

OITA PREFECTURE, JAPAN

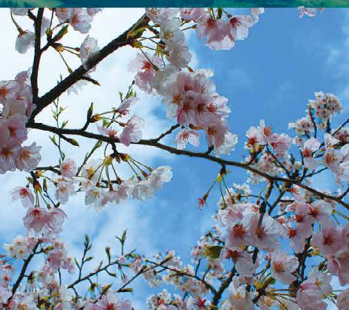
TAKETA CITY

Guide Book
in English

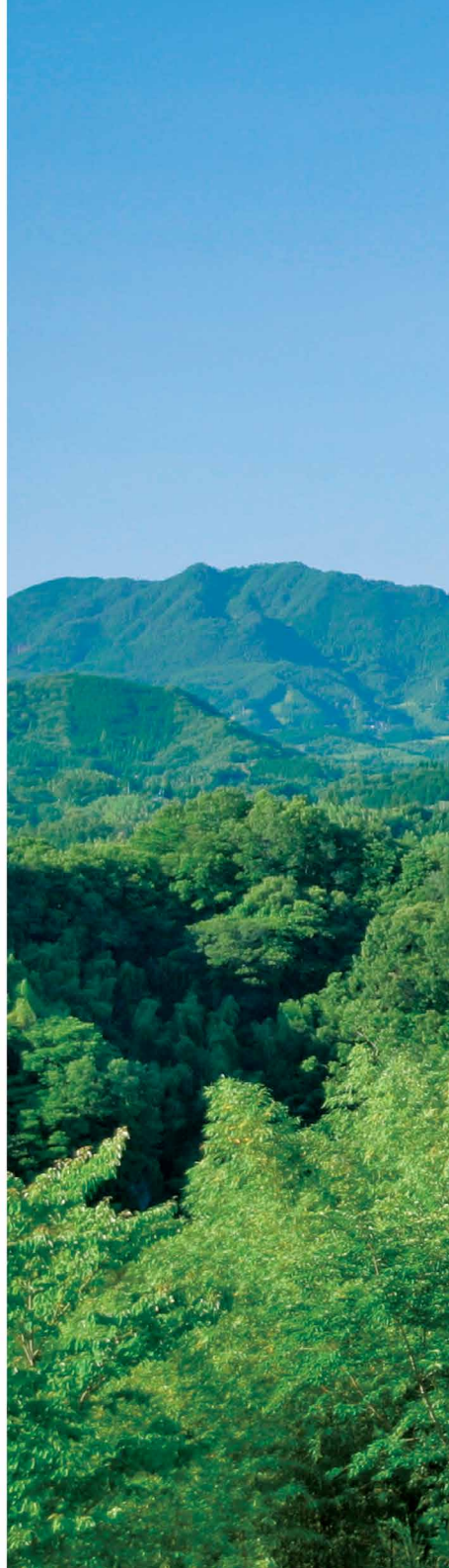
TAKE
FREE

Discover Taketa

Encounter Historical Heritage and
Abundant Natural Beauty in Your Travel



Taketa City, Oita



CONTENTS

- 04 Nature
- 06 Hot Springs
- 08 History/Culture
- 10 Food and Gourmet
- 12 Workshops
- 14 Souvenirs
- 15 Access to Taketa





Nature

IS CALLING YOU



Mt. Kuju Range

The Mt. Kuju range is known to be the roof of Kyushu. Mt. Sobo, Mt. Aso and other mountains are surrounded by huge grasslands. The mountain provides natural spring water and the springs in the area are well known.

'Noyaki' the Traditional Field Burning

did you know?

Although nature is already beautiful by itself, without human hand the grasslands will grow long and big into a native forest, and will not be how they are today. How do the local people preserve the great greenlands?



Spring

"Noyaki" is done to burn dead grass in March. Leaving it as is will grow to become a forest.



Summer

The black field that was burnt black gradually grows back into a beautiful lush green once again.



Autumn

The grass overgrows and shines gold. Enjoy the autumn colors that start gradually from the summit.



Winter

The 1700m class mountain range turns completely white. When the snow melts, spring comes again.

Mt. Sobo / 祖母・傾・大崩山 Katamuki / Okue

On the border with Miyazaki Prefecture, the mountain range has steep, rocky mountains and narrow valleys that make it peculiarly beautiful and a treasure chest of endangered species of wild flora and fauna. Designated a UNESCO biosphere reserves in 2017, which we only have 9 at the moment in Japan.



RECOMMENDED SPOTS

T = Taketa Area **N** = Nagayu Onsen Area **O** = Ogi Area **K** = Kuju Plateau Area



くじゅう花公園

Kuju Hana Ko-en **K**

Approximately 500 kinds of 5 million flowers bloom throughout the year. Closed during Dec~Feb due to winter season. (Admission Fee needed)



黄牛の滝

Ameushi no Taki **T**

Go down along the river for this dynamic waterfall to appear, making big splashes. One myth says there once lived a dragon.



納池公園

No-ike Park **K**

The thin, long lake that occupy 1/3 of the site, is made of spring water. One of the first designated parks, along with other historical parks.



糺山八幡宮

Momiyama Hachimangu **N**

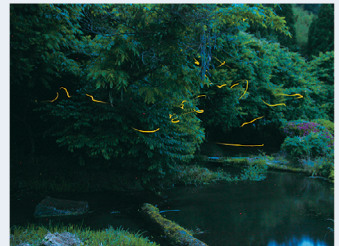
The large sacred tree, which is said to be 1000 years old is designated as a national monument of the prefecture.



河宇田湧水

Kawa Uda Spring Water **T**

Taketa's spring water had been listed as one of the 100 exquisite springs in Japan. 'Kawauda' is popular for its quantity of water.



蛍スポット

Firefly Areas in Taketa

Fireflies only inhabit where water is clean. Here in Taketa around June, there are many spots where fireflies are abundant.



Hot Springs 02

TAKE A DIP IN AN 'ONSEN'

'Hot Springs' in Japanese

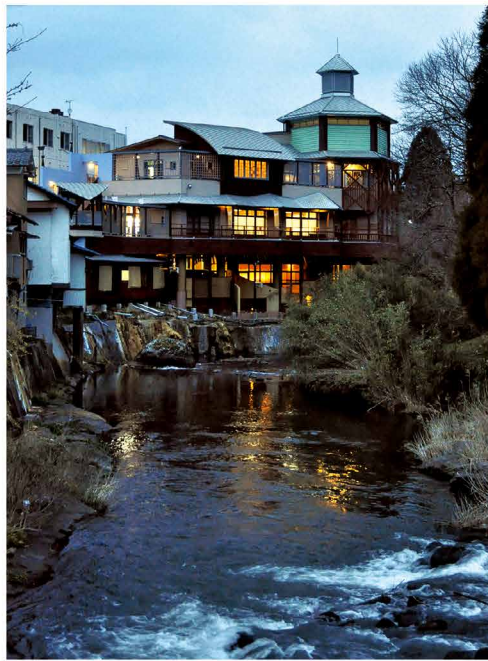
did you know?

onsen (noun)

The Hot Spring Law defines an onsen as water, water vapor, or other gas exceeds the prescribed amount of chemical components, or a water temperature of 25°C or greater.



One essential of the many blessings we get from the nature is the hot springs. Numerous hot springs with different spring qualities and characters will surely soothe your mind and body. Why not try various hot springs when visiting by car?



御前湯

Gozen-yu Onsen

The appearance is designed like a German-style building, for they both have Carbonated springs. For that reason, Taketa and Germany have a cultural exchange.

-  Wi-Fi Available
-  Information Center
-  Food
-  Foot Onsen



Taketa Onsen Hanamizuki 竹田温泉花水月



Closest hot spring to JR Bungo Taketa Station. They also have a large Tatami resting area, and a place to buy souvenirs and local goods.

Taketa City Tourist Center is located in Hanamizuki. Feel free to come in for more information on Taketa. We have some English brochures for you too.

(Go see back page for more details →)



▲ **Foot Onsen** is right in front of the Express bus stop to Oita/Kumamoto.



Lamune Onsen ラムネ温泉館

Take a dip in 'Lamune Onsen' in Nagayu hot spring area, to experience bubbles cover your whole body. Small gallery in 2nd floor.



Gani-yu ガニ湯

No gates nor walls surround this natural hot spring by the river. Open for baths 24 hours. Use under the bridge for undressing.



Private Baths (Reservations)

Need a little privacy to relax more? Several places offer a little private hot spring that you can reserve just for your family, or yourself.

TIPS 4 Basic Guides to Onsen Etiquette



Please put all your personal belongings in the locker.

When taking a bath...

- Wash your body before getting in the bathtub
- Remember to turn off all faucets and showers when not in use
- Be careful not to get water or soap on the people around you



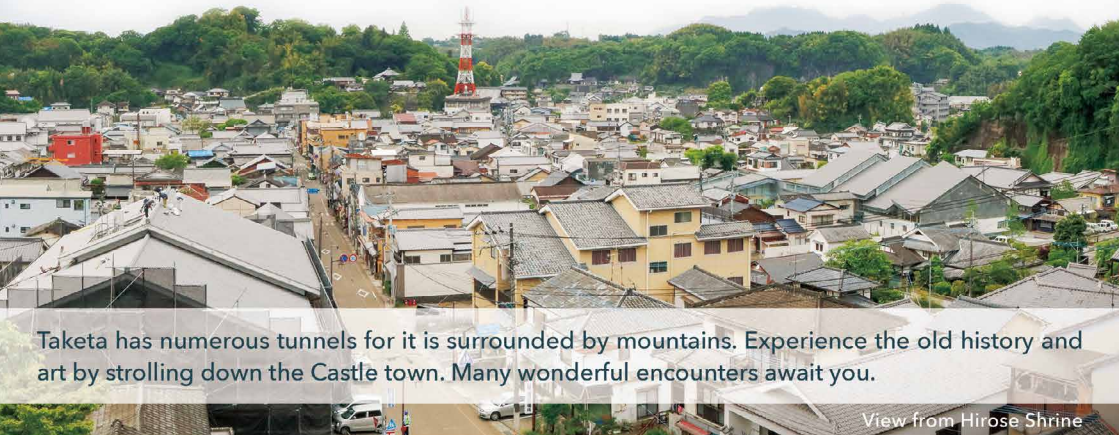
- Please put your hair up and keep it out from the water.
- Do not put your towel in the water.



Please dry off before entering the dressing room

03 History/Culture

WALK THROUGH THE CASTLE TOWN



Taketa has numerous tunnels for it is surrounded by mountains. Experience the old history and art by strolling down the Castle town. Many wonderful encounters await you.

View from Hirose Shrine

PLACES YOU CAN'T MISS



Oka Castle Ruins 岡城跡 ①

Though the castle had been abolished in 1873 and now remain only the stone walls, the history and the scenery still attract many visitors.



Aizen-dou 愛染堂 ②

The oldest building existing in the Castle town. It is said that the "Aizen Emperor" will look after people's happy marriage.



Sousei-kan 竹田創生館 ③

Constructed by a Japanese traditional building technique. Come take a look at the various art pieces exhibited here each season.



豊後竹田駅 (JR) Bungo Taketa Station (JR) ④

The exterior of the station which is like a traditional Japanese house has a history of more than 90 years. Come here to take JR trains.



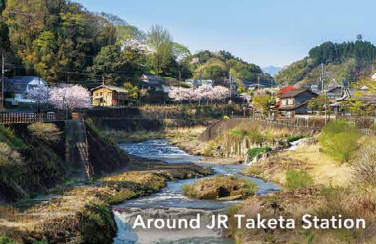
キリシタン資料館 Christian Museum ⑤

Valuable documents and resources of "Christian relics" that have been inherited in Taketa are been kept and displayed here.



キリシタン洞窟礼拝堂 Christian Cave Chapel ⑥

A hidden cave where a missionary hid and sheltered himself from persecution, and was a place of worship about 400 years ago.



Around JR Taketa Station



7 Zyu-roku Rakan Stairs



8 Bukeyashiki Street in Fall

城下町
castle town



Recommended Walking Trail

Bungo Taketa Station(JR) → Furumachi Street → Zyu-roku Rakan → Aizen-Do → Taki Rentaro Tunnel → Bukeyashiki Street (Historical Street) → Christian Cave Chapel → Hirose Shrine → Oka Castle Ruins → Taketa Onsen 'Hanamizuki'



9 Hirose Shrine



Oka Castle Sakura Festival



Ogimori Inari Shrine

ちゃんぽん

CHAMPON

Using various local vegetables grown in the area, the "Taketa Champon" is a favorite noodle dish to the locals.



オムライス

OMLETTE RICE

This omelette has an exquisite combination of sweet and sour of tomatoes that are locally grown in the plateaus. The rich eggs make it even more appealing.



エノハ料理

ENOHA DISHES

The freshwater masu salmon called "Enoha" in Oita can only exist in a clean river. Here in Taketa, they are cultivated therefore available throughout the year.



久住高原牛

KUJU PLATEAU BEEF

The cows grown in the Kuju plateau have a great balance of red meat and fat. Enjoy the delicious taste of the Japanese black beef itself.



LOCAL SPECIALTY
SHIITAKE



LOCAL SPECIALTY
SAFFRON



LOCAL SPECIALTY
KABOSU



サフランご飯

SAFFRON RICE

The main of this menu is the rice cooked with Saffron, a spice known to be high class. The sides change daily using local food.



竹田名物 豆腐料理

TOFU CUISINE

Taketa's Tofu is special for the smooth and rich taste, for it is prepared with Taketa's famous spring water. Enjoy with various other fresh food from the area.

FOOD & GOURMET FLAVORS OF TAKETA

The key to Taketa's delicious dishes are local food, made by the local people, provided by the rich natural resources that surround them. Enjoy from quaint restaurants to places loved by locals.



石窯ピザと久住ワイナリーワイン
WINERY PIZZA

Pizza which is baked fresh from the masonry oven, is popular among kids and adults. Try various pizzas and don't forget to try the wine or grape juice.



三笠野・荒城の月

**MIKASANO/
KOJYONOTUKI**

A Japanese confectionery that even the feudal lord 400 years ago once had as a gift.



ソフトクリーム
ICE CREAM

Taketa is known as "Soft-served Ice cream land" for its various flavors of soft served ice cream. Soy sauce, guernsey milk, and many more.



チキン南蛮とから揚げ
**CHICKEN NAMBAN
& KARAAGE**

Try the 'Karaage', a Japanese fried chicken which is crispy and tender, or the 'Chicken Namban' which has a sweet and sour sauce on top.



手作りサンドイッチ
SANDWICH
(CONVENIENCE STORE)

Handmade sandwiches are one of local people's favorite. It will remind them of their young days. This convenience store is located in the castle town.

はら太餅
**HARAFUTO
MOCHI**

A snack that a feudal lord once loved. 'Anko', a red bean paste is tightly put in a thin layer of the rice cake skin.



CAFE'S IN THE CASTLE TOWN



Teahouse Dan Dan



Art Space Cafe
'Shimizuyu'



Kado Pan (Bakery)



Teahouse Himeno



Krone Cafe



Icchiku

**Have a
Question?**

Come visit us at the information center located in 'Hanamizuki Onsen' and we'll do our best to help.



There may be **changes in activities and fares** dues to seasons.

Please contact the **Information Center** beforehand for additional info of the activity.



Oshi-Bana **T**

Pressed flower craft workshop, using flowers and plants in the four seasons. Choose from various plants. From children to adults.



Saffron Dying **T**

Using the pedals of the Saffron, dye silk handkerchieves or stoles into a beautiful matcha color.



'Mikasano' Making **T**

Make a traditional Taketa confectionary on your own at the oldest Japanese candy store. Afterwards, enjoy with matcha.



Egg Shell Doll **T**

A traditional doll in Taketa. Draw a face on the egg shell, and dress it up with cloth to make a kimono.



River Pool **T**

A natural pool using spring water. The water slider is even enough for an adult to enjoy. Open only during the summer season.



Rental Bicycle **T N**

Take a bicycle with you and ride along a radius of 500m of the castle town. Electrically driven bicycles will make it easy. (2 hours 300 Yen)



Olle Walking Trails

The first olle course to be approved in Japan by the Korean Olle Association. Walk through the countryside and historical streets.

Okubungo Course Of the Kyushu Olle Walking Trails

Starting point: JR Asaji station
Goal: Taketa-Onsen Hanamizuki
(2mins from JR Bungo-Taketa station)
Distance: Approximately 12km (7.45mile)
Admission fee: JPY300
(In order to pass through Oka castle ruins)
Please make a payment at Asaji Tourist Information Office next to JR Asaji station.
(How to get to JR Asaji station)
You can take a train at JR Bungo-Taketa station heading for Oita.
It takes about 6mins.
Fare (one way): JPY230

Ribbons

Blue and red ribbons tied on tree branches and elsewhere mark the correct route.





Wake Boarding **N**

The world's first cable park to introduce solar energy for their power source. The friendly staff will teach so beginners are welcome.



Glass Blowing **K**

Why not try making a glass art in a studio where professional glass artists work? Choose from glass blowing and other menus.



Horse Back Riding **K**

Have a ride with the beautiful and grand Mount Kuju range in the back. Staff will be by your side so beginners are welcome.



Strawberry Picking **T K**

Fresh picked All-You-Can-Eat strawberries are definitely a must-try. Enjoyable from children to adults.



Guernsey Farm **K**

Enjoy shopping, eating, and meeting animals in the barn with the magnificent view of the Kuju plateau in the back.



Spring Water Hopping

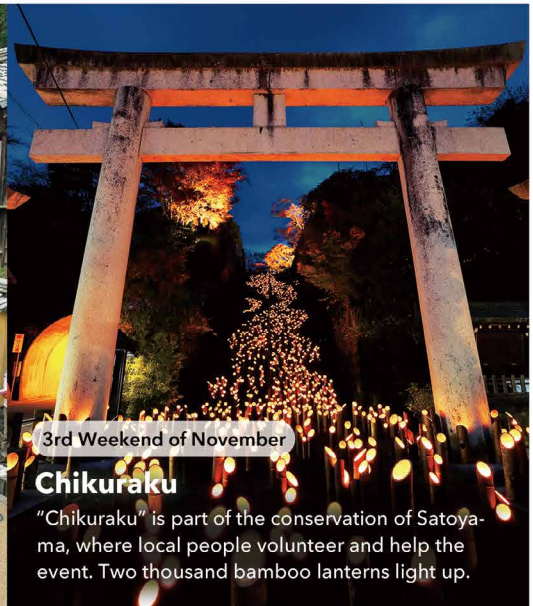
In Taketa where it is surrounded by various mountains, subsoil water is gushing from all over. Try hopping around several spring waters.



1st Weekend of April

Oka Castle Sakura Festival

Oka Castle Ruins had been listed as one of the 100 best Japanese cherry blossom scenery. Go back in time as you see the Daimyo procession.



3rd Weekend of November

Chikuraku

"Chikuraku" is part of the conservation of Satoyama, where local people volunteer and help the event. Two thousand bamboo lanterns light up.

SOUVENIRS FROM TAKETA



かぼす飲料 KABOSU DRINKS

Made from locally grown Oita Kabosu, it is a thirst-quenching refreshment.



たまご人形 EGG SHELL DOLL

A traditional doll in Taketa. They are hand-made and one of a kind.



石けん LOCAL SOAP

Soap made in Taketa from local specialties, Kabosu and Saffron.



干しいたけ DRY SHIITAKE

Despite Oita being #1 producer of Shiitake, Taketa's are one of a kind. Dry shiitake contain about 9 times more Vitamin D than raw.



サフランティーと紅茶 SAFFRON TEA

Saffron Tea is a blend of Saffron and Jasmin. Fruity in the nose when hot, and the color is beautiful.



森のサキイカ シリーズ MORI NO SAKI-IKA

Made with the stems of Shiitake mushrooms, which are usually thrown away. Flavored with a jerky kind of flavor.



竹田の酒 JAPANESE SAKE

Preparing with subsoil water from Sobo, Katakumi and Aso mountains, sake and quality shochu is a popular souvenir.



DO YOU KNOW 'MICHINO-EKI'?

did you know

If you are visiting via car, make a stop at a 'Michinoeki'. 'Michinoeki's are all over Japan, and they have a bathroom, parking lot, and provide information on the area. They usually sell locally grown food and products.

Michi-no-eki 'Taketa' 0974-66-3553

Michi-no-eki 'Sugou' 0974-65-2211

Michi-no-eki 'Nagayu' 0974-75-3111



ACCESS



FROM AIRPORT

OITA AIRPORT

- Take bus to Oita Station 1h
Take JR train to Bungo Taketa Station 1h20min
- Take bus to Oita Station 1h
Take express bus to Taketa (Hanamizuki) 1h10min

ASO KUMAMOTO AIRPORT

- Take express bus to Taketa (Hanamizuki) 2h25min

FROM STATION

HAKATA STATION

- Take JR express trains to Oita Station 2h00min
Connect JR trains to Bungo Taketa Station 1h20min

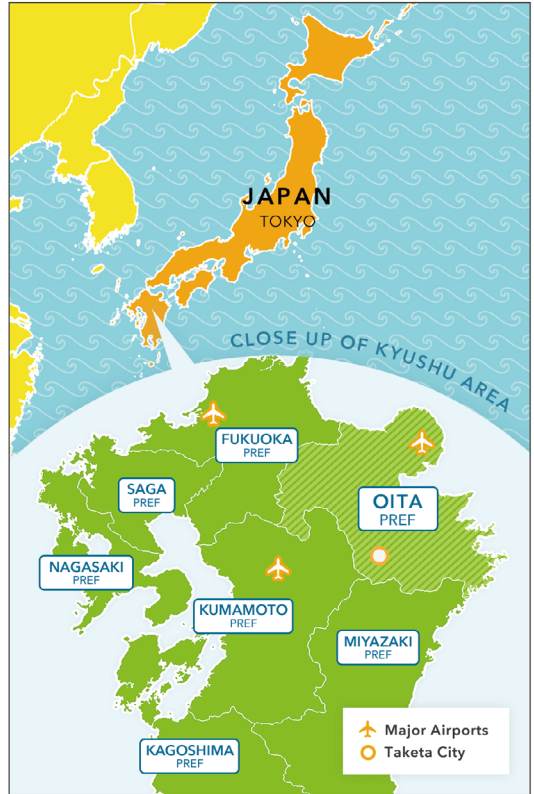
OITA STATION

- Take JR train to Bungo Taketa Station 1h20min
- Take express bus to Taketa (Hanamizuki) 1h10min

ASO STATION (KUMAMOTO)

- Take express bus to Taketa (Hanamizuki) 1h20min

For more information on JR trains visit the official page.
<http://www.jrkyushu.co.jp/english/>



TOURIST SPOTS NEAR TAKETA



USEFUL PHRASES

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Konichiwa. | Hello. | Ikura desuka? | How much is it? |
| Arigato gozaimasu. | Thank you. | Hai. / lie. | Yes. / No. |
| Mata-ne. | See you again. | OO wa doko? | Where is OO? |
| Sumimasen. | Sorry. | Genki desuka? | How are you? |



Taketa City

For more tourist information and accommodation reservations, please feel free to contact us.

Taketa City Tourism Association

竹田市観光ツーリズム協会

URL: <https://www.taketan.jp/>

e-mail: info@taketan.jp

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