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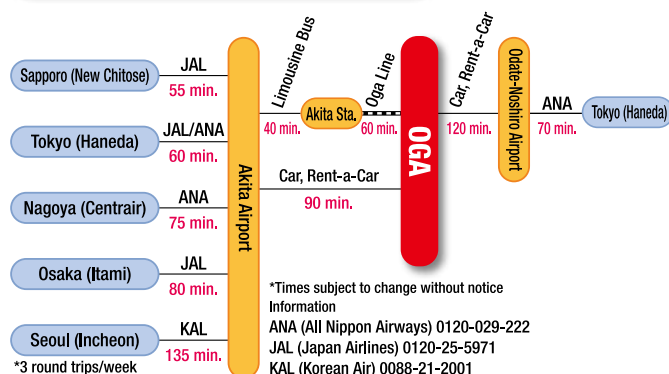
撮影地／鶴ノ崎海岸

OGA TRAVEL GUIDE
OGA QUASI-NATIONAL PARK

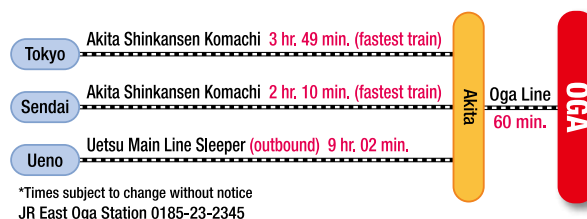
Transportation

Approximate Times to Oga, Akita

BY AIR



BY TRAIN



Information

Oga Tourism and Commerce Division

<http://www.city.oga.akita.jp/>
Tel.0185-24-9141
Fax.0185-23-2424

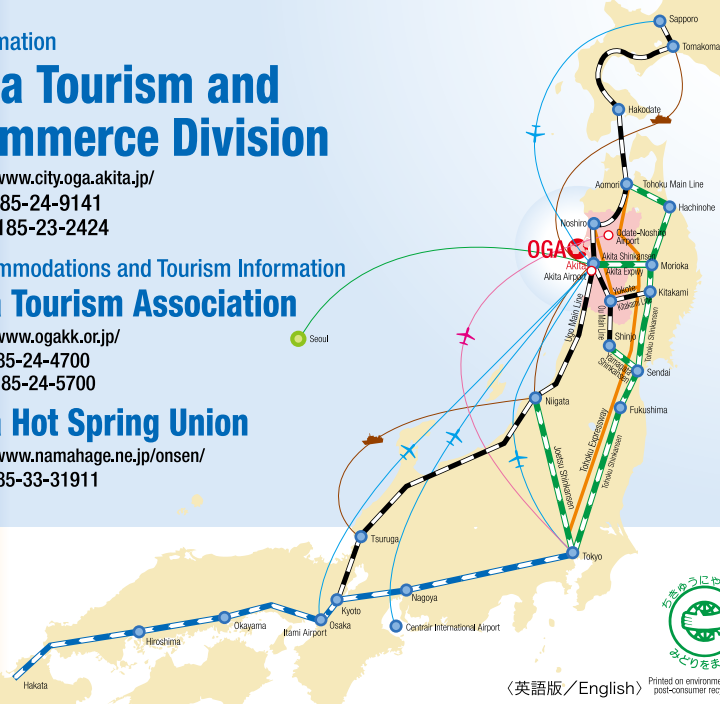
Accommodations and Tourism Information

Oga Tourism Association

<http://www.ogakk.or.jp/>
Tel.0185-24-4700
Fax.0185-24-5700

Oga Hot Spring Union

<http://www.namahage.ne.jp/onsen/>
Tel.0185-33-31911



〈英語版／English〉 Printed on environmentally friendly post-consumer recycled paper.



Acacias and ocean surround this quiet hot spring area on the gentle slopes of northern Oga. Enjoy relaxing baths and fabulously fresh seafood.



Highly experienced guides are available to show you the ins and outs of Oga's great diving spots. You can enjoy the waters of Oga and their rich ecosystems year-round, so come anytime.



The huge Main Tank which recreates the environment of Oga's coastal waters is a must see. You can see a wide variety of marine life, such as Akita's symbol fish *hatahata* (sandfish) and penguins; Gota the polar bear is especially popular with children.



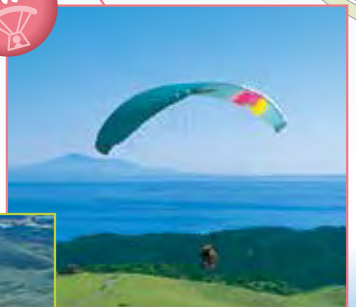
With clean, clear water, Miyazawa Beach is one of Akita's best beaches for swimming and has been selected as one of Japan's 100 Best Swimming Beaches. Enjoy marine sports such as swimming, windsurfing, and more.



The two courses here are integrated into the natural environment of Mt. Kampuzan's gentle slopes. A great view of the peninsula is an added bonus as you play.



The gentle slopes of Mt. Kampuzan are excellent for paragliding. For the novice and beginner, there are lessons available.



The indicates National Roads



Ishiyaki Cuisine

Drop a red-hot rock into a cedarwood task full of fresh seafood and seaweed and you get a delicious plume of tempting steam. Enjoy the fantastic broth and pure fun of this traditional cuisine.



Hatahata-zushi

Oga's coastal waters provide a bountiful catch of sailfin sandfish early every winter. Sandfish is combined with new rice, a fermentation starter, seaweed, and vegetables. This mixture is pickled into a traditional Oga treat.

Melons

The Oga area has been producing high-quality melons for more than four decades. Popular summer varieties include *Wakami Red* and *Akita Bijin*.



Oga Pears

The distinct aroma of juicy, sweet Oga pears has been parlayed into a light, elegant wine called *Kosui no Kaori*. Oga is the northernmost growing region for Asian pears in Japan.

Local Products



Oga Shottsuru Yakisoba

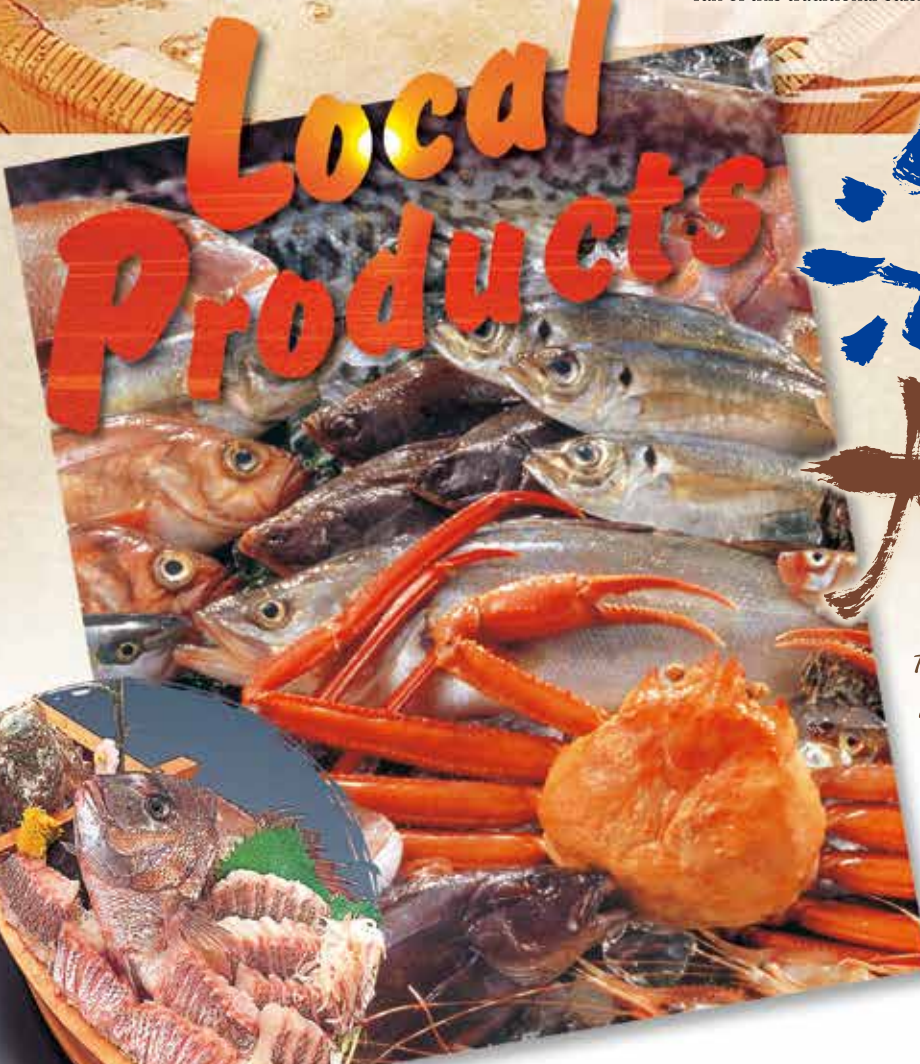
A popular local fried noodle dish made with *shottsuru*, one of Japan's Three Great Fish Sauces; special noodles into which powdered *wakame* seaweed and kombu tangle stock are kneaded; and a variety of fresh seafood.



Miso, Soy Sauce, More

Fine ingredients from Oga's rich natural environment are crafted into traditional foods like miso, soy sauce, *shottsuru dashi* (sardine-based fish broth), and miso pickles. Recent innovations include ramen noodles with crab, shrimp, and scallop extract cooked right in.

*The salt breeze on your cheeks
as the sun sinks into the sea
is a phenomenal accompaniment
to a fresh, delicious Oga dinner.
Tasting seasonal foods from seafood
to wild edible plants from the mountains
is what travel is all about -
getting in touch with the local culture.*





Nyudozaki Cape

The northernmost cape on the Oga Peninsula is located right on the 40° N latitude line. Enjoy a marvelous view of sea, particularly at sunset. Just look for the striped lighthouse that is the Cape's symbol.

Nature

The Godzilla Rock

The silhouette of Godzilla stands out here on the rocky coastline of Shiose-zaki Cape. Come in the evening for the best views of Godzilla roaring at the sea and setting sun.



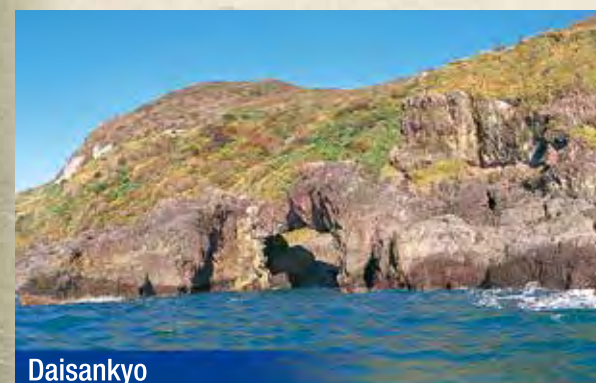
Hachibodai

Among the peculiar and beautiful scenery making this area one of Oga's most popular destination are low-relief, broad volcanic craters called maars, caused by shallow explosive eruptions.



Mt. Kampuzan

This gently sloping, 355-meter mountain is grassy top to bottom. Enjoy the great view of the Oga Peninsula and even mountains further inland from the rotating observation deck at the peak.



Daisankyo

This bridge-like rock formation was sculpted by fiercely lashing waves. Take a sightseeing boat to get the best views of this dramatic coastal scenery.



Unosaki Beach

Unosaki has been chosen as one of the nation's one hundred best beaches. Low tide is particularly fascinating and fun, as two hundred meters of ocean floor is revealed through only a thin sheet of water.

VIEW

Glass-Bottomed Boats



Enjoy an tour of the ocean floor without even getting wet!

Sightseeing Boats



Tour boats allow you to enjoy the rugged, jagged, mysterious, and dramatic coastline of the Oga Peninsula.



History & Legends

The Legend of the Namahage

— The 999 Steps —

Legend has it that, once upon a time, the Han emperor brought five demonic ogres with him to Japan. These *oni*, as they are commonly called in Japanese, stole crops and young maidens from Oga's villages. The distressed villagers decided to trick the *oni* with this proposal: if the *oni* could build a flight of one thousand stone steps to Goshado Shrine in a single night, village maidens would be offered to them; if not, they were to leave Oga for good. The *oni* accepted the challenge, but when they had completed the 999th step, a quick-witted villager mimicked the crowing of a rooster. The *oni*, thinking it was already dawn, fled in panic and never came back again.



Oga Shinzan Folklore Museum

Enjoy the *Namahage* ritual year-round. The show is captivating, the banter between the *Namahage* and the household head is humorous, and they are both accentuated the atmosphere of this converted traditional home.

Namahage Sedo Festival

One of the Five Great Snow Festivals of Michinoku

This grand winter festival is the fusion of *Namahage*, a folk tradition, and the Sedo Festival, a Shinto ceremony. Sacred fires light the precincts where the dynamic *Namahage* dance and drums are performed. Finally, fifteen *Namahage* march down from the mountain bearing torches, bringing the night to its climax. The sticky rice cakes which *Namahage* hand out are said to ward off disasters.



Namahage Festival

National Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property

This New Year's Eve ritual is observed throughout Oga; it is such an ancient tradition that no one knows for sure when it began.

Namahage in demonic masks and straw garments make the rounds of houses in their village. They burst into houses and find young wives and children who are hiding, and tell them to work hard, study hard, and obey their parents or in-laws. The masters of the houses "protect" their family members, affirming that they all behave well. The *Namahage* are then placated with sake and food.

According to one account, *Namahage* are deities who visit villages to celebrate the New Year. This tradition is designated as a national intangible folk cultural property.





Shinzan Shrine

Shinzan Shrine, located on Mt. Shinzan, stands surrounded by majestic cedars. It is one of the most historical and the most revered shrines on the Oga Peninsula, deeply associated with the famous folk tradition *Namahage*. In February the *Namahage* Sedo Festival is held in the precincts.



10,000 Buddhas of Shinzan

This hall, once part of a temple called Koboji, holds more than 10,000 wooden Buddhist statues despite being only 5.4 meters on a side. This exceedingly rare site is of particular folk-religious interest.



Namahage Museum

Explore the mystery of Oga's *Namahage* folk tradition. Enjoy the costumes and demonic masks of the *Namahage*, or check out the video presentation.



Goshado (National Important Cultural Property)

Goshado, the central hall of Akagami Shrine, is thought to have been built around the turn of the seventeenth century. It is a rare site associated with the ancient Akagami Gongen worship; the view of the five pavilions spreading out side by side amidst the mountains is simply magnificent. Elements such as the frog-leg struts and tie beam carvings typify Akita's religious architecture, making this site of a significant historical value. The reliquary shrine in the central hall is designated as a national important cultural property.