces camped in Minami-Tateishi, while the Kuroda forces camped on Mt. Jissoji.

During the Battle of Ishigakibaru, the Otomo forces of the Western Army were stationed in Minami-Tateishi, and the Kuroda forces of the Eastern Army were positioned on Mt. Jissoji. The Otomo army is said to have had about 900 troops, while the Kuroda army numbered approximately 2,400. To the east of Minami-Tateishi Park, the site of the battlefield, place names such as "Kosenjoba Bridge (Old Battlefield Bridge)" still remain.



Jissoji Mountain Seen from the Otomo Army Encampment

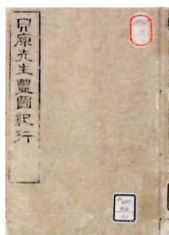
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I. History

■ KAIBARA Ekiken

He was a Confucian scholar who visited Beppu during the Edo period and introduced things like Kannawa in his travelogue "Hokoku Kiko." He was also a Confucian scholar and physician for the Fukuoka domain.

In 1694, at the age of 65, he conducted a survey of historical sites in Buzen and Bungo provinces, and compiled his observations into a travelogue titled "Toyokuni Kikou" (Travels of Toyokuni).



"Toyokuni Kiko" in the Collection of the Beppu City Library

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I. History

■ INO Tadataka

A surveyor and geographer of the Edo period.

In 1810 (Bunka 2), he visited Beppu, and a stone monument now stands at the corner of Nagarekawa 4, which served as a survey reference point.



In the Collection of the INO Tadataka Memorial Museum

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I. History

■ Senshinbanku no Ba

Located on the north side of the Beppu Public Hall parking lot, this site is the former location of an inn where INOUE Kaoru, a prominent figure in the Meiji Restoration, is said to have recuperated. After being seriously injured in an attack by an assassin at the end of the Edo period, he stayed in 1865 (Kelo 1) at the inn "Wakahiko" in Kusunoki-machi to recover. He later served as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Finance in the Meiji government. In 1911 (Meiji 44), he revisited the inn, reminisced about those difficult days, and left the inscription "Senshinbanku no Ba" ("Place of Countless Hardships"). The monument was later relocated to its current site.



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I. History

■ ABURAYA Kumahachi

Known as the "Father of Beppu Tourism," ABURAYA Kumahachi was born in Uwajima City, Ehime Prefecture. He erected a marker on the summit of Mt. Fuji reading, "The best of Japan—Mt. Fuji, the Seto Inland Sea, and Beppu Onsen," introduced Japan's first female bus guides, and started the famous Jigoku Beppu Park, and a commemorative ceremony, the "Hizen-sai," is held there every November.



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I. History

■ Treat Travelers Kindly

This phrase was the personal motto of Kumahachi Aburaya, the "Father of Beppu Tourism." It is derived from a biblical teaching meaning "Never forget to extend hospitality to travelers." Kamenoi Ryokan, founded by Aburaya, was a place where he put this principle into practice.



Kamenoi Hotel Today

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I. History

■ Birth of Beppu City

On 1 April 1924 (Taisho 13), Beppu Town was incorporated as a city and became Beppu City. At that time, the population was 36,276. The first mayor was KANZAWA Mataichiro. Later, in 1935 (Showa 10), Beppu City merged with Kamegawa Town, Asahi Village, and Ishigaki Village to form "Greater Beppu City," which included the eight hot springs of Beppu and had a population of 56,968, developing into a hot spring city.



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I. History

■ Beppu City Citizens' Charter

This charter was established in 1968.

- ① Let us keep our community beautiful
- ② Let us cherish our hot springs
- ③ Let us warmly welcome visitors



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I. History

■ Beppu Brick Hall

(Former Beppu Telegraph and Telephone Bureau, Telephone Branch Office)

Built in 1928 (Showa 3) and designed by Tetsuro Yoshida, who also designed Beppu Public Hall. The building features a red brick exterior but is made of concrete. It was once used as a branch office of Beppu City Hall.



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I. History

■ Beppu Public Hall

Built in March 1928 and designed by YOSHIDA Tetsuro, this hall represents Beppu during a period when Western- and Japanese-style modern architecture was rapidly emerging. Beppu Brick Hall in Suehiro-machi was also designed by YOSHIDA.



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I. History

■ Akagane Goten (Copper Palace)

A villa built in Beppu by ITO Den'emon, known as the "Coal King of Chikuho." Constructed in 1916 (Taisho 5) for his wife Byakuren (Akiko) on the south side of the current Beppu Arena, it used the finest timber from across Japan. After World War II, it was also used as a hotel, but it was demolished in 1979 (Showa 54) due to deterioration.



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I. History

■ YANAGIHARA Byakuren

This is the pen name of the poet who became the wife of Den'emon Ito; her real name was Akiko. In 1901, at the age of 26, she married Den'emon (51 years old) and divorced in 1923. It was also featured on NHK's morning drama series "Hanako and Anne."



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I. History

■ Camp Chickamauga

From the end of World War II until 1956 (Showa 31), this site in Beppu served as a U.S. military camp and was named "Camp Chickamauga" after a major battlefield in the American Civil War. On approximately 430,000 m² of land, from Beppu Park to the former Beppu Commercial High School, barracks, a church, and a school were built. The U.S. military remained here until July 1956.



A Chikamauga tree planted by the occupying forces to serve as a Christmas tree

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I. History

■ Former Naval Hospital

The current National Hospital Organization Beppu Medical Center was originally a Naval Hospital before and during World War II. The former Army Hospital was located near the south parking lot of the current Social Welfare Hall, with only the gateposts remaining today.



Current Beppu Medical Center

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I. History

■ SHONO Shounsai

A bamboo craftsman designated a Living National Treasure in 1967 (Showa 42). Born in what is now Beppu City's Uchinari area, he served as a technical instructor at the Beppu City Craft Institute from 1938 to 1946 (Showa 13-21), teaching and mentoring the next generation of artisans.



SHONO Shounsai Corner at Beppu Traditional Bamboo Center

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I. History

■ Beppu Velodrome

Opened in 1950 (Showa 25) to promote public welfare and strengthen local finances after World War II, Beppu Velodrome also features an on-site hot spring for visitors, known as Keirin Onsen. To date, it has contributed over 47.2 billion yen to Beppu City's general account (as of FY 2023).



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I. History

■ Yamanami Highway

Also known as the Kyushu Odan Road (Beppu–Aso Road) from Mizuwake Pass to Aso, opened in 1964 (Showa 39). The Kyushu Odan Road is Prefectural Route 11, and the Yamanami Highway was made toll-free on 25 June 1994 (Heisei 6).



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I. History

■ Taiyō no Ie (Japan Sun Industries)

Founded in 1965 (Showa 40) by Dr. NAKAMURA Yutaka under the principle that "people with physical or mental disabilities may exist, but disability cannot prevent work," with the goal of supporting independence for people with disabilities.

Currently, 1,840 people are enrolled, including 1,096 individuals with disabilities (as of 2024).



Taiyo no Ie in Kamegawa Area

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I. History

■ Beppu Great Buddha

Built in Tenman-cho by entrepreneur OKAMOTO Eizaburo, active mainly in Oita Prefecture. Completed in 1928 (Showa 3) and dismantled in 1989 (Heisei 1). This 24-meter-tall statue of Amida Buddha features a three-story interior that is open to the public, and it attracted many visitors. It is a "bone Buddha," constructed of concrete mixed with the remains and hair of the deceased.



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I. History

■ Kusunoki Port

The port was completed in 1871 (Meiji 4), and the Osaka–Beppu shipping route opened in 1873 (Meiji 6). Hatoba Shrine was built to pray for the safety of ships. The port was in use until 1966 (Showa 41), when operations moved to Beppu International Port. In 1990 (Heisei 2), the area was reclaimed for commercial use and is now the site of Youme Town.



"Youme Town" is being built on the site of the former Kusunoki Port.

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I. History

■ ARAKANE Keiji

After serving as chairman of the Oita Prefectural Assembly, he served as mayor of Beppu City for 20 years, the longest five terms in history, from 1955 to 1975. Efforts were made to resolve the constant water shortage by drawing water from the Oita River and expanding the Asami Water Purification Plant, as well as opening a hot spring pool and Beppu Commercial High School. Honorary citizen of Beppu City.



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I. History

■ Beppu Atomic Bomb Center

Common name of a postwar facility that operated for approx. 50 years, providing hot spring therapy for atomic bomb survivors. Opened in 1960 (Showa 35) in Ogura as the world's first hot spring therapy center for atomic bomb survivors. The facility closed in 2011 due to declining use, serving a total of 870,000 people.



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II. General

■ Wander Compass Beppu

The three information counters previously located inside Beppu Station were consolidated into one in April 2023 (Reiwa 5). Multilingual assistance is available. Open daily from 8:45 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., year-round. Bicycle rentals and other services are also available.



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II. General

■ Shogi Meijin Title Match

Although the match was a crucial one for Meijin FUJII Sota, who was aiming for his fourth consecutive victory, it ended in a win for 9-dan TOYOSHIMA Masayuki. The match took place on 18 to 19 May 2024, at "Momiya," a long-established kappo-style inn in Tanoyu-cho. It garnered attention for the live commentary sessions held at two locations throughout the city and the special meals prepared for the players.



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II. General

■ Beppu Bluebird Theater

Opened in 1949 (Showa 24), this historic cinema has welcomed many film personalities, including ATSUMI Kiyoshi. OKAMURA Teru, the theater director, is over 90 years old and still works as a projectionist.



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II. General

■ No.4 Pier

Built in 2011 as a dedicated cruise terminal on the north side of Beppu International Port. Currently, approximately 50 domestic and international cruise ships call at the port each year.



"Diamond Princess"
Weight: 115,906 tons
Length: 290 m
Passenger capacity: 3,247

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II. General

■ Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU)

Founded in 2000. Of the current 6,252 students, approximately half - 2,978 students (from 109 countries) - are international students. (As of May 2024)



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II. General

■ Municipalities in Oita Prefecture (18)

14 Cities:

Oita, Beppu, Nakatsu, Hita, Saeki,
Usuki, **Tsukumi**, Usa, Kunisaki
Bungo-Takada, Kitsuki, **Bungo-Ono**,
Taketa, and Yufu
(**Tsukumi and Bungo-Ono have no
hot springs**)

3 Towns:

Hiji, Kusu, and Kokonoe

1 Village:

Himeshima



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II. General

■ Current Soul Food in Beppu City

It is famous for its chicken tempura, cold noodles, and pudding (Jigoku-mushi).



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II. General

■ INAO Kazuhisa

A legendary pitcher for the former Nishi-Nippon Railroad Lions who recorded 42 wins in a single season in 1961 and was named an honorary citizen of Beppu City. Born as the youngest of seven children in a fishing family, he joined the Nishi-Nippon Railroad Lions after graduating from Midorigaoka High School. He set numerous records, including 42 wins in a single season, and was affectionately known as "God, Buddha, and INAO." A memorial hall dedicated to him is located within Jissoji Stadium.

Photo on display at the memorial hall



The memorial hall displays a large number of items honoring Mr. INAO

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II. General

■ The Population of Beppu City:
Approx. 112,000

The number has continued to decline since peaking at 125,000 in 1982, and there are concerns that it will fall below 100,000 in 2035. (Beppu City Population Vision as of March 2025)
The prefectural population is approximately 1,082,000.



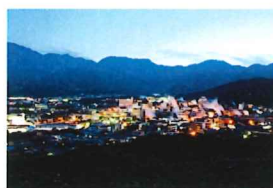
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II. General

■ The number of Tourists to Beppu City:
Approx. 8.5 million (before COVID 19)

According to 2019 tourism statistics, there were 2.44 million overnight visitors and 5.9 million day-trip visitors, for a total of 8.34 million. Although numbers temporarily declined due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they have since recovered to the 7 million range by 2024.



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II. General

■ Three Universities in the City

- APU: 6,280 students (including 3,084 international students from 111 countries, accounting for 49% of the total) as of November 2024
- Beppu University: 2,490 students (including 498 junior college students) as of May 2024
- Mizobe Gakuen Junior College: 322 students as of May 2024.



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II. General

■ Hovercraft

A marine transport service connecting Oita Airport and Oita City in the shortest time. Discontinued in 2009 due to declining passengers, it resumed operations in July 2025.



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II. General

■ Beppu City Art Museum

Founded in 1950 (Showa 25) with a donation from SATO Keitaro, a businessman from Fukuoka Prefecture, Beppu City Art Museum was the first public art museum in Kyushu. It has moved locations several times and is currently housed in the former New Life Plaza.



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II. General

■ Beppu City Hall

The main Beppu City Hall building was located on the site of the current Nanbu Branch Office until 1986. Before the city hall was relocated, the center of Beppu City had long been the Hamawaki and Nanbu areas south of Beppu Station.



The site of the former city hall is now a multi-purpose complex housing the Nanbu Branch Office, a library, and other facilities

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II. General

■ Beppu City Has Many Tertiary Industries

The largest number of people are engaged in the tertiary industry, such as the service industry centered on inns and hotels. According to the 2020 statistics, tertiary industry accounts for 91.6%. The Oita prefecture average is approximately 67%.



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II. General

■ Mt. Tsurumi – 1,375m High

Mt. Tsurumi, which is still an active volcano, can be reached in about 10 minutes via the Beppu Ropeway to the summit station. If you choose to hike, it takes about two hours from the Ropeway Kogen Station.



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II. General

■ Mt. Yufu – 1,583m High

Mt. Yufu, known as "Bungo Fuji," spans Beppu City and Yufu City and is 208 m higher than Mt. Tsurumi. From the trailhead on the Kyushu Odan Road, it takes about 2 hours and 40 minutes to reach the summit.



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II. General

■ Mt. Nakadake: the Highest Peak on Mainland Kyushu

The highest peak in the Kuju Mountain Range - known as the "Ridge of Kyushu" - is Mt. Nakadake (1,791 m), followed by Mt. Kuju (1,786 m).



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II. General

■ Inoseto Wetlands

Located on the way from Beppu to Yufuin, just before the trailhead of Mt. Yufu, this marshland sits at an altitude of 760 m.

It is home to a wide variety of plants and animals and is designated as a city biological conservation area.



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II. General

■ Omurasaki

This flower, which belongs to the azalea family and is the official flower of Beppu City, blooms with large reddish-purple flowers from mid-April to mid-May.



They are also widely planted as street trees throughout the city.

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II. General

■ Camphor Trees (Kusunoki)

The camphor tree is the official tree of Beppu City, and many large specimens still stand within the city. The camphor tree at Asami Shrine is a sacred tree, designated as a prefectural natural monument.



Camphor Tree at Asami Shrine

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II. General

■ Alluvial fan

The terrain of downtown Beppu spreads out from the mountains in a fan-shaped pattern, forming a beautiful alluvial fan. The view of Beppu from the sea is breathtaking.



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II. General

■ Beppu Park

This park was designated as a park commemorating the 50th anniversary of Emperor Showa's reign in 1977. In 2006, it was selected as one of Japan's 100 Historic Parks. It covers an area roughly equivalent to five Tokyo Domes.



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II. General

■ Fujigatani Waste Treatment Center

A waste treatment center operated by a regional administrative association comprising Beppu City and neighboring municipalities (Kitsuki City and Hiji Town). Established in 1978.



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II. General

■ Akikusa Crematorium

A regional crematorium operated jointly by Beppu City and neighboring municipalities (Kitsuki City and Hiji Town). Opened in 1978 (Showa 53).



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II. General

■ Kyoto University Geothermal Research Facility

Built in 1924 in Noguchibaru, Beppu City, Oita Prefecture, based on a design by NAGASE Kyoze, then Chief of the Maintenance Division at Kyoto Imperial University. It features a tower—a rare element in brick architecture—positioned at its center, and is highly regarded for its sophisticated design. Registered as a Tangible Cultural Property.



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II. General

■ New Toji (hot spring therapy) and Wellness Tourism

In addition to inheriting the ancient hot spring culture, this initiative aims to create a new form of tourism for Beppu City with a focus on "wellness," which is a global trend and is expected to expand in market size in the future, with the theme of "medical care, beauty, and health."



An image of Ogiyama's research and practice base facility

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II. General

■ New Beppu City Library "Comorebi Park"

Built within a pine grove west of Beppu City Hall, it opened to the public at the end of March 2026. It houses approximately 200,000 volumes—twice the size of the previous library—available for browsing. As a multi-purpose facility, it has been affectionately nicknamed "Comorebi Park."



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III. Events

■ Ogiyama (Mt. Ohirayama) Fire Festival

Every year in April, to coincide with the Hot Spring Festival, a nighttime bonfire is held; this event has been held as the "Ogiyama Fire Festival" since 1976.



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III. Events

■ Yubukkake Festival

This is the main event of the Hot Spring Festival. It used to be called the "Yukake Festival (Hot Water Splashing Festival)," but since 2017—when participants began dousing each other with large amounts of hot water—it has been known as the "Bukkake Festival." In 2024, the 100th anniversary of the city's incorporation, 210 tons of hot water were used.



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III. Events

■ Hamawaki Yakushi Festival

A festival held every year at the end of August to give thanks to the Yakushi Nyorai at Hamawaki Onsen. It is famous for its Oiran procession and traditional paper-cutting crafts.



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III. Events

■ Kannawa Yuami Festival

Every September, a festival is held to honor Priest Ippen, who is said to be the founder of Kannawa Onsen, featuring events such as a children's procession.



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III. Events

■ Beppu Mt. Tsurumi-dake All-Out Hike Competition

A hiking event held in April that takes participants from Spa Beach to the summit of Mt. Tsurumi-dake without using any main roads. The 2023 event marked the 36th annual gathering, attracting approximately 2,100 participants from across the country.



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III. Events

■ Yukuhashi to Beppu 100-km walk

The race starts at noon in Yukuhashi City, Fukuoka Pref., and heads toward Matogahama Park in Beppu City, 100 kilometers away. Held every October, the race has two rules: participants must not run, and they must reach the finish line within 26 hours. Approximately 4,000 people take part.



Goal Point for FY 2024

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III. Events

■ Beppu Christmas Fantasia

Every December during the Christmas season, a two-day fireworks display is held primarily at Spa Beach, and children perform Christmas carols and other songs.



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III. Events

■ Beppu Argerich Music Festival

A classical music festival held annually from April to June since 1998, under the artistic direction of world-renowned Argentine pianist Martha Argerich.



©Rikimaru Hotta

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III. Events

■ 2002 FIFA World Cup

Three matches, including Italy vs. Mexico, were held at Big Eye in Oita City. The popular Italian team stayed in Beppu.



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III. Events

■ 2019 Rugby World Cup

Popular teams from New Zealand, Australia, and Wales held training camps in Beppu. The town was bustling with visitors, mainly Westerners.



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III. Events

■ "Yu-enchi" Spamusement Park

An event held at Rakutenchi in 2017 utilizing hot spring water. It was featured on TV wide shows and became a major topic across Japan. The event was promised if a promotional video reached 1 million views—a goal that was achieved in just three days—resulting in a special three-day event held in July.



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IV. Tourist Facilities

■ Jigoku (Hell) Tour

The Beppu Jigoku Association comprises seven Jigoku hot springs: Umi, Chinoike, Tatsumaki, Shiraike, Oniishi, Kamado, and Oniyama. Admission fee is 500 yen per site, or 2,400 yen for a combined ticket.

(As of Feb. 2025)



"Chinoike Jigoku"

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IV. Tourist Facilities

■ Umi Jigoku

Opened in Beppu in 1910 as the first hot spring to charge an admission fee of 2 sen, this hot spring is popular for its beautiful cobalt blue color. Along with Chinoike, Tatsumaki, and Shiraike Jigokus, it has been designated a National Scenic Spot.



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IV. Tourist Facilities

■ Lake Shidaka

Located at an elevation of approximately 600 meters, this lake has a circumference of about 2 km. The area features a campground, full-scale athletic facilities, and boating activities.



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IV. Tourist Facilities

■ Lake Kagurame

A lake in the highlands of Beppu City famous for its irises. It is connected to Lake Shidaka by a walking path and is about a 30-minute walk away. From early June, around 15,000 iris plants of about 80 varieties bloom in full splendor.



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IV. Tourist Facilities

■ Sekinoe Beach

Located at the northern end of Beppu (Kamegawa Furuichi-machi), this is the only public swimming beach in the city. It is generally open from mid-July to mid-August each year.



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IV. Tourist Facilities

■ Beppu City Traditional Bamboo Crafts Center

A municipal facility located at Jissō-ji that showcases bamboo crafts. It features exhibitions of works by master craftsmen, workshops, and a gift shop. In the fall, it hosts the "Melodies of Bamboo and the Moonlit Night" event.



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IV. Tourist Facilities

■ Asami Shrine

Founded in 1196 (Kenkyū 7), this historic shrine features a sacred camphor tree said to be over 1,000 years old. It also has Meoto-sugi, or "husband and wife" cedar trees, lining the main approach. These are called Mon-sugi, as they also serve as a gate into the shrine. Visitors will also find the "Hyotan-ishi" (Gourd Stone) and "Sakazuki-ishi" (Sake Cup Stone), which are believed to bring good fortune when stepped on during visiting the shrine. After World War II, the shrine enshrined the former Onsen Shrine and became the principal guardian shrine of Beppu Onsen.



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IV. Tourist Facilities

■ Hachiman Kamado Shrine

Founded in 727. Oita Trinita, professional soccer team, visits the shrine every year to pray for victory. In recent years, it has also become famous as a pilgrimage site for fans of the popular manga "Demon Slayer."



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IV. Tourist Facilities

■ Usa Jingu Shrine

This is the head shrine of the more than 40,000 Hachiman Shrines across Japan. The enshrined deity, Hachiman Ōkami, is the divine spirit of Emperor Ōjin, who introduced culture and industry from the continent and laid the foundations for a new nation. In 2025, it marked 1,300 years since Hachiman Ōkami was enshrined in the main sanctuary in 725 (Jinki 2).



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IV. Tourist Facilities

■ Lake Kinrin

Fed by both clear spring water and hot springs, this lake is one of the most famous sightseeing spots in Yufuin.



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IV. Tourist Facilities

■ Uchinari Rice Terraces

These terraced rice fields were selected as one of Japan's "Top 100 Terraced Rice Fields." Developed between the Sengoku and Edo periods, they cover more than 40 hectares and consist of approximately 1,000 rice paddies, truly deserving the name Senmaida ("a thousand rice fields").



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IV. Tourist Facilities

■ Yukemuri Observation Deck

Located halfway up the slope of Itopia, this observation deck offers panoramic views of the steam rising from Kannawa, as well as Mount Ogi and Mount Tsurumi.



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IV. Tourist Facilities

■ Jumonjibaru Observation Deck

Located on the route from Myoban to African Safari, this observation deck offers panoramic views of Beppu city. Broadcast towers for various TV stations are also situated here.



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IV. Tourist Facilities

■ Weeping Cherry Tree at Anrakuji Temple

A temple in Kijima of Higashiyama area, famous for its weeping cherry tree. The tree, estimated to be about 150 years old, is designated as a Specially Protected Tree by the prefecture. It blooms slightly earlier than the Somei-Yoshino cherry trees in the surrounding area.



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IV. Tourist Facilities

■ Yunohana

The "Yunohana" produced in the Myoban district is a natural bath additive made using traditional methods that date back to the Edo period (1603-1868). It has been designated as an Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property of Japan.



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IV. Tourist Facilities

■ Beppu Tower

Built in 1957, Beppu Tower is one of the six towers located in major cities across Japan - collectively known as the "Tower Six Brothers" - designed by Dr. NAITO Tachu, who was nicknamed the "Tower Doctor." These towers include the Nagoya TV Tower, Tsutenkaku, Beppu Tower, Sapporo TV Tower, Tokyo Tower, and Hakata Port Tower. Beppu Tower is also registered as a National Tangible Cultural Property.



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IV. Tourist Facilities

■ Tanourara Roadside Station

A roadside station in Oita City that opened in July 2024 (Reiwa 6) along National Route 10 between Beppu and Oita.



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IV. Tourist Facilities

■ Fukiji Temple

Located in Bungotakada City, Fukiji Temple was established in the Heian period as the clan temple of the chief priest of Usa Jingu Shrine. Its Amida Hall is the oldest wooden structure in Kyushu and is designated as a National Treasure.



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IV. Tourist Facilities

■ "Village of Buddha"
Kunisaki Peninsula

The Kunisaki Peninsula is known as Rokugo Manzan, the birthplace of Shinto-Buddhist syncretism, and is also called the "Village of Buddha" due to its numerous shrines and temples.



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IV. Tourist Facilities

■ Beppu City Dog Park

Opened in March 2015 within Kannawa Jigoku Area Park, this dog park covers approximately 2,900 square meters. The off-leash area features a unique footbath where both dogs and their owners can relax together.



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IV. Tourist Facilities

■ Pines of Beppu Park

In 1906 (Meiji 39), 35,000 pine saplings were planted throughout what is now the Beppu Park area using funds donated by Prince NASHIMOTO Morimasa. Today, approximately 650 of these pine trees remain.



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V. Transportation Sister Cities

■ Beppu Station Market

When it first opened in 1966, it was known as "Japan's longest shopping arcade under an elevated railway," but it underwent a complete renovation in 2026. The arcade is divided into "Shin-dori," which is close to Beppu Station, and "Hon-dori," which connects to Nagarekawa-dori. It is home to 19 shops, including restaurants, and is popular with many tourists.



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V. Transportation Sister Cities

■ Tramcar

A tramcar line opened between Beppu and Oita in 1900 (Meiji 33), and was later extended to the area in front of Beppu Station and to Kamegawa Station. It remained in service for 72 years, but was discontinued in 1972 (Showa 47) due to the widespread adoption of automobiles.



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V. Transportation Sister Cities

■ Opening of Beppu Station

Kamegawa Station and Beppu Station opened in July 1911 (Meiji 44), followed by Hamawaki Station (now Higashi-Beppu Station) in November. In 1966 (Showa 41), the line was elevated, and Beppu Station became the 39th "people's station" in Japan to incorporate commercial facilities within its station building.



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V. Transportation Sister Cities

■ Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Sunflower

Beppu Port – Osaka South Port
Oita Port – Kobe Port

New ships powered by LNG (liquefied natural gas) have been in service since 2023. The early-morning view of Beppu from an arriving ship is breathtaking.



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V. Transportation Sister Cities

■ Uwajima Transport Ferry

It all began in 1885 (Meiji 18) when the "First Uwajima Maru" entered service, establishing a unique regular route from Uwajima to Osaka via Oita and Beppu. The route connects Beppu Port and Yawatahama Port in Uwajima City in just under three hours.



First Class Cabin

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■ Scheduled Flights from South Korea

The South Korean airlines currently operating scheduled flights to and from Oita Airport are Jeju Air and Korean Air.



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■ Yukemuri Ride Share GLOBAL

A service where ordinary drivers transport passengers for a fee using their personal vehicles. Launched in the spring of 2025 to address the shortage of taxis, the pick-up fare is 500 yen (as of December 2025). Rides are booked via a dedicated app.



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■ Airliner

"Airliner" is the name of the Oita Kotsu shuttle bus service connecting Oita Airport with Beppu and Oita. The buses bound for the northern and southern parts of the prefecture, as well as Yufuin, have different names.



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■ Yufurin

"Yufurin" is the name of a bus operated by Kamenoi Bus that runs between Beppu and Yufuin, primarily on weekends and holidays. It operates one round trip on weekdays and six round trips on weekends and holidays. (As of July 2025)



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■ Oita Prefecture has the most tunnels in Japan.

Oita Prefecture has 596 tunnels, the highest number in Japan. (2020 Annual Road Statistics Report)
There are five tunnels just between the Beppu IC and Oita IC on the expressway.



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■ Atami City, Shizuoka Prefecture

The only city in Japan with which Beppu City has established a sister city relationship. Known as "Atami in the East, Beppu in the West," it was once a popular destination for honeymoons. (Sister city agreement signed in 1966)



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V. Transportation
Sister Cities

■ Mokpo City, South Korea

A scenic port city where the urban area stretches along the inlets of a ria coastline facing the Yellow Sea, with Mount Yudalsan rising behind it. Population: approximately 214,000 (sister-city agreement established in 1984).

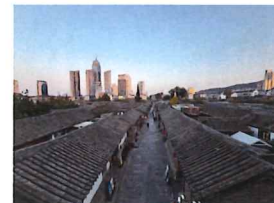


99

V. Transportation
Sister Cities

■ Yantai City, China

Yantai City is located on the eastern part of the Shandong Peninsula, facing Japan and South Korea across the sea. Population: approximately 6.5 million. (Friendship city agreement established in 1985)

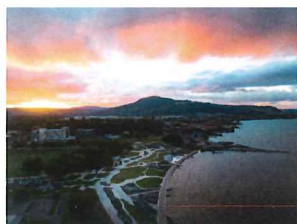


100

V. Transportation
Sister Cities

■ Rotorua City, New Zealand

Located almost in the center of New Zealand's North Island, Rotorua has a population of approximately 70,000, with the indigenous Māori people accounting for about one-third of the population. Like Beppu City, Rotorua is famous for its spas, hot springs, mud baths, and geysers, which make use of the area's unique geothermal features. (Sister city relationship established in 1987)



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V. Transportation
Sister Cities

■ City of Bath, England

Bath is located approximately 176 km west of London and is the only spa town in the United Kingdom; its thermal springs have made the city world-famous. Population: approximately 94,000 (Sister city relationship established in 1994))



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VI. Hot Springs

■ Hot Spring Water is 25°C or Higher

Under the Hot Springs Act, water, hot water, and steam that emerge from the ground at or above a certain temperature are classified as hot springs. Generally, water with a temperature of 25 or higher is considered a hot spring.



"Tatsumaki Jigoku," famous for its geyser

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VI. Hot Springs

■ Beppu Onsen has Seven Different Types of Hot Spring Water

(Seven hot spring types found in Beppu City)

- Simple thermal springs
- Chloride springs
- Sulfate springs
- Bicarbonate springs
- Iron-containing springs
- Acidic springs
- Sulfur springs

(Types of hot springs not found in Beppu City)

- Radioactive springs
- Iodine-containing springs
- Carbon dioxide springs



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VI. Hot Springs

■ Simple Hot Spring (Tanjun Onsen)

A "simple hot spring" is defined as a spring containing less than 1,000 mg of dissolved substances per kilogram of water and having a temperature of 25°C or higher. These springs are gentle on the skin and suitable for children and the elderly. Among the Beppu Eight Hot Springs, **Beppu Onsen, Hamawaki Onsen, and Kamegawa Onsen** fall into this category.



Nageshi Onsen

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VI. Hot Springs

■ Chloride Spring

Often called a "heat-retaining spring," it warms the body easily. Because salt adheres to the skin, it provides heat retention and promotes blood circulation. **Kannawa Onsen and Kamegawa Onsen** fall into this category.



Hyotan Onsen (Kannawa Onsen)

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VI. Hot Springs

■ Bicarbonate Spring

This hot spring is known for its ability to soften dead skin cells and is commonly referred to as the "Beauty Spring."

It warms you up quickly, and you feel refreshed after bathing. **Beppu Onsen** falls into this category.



Beppu Onsen – Kaimonji Onsen

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VI. Hot Springs

■ Sulfate Spring

This saline spring has moisturizing properties. Drinking the water helps contract the gallbladder and stimulates intestinal peristalsis.

Kannawa Onsen falls into this category.



Hozanso (Kannawa Onsen)

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VI. Hot Springs

■ Sulfur Spring

It has strong antibacterial properties and is believed to help remove surface skin cells and substances associated with atopic dermatitis.

It has a distinctive smell similar to rotten eggs.

Myoban Onsen falls into this category.



Myoban Yunosato

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VI. Hot Springs

■ Iron-rich Spring

When exposed to air, it oxidizes, forming a reddish-brown precipitate, and the bathtub takes on a reddish-brown tint. It tastes like iron when you drink it.

Shibaseki Onsen and Myoban Onsen fall into this category.



Chinoike Jigoku (foot bath)

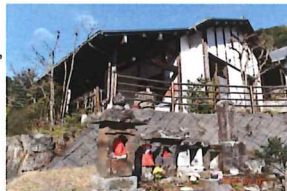
110

VI. Hot Springs

■ Acidic Spring

Highly acidic, it can sting the skin when bathing. It has strong antibacterial properties, and when consumed it has a sour taste.

Myoban Onsen and Shibaseki Onsen fall into this category.



Shibaseki Onsen

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VI. Hot Springs

■ Carbon Dioxide Spring

When you bathe, it adheres to the skin's surface as fine bubbles and is absorbed, providing warmth and promoting circulation.

Although its existence is not currently recognized among the Beppu Hatto (Beppu Eight Hot Springs), it is described in the "1970 Oita Prefecture Mineral Springs Journal."



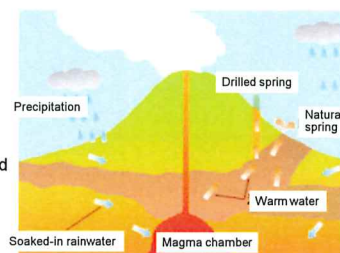
Nagayu Onsen, Taketa City

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VI. Hot Springs

■ Three Conditions for Hot Spring Formation

- ① Heat source (magma)
- ② Groundwater (rainwater)
- ③ Water pathways (such as faults and others)



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VI. Hot Springs

■ Rainwater will become hot spring water in 50 years

In Beppu Onsen, rainwater is heated by magma to become hot spring water. It is said to take **50 years** for rainwater to become hot spring water.



Te-yu (hand bath) in front of Beppu Station

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VI. Hot Springs

■ Kannawa Fault and Asami River Fault

Fault lines run through the alluvial fan of Beppu, one in the north and one in the south. The northern fault is known as the Kannawa Fault (Myoban, Kannawa, Kamegawa, and Shibaseki), while the southern fault is known as the Asamigawa Fault (Horita, Kankai-ji, Beppu, and Hamawaki).



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VI. Hot Springs

■ Beppu Stone

The amphibole andesite that formed the alluvial fan through pyroclastic flows and debris flows caused by volcanic activity at Mt. Tsurumi and Mt. Garan is also known as Beppu stone. Since large quantities of Beppu stone were unearthed when the land was tilled, it was used as a material for cobblestone pavements and stone walls.



Beppu stone used in the stone walls surrounding Beppu Park

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VI. Hot Springs

- An active volcano is one that has erupted within the last 10,000 years.

To the west of Beppu Onsen lie the active volcanoes Mt. Tsurumi and Mt. Garan; **an active volcano is one that has erupted within the last 10,000 years.**

There are **111 active volcanoes** in Japan, but the previous classifications of "dormant volcanoes" and "extinct volcanoes" are no longer used.



Mt. Garan and Tsukahara Onsen "Kakô no Izumi" (crater spring)

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VI. Hot Springs

- Beppu City has the most hot spring sources in Japan

There are 27,932 hot spring sources nationwide, and Beppu City accounts for **2,839** of them—10.2% of the total. Yufuin, which ranks second, has about 880 sources, so Beppu has roughly three times as many.
(As of 31 March 2023)



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VI. Hot Springs

- Beppu Onsen also has the highest hot spring output in Japan.

Beppu Onsen has **an output of 102,671 liters** per minute, which accounts for **4.1%** of the national total of 2,515,272 liters.

This is equivalent to approx. 247 standard 25-meter swimming pools (about 600 cubic meters each) per day.
(As of March 31, 2023)



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VI. Hot Springs

- Kazusa-bori Drilling Method

This is the drilling technique that made Beppu Japan's premier hot spring resort, beginning with the first hot spring well drilled in 1879 (Meiji 12)

The technique for digging open-shaft wells was introduced from Kazusa Province (present-day Chiba Prefecture) and adapted for hot spring drilling.



An installation of Kazusa-bori drilling displayed at the Hamada Onsen Museum

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VI. Hot Springs

- Ippen Shonin

The founder of the Ji (Jishū) sect of Buddhism, who is said to have established the steam bath of Kannawa Onsen during the Kamakura period (1185-1333). He is well known for his Odori Nembutsu (Dancing Nembutsu). In Kannawa, there is a Jishū temple called Onsenzan Eifukuji Temple.



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VI. Hot Springs

- Jigoku-mushi (Hell Steaming) Kitchen Kannawa

This public facility in Kannawa is owned by Beppu City and uses natural hot spring steam for cooking—a traditional method known as Jigoku-mushi, or "Hell Steaming"—a practice dating back to before the Edo period.



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VI. Hot Springs

■ Non-volcanic Hot Springs

While Beppu Onsen is a volcanic hot spring heated by magma, this term refers to hot springs in areas without volcanoes, such as the ones in Oita City.

Arima Onsen and **Dogo Onsen** are prime examples.



Oita City – Oji Onsen

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VI. Hot Springs

■ Analysis results for hot springs are posted every 10 years

The Hot Springs Act requires periodic (**every 10 years**) analysis of hot spring components and the public display of the results.

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VI. Hot Springs

■ Sekishō (Medicinal Herbs)

At Kannawa Mushi-yu, the floor of a stone chamber heated by hot spring water is covered with medicinal herbs (**Sekishō**) known for their pain-relieving properties. These herbs grow along the banks of clear streams, and this is the only place in the country where they are used.



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VI. Hot Springs

■ Takegawara Onsen

Founded in 1879 (Meiji 12), it was given this name because it was originally a bathhouse with a thatched roof.

The current building was constructed in 1938 (Showa 13). It is a hot spring facility featuring a grand Karahafu-style roof at the front, and its exterior has become an iconic symbol of Beppu Onsen.



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VI. Hot Springs

■ Hamada Onsen Museum

Historically known as Hamada Kosen (Hamada Mineral Spring) or Uchikamado-no-yu (Uchikamado Hot Spring Bath), this building, constructed in 1935 (Showa 10), is a Registered Tangible Cultural Property. The current Hamada Onsen is located across the street.



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VI. Hot Springs

■ Yunohana - Mineral Deposits of Myoban Onsen

The technique for producing "Yunohana" (mineral deposits) at Myoban Onsen, designated as an Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property of Japan, involves a reaction between hot spring gases and the iron and aluminum present in clay. Hot springs with a high concentration of **iron ions** are called "Ryokubansen," while those with a high concentration of **aluminum ions** are called "Myoban-sen."



Yunohana Huts at Myoban Onsen

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VI. Hot Springs

■ Why is the “Blood Pond Hell” red?

The red sediment in the “Blood Pond Hell,” also known as “Bengara,” is oxidized iron.



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VI. Hot Springs

■ Rayleigh Scattering

Rayleigh scattering is a phenomenon in which fine particles dissolved in hot springs, such as silica, scatter light and make the water appear blue when the particles are very small.

When these silica particles **grow larger** and scatter light, causing the water to **appear white**, the phenomenon is called **Mie scattering**.

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VI. Hot Springs

■ pH of Alkaline Hot Springs

Alkaline hot springs dissolve sebum and are characterized by a slippery feel on the skin; their pH is **8.5** or higher.

Hot springs with a pH of 7.5 or higher but less than 8.5 are classified as weakly alkaline.

Among the Beppu Eight Hot Springs, **Hozan-so in Ogura has a pH of 9.0.**



Kamioka Onsen open-air bath at Hozan-so

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VI. Hot Springs

■ Yumetake (Bamboo Cooling System)

A bamboo-based system used to cool high-temperature hot spring water to a comfortable bathing temperature without adding water. It has been adopted by many hot spring facilities, including “Hyotan Onsen.”



“Yumetake (bamboo cooling system) at Hyotan Onsen”

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VI. Hot Springs

■ “Beppu Hattō Onsen Dō Meijin”
(Master of the Beppu Eight Hot Springs Pilgrimage)

Of the approximately 150 facilities participating in the Beppu Eight Hot Springs Pilgrimage, visitors who bathe at 88 of them and collect stamps (Spaort) are certified as “Hot Springs Pilgrimage Masters.”

Over the past 24 years, more than 12,000 masters—both from Japan and abroad—have been certified (as of June 2025).



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