

4 Columnar Joints in Sogawa



Longitudinal cracks of solidified lava comprise columnar joints after the lava in pyroclastic flows from volcanic eruption cools down. The columnar joints seen along a river in the Sogawa area are believed to have formed in the massive eruptions of Mt. Aso 90,000 years ago. This special geological structure reveals the dynamism of the primeval Earth.

5 Oka Castle Ruins



Amazing natural fortress!

The ruins of Oka Castle are scattered across a 325-meter-high rocky plateau. The castle was first built as a fortress in the late 12th century during the Kamakura period and later refurbished into a castle in the early Edo period. The song, *Kojo no Tsuki* (The Moon over the Castle Ruins), is said to be based on Composer Rentaro Taki's childhood memory of this castle.

Admission*: ¥300 for high school students and older; ¥150 for junior high and elementary school students
 Groups of 20 or more: ¥200 for high school students and older; ¥100 for junior high and elementary school students
 Entry allowed: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 *Pay admission at the Asaji Tourist Information Center before starting the trek.

6 Taketa Castle Town



1 set (3 coupons) for ¥300
 Buy "Stroll and Eat" coupons for local snacks at discount prices.

During the Edo period, Taketa flourished around the main castle of the Oka Domain as a strategic center for politics, economy, and culture in Kyushu. White plastered walls of samurai residences, Buddhist temples, and long established shops show tradition that has been passed down from the past to the present day.



1 Asaji Station Tourist Information Center (Open 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.)



Souvenirs and commemorative items featuring Kyushu Oile are also available.

Located on the premises of Asaji Station, this center is handy and convenient. Feel free to ask the staff regularly stationed here about anything. You must complete registration here before you start your walk*. If you order a bento (box lunch) here, you can pick it up at Fukoiji Temple. You can also reserve experienced trail guides.

*300 yen advance admission to the Oka Castle Ruins is required.
 To make reservations for trail guides and box lunches, call 0974-72-0510.

2 Yujaku Park



This park features an expansive garden with more than 500 maple and other broadleaf trees around Shinji Pond to the north and Tanji pond to the south. It used to be a villa of the top-ranked retainer of the Nakagawa Family, the ruler of the Oka Domain, the largest in the Bungo region (current Oita Prefecture) during the Edo period. Poets and calligraphers visited the villa in those days.

3 Fukoiji Temple



This historic temple is believed to have been built during the Kamakura period. Buddha statues (Magaibutsu) standing 11.3 meters in height, some of the largest in Japan, are carved into the ignimbrite rock which formed in massive Mt. Aso eruptions 120,000 years ago. The temple is also known for the beautiful hydrangea blossoms covering the premises in early summer.