

### Oka Castle Cherry Blossom Festival

Early April

Oka Castle, which has been selected as one of Japan's top 100 cherry blossom sites, is the starting point of a procession for a feudal lord. The procession is composed of more than 100 retainers who march through the town.



### Taketa Bamboo Lantern Festival "Chikuraku"

3rd weekend in November

More than 20,000 bamboo lanterns beautifully illuminate the castle town in fantastic ways that will leave you speechless.



### CastleTown Hina Festival

Early February to Mid-March

Traditional Hina dolls and handmade Hina dolls decorated using bamboo are on display in over 40 locations throughout the castle town.



English

# The Castle Town of Taketa

## — Guide Map —

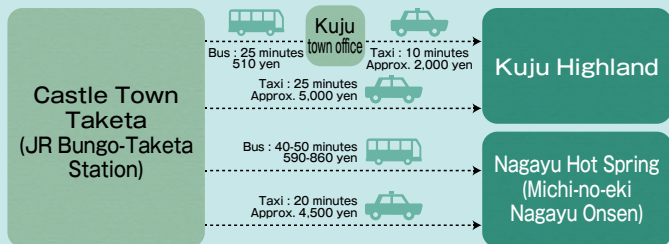


## Welcome to the Castle Town of Taketa.

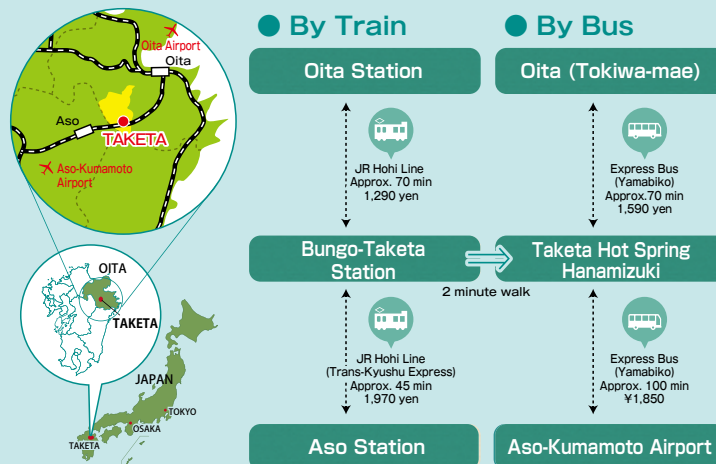
In Taketa, with historical sites at every turn, you can enjoy a stroll through history. Oka Castle, once known as impenetrable, still has its grand stone walls intact. Taketa thrived as a castle town in the Edo period and its samurai residences are reminders of medieval times. Why not wander around to find out more about the town and its history?



### Access from Taketa City Center



### Access from Oita and Aso



### Tourist Information Center

## Taketa City Tourism Association (at Taketa Hot Spring Hanamizuki)

Phone : 0974-63-0585 Website : <http://www.taketan.jp/>  
 Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/taketatourism>

Open : 8:30-17:00



Taketa City, Oita

### Tools are at your service

#### Rental Bicycles

Electric motor-assisted bicycles are available for rent.

- Rental Spots**
  - Taketa Tourist Information Center (at JR Bungo-Taketa Station (Map 2))
  - Taketa City Tourism Association (at Taketa Hot Spring Hanamizuki)
- Fees**
  - Up to 2 hours : 300 yen
  - Up to 4 hours : 500 yen
  - Over 4 hours : 800 yen
  - (The final return time is 17:00)



#### Audio Guide Pen

Audio guides in English or Korean are available with this tool. Detailed information will be available at the sites listed in a separate pamphlet.





# Taketa Castle Town Guide Map

## Suggested walking courses

**A Course to Oka Castle Ruins** (approx. 2.0 km)

Station → Oka Castle

30 min

TAXI 5 min (700 yen)

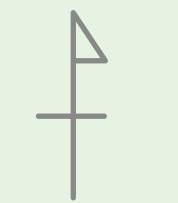
※No bus is available

**B Castle Town 1-hour walk course** (approx. 3.0 km)

**C Castle Town 30-minutes walk course** (approx. 1.5 km)



See the "Course to Oka Castle Ruins"



Bungo-Taketa Station



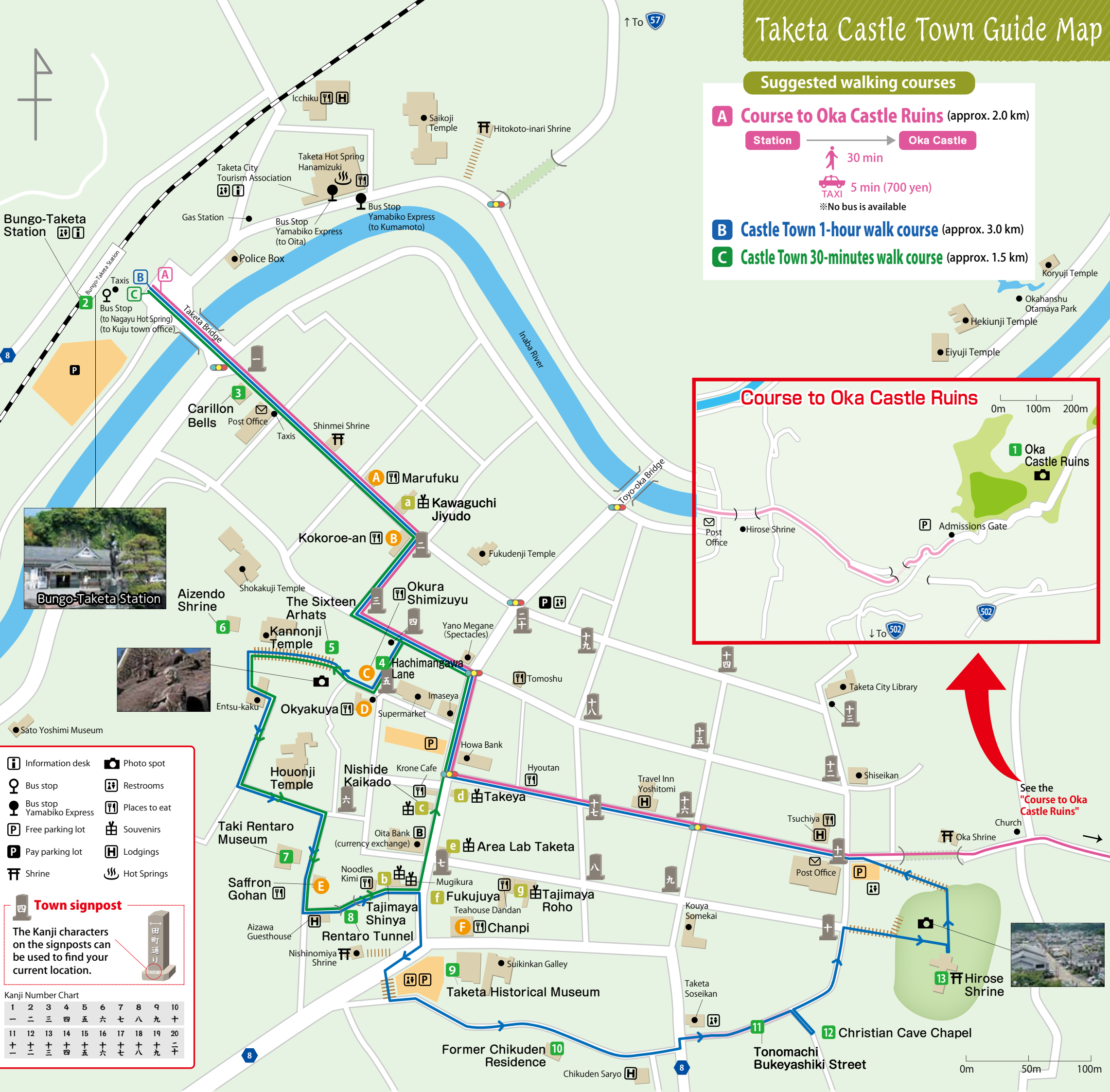
- Information desk
- Bus stop
- Bus stop Yamabiko Express
- Free parking lot
- Pay parking lot
- Shrine
- Photo spot
- Restrooms
- Places to eat
- Souvenirs
- Lodgings
- Hot Springs

**Town signpost**

The Kanji characters on the signposts can be used to find your current location.

Kanji Number Chart

一	二	三	四	五	六	七	八	九	十
十一	十二	十三	十四	十五	十六	十七	十八	十九	二十



0m 50m 100m



# What to see

## Photo Spot



### 岡城趾 1 Oka Castle Ruins

5 minutes by car from the station  
The castle was first constructed in 1185, and in 1594 it was refitted with stone walls. It was known as an impenetrable castle that looks over the Kuju Mountain Range, Mt. Aso, and Mt. Sobo. Also, the ruins are adorned by spring cherry blossoms and autumn leaves.

**Admission**  
Adults/High school students: 300 yen,  
Children: 150 yen  
**Closed**  
December 31 to January 3  
**Open**  
9:00 to 17:00

Course A



### 豊後竹田駅 2 Bungo-Taketa Station

Bungo-Taketa Station is the starting point for the walking courses. When trains arrive at the station, the famous tune of "The Moon Over the Ruined Castle" plays. The station has coin operated lockers as well as toilets for the disabled. There is also a tourist information desk.

Course A Course B Course C



### カリヨンベル 3 Carillon Bells

1 minute walk from the station  
26 large and small bells play the songs of Taki Rentaro (※1) and Sato Yoshimi (※2) between the hours of 9:00 and 21:00, every 2 hours.

Course A Course B Course C



### 八輪川横丁 4 Hachimangawa Lane

7 minute walk from the station  
The distinctive white walls of traditional shops reminiscent of days-gone-by line this narrow lane. This is the perfect spot for a photograph to remember your trip by.

Course B Course C



### 観音寺十六羅漢 5 Kanonji Temple Sixteen Arhats

8 minute walk from the station  
Visitors to Kanonji Temple are greeted by 16 stone statues that line the steps up to the temple.  
\*The Sixteen Arhats are legendary Buddhist disciples.

Course B Course C



### 愛染堂 6 Aizendo Shrine

10 minute walk from the station  
Aizendo Shrine is currently the oldest building in the castle town of Taketa. The deity Aizen-Myoo (also called Ragaraja) is enshrined here, and it is said that prayers for finding love are answered here. Recently it has become known as a "power spot" for those seeking a marriage partner.  
(National Important Cultural Property)

Course B Course C



### 滝廉太郎記念館 7 Taki Rentaro Museum

10 minute walk from the station  
Taki Rentaro (※1) is the composer of famous songs such as "The Moon Over the Ruined Castle". His former home is now a museum. Exhibits in the museum include his letters, photographs, and handwritten musical scores.

**Admission**  
Adults/High school students: 300 yen,  
Children: 200 yen  
**Open**  
9:00 to 17:00  
(Entry until 16:30)  
**Closed**  
December 28 to January 3

Course B Course C



### 廉太郎トンネル 8 Rentaro Tunnel

7 minute walk from the station  
A short tunnel close to the Taki Rentaro Museum. When you enter the tunnel, tunes of Rentaro play automatically.

Course B Course C



### 竹田市立歴史資料館 9 Taketa Historical Museum

10 minute walk from the station  
In the museum, archaeological material, a model of Oka Castle, and works of literary figures from Taketa are on exhibit.

**Admission**  
Adults/High school students: 200 yen,  
Children: 100 yen  
※Special exhibits have an additional cost  
**Open**  
9:00 to 17:00  
(Entry until 16:30)  
**Closed** Mondays (Tuesday when Monday is a holiday), December 29 to January 3  
※The Museum may close temporarily before or after special exhibitions

Course B



### 旧竹田荘 10 Former Chikuden Residence

15 minute walk from the station  
This is the former residence of Tanomura Chikuden, a famous painter of the Edo period. Currently this is the only historical "Bukeyashiki" (samurai residence) open to the public.

**Admission**  
Adults/High school students: 300 yen,  
Children: 200 yen  
**Open**  
9:00 to 16:30  
**Closed**  
Mondays, days following holidays, year-end holidays

Course B



### 武家屋敷通り 11 Bukeyashiki Street

15 minute walk from the station  
Once 13 samurai residences or "Bukeyashiki" lined this street, and today their walls and gates still stand, giving a glimpse into the past. "Taketa Soseikan" at the corner of the street has a collection of armor and Hina dolls for viewing.



Taketa Soseikan

Course B



### キリシタン洞窟礼拝堂 12 Christian Cave Chapel

15 minute walk from the station  
A hand-carved dome-shaped cave chapel stands off the Bukeyashiki Street. It is believed the cave next to the chapel sheltered Christian priests from persecution.

Course B



### 広瀬神社 13 Hirose Shrine

15 minute walk from the station  
Hirose Shrine is dedicated to the memory of Hirose Takeo, a famous Meiji period soldier who was a scholar of Russia. From the shrine's grounds, you can look over the castle town and the Kuju Mountains.

**Admission**  
Free



Course B

※1 Taki Rentaro (1879-1903) is one of Japan's notable composers, and lived in Taketa City when he was a young boy from the age of 12 to 14. It is said that his most famous work, "The Moon Over the Ruined Castle" was based on Oka Castle, and he also was known for studying abroad in Europe.

※2 Sato Yoshimi (1905-1968) was a writer of children's songs and a poet who was born and raised in Taketa City. His most famous songs include "The Doggy Policeman" and "The Ice Cream Song".



## Kyushu Olle Oku Bungo Course

Approx. 12 km  
(required time: 4 to 5 hours)

The Oku Bungo course is Japan's first Olle course certified by the Korea Olle Association. The course runs through countryside between Asaji and Taketa. In parts, the course follows Edo period trails.

### What is Olle?

An Olle is a short trek in a natural environment. It originated in Jeju, Korea.

Admission fee:  
300 yen  
(Adults/  
High school  
students)

START

Asaji Station

2km

Yujaku Park

2km

Fukoji Temple

3km

Sokawa Pillar  
River Bed

1.5km

Oka Castle

2.5km

Taketa  
Castle Town

1km

GOAL

Taketa Hot Spring  
Hanamizuki

Take the JR to go to Asaji station.



Enjoy hot springs at Hanamizuki to unwind after the walk



# Where to eat

## A Taketa Marufuku Shokudo

3 minute walk from the station  
A prize-winning fried chicken restaurant. It is very popular in Taketa.

**Open** 10:00-21:00  
**Closed** Open every day (except January 1)  
**Parking** Available

■ Fried Chicken Lunch (Thigh) 720 yen

## B Soba restaurant Kokoroe-an

4 minute walk from the station  
Serves Teuchi (handmade) soba noodles. The Soba set menu comes with vegetable tempura, rolled egg and a rice ball.

**Open** 11:45-15:00 (may close earlier when Soba sells out)  
**Closed** Tuesdays  
**Parking** Available

■ Daily Soba Set 1,080 yen

## C Art Space Café Okura Shimizu-yu

7 minute walk from the station  
A public bath has been refurbished into a modern café and art gallery. Try the "Shimizu-yu Udon" which comes with matcha (green powdered tea). The building itself is a National Cultural Asset.

**Open** 11:00-16:00  
**Closed** Irregularly  
**Parking** Available (2 spaces)

■ Shimizuyu Udon 1,080 yen

## D Okyakuya

8 minute walk from the station  
This was a samurai guest house during the Edo period, and has been refurbished into a restaurant. In addition to lunch, you can also enjoy Japanese tea with sweets.

**Open** 10:00-16:00  
**Closed** Tuesdays

■ Okyaku Gozen Set 2,100 yen

## E Saffron Gohan

10 minute walk from the station  
Saffron is one of Taketa's specialties. The lunch set comes with Saffron rice and a cup of coffee.

**Open** 11:00-15:00 (may close earlier when food sells out)  
**Closed** Thursdays

■ Daily Lunch Set (with coffee) 800 yen

What is saffron?  
A floral spice used for seasoning and medicine.

## F Bistro & Cucina Chanpi

15 minute walk from the station  
French and Italian cuisine that uses local foods.

**Open** 11:30-14:00 / 17:30-20:30  
**Closed** Wednesday, and some other days additionally  
**Car Parking** Unavailable

■ Pasta Lunch 950 yen and up

# Lodgings

**Taketa Hot Spring Chikuden Saryo 竹田温泉 竹田茶寮**  
**Rate** two meals included, from 16,200 yen  
**Location** 5 minutes by car from the station

**Guesthouse Aizawa 民宿つり宿 あいざわ**  
**Rate** Room charge, from 3,000 yen  
**Location** 10 minute walk from the station

**Hotel Iwakiya ホテル岩城屋**  
**Rate** Room charge, from 6,480 yen  
**Location** 5 minutes by car from the station

**Nouka Minpaku (Farm Stay) 農家民泊**  
Why not stay at a farmer's inn and experience peaceful country life in Japan?  
**Rate** two meals included, 6,000 yen  
Taketa City Tourism Association (0974-63-0585)

**Oyado Kappo Icchiku 御宿割烹 一竹**  
**Rate** Room charge, from 5,830 yen  
**Location** 3 minute walk from the station

**Travel Inn Yoshitomi トラベルイン吉富**  
**Rate** Room charge, from 5,200 yen  
**Location** 10 minute walk from the station

**Hotel Tsuchiya ホテルつちや**  
**Rate** Room charge, from 5,250 yen  
**Location** 10 minute walk from the station

# Souvenirs

Traditional sweets once favored by lords are purchasable at these stores.

15 minute walk from the station



**Taketa's Traditional Sweets**

Left: "Kojo no Tsuki" Right: "Mikasano"

A variety of sweets unique to Taketa are purchasable here.

10 minute walk from the station

## g Tajimaya Roho Sweets Shop

**Open** 8:00-18:30  
**Closed** Open every day (except for January 1 and 4-5 days yearly)

3 minute walk from the station

## a Kawaguchi Jiyudo

**Open** 8:00-19:00  
**Closed** January 1 only



**Konkatsu Kitsune (Engagement Foxes)**  
A lucky amulet for finding true love

10 minute walk from the station

## b Tajimaya Shinya

**Open** 10:00-16:00  
**Closed** Mondays and Wednesdays



**Egg Shell Dolls**  
Charming dolls made of egg shells.

**Open** 8:30-17:30  
**Closed** Irregularly

## f Kayashima Brewery Oka Castle Distillery Fukuju-ya

The shochu "Bungo Seimei" uses Taketa's famous spring water.

**Open** 9:30-17:00  
**Closed** Irregularly



10 minute walk from the station

10 minute walk from the station

## e Area Lab Taketa

Souvenirs using specialties of Taketa are purchasable here.

**Open** 8:00-19:00  
**Closed** Wednesdays



**Taketa Hime Daruma**  
This good-luck charm is said to bring families happiness and ward off evil.



**d Takeya Japanese Accessories**  
Japanese-style accessories are made with old kimono cloth.

**Open** 10:00-18:00  
**Closed** Irregularly

# Additional tips

## Burari Hitotsumami (explore and sample) Coupons

These money-saving coupons can be used at 26 shops in the castle town.

At the Oka Castle Distillery Fukuju-ya, you can sample shochu as well. Coupons can be purchased at tourist information desks\* and participating shops.

**Price** 1 set (3 coupons) is 300 yen.  
\*Tourist information desks are located at Bungo-Taketa Station (Map ㉑) and Taketa Hot Spring Hanamizuki.



## Soft Serve Ice Cream unique to Taketa

There are a wide range of flavors of soft serve ice cream in Taketa. In the castle town, you can enjoy flavors such as azuki red bean (at Area Lab Taketa (Map ㉑)), soy sauce (at Mugikura), and brown rice (at Tomoshu).



## Hot Springs

Why not take a bath in a hot spring to unwind? Private baths are also available.



**竹田温泉 花水月 Taketa Hot Spring Hanamizuki**

The facility is located close to the station and there is a souvenir shop inside. A free foot bath is available at the entrance. Free wi-fi is also available.

Adults: 500 yen/Children: 200 yen  
Private baths: 2000 yen/60 minutes  
**Open** 11:00-22:00  
**Closed** Thursdays

