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 former samurai residence still remains from the Ochisan feudal lord, a castle town of the Edo Period (1600-1868).
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.

**Oka Castle Ruins**

It is said that in about 1185, the military commander, Koreyoshi "Saburu" 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 Takirei’s song Kojonotsuki. It is a lovely spot to see cherry blossoms and autumn leaves.

**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.

**Oukimoriinari Shrine (Koutou God)**

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

**Rentaro Taki Museum**

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.

**Taketa City History Archive Center**

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

**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

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.

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 Senkawa River.

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 lightening which created this hot spring. There is an outside hot spring on the river bank. (Mixed bathing/swimsuits permitted)

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.

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.

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.
Kyushu 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.

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.

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

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.

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.

Mt. Sobo and Mt. Katamuki
On the border 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.

Olle is Korean for “narrow track home”. Visitors can enjoy trekking and bushwalking to experience nature and culture.

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’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.

**Soba** and “Katakamiyama” 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.

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.

**Local Sake and Shochu**

**Wine**

**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.

**Grapes**

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

**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.

**Sweets**

**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.

**Mikasono/Kojounotsuki**
This Japanese style sweet is said to have been on the menu of the Oka clan’s feudal lord of the Edo Period.

**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.
Souvenirs from Taketa

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

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

Himedaruma Good Luck Ornament
These ornaments are said to bring good luck to families and ward off bad spirits.

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

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

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

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

Oita Nagayu Bath Bombs
The carbonation is said to work on blood promotion. Enjoy the Nagayu Hot Spring at home.
Access to Taketa City

By Airplane
- Kumamoto Airport is the closest airport
  - Tokyo (Haneda Airport)
    - 100min by Airliner
  - Tokyo (Narita Airport)
    - 120min by Airliner
  - Osaka (Itami Airport)
    - 75min by Airliner
    - 60min by Car
  - Nagoya (Chubu International Airport)
    - 80min by Airliner
  - Osaka (Itami Airport)
    - 85min by Airliner
    - 65min by Car
- On Foot 2-3min

By JR Trains
- By Express Trains
  - Oita Station
  - Kumamoto Station
  - Hakata Station (Fukuoka)
  - Kumamoto Station
    - 80min by JR Hohi Line
    - 120min by JR Hohi Line
  - Oita Station
    - 80min by JR Hohi Line
    - 120min by JR Hohi Line
  - Bungo-Taketa Station

By YOKARO Express Bus
- Hakata (Fukuoka)
  - Kurokawa Hot Spring (Kumamoto)
    - 140min by Express Bus
    - 30min by Car
  - Kuju
    - 20min by Car
- Bungo-Taketa Station (front of Kurokawa Taketa Hot Springs)

Sightseeing Spots in the Area

- Beppu Hot Spring
  - Beppu has the most number of springs and the largest amount of hot spring water in Japan.
  - Different types of hot springs can be enjoyed here.

- Yufuin Hot Springs
  - This hot spring area is set in a beautiful countryside.

- Kokomo YUME Suspension Bridge
  - This bridge is the largest suspension foot bridge in Japan.

- Harajiri Waterfall
  - This waterfall has been included in the list of the best waterfalls in Japan. It is also called the Niagara of the Orient.

- Mt. Aso
  - Mt. Aso is one of the largest calderas in the world. The area becomes cloudy in the evening.

- Kurokawa Hot Springs
  - Kurokawa is a famous hot spring area. Visitors can enjoy many different springs.

- The night view from Mt. Atagoyama
  - The view from the top of the mountain is known as one of the most beautiful views in Japan.

- Takachiho Gorge
  - This gorge has been designated a National Natural Monument.
  - You can enjoy the scenery from a boat.