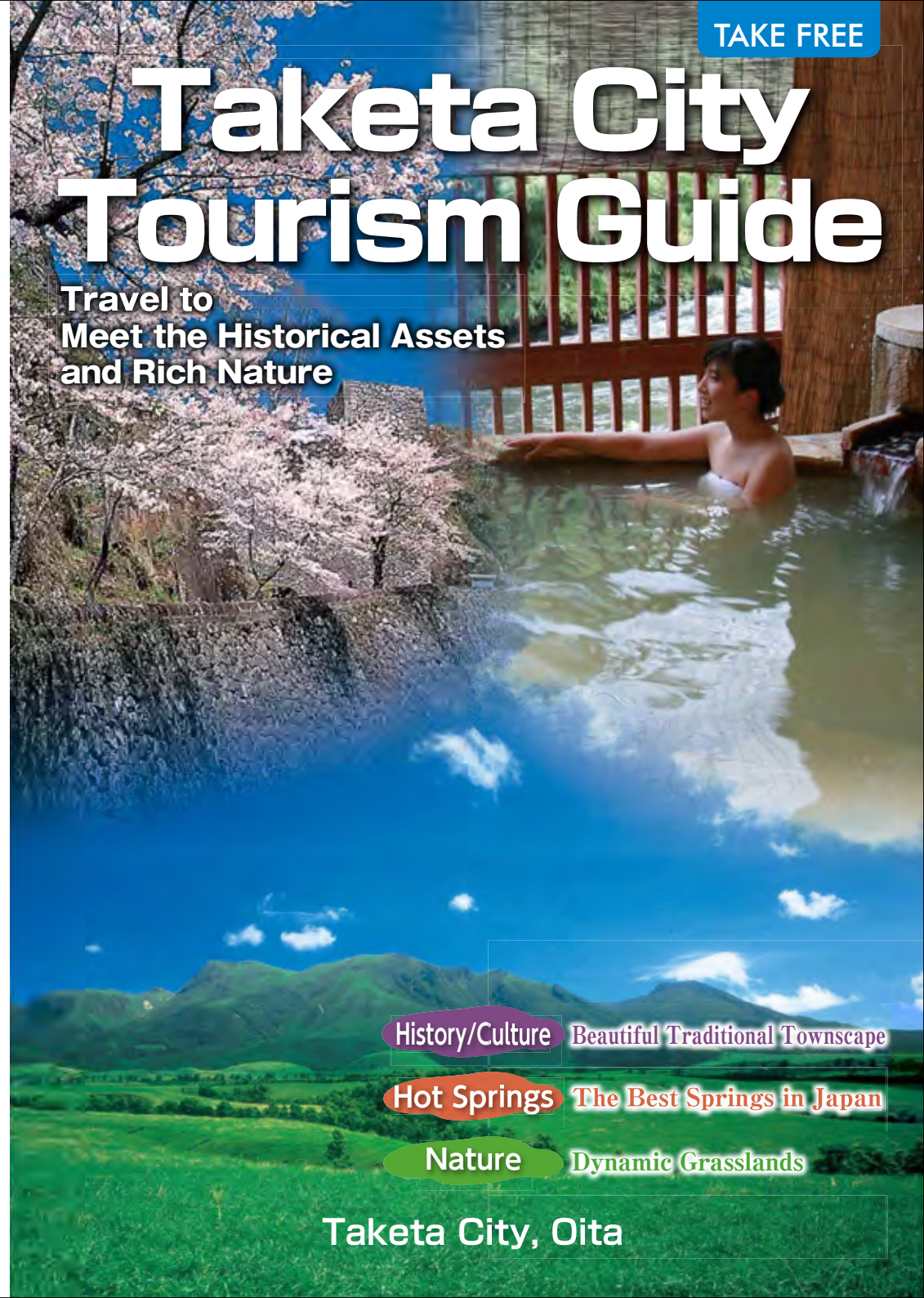


TAKE FREE

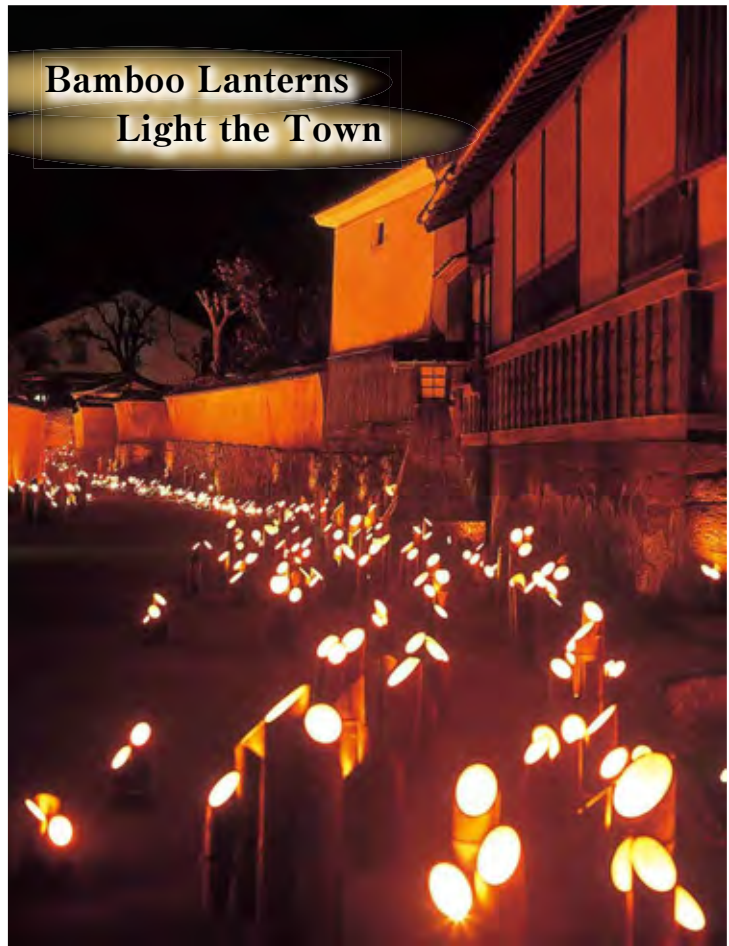
Taketa City Tourism Guide

Travel to
Meet the Historical Assets
and Rich Nature



- History/Culture Beautiful Traditional Townscape
- Hot Springs The Best Springs in Japan
- Nature Dynamic Grasslands

Taketa City, Oita



Bamboo Lanterns
Light the Town

Taketa Bamboo Lantern Festival
20,000 bamboo lanterns light the castle town
in this autumn festival held in early November

For tourist information and accommodation reservations, please call the

i Taketa City Tourism Association

TEL 0974-63-0585 HP <http://www.taketan.jp/>

Published by Taketa City Commerce and Tourism Division

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Travel to Meet the Historical Assets and Rich Nature

Taketa City, Oita is located in central Kyushu.

It is surrounded by the green of Mt. Aso and the Kyuju Ranges.

The area is rich in the nature of the four seasons.

The region has been known as "Little Kyoto" as a center for regional politics, commerce and transportation.

Visitors to the area can relax in the atmosphere of romantic historical assets, top hot springs, wide open prairies and the rich natural topography which grows rich food produce.

Bukeyashiki Street

The formal samurai residence still remains from the Okahan feudal lord's castle town of the Edo Period (1603-1868)



History/Culture

Beautiful Traditional Townscape



Oka Castle Ruins

It is said that in about 1185, the military commander, Koreyoshi 'Saburo' Ogata, ordered the castle to be constructed to welcome the Genpei War hero, Yoshitsune Minamoto. It is also well known as the location for the performance of Taro Takiren's song Kojonotsuki. It is a lovely spot to see cherry blossoms and autumn leaves.

In Taketa, visitors can enjoy history.

The castle remains of the impregnable Oka castle and the scenery of the castle town of the Oka clan of the Edo Period (1603-1868) including the samurai residence, are delightful historical remains.



Hideshige Nakagawa



Okyakuyashiki Reception Area (Sabo Okyakuya Tea House)

During the Edo Period, this room was used as a guest reception area. Now, visitors can enjoy tea or a meal here.



Christian Cave Chapel

In about 1550, Christianity flourished and even during the period of Christian repression, Christians worshiped secretly.



Oukimoriinari Shrine (Koutou God)

This shrine has attracted people from long ago to pray for good business.



Taketa City History Archive Center

Many artworks are displayed including Nanga ink paintings by the acclaimed Japanese artist, Chikuden Tanomura and Yukari Gyoto.



Rentaro Taki Museum



Rentaro Taki

This is the childhood home of composer Rentaro Taki, who brought western music to Japan. Music he has composed and other items are displayed in the home.

Traditional performing arts



Taketa Takigi Noh

Noh has a history of over 600 years. It is based in Kyoto and flourished in Taketa during the Edo Period. This tradition has been continued and each autumn, the Taketa Takigi Noh is performed.



Ajikano Lion Dance

The Lion Dance is a traditional performance said to take away evil and bring good luck. The Ajikano Lion Dance is a designated Prefectural Intangible Cultural Asset and features a heroic dance and drum performance.

Hot Springs

The Best Springs in Japan



Taketa City is the home of Nagayu Hot Spring, the best carbonated hot spring in Japan. This is one of seven hot springs which makes this area known nationally as the Area of the Seven Springs. You can forget about the hustle and bustle and relax in a hot spring.

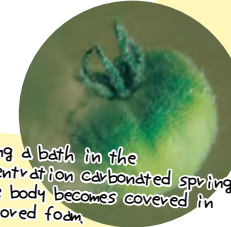


Nagayu Hot Spring

During the Edo Period (1603-1868), the feudal lord of the Oka clan enjoyed this hot spring. And more recently, many famous people have visited this hot spring area. The springs are high-concentrated carbonated and has a cultural exchange with Europe's representative health resort, Baden-Baden in Germany.



Drinking the spring water has become popular as people say it is good for the stomach and intestines.



When taking a bath in the high-concentration carbonated spring water, the body becomes covered in silver colored foam.



Soda Hot Spring

This warm and high-concentration carbonated hot spring is relaxing and the carbonation warms the body.



Ganiyu

The story is that a crab was in love with a girl and the crab was hit by lightning which created this hot spring. There is an outside hot spring on the river bank. (Mixed bathing/swimsuits permitted)



Enjoy a hot spring in Taketa

① Pour water on yourself before getting in the bath!

Pour water on yourself to remove dirt and to accustom yourself to the water temperature. Be sure not to get your towel wet in the bath.



② Enjoy the view!

Taketa is a beautiful location and the four seasons are so colorful. These are best seen from an outside hot spring. Enjoy the scenery from a hot spring!

③ Relax with your family!

Enjoy a family bath with your family or a group of friends. You can use family baths privately and are perfect for first-timers.

Hot spring



Gozenyu - Hot Spring Medical Treatment Culture Hall

This hot spring used to be only used by the feudal lord during the Edo Period. Visitors can relax in a hot spring while listen to the stream of the Serikawa River.



Hanamizuki Taketa Hot Spring

This hot spring is situated by the Tourist Information Center, three minutes walk from Bungotaketa Station. Family baths and free foot springs are also available.

Nature

Dynamic Grasslands



Bogatsuru and Tadenwara Bogs

At the foot of the Kuju mountain ranges are bogs hosting a variety of biodiversity. They have been registered under the Ramsar Convention.

Kyushu roof is made up of Mt. Kuju ranges, Mt. Soba, Mt. Aso and other mountains, and the foot of the mountains spread out to huge grasslands.

The mountains provide natural spring water and the areas springs are well known.



Mt. Sobo and Mt. Katamuki

On the boarder with Miyazaki Prefecture, the strange shapes of these mountain sides entertain visitors. During the different seasons, vegetation and colors change and the area is popular for hiking.

Aso-Kuju National Park (Kuju Plateau)

This plateau sits at the foot of the Kuju mountain range. The traditional grass-burning and grazing have protected the area. It is a treasure chest of vegetation. The area has become a popular resort.

Spring



Summer



Autumn



Winter



Guernsey Farm

Kuju's nature can be experienced at this facility through their "See, Learn and Play" program. The fresh milk and soft served ice-creams are popular.



Kuju Golf Club

This golf course is set in the mountains and plains of Kuju. The scenery in each season makes for an enjoyable round of golf.

Kuju Flower Park

This grand park has 200 species of flowers. 2 million flowers bloom in the seasons.



Sokawa River Pillar Joint



The Olle Ribbons Marks



Taketa Spring Group

The spring water comes from the Mt. Aso ranges. It is crystal clear and has been selected as one of the best 100 springs in Japan. Take a plastic bottle and fill it up and take it home.

Taketa Flavors

Taketa's nature and deep history has made many delicious foods.



● Local Fish Cooking

Taketa is far from the sea and fish are completely used. This dish is boiled skin, innards and other parts. It is served with vinegar soy sauce.



● Spotnape Ponyfish

The Spotnape Ponyfish lives in freshwater and is a local delicacy. It is served fried, grilled and as sashimi. The fish is also farmed in Taketa and can be enjoyed all year round.



● Taketa Skewers with Miso

Tofu, Konnyaku and freshwater fish are skewered, miso is spread on and they are cooked over coals. This local dish has been popular since the Edo Period.



Alcoholic Drinks

● Local Sake and Shochu

"Soba" and "Katamugiyama" are sake and barley shochu made with water from the Mt. Aso ranges. The taste is deep and they are both made the same way it was made long ago.

● Wine

Grapes cultivated at the foot of the Kuju mountain range are used to make this wine. The fragrance and taste is to be enjoyed.



● Unrefined Sake

Rice is fermented to make this unrefined sake the traditional way. It has a light sour taste.

● Haratomochi

This steamed sweet of adzuki beans. It has been said that it was loved by the Oka clan's feudal lord of the Edo Period.



● Mikasano/Kojounotsuki

This Japanese style sweet is said to have been on the menu of the Oka clan's feudal lord of the Edo Period.



Sweets



● Local Soft-serve ice-cream

This rich ice-cream is made from milk from the local cows which graze on the plateaus. Interesting flavors including tomato and corn are also available.



● Kuji Plateau Beef

The huge grasslands of Kuju have grown the Japanese Black Beef. The balance of red meat fat make it perfect for steak or BBQ and the beef melts in your mouth.



● Snapping Turtle

In Japan and China, the snapping turtle has long been a luxury food. It is available at Nagayu Hot Spring. The collagen from the turtle and the hot spring will have your skin feeling smooth.



● Famous Water Tofu

Local soy beans are used and mixed with famous water to make this rich and mild tofu. Seasonal ingredients are prepared with the tofu to make delicious dishes.

● Fried Chicken

Chicken thighs are fried and flavored with salt to make this simple and delicious dish.



Souvenirs from Taketa

How about one of the many wonderful souvenirs to take home to your loved ones?



Hime Daruma Good Luck Ornament

These ornaments are said to bring good luck to families and ward off bad spirits.



Dried Shiitake Mushrooms

Taketa is famous nationally for shiitake mushroom production. Dried shiitake mushrooms are well suited for soups and boiled dishes.



Saffron Products

(Including Bath Products, Soap, Cooking Seasonings)
The blood promoting saffron is used in many beauty and cooking products.



Egg Shell Dolls

These traditional dolls are made from egg shells and have been popular with girls for many years.



Taketa Spring Water

(Uncarbonated/Not treated with heat)
This water contains many minerals and is smooth to drink.



Kabosu Citrus Juice

The locally grown Kabosu citrus is high in citric acid. This juice has a light flavor.



Oita Nagayu Bath Bombs

The carbonation is said to work on blood promotion. Enjoy the Nagayu Hot Spring at home.

Event Information



Oka Castle Cherry Blossom Festival

4
Apr.

Warriors walk the Oka castle grounds and castle town. You will feel like you have stepped back into the Edo Period.



Taketa Bamboo Lantern Festival

11
Nov.

About 20,000 bamboo lanterns light up the castle town. The area becomes magical.



Kuju's Start of the Mountain-climbing Season

6
Jun.

Enjoy the beginning of the mountain-climbing summer season with this event. Many climbers come to the area during this period.



Oka Clan Castle Town Hina Festival

2
Feb.

This Hina festival has taken place since the Edo Period. Hina dolls and handmade Hina dolls in bamboo are displayed during the festival.

Information



Rental Bicycles

Electric assisted bicycles are available for rent. It is a great chance to get up and close with the region. Why don't you take a ride in Taketa?

◎Rental Spots

- (Downtown Area)
 - Taketa City Sightseeing Tourism Association
 - Station Tourism Information Center
- (Kuju Area)
 - Kuju Plateau Information Center (inside the Hoshitouruyakata)
- (Nagayu Area)
 - Nagayu area rentals are free
 - Nagayu Hot Spring Tourist Information Center
 - Naoriso Lodge



Recorded Guide Pen (fee required)

For visitors wanting to know about the downtown area, it is recommended that they use the Recorded Guide Pen. This is a pen shaped device which is used to touch panels on maps around town to hear information about those sites.

◎Rental Spot

- Taketa City Sightseeing Tourism Association

やまナビ



English Ver.



Korean Ver.

Mountain Navigation

(Explanations available in English and Korean)

Oita's Taketa City and Kokonoe-machi Town's sightseeing spots are introduced.



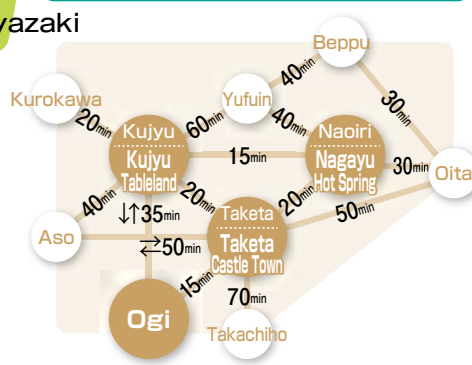
<http://yamanaminavi.jp/>

やまナビ 検索






Access to Taketa City



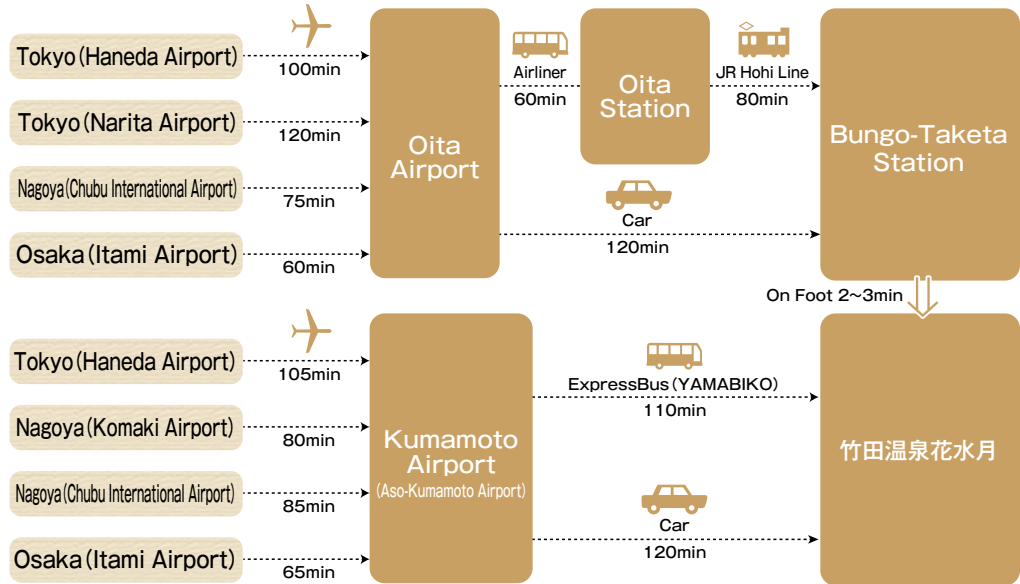
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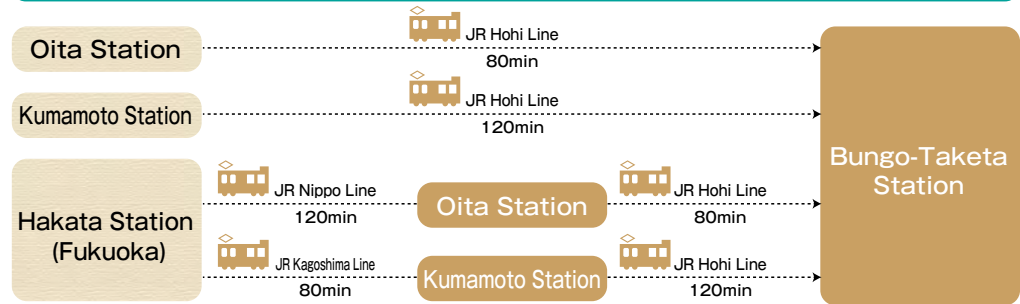
Sightseeing Spots in the Area

  <p>Beppu Hot Spring Beppu has the most number of springs and the largest amount of spring water in Japan. Many different types of hot springs can be enjoyed here.</p>	 <p>Yufuin Hot Springs This hot spring area is set in beautiful country side. The morning dew in this area is famous.</p>	 <p>Kokonoe YUME Suspension Bridge This bridge is the largest suspension foot bridge in Japan. It is 390m long and 173m high. The scenery is amazing from the bridge.</p>	 <p>Harajiri Waterfall This waterfall has been included in the list of the best 100 waterfalls of Japan. It is called the Niagara of the Orient.</p>
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By Airplane ※Kumamoto Airport is the closest airport









By JR Trains ※By Express Trains



By YOKARO Express Bus



  <p>Mt. Aso Mt. Aso is one of the largest calderas in the world. The crater and grasslands of Mt. Aso are appealing to visitors.</p>	 <p>Kurokawa Hot Springs Kurokawa is a famous hot spring area. Visitors can enjoy many different springs.</p>	  <p>The night view from Mt. Atagoyama The view from the top of the mountain is known as one of the best in the country. The lights of the area are beautiful from this spot.</p>	 <p>Takachiho Gorge This gorge has been designated a National Natural Monument. You can enjoy the scenery from a boat.</p>
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