

THE TOMBO

Oita's English Newsletter

September – October 2013

Issue 69

The Sweetest Town in Oita



By now I'm sure you've had your fair share of festival *kakigori*, "Black Thunder" ice cream bars, and any other number of icy treats to stay cool during this crazy summer heat. But if you're craving some less conventional flavors to keep from melting into the sidewalk, a visit to Taketa City is in your future.

Through September 30th the small historic town of Taketa, set in the south west mountains of Oita, offers an ice cream scavenger hunt. Some of the soft serve flavors featured in the hunt can be found all year round, such as brown rice, soy sauce, and *ramune*. Others are served exclusively during the summer months for the festival, bringing the total to 23 unique flavors.

Taketa is accessible via train and car. From Oita Station take the train to Bungo-Taketa station which is located on the edge of the historic downtown area, and an easy walk away from soy sauce, *adzuki*, and brown rice ice creams. If you're looking for a relaxed day of history and a scenic trip, the train is an excellent option, but to make the most of your trip, it's definitely better to have a car. Taketa 'county', if you will, is comprised of four smaller towns; Taketa, Ogi, Naoiri, and Kuju. Each town offers a variety of attractions and ice cream flavors.

Ogi is a small agricultural town, known for tomatoes. Only two ice cream flavors can be found in Ogi (tomato soft cream and tomato sherbet), but the town's main attractions are Shiramizu Falls, and breathtaking views of the mountain range. Kuju is a dairy town, and hosts eight flavors scattered throughout the area. Also featuring Mt. Kuju, the flower park, a winery and brewery, and several beautiful *onsen*, it really is

hard to beat Kuju. There is a lot of ground to cover, but if you're up for a stunning drive through the mountains



and farmland, Kuju is well worth the trip. Naoiri is an *onsen* town, home to Nagayu *onsen* and known for delicious spring water. With seven flavors of ice cream, Naoiri boasts two of the most abstract flavors (spinach and soft-shell turtle... yes, turtle). The spinach flavor is quite good, and those who aren't huge fans of the leafy greens needn't worry: it's not like eating your veggies. The turtle flavor however, is ... interesting. I'm glad to have the experience but let's just say it's one I'd rather not repeat. If you do plan on

trying the turtle soft serve, think about saving a safer flavor for afterward. We saved the *ramune* soft serve, and were pleased with the much sweeter ice cream and a free foot *onsen*. There are three more flavors in between the four towns, so try not to miss the corn cream, strawberry, and black soybean flavors.

All you need to participate is a map/brochure (available at all participating shops), a sense of adventure, and an empty ice-cream-stomach. Maybe some friends too,

so you can try more flavors! Each ice cream is found at a different local shop or *onsen*, and is accompanied by a stamp to keep track of your ice cream count. If you haven't seen much of the rural side of Oita, this is a great way to tour small towns and support the local shops and *onsen* of Taketa.



"Sure Savvy, it's great that your town has ice cream. I can get ice cream in my city though," you might be thinking. Well my friend, did I mention there are some pretty snazzy prizes up for

grabs if you trek down here to collect stamps? If you collect between 2 and 10 stamps you can enter the draw for the first tier of prizes, including meal vouchers

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at participating restaurants, sets of Taketa's specialty products (wine, yogurt, seasonings, etc.), and *onsen* passes. Collecting half the stamps could win you some fancier food items like Bungo Ono beef, a Dutch wine set, and an *onsen* visit package. By collecting all 23 stamps, you become an official "Taketa Soft Cream Ambassador," complete with badge and certification, and can enter the grand prize drawing for a ¥30,000 accommodation voucher package. I might be a bit biased, but I'm pretty sure Taketa is one of the most beautiful and interesting places in Oita. You might come for the ice cream, but you'll want to stay for the history, gorgeous scenery, and welcoming people.



Available Flavors by Town

Kuju: *kabosu*, cheese and wine (a non-alcoholic version is available, so you can still drive to more ice cream places!), Jersey cow milk, blueberry gelato, black sesame seed, *honobono* (let's just call it a mystery flavor), soy milk, and yogurt

Naouri: grape, *ramune*, soft-shell turtle, spinach, chunky strawberry gelato, Dutch wine, and homemade soy milk

Taketa: brown rice, soy sauce, and *adzuki* (sweet red bean)

Ogi: tomato sherbet, and Ogi tomato

Extra: corn cream, strawberry, and black soybean

—Article by Savvy Bader

An Eternity of Art



If you're looking for a way to escape the summer heat for a few hours, why not visit the Oita Art Museum in Oita City? The Art Museum offers around six different special collections throughout the year, with a variety of traditional and modern pieces.

At present, the Oita Art Museum is featuring the special collection by modern sculptor, painter and novelist Yayoi Kusama. The "Eternity of Eternal Eternity" exhibit features over 100 pieces, and will be on display until October 20th. Yayoi Kusama is well known for her polka dot design pieces, and this exhibit is no exception.

In addition to canvas artworks, the exhibit also features several large sculptures, including one of a gigantic spotted pumpkin. Furthermore, unlike many gallery exhibitions, there are a few points where visitors are permitted to take photos of the artworks, not only outside of the exhibit course, but also inside. And of course if you'd like to take a little piece of polka dotted history home with you, the Art Museum gift shop has a fun selection of gifts and souvenirs.



For more information on the Yayoi Kusama exhibition, upcoming exhibits, and available facilities, check out the Oita Art Museum homepage.

<http://www.city.oita.oita.jp/www/genre/0000000000000/1000000003006/>

Festivals and Events

Date	Event Description	Location	Contact #
Sept. 7 th	The Ajimu Fair "Wine Festival 2013" - various events such as Ajimu wine sampling, and bazaar. You can have your fill of Bungo Beef, wine and more for autumn which is the season for good food.	Usa City Ajimu Area	☎ 0978-44-1111 ☎ 0978-44-0381
Sept. 9 th	Free hot springs entrance - September 9 th is Kokonoe area's designated hot spring day and designated facilities marked with posters will give free entrance to bathers!	Kusu Kokonoe-machi	☎ 0973-73-5510
Sep. 21 st	Kimono Appreciation Day - held on the third Saturday of each month, with special offers and discounts for on kimono rental and professional photography.	Kitsuki-City Jouka-machi	☎ 0978-63-0100
Sep. 21 st	Magatama' bead-making workshop - A hands on event for children and parents to enjoy. Participation fee is ¥200, reservations necessary	Oita City History Museum	☎ 097-549-0880
Sep. 21 th ~ 25 th	Ohara Shrine Festival - Vendors line the street leading to Ohara Hachiman Shrine at the shrine's biggest festival of the year.	Hita City Ohara Shrine	☎ 0973-23-8951
Sep. 21 st	Kappa Festival - a traditional festival spanning over 300 years. Young boys perform songs and dance to pray for the Autumn harvest.	Nakatsu City Yabakei area	☎ 0979-54-3111
Sep. 21 th ~ 22 nd	The 6th Karaage Festival - Here you can eat all kinds of Karaage!	Nakatsu City AEON Mall Sanko	☎ 0979-27-0786
Sep. 22 nd	Kohshita Dam Festival - After the opening ceremony, there will be various events from food eating contests to canoeing, plus fireworks.	Usa City Innai-machi	☎ 0978-42-5111
Sep. 28 th	Uki Uki Flea Market - come take a look through the stalls of clothes, books and more. You might just find some bargains.	Oita City Oasis Tower 1 st Floor	☎ 097-538-7411
Sep. 28 th	The 30th Taketa Takigino - For this event, a special aquatic stage is set up and several Noh plays are showed. The fire flames wavering on the surface of the Inaba River under the stage take the audience into a subtle and profound world. Shuttle bus service (free of charge) from JR Bungotaketa Station.	Taketa City Castle town	☎ 0974-63-0585
Oct. 12 th	Kudatama and Marudama bead-making workshop - A great hands on event for parents and children. Come along and experience making traditional beads. Participation fee ¥260, reservations necessary.	Oita City History Museum	☎ 097-549-0880
Oct. 12 th	Rice field exploration - an outdoor exploration activity for children to learn about what sort of creatures live in and around our rice fields. Participation ¥500, reservations appreciated (bring clothes and shoes suitable for outdoors)	Kusu Kuju Shizen Gakkou	☎ 0973-73-0001
Oct. 13 th	Tashibuno-shou Shukakusai (Tashibuno Manor Harvest Festival) - A year tradition that has continued for many year. Come harvest rice and chat with the locals at Tashibuno Manor farming village (weather permitting)	Bungo Takada Kozaki area	☎ 0978-22-3100
Oct. 13 th	Beppu Yukemuri Health Walk Rally/Marathon - This event will take place at lake Shidaka and Lake Kagurame in Beppu (inquire for more details)	Beppu City Lake Shidaka	☎ 0977-25-8025
Oct. 13 th ~ Nov. 3 rd	Sanko Cosmos Garden - 20 million cosmoses are in bloom, approx. 21ha of the foot of Hachimenzan mountain. Places change every year; this year Haraguchi, Naritsune district will transform into a pink and white carpet. Shuttle bus service (free of charge) from JR Nakatsu Station on Sundays.	Nakatsu City Sanko Area	☎ 0979-43-2050
Oct. 14 th	Beef Eating and Screaming Contest - Yes, you read it right! Come eat beef raised in Yufuin and scream to your heart's content, or just enjoy watching others do so (held at Namiyanagi no bokujoyou)	Yufuin Kawakami	☎ 0977-85-4464
Oct. 19 th	Kimono Appreciation Day - A monthly event where visitors can try on rental kimonos, have their photos taken, and receive discounts at nearby facilities if they are wearing kimono.	Kitsuki-City Jouka-machi	☎ 0978-63-0100
Oct. 19 th	Uki Uki Flea Market - come take a look through the stalls of clothes, books and more. You might just find some bargains.	Oita City Oasis Tower 1 st Floor	☎ 097-538-7411
Oct. 19 th ~ 20 th	Beppu Fisheries Festival - This event aims to local seafood produce. Held at Kamegawa Port, here you can enjoy lots of local cuisine.	Beppu City Kamegawa Port	☎ 097-532-6611
Oct. 20 th	Oita Dialect Uncovered! Speech Contest - A comedic contest for linguistic contortionists at Chuo Community Center. Come along to test out your Oita-ben comprehension (reservations necessary)	Bungo Takada Chuo Kominkan	☎ 0978-22-3100
Oct. 20 th	The 8th Road of Xavier Walking Festival - walking event to explore the road which Christian Missionary Francisco Xavier walked in 1551 to go to Bungo-Funai via Yamaguchi.	Hiji Town Hiji Town Community Center	☎ 0977-73-3158
Oct. 26 th ~ 27 th	Beppu Agriculture and Forestry Festival - An event promoting local goods at Beppu Park. Here you can enjoy local products, wood working and workshops.	Beppu City Beppu Park	☎ 097-506-3544
Oct. 27 th	Beppu Dance Festa - This contest will showcase talented dancers competing for the grand prize (to be held in Beppu Park in conjunction with another local produce promotional event)	Beppu City Beppu Park	☎ 0977-24-2828

EXHIBITIONS & SCREENINGS

Date	Description	Place	Admission	Contact #
Jul. 12 th ~ Oct. 20 th	Eternity of Eternal Eternity - an exhibition of works by Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama	Oita Art Museum	¥1,000	☎ 097-554-5800
Oct. 18 th ~ Nov. 24 th	"Ikimono to ikiru" a story about life - an exhibition that looks at the history of how humans have lived with nature.	Oita Prefectural Museum of History	¥300	☎ 0978-37-2100

Oita Art Museum= Oita-Shi Bijutsukan 大分市美術館 Oita Prefectural History Museum= 大分県立歴史博物館

Most Museums and Centers are closed on Monday, or Tuesday if Monday is a public holiday. Student admissions vary, highest cost shown.



STAGE & MUSIC EVENTS

Sept.	Time	Artist/Event	Venue	Cost	Contact #
14 th	19:00	Fantastic Planets	Club SPOT	¥1,800	☎ 097-533-0467
15 th	13:00	Live Kagura - traditional Kagura dancing performed by local groups	Kagura Kaikan	¥1,000	☎ 0974-35-2372
22 nd ~ 23 rd	22 nd :17:15~ 23 rd :16:15~	Nami Amura - FEEL tour 2013	iichiko Grand Theater	¥8,500	☎ 092-714-0159
Oct.	Time	Artist/Event	Venue	Cost	Contact #
2 nd	13:30	One Coin Piano Relay Concert	iichiko Otonoizumi	¥500	☎ 097-533-4004
4 th	19:30	Miyuki Tanago - Autumn tour 2013	Brick Block	¥4,000 +drink	☎ 097-536-4852
10 th	20:00	MASAYO with super latin trio	Cantalloop II	¥3,500 +drink	☎ 097-548-5363
23 rd	19:00	Shakespeare THE SONNETS - ballet performance	iichiko Otonoizumi	¥5,000	☎ 097-533-4004
27 th	13:00	Live Kagura - traditional Kagura dancing performed by local groups	Kagura Kaikan	¥1,000	☎ 0974-35-2372

**Ticket prices range from student to most expensive general admission. Prices shown otherwise indicate price for purchase on the day of the event, they may be cheaper if purchased in advance. "w/ drink" prices include a drink, "+drink" prices require the additional purchase of a drink. Times shown indicate start times, doors usually open 30 minutes beforehand.

VENUES

Brick Block= 5-7-5 Ikushi, Oita City
Cantalloop II=3-2-30 Miyako-Machi
Nakayama Dai 5 Building 6F Oita City

Club SPOT=3-3-18 Funai-Machi, Oita City
iichiko Grand Theater= Oasis Tower 1F Oita City
iichiko Otonoizumi=Oasis Tower 1F Oita City

Kagura Kaikan= 810 Kiyokawa, Bungo Ono City

International Festa

The Oita International Plaza is holding its **International Festa** on **Sunday October 20th**. There will be lots of activities for families with children including quizzes, workshops and a stamp rally. For the international residents who attend, we are holding traditional Japanese calligraphy, flower arranging and tea

ceremony workshops. There will also be *mochi*-making and tasting, and many other performances throughout the day. See you there!

Date: **Sunday October 20th** Time: **11:00-16:00**

Place: iichiko Culture Center Atrium 1F

TEL: 097-533-4021



What's Going On?

From the Plaza

International Festa

Oita International Plaza event (see P.4 for details)

Date: **Sunday October 20th** Time: **11:00-16:00**

Place: iichiko Culture Center Atrium 1F

TEL: 097-533-4021

Free Legal Consultations

The Oita International Plaza is holding free legal consultations on **Sept. 18th & Oct. 16th** from **13:00-16:00**.

The Oita Emigration/Immigration Affairs Council also organizes free consultations where emigration/immigration specialists are available to offer advice on a variety of topics from Immigration Bureau paperwork and procedures, to daily life matters. English interpretation available, other languages may be available with reservation two days in advance.

Date: **Sept. 1st & Oct. 6th** from **13:00~16:00**

For more information contact the Oita International Plaza.

TEL: 097-533-4021

Free Tagalog Consultations

Date: Saturday **Sept. 7th** & Tuesday **Sept. 17th**

Saturday **Oct. 5th** & Wednesday **Oct. 16th**

Time: **13:00-16:00**

Place: Oita International Plaza

Consultant: Rhodora Yoshitake

Free Chinese Consultations

Date/Time: **Every Thursday 10:00-13:00**. Place: Oita International Plaza. Consultant: Cui Wenyu (*Dates and times are subject to change. Please contact the Oita International Plaza before coming.)

TEL: 097-533-4021

Free Health Consultations

The Saiseikai Hita Hospital offers free health consultations and medical examinations at the Oita International Plaza to foreign nationals living in Oita Prefecture.

Date: **Wednesday October 16th** Time: 14:30-15:30

Oita International Plaza (iichiko Culture Center, B1F)

For more information contact: Saiseikai Hita Hospital TEL: 0973-24-1100

(*Dates and times subject to change. Please call to confirm before coming.)

Notarial Services for Filipino residents

Notarial services such as passport processing, registration of children's births, marriage etc. for Filipinos living in Oita Prefecture and surrounding prefectures will be offered on **January 11th and 12th**, 2014. Prior to processing date (Jan. 11th and 12th) required documents must be submitted before mid-December 2013. Applications accepted at the Oita International Plaza on **Sept. 7th & 17th** and **Oct. 5th & 16th** (13:00-17:00)

For passport renewal, applicants must have; application form (available on the day), copy of passport and a return envelop with ¥900 stamp OR ¥500 letter pack.

Place: TBC

For more information contact Rhodora Yoshitake 090-9797-6217

Japanese Lessons

Himawari Japanese Volunteers

Support for people learning Japanese in order to help them enjoy their lives in Oita, now at three different locations.

Wasada Public Hall Wed. 10:00-12:00

Meiji Akeno Public Hall Wed. 14:00-16:00

Tsurusaki Public Hall Sat. 10:00-12:00

For more information contact Fukata Miharu

TEL: 097-527-2614

Email: nihongo_himawari_oita@yahoo.co.jp

Nihongo Rakuraku-talk

Beppu City Hall offers free Japanese lessons every Tuesday from 14:00~15:30. For more information contact Beppu International Affairs Division TEL: 0977-21-6133

E-MAIL: int-ma@city.beppu.oita.jp

Sakura Japanese Class

Come study Japanese with friendly volunteers and teachers in a pleasant atmosphere. Sakura Japanese Class is held every Monday from 10:15-12:00 at the Oita University International House in Nishiki-Machi, Oita City. Classes are FREE. For more information call Ms. Ohashi

CELL: 090-7866-2486

AIUEO Japanese Lessons

Volunteers offer free Japanese lessons on Tuesday and Friday from 10:20-11:50 at I-NESS near Oasis Tower as well as Thursday nights at Compal Hall from 18:30-20:00. Lessons are also offered in Beppu at the Oita International House on Tuesday mornings from 10:30-12:00. For more information contact:

Ms. Miyase 090-8353-2485 (day lessons)

Ms. Kato 097-532-5940 (night lessons)

Community Classes and Events

"Stand Up For Love" Charity Show

The Oita Philippines Friendship Association is holding a Charity Show to raise money for the less fortunate children of the Philippines, with the theme: "Stand Up For Love".

Date: **Sunday Sept. 29th**

Time: 13:00-16:00 (doors open at 12:30)

Place: Compal Hall 1F Bunka Hall (Oita City Funai-cho 1-5-38)

TEL: 097-538-3700

Beppu Latin Nights

Enjoy dancing at the monthly Latin party in Beppu. It is a casual party, including a dance workshop for beginners. ¥2,000 to participate (includes one drink) and ¥1,500 for students (please bring student ID).

Date: **Sunday Sept. 22nd** Time: **20:00-25:00**

Place: Studio Roots (Beppu City Kitahama 1-9-19)

*Free workshops also available for beginners

For more information contact Takeaki @

mambo365@gmail.com

Horuto Hall Oita is now open!

~Necessities of Life~

Horuto Hall Oita is a public facility completed in July this year for the citizens of Oita to meet, learn, rest, interact and get active. Facilities available for use include halls, studios, library, town planning information plaza, conference rooms, human rights development center, child raising support center and family support center, children's room, nursery school, senior's room, walking pool, disability recovery training room, life support center for people with disabilities, fitness training room, kitchen studio just to name a few. A variety of classes and courses will also be available, with more detailed information available on the Horuto Hall website.

Furthermore, its convenient location next to JR Oita Station makes it easy to access. For more information, visit the Horuto Hall homepage <http://www.horutohall-oita.jp/>

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THANK YOU !!

A special thanks to all those who co-operated with us for this issue. Your help was very much appreciated.

THE TOMBO is produced by:

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<http://www.oitaplaza.jp/english/>

HOURS: Monday-Friday 9:30am-7:00pm

(closed weekends and the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. We are open on the Saturdays before these Mondays)

Closed national holidays & Dec 29th - Jan 3rd

The International Plaza is located on the basement floor of OASIS Hiroba 21 (iichiko Culture Center).

