

Aso Take-ra

列車で楽しむ、新しい阿蘇・竹田の旅



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GUIDE BOOK

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Unique and Awesome! A Train Journey in the Beautiful Caldera.

Aso is a region where about 50,000 people live in a caldera which was created by huge volcanic eruptions. The Limited Express Train ASO BOY! runs there to one of the most unique places in the world. The landscape seen from the train windows is spectacular. Let's go on a trip to share fantastic experiences blessed with the volcanos and volcanic terrain!



The views seen from the train windows/Shin Aso ohashi rebuilt in 2021, The trains passing over the Kurokawa river flows in Aso-dani(valley), Rice paddies in Oita

“Aso-gogaku” in the South, “Senmaida” in the North.

JR Hohi Line which connects Kumamoto and Oita runs on the northern foothills of Aso-gogaku (a range of five mountains), which rise in the center of Aso caldera, and ASO BOY! runs on this line.

Soon after the train comes into the Aso area, the entire structure of Shin Aso ohashi (a new Aso bridge), which was rebuilt in 2021 in place of the old Aso ohashi which collapsed due to Kumamoto Earthquake in 2016, can be seen from the train windows.

As the train goes on, the passengers can enjoy the view of Aso-gogaku in the south, Kita-gairinzan (the northern outer rim of Aso caldera), paddy fields and woods in the north. In particular, a fantastic view of thousands of paddy fields called “Senmaida” lying against Kita-gairinzan ensure the viewer never becomes bored.

World-recognized Geo & Eco Park.

A large hollow like a hot pot created by a huge eruption is called a caldera. Aso caldera which was created by the volcanos in Aso, is one of the world largest. Aso has been certified as a UNESCO Global Geopark because of the value of the local life with volcanoes, meadows and its ecosystem having been protected for thousands years by the local people.

A quaint castle town lies around the Bungo-taketa Station, which is the which is one of the stops of ASO BOY!, and the old majestic stonewall of the Oka joshi (castle ruins) which gives the impression of “a castle in the sky” dominates the scene.

The mountainous area of Sobo, Katamuki and Ookue which lies between Miyazaki and Oita including Taketa City has been certified as a UNESCO Eco Park and the rich nature has been taken good care of.

Overcome the difference in altitudes by switchback.

JR Hohi line is known to have big differences in altitudes. Since trains cannot climb to high altitudes in one go, at Tateno Station (the gateway to Aso), the trains including ASO BOY! in order to get to Akamizu Station, climb up the wall of Kita-gairinzan (the northern outer rim of Aso caldera) by “switchback” which is a zigzag operation alternating back and forward. Railroad fans who take trains of JR Hohi line only to enjoy this unique switchback operation number quite a few.

After running through the Aso caldera, the trains climb up the eastern outer rim of the caldera and stop at Namino Station, known as the station located at the highest altitude in Kyushu. From there, trains run through the woods to the old castle town of Taketa.





As Expected, A Relaxing & Comforting

Train Journey

travel on the train



Exciting moments waiting for the train at the terminal.
Beautiful scenery only seen from the train windows.
And a lot of amusement to enjoy on the train.
In Aso and Taketa, let's have a wonderful train journey
which makes us forget daily life!

3 Hours Pass in the Blink of an Eye! JR Kyushu Scenic Train "Limited Express ASO BOY!!"

01 A Vacation Train Full of Amusement

ASO BOY! is a four-car scenic train which has panoramic seats in cars 1 and 4. It runs once a day on Saturdays, Sundays and National holidays between Kumamoto Railway Station and Beppu Railway Station in Oita.



■Kuro-chan
"Kuro-chan", the mascot of ASO BOY!, is a cute dog with a white nose and socks. He welcomes the passengers everywhere on the cars.

Data

Schedule

One round trip a day between Kumamoto and Beppu/on Saturdays, Sundays and National holidays

Kumamoto 9:09am - Beppu 12:32pm
Beppu 3:12pm - Kumamoto 6:29pm
One way trip takes approx. 3hours.

Cars and Seats

Four cars, reserved seating only.



*Please check the website for the timetable.

02 The Seats Color Our Memories

The seats of ASO BOY! are all colorful, fashionable and comfortable, having wide windows which help the passengers to enjoy the scenery of Aso caldera. The fantastic interior arrangement in the cars will surely make the memory of the trip more colorful.

■White Kuro-chan seats (parent-child seat, car 3)

A parent and child can sit and enjoy the wonderful view together on this seat. These seats are arranged to enable children to be always able to sit at the window side even when the seats are converted.



■Panoramic seats (car 1&4)

Although all seats give fantastic views, the most fabulous seats of ASO BOY! are the panoramic seats on cars 1 and 4. Passengers can enjoy the dynamic front view from the panoramic seats in the first car facing in the direction they're moving



■Colorful seats

Panoramic seats and the other reserved seats of ASO BOY! are all relaxing and comfortable. They double the fun of this train journey.



03 Let's get started exploring in the cars!

A lot of amusement is waiting for the passengers after ASO BOY! departs. 3 hours between Kumamoto and Beppu flies by!



■Kuro Café (car 3)

Bento, sweets, drinks and some souvenirs are sold here. Don't miss the ones sold only at this café. *All prices are tax included.



Kodomo (children) pudding & Otona (adult) pudding / Custard pudding using locally produced eggs and Jersey milk. Kodomo pudding is sold only in ASO BOY!. ¥300 per one.



Aka-ushi menchi katsu sando (minced beef cutlet sandwich) ¥650



Kuro-chan Bento / Flavored ground Aka-ushi (beef) and Aso Takana (mustard greens) on brand rice "Koshihikari" produced in Aso with Toriten (chicken tempura). ¥980



■ Wooden Ball Pit (car 3)

Children can enjoy playing in a pit full of wooden balls.

*It's out of order due to COVID-19. Please check HP for the latest information.



■ Commemorative Card

The card which has a blank space for the stamp to remember this trip is given to all passengers of ASO BOY!.



■ Lounge (car 4)

Shared space with a bench facing the windows.



■ Kuro-chan in the cars

Kuro-chan is waiting for the passengers all around the cars. It would be fun to count how many Kuro-chan can be found with children.

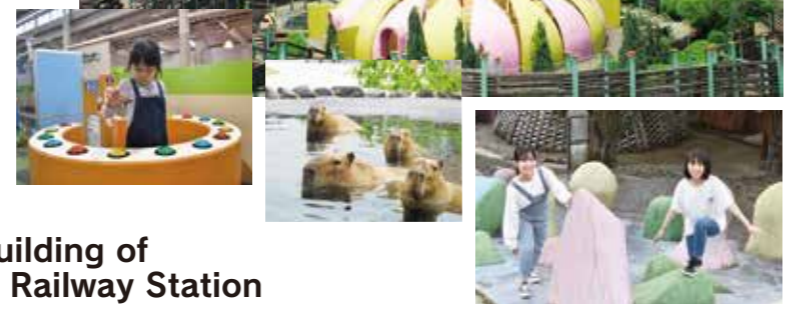


← Tateno **Akamizu** | Here is the front gate of Aso caldera. | Ichinokawa →
A big journey begins from this tiny railway station.



Aso Farm Land

Be healthy while playing with all generations.
This is a complex featuring health promotion, which has hot springs and spas supervised by the specialists. "Youji (infant) Challenge Hall" is very popular among families with small children and they can also enjoy feeding more than 30 kinds of small animals such as capybaras. Dome houses are provided to the overnight customers and night illumination can be enjoyed there.



Data
5579-3 Kawayo, Minamiaso-mura, Aso-gun, Kumamoto 869-1404
Approx. 7 minutes by car from Akamizu Railway Station
■ 9am-5pm *Varies with season or circumstances.
■ Open all year round
■ Free parking lot
■ Entrance fee : free ■ Tel : 0967-67-2100

A new building of Akamizu Railway Station

A starting point of Aso cycling.
It's the western starting point of the climb to the top of Aso Mountains. Cyclists carry folded bicycles on the train to Akamizu Railway Station and enjoy cycling in Aso area from here. Climbing to the top of the mountains by bicycles is a little hard; however, running down to the north from the top toward Aso Railway Station is exhilarating.



Matoishi Ochaya Ato

Daimyo took a break at this gorgeous garden.
In the Edo period, parties of Daimyo (federal lords) who were coming back from Edo (Tokyo) to Higo (Kumamoto) traveled along the Bungo-kaido (one of the main roads to Edo from local places in Japan). Daimyo parties arrived at Bungo (Oita) by ships, started walking from there and took a break at Matoishi Ochaya Ato, located just before Futae-no-touge (a mountain pass) which passed over gairinzan (the rim of Aso caldera) to Kumamoto. The garden which healed Daimyo remains and especially, in autumn, leaves are still fantastic. The pond, which is fed with spring water from Aso gairinzan, has been selected as one of "Kumamoto's 100 best waters".



Data
536 Matoishi, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2237
Approx. 5 minutes by car / 40 minutes on foot from Ichinokawa Railway Station
■ Free parking lot ■ Tel : 0967-22-3174 (Tourism Division, Aso-city)
*Entrance not permitted. Please have a look from Hayataka Tenmangu beside.

← Akamizu **Ichinokawa** | Historical walking and gourmet food. | Uchinomaki →
Delicious Aso is waiting for you around this quiet station.

Ichinokawa

Enjoy creative Japanese cuisine surrounded by woods.



Data
1983-1 Nagakusa, aza Tsutsumi, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2231
Approx. 3 minutes by car from Ichinokawa Railway Station
■ 11:30am-9pm (Lunch is until 2:30pm.)
■ Closed on Wednesdays ■ Free parking lot
■ Menu : Courses only (No single dishes available), ¥2,100-¥5,250
*Reservation is required for the course menus of 3,675yen or over.
■ Tel : 0967-35-6811

Asoji

One of the most famous local dishes "Takanameshi"



Data
Address : 147 Matoishi, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2237
Approx. 1 minute on foot from Ichinokawa Railway Station
■ 11:00am-3pm (Last order.)
■ Closed on Mondays (if Monday is a holiday, closed the next weekday)
■ Free parking lot
■ Menu : Takanameshi ¥500, Takanameshi set ¥1,320 *Various other menus are provided.
■ Tel : 0967-35-0924

← Ichinokawa **Uchinomaki** | A hot spring town with a variety of hot water qualities. | Aso →
Enjoy hot springs and wonderful inns starting from this station.

Kosugi Resort Aso Highland

Complex amusement facilities with a buffet restaurant, BBQ, hot spring and accommodation.

The well-known buffet restaurant serves delicious dishes using local products. There is also a terrace where meals or BBQ can be enjoyed with Ashiyu (foot bath). In addition, various facilities, such as horse riding, tennis, a hot spring with 15 private bathrooms which have each nice arrangement, lodges and fraping village with trailer houses are provided. The chocolate shop "CHOCOLATERIE ASOFORET" is popular, too.

*Accepting reservations for a new accommodation "GRANDOME" started on Mar.26.
*A hot spring facility with private bathing rooms "YURAYURA HANARE" will open on Apr.28.



Data
2052 Otohime, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2226
Approx. 5 minutes by car
■ Free parking lot
■ Tel : 0967-32-5500
*Phone numbers, business hours, and regular holidays vary depending on the facility. Please see the website for details.



Otohime B&B Village

A lot of cute B&Bs at the foot of Aso-gogaku.

Otohime B&B Village is a plateau resort with eleven B&Bs. In the area overlooking the magnificent view of Aso-gogaku, there are a horse riding facility, a golf course, courts where futsal or tennis can be enjoyed, and a hot spring facility.

Data
Otohime, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2226
Approx. 5 minutes by car from Uchinomaki Railway Station
■ Free parking lot

Otohime Koyasugawara Kannon

The Goddess of Mercy brings you good luck with having babies and easy deliveries.



Data
2120 Otohime, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2226
Approx. 5 minutes by car from Uchinomaki Railway Station
■ Free parking
■ Tel : 0967-22-3174 (Tourism Division, Aso-city)



Asobe

A casual inn producing an easy-going Aso trip.

Asobe is known as an inn which offers reasonable fees and casual trips in Aso. There are fashionable rooms which are a mixture of Japanese and western style rooms and simple Japanese rooms. In addition, there are also 6 private bathrooms. It offers several stay plans such as a stay plan with Akaushi (beef) dish dinner and breakfast or a simple stay plan without meals.



Data
1952-18 Otohime, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2226
Approx. 15 minutes on foot from Uchinomaki Railway Station
■ Check-in 3pm / Check-out 10am
■ Free parking lot
■ Tel : 0967-32-0381

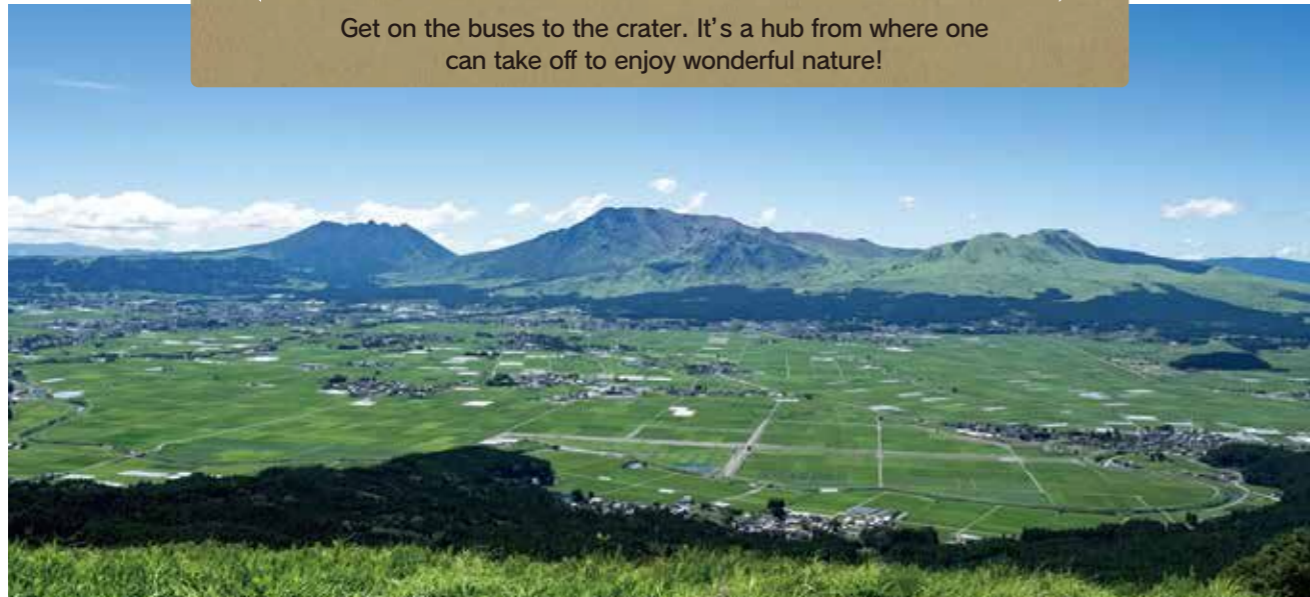
Uchinomaki

Aso

The starting point of the trail up to Aso Mountains.

Iko-no-mura

Get on the buses to the crater. It's a hub from where one can take off to enjoy wonderful nature!



Nakadake Crater

A dynamic crater which has been erupting since the dawn of history.

Aso-gogaku is a range of five mountains located in the center of Aso caldera. Nakadake, one of the five mountains, has an active crater which has been erupting since the dawn of history. Tourists can get close to and have a look into the crater when the volcanic activity is calm. The crater, whose circumference is 4km, is dynamic and shows the vital breathing of the earth. A crater lake called "Yudamari" turns its color into amazingly beautiful cobalt blue depending on the weather condition.

Data

Kurokawa, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2225
Approx. 35minutes by bus (Sanko Bus, Aso Kako Line) / 30minutes by car from Aso Railway Station

- Hours : 8:30am-5:30pm (until 5pm in Nov / 9am-4pm from Dec. 1st to Mar. 19th)
- Free parking lot
- Entrance fee : free
- *Fee for a toll road to the crater is required. ¥800 for standard size vehicle / ¥600 for small vehicle (660cc or less)
- Tel : 0967-22-3174 (Tourism Division, Aso-city)
- *Due to some cases such as high level volcanic gas, approaching the crater area is restricted.

Kusasenri-ga-hama

A vast grassy plain makes us feel like walk endlessly.

Kusasenri-ga-hama located in the north of Eboshi-dake, which is one of Aso-gogaku, used to be an active crater. Now there is a vast grassy plain of about 780,000 square meters. The meadows in Aso are basically off limits, however, Kusasenri-ga-hama is a place where tourists can take a leisurely stroll while cows graze and horses eat grass. The terrain of Kusasenri-ga-hama which has gentle ups and downs makes people feel that they want to go far away to see behind the hills. In addition, horseback riding, which gives different views from the height of horses can be enjoyed.



Data

Kusasenri-ga-hama, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-1404
Approx. 26minutes by bus (Sanko Bus, Aso Kako Line) / 20minutes by car from Aso Railway Station

- Entrance fee : free
- Paid parking lot
- Tel : 0967-22-3174 (Tourism Division, Aso-city)

Horseback riding

- Hours : 10am-3:30pm
- Closed from Dec. to Feb. *Closed due to bad weather from Mar. to Nov.
- Tel : 0967-34-1765 (Aso Kusasenri Horse Riding Club)
- Time & Fee : Approx. 5 minutes, Single ride ¥1,500 / Double ride ¥2,500 *Double ride is provided only for one adult with one infant.

Aso Volcano Museum

Learn about the dynamic and active volcanos.

This museum introduces the origin of Aso volcanoes and meadows, as well as domestic and foreign volcanoes. The wide screen displays the state of Nakadake crater which is sent in real time from the camera installed at the crater. Since the camera also send the real sound, the powerful crater can be felt even while going up to the crater is restricted. In addition, there are some more facilities including a souvenir shop, a visitor center that introduces tourist information such as Aso's nature and wildlife or trekking and a guide center where can be asked for walking guides.

Data

1930-1 Akamizu, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2232
Approx. 26minutes by bus (Sanko Bus, Aso Kako Line) / 20minutes by car from Aso Railway Station

- Hours : 9am-5pm (Last entry is 4:30pm.)
- Open all year round.
- Paid parking lot
- Admission fee : Junior high school students or older ¥800, Primary school students ¥440, Age of 65 or older ¥700, Free for infants.
- *Handicapped and Groups discount available.
- Tel : 0967-34-2111



Guided tours



Projection mapping of Mt. Aso crater



Mt. Aso Visitor Center



Daikanbo

A viewpoint from where tourists can enjoy spectacular landscape which nature and humans create together.

It is one of the most famous viewpoints in Aso, located on the northern Aso-gairinzan (the rim of Aso caldera). Tokutomi Soho, who was active as a journalist from the Meiji era to the Showa era, named here "Daikanbo". The view of Aso-gogaku, which is likened to the reclining Buddha and the thousands of paddy fields called "Senmaida", which are lined up regularly in front of Aso-gogaku, is spectacular. It is a landscape that symbolizes Aso, where people have lived together with nature for more than a thousand years. From autumn to early winter, the sea of clouds called "Unkai" can be seen from here when the specific weather conditions are met.

Data

Mizobe, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2313
Approx. 34minutes by bus (Sanko Bus for Tsuetate) / 20minutes by car from Aso Railway Station

- Entrance fee : free
- Free parking lot
- Tel : 0967-22-3174 (Tourism Division, Aso-city)

Yume no yu

Get rid of fatigue from your active trips before getting on the trains.

This is a hot spring facility located by Aso Railway Station. In addition to the large public baths with saunas, there are the open air baths. All baths are free-flowing and relaxing time with a high quality hot spring is provided. The footbath next to the building is available for free. It is a popular spot to heal the tiredness of travelers.

Data

1538-3 Kurokawa, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2225
Approx. 1minute on foot from Aso Railway Station

- Hours : 10am-10pm (Private baths are available from 2pm.)
- Closed on 1st and 3rd Mondays (if Monday is a holiday, closed the next weekday)
- Free parking lot
- Tel : 0967-35-5777 / Large public bath, 0967-34-0021 / Private bath



Aso Cuddly Dominion

Feel the healing power of fluffy animals.

This is a zoo park which has various types of bears. In addition to the experience of interacting with baby bears, "Chibikko Animal Square", where stroking and hugging small animals such as rabbits and guinea pigs can be experienced, is popular with children. Animal shows by chimpanzees, Japanese macaques, and dogs can be also enjoyed.



Data

2163 Kurokawa, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2225
Approx. 5minutes by bus / 25minutes on foot from Aso Railway Station

- Hours : 9am-5pm (10am-4:30pm during winter)
Closed on Wednesdays from Dec. to Feb. (Except winter vacation and holidays)
*Subject to change. Please check the website.
- Free parking lot
- Entrance fee : High school students or older ¥2,400, Junior high and Primary school students ¥1,300, Age of 3 or older ¥700
- Tel : 0967-34-2020



Uchinomaki Hot Spring Town

A historic hot spring town with various sources, which was loved by literary masters.

Uchinomaki hot spring has a long history and was loved by famous literary masters such as Natsume Soseki. It is also known that there are more than 100 hot spring saucers, and each of the inns, hotels, and public hot springs called "Machiyu" has their own saucer. In recent years, not only multilingual displays but also a system to enjoy the travel style preferred by tourists from overseas have been developed, and many customers from Asia, Europe and America are visiting.



Data

Uchinomaki, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2301
Approx. 15minutes by car from Aso Railway Station
Tel : 0967-32-3330 (Aso hot spring, tourism and accommodation association)



Uchinomaki Machiyu

Public hot springs which also provide interaction with the locals.

Uchinomaki Onsen has over 125 years of history and has been loved by cultural figures. In the hot spring town which has a lot of inns and hotels, there are seven public hot springs called "Machiyu", which are popular for their old-fashioned atmosphere. It is fun to visit Machiyu with only a towel.



Data

Uchinomaki, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2301
Approx. 10minutes by car from Aso Railway Station

- Free parking lot
- Tel : 0967-32-3330 (Aso hot spring, tourism and accommodation association)



Uchinomaki Shotengai

Take a leisurely stroll after a hot spring.

Uchinomaki Shotengai is a shopping district located in Uchinomaki hot spring area. There are some shops including a restaurant which is famous for "Akaushi-don" (a rice bowl with beef) and a cafe with a cute variety shop. It makes strolling after a hot spring fun.

Data

Tel : 0967-22-3174 (Tourism Division, Aso-city)



Fukunokami Daikokuten

Luck will come after visiting here!
Known for giving luck to win lotteries.

Data

Uchinomaki Yuyama, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2301
Approx. 15minutes by car from Aso Railway Station
Free parking lot
Tel : 0967-22-3174 (Tourism Division, Aso-city)



Aso Uchinomaki Family Park Aso★Viva

Big play equipment is exciting! Children never get bored even when spending all day long here.

Data

Uchinomaki, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2301
Approx. 10minutes by car from Aso Railway Station
Hours : 9am-5pm
Closed on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays (if Tuesday is a holiday, closed the next weekday), New Year holidays
Free parking lot Fee : free
Tel : 0967-32-5011 (Park Office)



Dagashi-ya Chirorin Mura

It's full of nostalgic feelings!
Let's revisit our childhood with Dagashi (Japanese cheap snacks).



Data

253 Uchinomaki, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2301
10minutes by car from Aso Railway Station
Hours : 11am-6pm (10am-6pm on Sundays and holidays)
Closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays (Except holidays)
Free parking lot (Uchinomaki Chuo Parking)
Tel : 0967-32-0444

Imakin Shokudo



Data

290 Uchinomaki, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2301
Hours : 11am-3pm
Closed on Wednesdays
Tel : 0967-32-0031

Café&Zakka&Kagu Oshima-ya



Data

365 Uchinomaki, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2301
Hours : 10am-7pm (Last order is 3pm.)
Closed on Wednesdays
Tel : 0967-32-0041

Patisserie de Aso Miyuki



Data

224 Uchinomaki, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2301
Hours : 10am-6pm
Closed on Tuesdays
Tel : 0967-32-0153

Aso Milk Factory

Have a break with sweets made from fresh milk.

This is a factory shop operated by Abe Farm, known for its brand milk "ASO MILK". There is a shop which sells delicious Aso food, a cafe where drinks and sweets using ASO MILK are served, a restaurant, a cheese factory and a rose garden with a greenhouse.

Data

781 Komuro, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2307
Approx. 22minutes by bus (Sanko Bus for Tsuetate) / 15 minutes by car from

- Free parking lot
- Tel : 0967-23-6262

*Business hours vary with the facilities.
Please check the website for details.





Aso Nature Land

A lot of activities which gives a sense of unity with nature.

Paragliding, gliding up into the sky and overlooking the vast meadow, is a popular sport during which spectacular moments can be felt. Aso Nature Land is one of the places which provides this fantastic flight experience. Sunset flight, which flies in the sunset sky, is also popular. A hot-air balloon floating in the sky with its powerful jetting sound can

be enjoyed, too. In addition, there are various activities unique to Aso Nature Land, such as pokkar, a German-born activity which runs through the vast grasslands, nature walking in the Mazeno Valley, where is the headwaters of the Chikugo River, and "Yoga in the Sky", the yoga being soaked in the morning sun on the meadows.

Data

1092-1 Uchinomaki, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2301
Approx. 10minutes by car from Aso Railway Station

- Hours : 9am-6pm (Until 5pm from Nov. to Feb.)
- Closed on Thursdays (Except holidays)
- Free parking lot
- Fee : Varies with the activities. Please check the website.
- Tel : 0967-32-4196



Aso CLAMP



Data

48 Uchinomaki, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2301
Approx. 15minutes by car from Aso Railway Station

- Hours : 9am-6pm (10am-6pm from Nov. to Feb.)
- Closed on Thursdays (Except holidays)
- Free parking lot
- Tel : 0967-32-0928
- Fee : Varies with the activities. Please check the website.



Experience programs

Paragliding

- Single riding**
 - Half day course
- Double riding with an instructor**
 - Flight with an instructor *For only primary school students or younger.
 - Flight with an instructor and control trial
 - Sunset flight

Panoramic cycling

Only coming down from the top of Mt. Aso.
Enjoy cycling the difference in elevation of 700m.

Bouldering

Try bouldering indoor even if it's rainy.

Hot air balloon

Check various other programs of the sister shop "CLAMP", too.

Tabekogi

Gourmet cycling; you can enjoy eating foods unique to Aso with a sheet of seven "Umakamon (delicious foods)" tickets.

Aso ←

Ikoi-no-mura

Harvesting and farm experiences and gourmet. → Miyaji

Start a fun and delicious day from this station.



Kajitsu no Kuni COUPLES

Enjoy fruits picking and sweets made with homegrown fruits.

Data

1003-3 Nishi-machi, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2222
Approx. 2minutes by car / 15minutes on foot from Ikoi-no-mura Railway Station

- Hours : 10:30am-3pm (Until 4:30pm on Saturdays, 10am-4:30pm on Sundays and holidays)
- Closed days are not fixed.
- Free parking lot
- Fee : Varies with the fruits and season. Please check the website.
- Tel : 0967-34-0100



Mo mo farm Takehara Farm

Let's milk feeling the warmth of cows!



Data

996 Nishi-machi aza Nangauchibaru, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2222
Approx. 2minutes by car / 15minutes on foot from Ikoi-no-mura Railway Station

- Hours : 9:30am-5pm (Until 4:30pm from Nov. to Mar.)
- Closed on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays and no fixed days off.
- Free parking lot
- Reservation is required for all experience activities from Nov. to Mar. / three days before at least for making pizza, sausages and bread / 1 week before at least for the restaurant Makiba.
- Fee : Varies with the experience activities. Please check the website.
- Tel : 0967-34-1000



Café Mochitoko

Delicious lunch using homegrown vegetables with wonderful views of Aso.



885 Nishi-machi, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2222
Approx. 3minutes by car / 15minutes on foot from Ikoi-no-mura Railway Station

- Hours : 11:30am-5pm (Lunch is until 2:30pm.)
- Closed on Tuesdays, Saturdays and 1st Sundays
- Free parking lot
- Menu : Vegetable lunch ¥500 *Various other menus are provided.
- Tel : 0967-34-0087



Kakure Sabo Sakura Cafe

Flavorful lunch using homegrown rice and vegetables and Akaushi (beef).



A vacation rental house opened in August 2021.

Data

625-1 Kurahara, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2224
Approx. 3minutes by car / 15minutes on foot from Ikoi-no-mura Railway Station

- Hours : 11:30am-5pm
- Closed on Wednesdays
- Free parking lot
- Menu : BBQ Hamburg steak of 100% Akaushi beef lunch ¥1,800 *Various other menus are provided.
- Tel : 0967-34-0087



olmo coppia

Organic café known for delicious lunches using a lot of organic vegetables.



Data

627-1 Kurahara, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2224
Approx. 3minutes by car / 15minutes on foot from Ikoi-no-mura Railway Station

- Hours : 11:30am-4:30pm (Last order)
- Closed on Mondays and Tuesdays (Check the website for holiday opening days / times)
- Free parking lot
- Menu : One plate lunch with garden vegetables ¥1,460 *Various other menus are available.
- Tel : 0967-34-1710



Ikoi-no-mura

Miyaji

Home of the gods
who create Aso.

Namino

Visit Aso shrine which has a history of more than 2000 years and have a leisurely stroll around.



The hall of worship rebuilt in 2021 after Kumamoto earthquake.

Aso shrine

Headquarters of 500 shrines nationwide, enshrining the gods of Aso creation.

Aso shrine enshrines twelve gods of Aso reclamation including Tateiwatatsu no Mikoto. The six shrine buildings such as the shrine pavilion or the tower gate were built in the mid-1800s and have been designated as national important cultural properties. Although it was severely damaged by the Kumamoto earthquake, restoration work has been continuing ever since.

In addition, various agricultural festivals closely linked to the local life of Aso are held at the shrine throughout the year, and they have been designated as national important intangible cultural properties. In particular, the "Hihuri shinji" which is held in spring welcoming the God's bride with swinging torchlights and the "Onda matsuri" which is held in summer to pray for a huge harvest cannot be missed. It is also known that there is a pine tree which brings people good luck with matchmaking and is visited by many worshippers.



Onda matsuri (@Aso shrine)

Data

3083-1 Ichinomiya-machi Miyaji, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2612
Approx. 3minutes by car / 15minutes on foot from Miyaji Railway Station

- Hours : 6am-6pm (The office : 9am-5pm)
- Free parking lot
- Tel : 0967-22-0064



Aso Monzen-machi Shotengai

Have fun of walking and eating in the Monzen-machi, unique direction shopping street.

Monzen-machi is originally a shopping district which is built in front of shrines or temples for worshipper's convenience, however, this Aso Monzen-machi Shotengai is known as a shopping street for its unique direction which extends horizontally to the left of Aso Shrine. There are more than 30 shops, such as a souvenir shop that also serves tourists information, a butcher shop that is popular for croquettes, a restaurant which is known for delicious Akaushi (beef) dishes, a counter-style Italian restaurant, cafes, and shops in which cute various things are sold.

In addition, Aso Monzen-machi Shotengai area has been blessed with spring water for a long time, and there are drinking fountains of the water called "Mizuki" around the area. Each water place has an emotional name, such as "Kinmeisui" and "Karenisui", and provides the coolness to people on the street.

Data

Ichinomiya-machi Miyaji, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2612
Approx. 3minutes by car / 15minutes on foot from Miyaji Railway Station

- Free parking lot
- Tel : 0967-22-3174 (Tourism Division, Aso-city)

Aso Torimiya

Freshly-fried croquettes using sweet and salty flavored minced horse meat can be enjoyed.



Data

3092-2 Ichinomiya-machi Miyaji, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2612
Approx. 3minutes by car / 15minutes on foot from Miyaji Railway Station

- Hours : 9am-6pm (Deep fried menus are available from 10am.)
- Closed days are not fixed.
- Free parking lot
- Menus : Barokke (Horse meat croquette) ¥180, Hatake no menchi katsu (minced meat and vegetables croquette) ¥180
- Tel : 0967-22-0357

Kokuzo Shrine

A trunk of 2000 years old "Teno no Osugi" (a Japanese huge cedar) has been kept as a sacred tree.



Data

2110 Ichinomiya-machi Teno, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2601

Sensuikyo

Wonderful scenery of 50,000 of Miyama Kirishima (a wild azalea native to this area) can be enjoyed.



Data

Ichinomiya-machi Miyaji, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2612
Approx. 15minutes by car from Miyaji Railway Station

- Free parking lot
- Tel : 0967-22-3174 (Tourism Division, Aso-city)

Kyu Jogakko Ato (A former girl's school)

Have an elegant time in the retrospective old girl's school.

A building which was established more than 100 years ago as a girl's school remains here. Fashionable variety shops and cafes can be enjoyed in the building that retains the remnants of the good old days.

Data

3204 Ichinomiya-machi Miyaji, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2612
Approx. 4minutes by car / 20minutes on foot from Miyaji Railway Station

- Free parking lot

Kitakaze Panchi

general goods shop



Data

- Hours : 11am-5:30pm
- Closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays
- Tel : 0967-22-7544



TIEN TIEN

Café



Data

- Hours : 11:30am-5:30pm (Last order is 4:30pm.)
- Closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- Tel : 080-6406-8133



TOMMY'S

British antiques and stained glasses



Data

- Hours : 10am-5pm
- Closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays
- Tel : 090-7817-3105



Yui

Yusui Kanzarashi and Somen



Data

- Hours : 10am-6pm
- Closed on Wednesdays (If Wednesday is a holiday, closed the next weekday)
- Tel : 0967-22-5488

komeko

steamed chiffon cake sandwiches



Data

- Hours : 10am-5pm (Last order on Saturdays and Sundays is 4pm.)
- Closed on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Sundays and no fixed days off
- Tel : 070-1437-0065



← Miyaji **Namino** | A mountain village town of highland flowers and Kagura. Takimizu →
The station which is located at the highest altitude in Kyushu.

Namino Railway Station

The quiet unman railway station beyond a tunnel.

After running through the bottom of Aso caldera, the trains arrive at Miyaji Railway Station, which is located at the eastern end of the caldera. Then they climb up the wall of the eastern Aso gairinzan (the outer rim of Aso caldera) diagonally and first arrive at Namino Railway Station, which is located at the altitude of 754m, the highest in Kyushu. There is a tranquil environment around the unmanned station on the highland.



The southern limit of Lily of the valley natural habit.



Data
1372 Namino ooaza Shin namino, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2807
Tel : 0967-22-3174 (Tourism Division, Aso-city)

Michi no Eki Namino "Kagura en"

Have fun with Namino's specialty; soba (buckwheat) noodles and Kagura.



In addition to various local products and souvenirs, Namino's specialty soba noodles can be enjoyed.

Data
1602 Namino ooaza Oikeno, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2801
Approx. 8minutes by car / 30minutes on foot from Namino Railway Station
Hours : 8am-6pm (Soba restaurant "Iwatobiraki" 11am-3:30pm / Last order is 3pm.)
Closed on 2nd Wednesdays (Except in August)
Free parking lot
Tel : 0967-24-2331

Nakae Iwato Kagura

Tradition succeeded for over 200 years.



Kagura (Shinto's ritual ceremonial dance) has been succeeded for over 200 years as "Nakae Iwato Kagura" in Namino. Regular performances are held on the first Sundays from April to November.

Data
2606-1 Namino ooaza Nakae, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2805
Approx. 7minutes by car from Takimizu Railway Station
Tel : 0967-22-3174 (Tourism Division, Aso-city)

Yokobori Kagura Kyodo Geino Densho Kan

A home of Kagura which has a history of over 200 years.



Data
1502-4 Namino ooaza Namino, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2806
Approx. 6minutes by car from Namino Railway Station
Tel : 0967-24-2001 (Namino branch office, Aso-city)

Namino Soba Noodles and Soba Flowers

Buckwheat flowers make a white carpet.

From the middle to the end of September, white carpets and flower belts made by the full blossoms of 7 million buckwheat flowers appear on the highland near Namino Railway Station. The view can be a great Instagram shot.



Data
Tel : 0967-22-3174 (Tourism Division, Aso-city)



A View Point of Mt.Ogi

Wonderful panorama of Aso, Kuju and Mt.Sobo!

Data
2699 Namino ooaza Nakae, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2805
Approx. 20minutes by car from Miyaji Railway Station
Tel : 0967-22-3174 (Tourism Division, Aso-city)

← Namino **Takimizu** | The center of old Namino town. Bungo-ogi →
A mountain village railway station, which has old-fashioned and nostalgic atmosphere.

← Takimizu **Bungo-ogi** | The town is symbolized by a mint green railway station and hot springs. Tamarai →
Begin a leisurely stroll in Ogi town from here.

Bungo-ogi Railway Station

The platform of the local community with a public library.



Tennen Onsen Ogi no sato onsen

A relaxing hot spring facility with a great view of the Kuju Mountains.



Data
1131 Ogi-machi Shinfuji, Taketa-city, Oita 879-6103
Approx. 5minutes by car / 40minutes on foot from Ogi Railway Station
Hours : 11am-9pm (Last entry is 8:30pm)
Closed on Mondays (if Monday is a holiday, closed the next weekday)
Free parking lot
Fee : Adult ¥400, Youth ¥200, Child(under 6) Free, Private bathroom ¥1,500/1hour
Tel : 0120-64-9595

※Accommodation, a restaurant, a ground golf (easy golf for seniors) field are available.

Hakusui Dam

Seems like the pleats of beautiful dresses.

The Hakusui Dam (Hakusui irrigation facility) was built in 1938 to secure water for agriculture. The length of the dike is about 87m and the height is 13.9m. Although it is not a formal dam, it is said to be "the most beautiful dam in Japan" because of the beauty of the flowing water, and it is designated as an important cultural property of Japan. Since the dike was designed to draw a gentle curve, the flowing water creates beauty like the pleats of dresses. The surrounding area is famous for fresh green leaves in spring and colored leaves in fall and the area is ideal for hiking.



Data
Tsugikura, Taketa-city, Oita 878-0571
Approx. 20 minutes on foot from Ogi Railway Station
Free parking lot
Tel : 0974-63-4807 (Commerce and Tourism Division, Taketa-city)

Shiamizu no Taki (waterfall)

Bungo's famous waterfall loved by lords and people of culture.

This waterfall is one of the "15 selections of Toyo no kuni meisui (good waters)". It was loved by many people of culture such as the lords of Oka and Tanomura Chikuden. The power of the water flowing down from between the rocks at a height of about 40m is impressive! The cool air from the waterfall is like a natural air conditioner. In addition, there is "Hime-no-sato Meisui-jaya" where delicious local food given from the mountains can be enjoyed beside Irori (Japanese style sunken hearth).



Data
Hime, Taketa-city, Oita 879-6124
Approx. 20 minutes on foot from Ogi Railway Station
Free parking lot
Tel : 0974-68-2210 (Hime-no-sato Meisui-jaya)

← Bungo-ogi **Tamarai** | Explore the rich history and culture. Bungo-taketa →
It's the entrance to the town which was raised by Tamarai River.

Goto Himedaruma kobo

Adorable red Daruma dolls with refined smiles are made at this atelier.



Data
889-1 Yoshida, Taketa-city, Oita 878-0035
Approx. 2minutes by car / 15minutes on foot from Tamarai Railway Station
Hours : 10am-late afternoon
Closed days are not fixed.
Free parking lot
Tel : 0974-62-3735

*Reservation is required for factory tours and Daruma purchase.

Japan's top three Inari Ougimori Inari Shrine

The tutelary deity; which is familiar to the locals called "Koutou-sama".



Data
811 Haitabaru, Taketa-city, Oita 878-0025
Approx. 5minutes by car / 40minutes on foot from Tamarai Railway Station
Free parking lot
Tel : 0974-63-1588

Bungo-taketa

The Oka Castle ruins and castle town area.

The home of the song "Koho no Tsuki (The Moon over The Ruined Castle).

Enjoy a collaboration of the quaint castle town and modern art.

Tamarai

Asaji



The Oka Castle Ruins The ruins of an impenetrable magnificent castle.

It is said that this castle was established in 1185 as a Yamajiro, a medieval building on a mountain. Then, the Oka Castle was rebuilt as a modern castle by the Lord Nakagawa in 1594. Although the building was destroyed by the castle abolition order by the government in 1873, its magnificent stone walls that were said to be impregnable remain.

The size of the entire castle property is as large as about 22 Tokyo Domes. It is recommended to take a walk while imagining the time when the buildings of Honmaru (the main building), Gobyō (a mausoleum) and Goten (a palace) were standing. Taki Rentarō, who spent his childhood in Taketa, is said to have composed a famous song, "Koho no Tsuki (The Moon over The Ruined Castle)" by his memory of playing at the Oka Castle ruins. In 1936, it was designated as a national historic site.

Data

2761 ooaza Taketa, Taketa-city, Oita 878-0013
Approx. 20minutes on foot from Bungo-taketa Railway Station

- Hours : 9am-5pm
Closed on New Year holidays
- Free parking lot

Admission fee : Adult (High school students and over) ¥300, Junior high school and primary school students ¥150 *Group discount is available.

Tel : 0974-63-1541 (Toll gate of The Oka Castle Ruins)



The Oka Castle Ruins in Fall Gorgeous leaves in fall can't be missed! They show wonderful gradation of leaf colors.



Ygakkan, the Hall of Taketa City History and Culture

Learning about Taketa deeply satisfies intellectual curiosity.

The hall has a museum "The Oka Castle Ruins Guidance Center" introduces the history of the Oka Castle Ruins and the castle town of Taketa. In addition to a wide screen display which shows the history of Oka Castle with mainly manga, there are various exhibitions such as the diorama which informs us of the entirety of Oka Castle at a glance. To get some background knowledge here makes strolling around the castle ruins more enjoyable. There are other rooms such as a citizen's gallery and a special exhibition section. The elevator in the courtyard is connected to "Kyu Chikuden-so"; the old residence of Tanomura Chikuden.



Data

2083 ooaza Taketa, Taketa-city, Oita 878-0013
Approx. 10minutes on foot from Bungo-taketa Railway Station

- Hours : 9am-5pm(Last entry is 4:30pm.)
Closed on Thursday (if Thursday is a holiday, closed the next weekday) and New Year holidays
- Free parking lot

Admission fee : Adult (High school students and over) ¥500, Junior high school and primary school students ¥300 for a special exhibition and entrance to Kyu Chikuden-so. *Entrance to the hall is free.

Tel : 0974-63-2200



Castle Town Taketa

Bukeyashiki (samurai residential area) retains the quaint ambience of Edo era.

Taketa prospered as the political, economic, and cultural center of Oku Bungo during the Edo era and the old-fashioned town of those days can still be found. Bukeyashiki Street of the Oka domain during the Edo era is located in Taketatono-machi. The landscape has been preserved as a "Historical Street", and there is an atmosphere which makes us feel as if we'll come across samurai. The old residence of Tanomura Chikuden, a Nanga painter during the Edo period, still exists. The one-story house where the disciples lived and the Omoya (main building) are open to the public as "Kyu Chikuden-so". The castle town of Taketa can be observed from the second floor of the Omoya.



Data
 ■ Tel : 0974-63-4807 (Commerce and Tourism Division, Taketa-city)



Kyu Chikuden-so (The old residence of Tanomura Chikuden)



Data
 Taketa tonno-machi, Taketa-city, Oita 878-0013
 Approx. 10minutes on foot from Bungo-taketa Railway Station
 ■ Hours : 9am- 4:30pm
 ■ Closed on Thursday (if Thursday is a holiday, closed the next weekday) and New Year holidays.
 ■ Free parking lot (The Hall of Taketa History and Culture)
 ■ Admission fee : Adult (high school students and over) ¥500, Junior high school and primary school students ¥300 including the entrance fee for The Hall of Taketa History and Culture. *Group discount is available.
 ■ Tel : 0974-63-9699 (The toll gate of Kyu Chikuden-so)



Rentaro tunnel

Data
 Taki Rentaro Memorial Hall
 ooaza Taketa, Taketa-city, Oita 878-0013
 Approx. 10minutes on foot from Bungo-taketa Railway Station
 ■ Hours : 9am- 5pm (Last entry is 4:30pm.)
 Closed on New Year holidays.
 ■ Free parking lot (Taketa Castle Town Plaza)
 ■ Admission fee : Adults (high school students and over) ¥300, Junior high school and primary school students ¥200 *Group discount is available.
 ■ Tel : 0974-63-0059



瀧原太郎記念館

Taki Rentaro

A great composer who spent his sensitive childhood in Taketa.

Taki Rentaro is a musician who composed a lot of well-known songs to Japanese widely. He spent his childhood, from 12 to 14 years old in Taketa. "Taki Rentaro Memorial Hall"; which is the old house Rentaro lived in, is opened to the public by Taketa City. There is also a tunnel in which a music box' s sound of the songs which Rentaro composed such as "Hana" or "Kojo no Tsuki" can be heard.



Christian Cave Chapel

A solemn place where prayers to god are dedicated.

This cave chapel is believed to be a place which has something to do with the Lord Shiga Chikayoshi, who was known as an enthusiastic Christian and the former Lord of Nakagawa; ruling Takeda around the end of the 16th century. It is said that a chapel built by digging into the side of a rocky mountain is rare in Japan.

Data
 ooaza Taketa, Taketa-city, Oita 878-0013
 Approx. 15minutes on foot from Bungo-taketa Railway Station
 ■ Entrance fee : Free ■ No parking
 ■ Tel : 0974-63-4807 (Commerce and Tourism Division, Taketa-city)



Taketa Onsen Hanamizuki

A hot spring facility with a souvenir shop and tourist info.

This is a hot spring for a day trip which is located near Bungo-taketa Railway Station and familiar to the locals. It has the first minus ion reduction bathtub in Japan, which is said to have effectiveness against rough skin and atopic dermatitis. In addition to two large public bathrooms "Tsuki no Yu" and "Hana no Yu", which take turns daily to be for men or women, there are large private bathrooms. Don't miss the free footbath beside the entrance!

Data
 2250-1 ooaza Aiai, Taketa-city, Oita 878-0011
 Approx. 5minutes on foot from Bungo-taketa Railway Station
 ■ Hours : 11am- 9:30pm (Last entry is 9pm.)
 ■ Closed on Thursdays (Except holidays)
 *There are unfixed closed days in June.
 ■ Fee : Adult (Junior high school students and over) ¥500, Primary school students ¥200, Free for age of 6 or younger
 ■ Free parking lot
 ■ Tel : 0974-64-1126



Bistro & Cucina champi

Dishes of French-Italian with full of Taketa's taste.

Taketa Gibi-Vege is a dish offered with respect for Taketa's food culture by a French restaurant "Bistro & Cucina Champi", which is marked by the French flag. It has gained attention as a new Bungo dish that combines locally grown vegetables and game dishes.



Data
 416 Taleta-machi, Taketa-city, Oita 878-0012
 Approx. 1minutes on foot from Bungo-taketa Railway Station
 ■ Hours : Lunch/11:30am- 1:30pm(Last order),
 Dinner/6pm-7:30pm(Last order)
 ■ Closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays
 ■ Menu : Lunch ¥2,420 or over, Dinner ¥3,850 or over *Individual dishes are also provided.
 ■ Free parking lot (Taketa Castle Town Plaza)
 ■ Tel : 0974-63-1553



Bungo-taketa Nagayu Hot Spring area.

A historical hot spring
loved by the lords

A health resort which heals body and soul.



Rentaro tunnel



Bade Zone which you can exercise in a bathing suit.

Kur Park Nagayu

Exercise bath with a natural carbonated hot spring, restaurant and hotel.

It is a complex facility with a hot spring which has both a "Bade Zone" providing a natural carbonated hot spring for exercise in a bathing suit and a "Kurhaus" (hot spring building) with separated bathrooms for men and women as well as a restaurant and hotel. The building was designed by world-famous architect Ban Shigeru, and has a design with a warming atmosphere by using plenty of wood. Since Naoiri-machi, where Nagayu Onsen is located, is a sister city of Bad Klotingen, a hot spring resort in Germany, this facility was named "Kur", which means "spa break" in German.



Kur Restaurant The restaurant full of delicious food!



A set meal with
Mapo tofu



Kur gozen (set meal)

Data

3041-1 Nagayu Naoiri-machi, Taketa-city, Oita 878-0402
Approx. 20 minutes by car from Bungo-taketa Railway Station

- Hours : Bade Zone / 11am - 8:30pm (Last entry is 8pm.), Kurhaus / 10am - 9:30pm (Last entry is 9pm.)
- Fee : Adult (High school students and over) \800, Primary school students \400 *Please check the website for the details of a restaurant and hotel.
- Free parking lot
- Tel : 0974-64-1444



Nagayu Hot Spring

Good for both bathing and drinking!
Natural carbonated hot spring.

Nagayu Hot Spring is one of the most well-known natural carbonated hot springs in Japan. Since carbonated spring in which carbon dioxide gas is dissolved in hot water has some effects such as improving blood circulation, it is recommended not only to soak but also to drink. In addition to 20 hot spring inns and hotels, the drop-in hot spring facility named "Ramune (soda) Onsen", which has an art museum, is popular. There is also an open-air bath called "Gani (clab)-yu" (photo above) on the riverbank of Seri River that flows through Nagayu area. It was named after the legend of the crab that fell in love with a human girl. *Two pictures below are the hot springs of the hotel, Daimaru Ryokan.

Data

Nagayu Hot Spring Information Center
Approx. 20 minutes by car / 50 minutes by bus from Bungo-taketa Railway Station to Michi-no-eki Nagayu Onsen
Tel : 0974-75-3111



Ningyo-kobo (doll atelier) Kajika

Maneki-neko (lucky cats), individually unique are made to order.



Data

3122-2 Nagayu Naoiri-machi, Taketa-city, Oita 878-0402
Approx. 20 minutes by car from Bungo-taketa Railway Station

- Hours : 10am-7pm
- Free parking lot
- Closed on Tuesdays
- Tel : 0974-75-3199



Shoujikiya

Serving Enoha (a kind of fresh water fish that live only in clear-water rivers) dishes which are Taketa's specialties.



Data

7773-8 Nagayu Naoiri-machi, Taketa-city, Oita 878-0402
Approx. 20 minutes by car from Bungo-taketa Railway Station

- Hours : 11am-9pm
- Menu : Enoha set \2,200
- Free parking lot
- Tel : 0974-75-2525
- Closed days are not fixed.
- *Various other menus provided.



Yusui-chaya

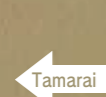
Serving the dishes using freshly made Tofu which has deep umami of soy beans.

Data

1385-5 Shimotakita Naoiri-machi, Taketa-city, Oita 878-0404
Approx. 40 minutes by car from Bungo-taketa Railway Station

- Hours : 6am-5pm (Meals are available from 10am to 2:30pm.)
- Free parking lot
- Tel : 0974-78-1755
- Closed on Tuesdays





Bungotaketa Kuju area.

Blessed with
wonderful nature.



Be happy with fantastic flowers and healed
by fresh air on the mountains.



Kuju Flower Park

The magnificent mountains are within
viewing distance, the colorful flower fields
around our feet.

Kuju Flower Park is located on the Kuju highland overlooking the Aso-gogaku and Kuju mountains. The season during which the most types of flowers, such as tulips, moss phlox, and nemophila can be enjoyed is spring. From summer to fall, various flowers such as amaranth, marigold, and salvia are in full bloom. There are some restaurants such as Hita Yakisoba, gelato and soft serve ice cream, and souvenir shops.

Data

4050 Kuju-machi ooaza Kuju, Taketa-city, Oita 878-0201
Approx. 20 minutes by car from Bungo-taketa Railway Station

- Hours : 8:30am- 5:30pm (Last entry is 5pm.) *Varies with weather.
- Open during flower season with no days off (Closed from Dec. 1st to the end of Feb.)
- Fee : Adult \1,300, Age of 5 or over \500 *Group discount available.
- Free parking lot

Tel : 0974-76-1422



Guernsey Farm

The farm raised Guernsey cows
from the Islands of Guernsey.

Guernsey Farm is a ranch that breeds Guernsey cows native to the Island of Guernsey (Crown Dependencies) in Europe and also has a dairy factory. In addition to a factory tour, children can have fun with goats and rabbits at "Fureai Bokujō (ranch)". At the restaurant, a lunch buffet is provided. There is also a souvenir shop where nutritious fresh milk from Guernsey cows or sweets made from the milk are available.

Data

4004-56 Kuju-machi ooaza Kuju, Taketa-city, Oita 878-0201
Approx. 20 minutes by car from Bungo-taketa Railway Station

- Hours : 9am- 5pm / Restaurant 11am-3pm (Last order)
- Open all year round *(Restaurant is closed in winter.)
- Free parking lot
- Tel : 0974-76-0760



Open-air Theater TAO no Oka

Powerful Taiko (Japanese drum) sound echoes
in the sky and mountains!

Kuju highland is the home of the world renowned Taiko performance group "DRUM TAO", and "TAO no Oka", a permanent open-air theater established on a hill against the panorama view of Aso and Kuju in August 2020. The Japanese drum performance at an altitude of 1,036m overlooking the mountains of Kuju is magnificent. The sounds echo in the sky and mountains. In addition, "TAO HOUSE", which is located in the property, has a shop, café and the displays of DRUM TAO costumes and materials. It tells us the musicality or avant-garde style of DRUM TAO; one of Japan's arts, which was born here.

Data

〒878-0201 Open-air Theater TAO no Oka, 7571-2 Kuju-machi Shirani itagi, Taketa-city, Oita
Approx. 20 minutes by car from Bungo-taketa Railway Station

- Performance : Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays and holidays from Mar. to Jul. / Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays and holidays from Aug. to Dec. *Subject to change. Please check the website.
- Fee : Adult (Junior high school students or over) \4,500, Age of 4 or over \2,500
- Free parking lot
- Tel : 0974-76-0950



Kuju Winery

Tasty wine raised with a great care in nature of Kuju.

Tasty wine is made from grapes grown on the plateau at an altitude of 850m in the foothills of the Kuju Mountains. At the shop where customers can select their favorite wine after the tasting, cheese and other foods that go well with wine are sold, too. There is also a restaurant where delicious stone oven pizza is provided.



Data

3990-1 Kuju-machi ooaza Kuju-hiragi, Taketa-city, Oita 878-0201
Approx. 25 minutes by car from Bungo-taketa Railway Station

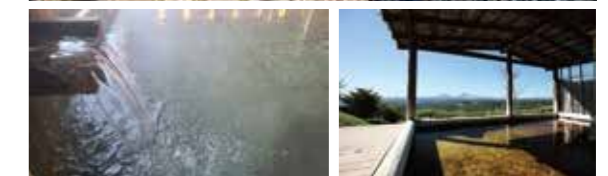
- Hours : 10am- 6pm (Until 5pm from Dec. to Feb.)
- *Restaurant 11am-5pm (Until 4:30pm from Dec. to Feb.)
- Open all year round
- Free parking lot
- Tel : 0974-76-1002



Kuju Hot Spring

Relaxing hot spring in nature of Kuju.

There are several hotels, cottages, inns and B&Bs in the Kuju area. At Kuju Highland Hotel which reopened in April 2021 after renovation, a chloride spring bath, which can keep our bodies warm for long, can be enjoyed as well as a sulfur spring bath which is opaque including Yu-no-hana (mineral deposits in natural hot springs). *The picture below is an open-air bath of Kuju Highland Cottage.



Data

Tel : 0974-63-4807 (Commerce and Tourism Division, Taketa-city)

feel the wind on your face

Go around Aso & Taketa with

Kago-Mobi and Walking Bicycle

Ecological Trips in Aso & Taketa with Green Slow Mobility.

Green slow mobility is an electric vehicle that can run on public roads. It has come to our attention these days because of its convenience for stopping by many sightseeing spots casually and the fact that it's environmentally friendly. These vehicles are good for going sightseeing in towns after getting off public transportation such as buses or trains.

They're easier to ride than bicycles!



It can be good exercise.



You can enjoy the views at your own leisure!

Small Electric Car "Kago-Mobi"

Go for a drive in Taketa feeling the gentle breeze.

"Kago Mobi" is a two-seater electric small car, which runs about 80km on a single charge. Anyone who has an ordinary driver's license can drive it and because it has no windows, it's not an enclosed space. "Kago Mobi" can be rented at Taketa City's municipal parking lot in front of Bungo-taketa Railway Station. Although the only area "Kago Mobi" can be driven is in Taketa City, trips with this car can cover a wide area including the Oka Castle Ruins, Ogi, Kuju highland and Nagayu hot springs, and it makes sightseeing relaxing. Since it can make small turns, anyone can drive easily on narrow streets in the castle town.

- *There are six electric charging stations in the city.
- *Reservation is required.
- *Driving on any motorways is prohibited.

〒878-0011 The reception of City Parking, Bungo-taketa Railway Station
 ■ Hours : 9am-5pm
 ■ Fee : ¥3,850/3hours +¥1,100/1hour thereafter, ¥7,700/1Day *Tax included.
 ■ Electric charging stations : Jyoukamachi Kouryu Plaza, Tabo Motors, Cotton Suisha, Café BoiBoi, Marufuku Honten, Michino-eki Nagayu Onsen Ichiba
 ■ Tel : 0974-63-3210 (Tabo Motors)



Walking Bicycle The electric pedal assisted tricycle.

A standing-style tricycle "the Walking Bicycle" is a new type of transportation that can move forward by stepping on the pedal like walking. Its electric assistance makes cycling easy even on slopes. Riders can travel as fast as a bicycle with just a normal walking action. In addition, since it has three wheels, it is stable and easier to ride than normal bicycles. It's possible to rent one at Oshima-ya in Uchinomaki shotengai, Aso Hanabishi in Monzen-mashi shotengai and JR Aso Railway Station. Enjoy exploring sightseeing spots around such as shotengai while looking at the scenery and feeling like you're cycling.

- Rent & Return : Oshima-ya (Uchinomaki shotengai), Aso Hanabishi (Monzen-mashi shotengai) and JR Aso Railway Station
- Hours : 9am-5pm *Please check the business hours when you rent.
- Fee : ¥300/1 hour, ¥500/2 hours, ¥800/4 hours, ¥1,200/8 hours *Tax included.
- Tel : 0967-32-0041 (Oshima-ya), 0967-22-0896(Aso Hanabishi), 0967-34-1600 (Aso Information Center)

Not only having a look, but also feeling unity with nature!

That is the Best Part of Aso!

The nature of Aso Caldera not only heals people just by looking at, but it also gives us the energy for tomorrow if we dive into the nature and experience. Aso has a variety of activities and guided learning programs.

■ Tel : 0967-32-3330 / Aso hot spring, tourism and accommodation association
■ Hours : 9am-5pm

Information ~ How to apply.

1. After selecting the accommodation, select the tour you want to take part in on the website and apply it to the accommodation when you make a reservation for your stay.
2. Do not forget to make sure what you need for the tour and bring it.
3. Since all tours and programs include transportation services, just wait for your pick up at your accommodation.

*Tours or programs will be cancelled in the case of bad weather or lack of participants.
*Accommodations are informed of tours or programs cancellations. Please contact the accommodation where you will stay.



Aso Caldera Tour Programs

[Nehanzo & Unkai tour]

This is an early morning tour to have a look mystical Aso-gogaku which is likened to the reclining Buddha. If you're lucky, Unkai (the sea of clouds) can be seen.

[Otohome starlight trekking]

This is a night horse riding tour in Aso Highland Golf Course. Special moments can be enjoyed swaying on the horse back looking up at twinkling stars.

[Strolling around Komezuka and the lava tunnel]

Beautiful shaped Komezuka, to which entrance is usually restricted, and the lava tunnel can be explored with a guide.



Aso Caldera Tour

Stay and take time here. That is why you can have special experiences unique to Aso

Aso Caldera Tour is an "Omotenashi tour unique to Aso" for the guests who stay at inns and hotels that are members of Aso hot spring, tourism and accommodation association. The interesting tours or activities which are not usually able to be experienced are very popular.



[Mt.Aso, Kusasenri and Daikanbo all in one Geo tour]

Walk around Nakadake crater, magnificent Kusasenri and Daikanbo with a Geo guide.

[Walk around Tango-yama, which was introduced on the TV show "Bura Tamori"]

Enjoy the panoramic scenery of Aso valley from a little mountain, Tango-yama, which is at an altitude of 653m.



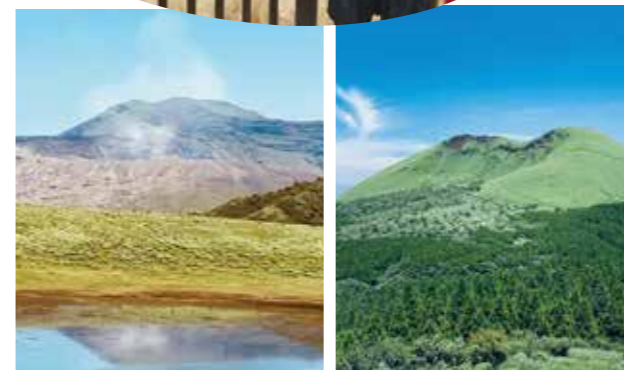
[The wall of Kita-gairinzan (the northern rim of Aso caldera) trekking tour]

Walk from Daikanbo to the field of Kokura area, which usually has restricted entrance. Listening to the guidance of a Geo Park guide, the wonderful views of the meadows and mountains of Aso can be enjoyed.



[DATA]

- 48 Uchinomaki, Aso-city Kumamoto 869-2301
- Tel : 0967-32-0928
 - Hours : 9am-6pm (Open at 10am from Nov. to Feb.)
 - Closed on Thursdays (Except holidays)
 - Fee : Varies with the programs. Please check the website for details.
 - Access : Approx. 5 minutes by car / 40 minutes on foot from Aso Railway Station
 - Free parking lot



[DATA]

- 1930-1 Akamizu, Aso-city, Kumamoto 869-2232
- Tel : 0967-34-2111

*There is more information about the museum on page 7.

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It's the sister shop of Aso Nature Land. Various cycling programs are provided.

In addition to rental cycles, various cycling programs such as panoramic cycling which goes around the mountains and meadows in Aso with a guide or seasonal cycling programs are provided. There is a climbing and bouldering facility, too.

[Activity programs (amongst others not mentioned)]

- Tabe-kogi
- Panoramic cycling
- Cycling to pick up wild spring vegetables (Spring only)
- Cycling to watch fireflies (Firefly season only)
- Summer vegetable picking and gourmet cycling
- Climbing experience course

*Various other programs are provided.



Aso Volcano Museum

Mountain climbing and strolling on Kusasenri with the guides.

Enjoy the sky filled with stars at night!

Various tours such as walking on Kusasenri-ga-hama with a guide and climbing to Kijima-dake, Taka-dake and Eboshi-dake, which are three mountains of Aso-gogaku, are provided. Enjoy the seasonal landscape of Aso. If you're lucky, there are chances to see wild animals. The tour going to Kusasenri-ga-hama is recommended for beginners.

[Tour programs (amongst others not mentioned)]

- "What is a caldera?" Go to the view point of Kusasenri with a guide
- Kusasenri hiking
- Kijima-dake course
- Taka-dake course
- Eboshi-dake course

*Various other programs are provided. Check the website for details.

Let's go on a trip to Aso & Taketa.

A doll festival, which makes us feel spring in the air, is a graceful event in the castle town.

The agricultural festivals, which are human's activities in awe of nature and prayers to gods, have been succeeded in the caldera.

Unkai, which is the sea of clouds seen in the lucky mornings in fall of Aso, is waiting for us.

Nogaku, which used to be performed for the Lord of Oka, is one of the oldest performance arts in the world.

What is waiting for us in Aso and Taketa today?

The latest information are here

ASO is GOOD!

The portal site of Aso City Tourism Association



asostagram

Aso City official Instagram



Taketabi

The portal site of Taketa City Tourism Association



Taketabi Instagram

The portal site of Taketa City Tourism Association official Instagram

