

Travel Guide of Scenic Byway Kyushu

Q-12 Scenic Area of Beppu Bay and Kunisaki Peninsula

Oita City, Beppu, Kitsuki, Kunisaki, Bungo-Takada, and Hiji-machi Town (Oita Pref.)
 —Unique Buddhist Culture, Hot Spring, and Beppu Bay—

As shown on the map, the scenic area of Beppu Bay is given by the peninsula and coastal area from the north to center of Oita Prefecture. It has an interesting content of rich nature, history & heritage since ancient ages, and a unique mountain religion.

(Access). Oita Airport offers direct access to this scenic area. By train, there are many stations on the Nippo Main Line, Kyudai Line and Hohi Line, but basically they are Oita Station and Beppu Station.

(Scenic Route). The main routes of scenic spots are National Routes 213, 10, 197 and 217, including the industrial road of Oita City. The total length of these roads is about 160km. This scenic area is roughly divided into the Kunisaki Peninsula and the urban area of Beppu & Oita, but as shown in the map, it is divided into 7 zones in detail.

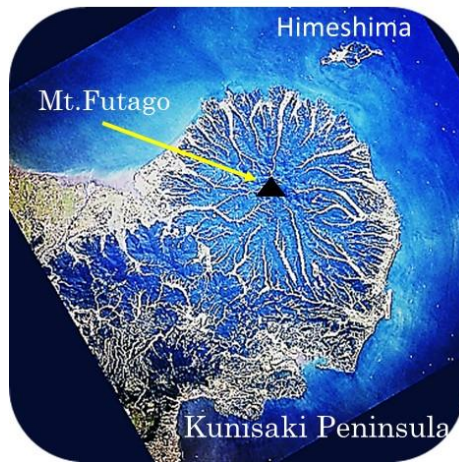
(Scenic Resources). The Kunisaki Peninsula consists of an upside-down bowl-shaped old volcano (721m above sea level) and many V-shaped valleys, as shown in the photo. Many ascetic Buddhists have settled in this steep area for the unique faith that combined Shinto and Buddhism, and have developed local cultures rooted there.

In other words, the Kunisaki Peninsula consists of Hiji town, Bungo-Takada City, Kunisaki City and Kitsuki City. It is the largest sacred place on the main-land of Kyushu. Usa Shrine in Usa City is adjacent to the Bungo-Takada city and is deeply involved in the creation of local culture along with many temples on the peninsula.

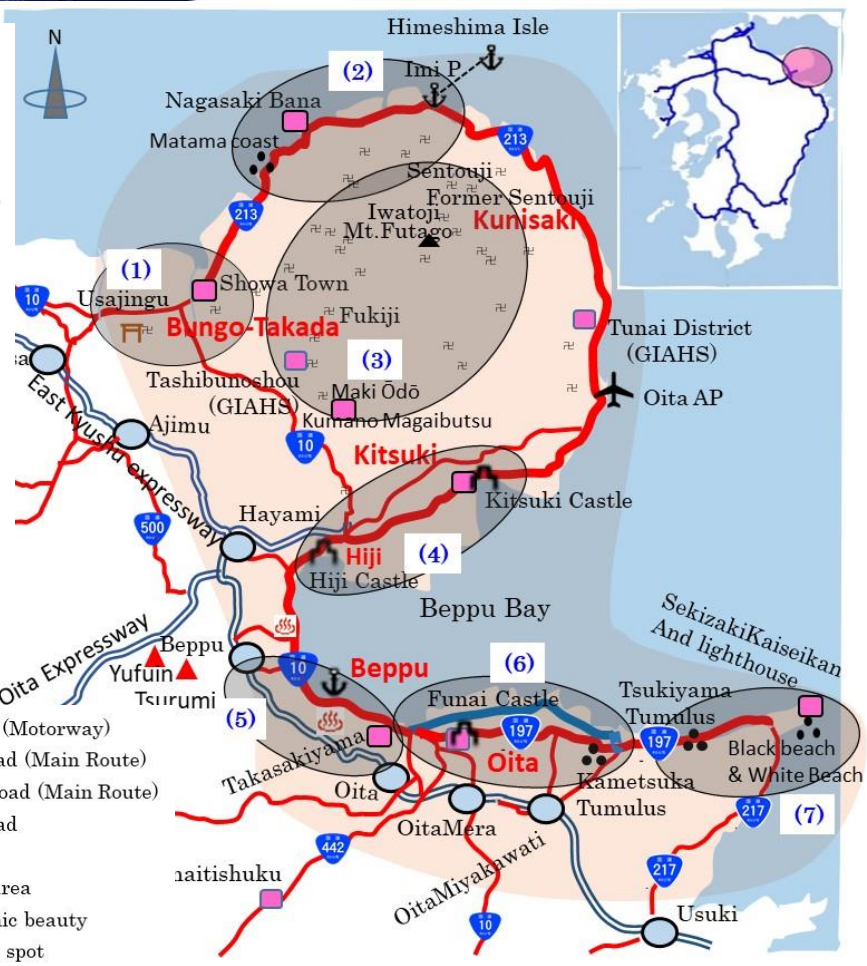
Meanwhile, Beppu Bay faces the Seto Inland Sea, and is located in the center of Oita Prefecture, on the north side of the Chuo Tectonic Line. In coastal areas, many small and medium-sized rivers run into the bay, forming a coastline.

(1) & (2) Showa Town and Seaside Area of Kunisaki Peninsula

Proceeding about 5 km from National Route 10 to National Route 213, you will reach the center of Bungo-Takada City and find a shopping mall with a motif of Showa half a century ago. There is a retro bonnet bus service, and you can enjoy the retro cityscape, classic cars, unique shopping outlets, and modern restaurants.



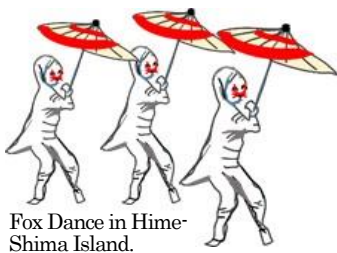
- Usa Shrine
- ↓ 9km
- (1) BungoTakada City
- ↓ 21km
- (2) Nagasaki Bana Tip
- ↓ 46km
- Oita Airport
- ↓ 16km
- (4) Kitsuki City
- ↓ 13km
- (4) Hiji Town
- ↓ 13km
- (5) Beppu City
- ↓ 14km
- (6) Oita City
- ↓ 27km
- (7) Saganoseki



Q-12 Scenic Area of Beppu Gulf and Kunisaki Peninsula.

National Route 213, which connects Bungo-Takada City and Kitsuki City, runs along the coastline of Kunisaki Peninsula and is a comfortable drive course that runs between Kunisaki City and Oita Airport. About 75 km long, it offers beautiful coastal landscapes, peaceful fishing villages and a world heritage agricultural area.

MatamaKaigan Coast is one of the most beautiful sunsets in Japan, with tidal flats. Also, NagasakiBana Cape is on the north side of the peninsula. In spring, carpet-like rape blossoms bloom, and in summer, sunflowers bloom all at once.



Fox Dance in Hime-Shima Island.

A ferry is operated from Imi Port on the peninsula to the small island of Himeshima. This island is one of many described in the myth of land creation in Japan. Outdoor fishing and aquaculture are popular, and you can enjoy fresh fish dishes. In August, Bon-Odori (Dance) of fox performed by children is famous and humorous. Please visit once.

(3) Rokugo Manzan in Kunisaki Peninsula.

The mountainous part of the Kunisaki Peninsula is Futago-yama Mount. There are many radial valleys and hills on the rocky summit. Under such circumstances, Ninmon Bodhisattva established Mountain Buddhism in 718. After that, from the end of the 11th century to early 12th century, monks of the Tendai sect built a mound to fill the scriptures. As a result, many temples have been built in about 30 valleys, and dispersed into six sanctuaries.



(3) Okunoin of Futagoji-temple



Stone Buddha on the Roadside



Statue of Nio



(1) Town in Showa Era (Bungotakada City)



(1) Usa-Jingu (Usa City)



(2) Cape of Nagasaki Bana

Therefore, all the temples here are collectively called "Rokugo Manzan (six sanctuaries)".

Ninmon Bosatsu (Bodhisattva) is said to be the incarnation of Hachiman Okami (God). Therefore, "Rokugo Manzan" is a faith that combines the Tendai Buddhism and Hachiman God of Usa shrine. There were up to 65 temples, but even today, there are still around 30 including Usa Shrine. All temples are the world of Buddha surrounded by forests.

For reference, some temples can be introduced as follows:

- a) Usa-jingu shrine is the headquarters of Hachiman shrines.
- b) Odo (Big Hall) of Fuki-Ji Temple is the oldest wooden building in Kyushu, National treasure, built in the 8th century.
- c) Choan-Ji Temple supervised many temples in the Kamakura period.
- d) Futago-Ji Temple was the best praying place for the Kitsuki clan during the Edo period.

In modern times, there are 10 routes prepared to go around the temples of "Rokugo Manzan" with an average distance of 10km. They are mountain paths or roads with unique landscape that you cannot experience elsewhere. Many stone statues of Buddha or Nio (Deva King) are watching over you on the roadside.

Another important landscape of the Kunisaki Peninsula is the world's agricultural heritage. The Osaki district in Bungotakada City, and the Tsunai area in Kunisaki City are registered. The former is a village and paddy field that retains the image of the Heian and Kamakura eras, and is a rural landscape

that draws curves along the terrain. The latter is an irrigation system that connects six ponds from the highlands to the lowlands, and has been inherited since the Edo period.

The above is the world's agricultural heritage registered as the agriculture, forestry and fisheries circulation system of the "Kunugi (Oak) Forest and Pond in Kunisaki Peninsula and Usa Region".



(3) Kumano-Magaibutsu



(3) Deva Gate, and Odo (Hall) in Fuki Ji Temple.



(4) Castle Town in Kitsuki City and Hiji City

Kitsuki City was developed from a castle town in the Edo period, but the castle site is Shiroyama Park at the mouth of the Yasaka River that pours into Beppu Bay. Taking advantage of the terrain, samurai residences were built in two hilly areas in front of Shiroyama Park, and a merchant town was placed in the valley between them. Samurai residences with thatched roofs were built from 200 to 300 years ago, and the outer mud walls are still surrounded. In addition, the gate of the clan's school is left.

As shown in photo (4), the valley and the hill are connected by long stairs, and named after stores in the valley such as "Suya-no-saka (slope of vinegar shop)" and "Shioya-no-saka (slope of salt shop)". These are still in daily use.

Hiji Town is located west of Kitsuki City. In the Edo period, it was the territory of Kinoshita clan, a relative of Hideyoshi Toyotomi, and the castle was built on the coastal terrace facing Beppu Bay. The ruins of castle are now an elementary school, but facilities such as moats, stone walls, and Yagura (watchtower) remain, and you can also see the slope that enter and out of exit the sea.

In the Beppu Bay near the castle where seawater and freshwater mix, flatfishes called "Shiroshita-Karei" can be caught. It is a very delicious gem among fish dishes.

(5) Spa Town of Beppu City

Beppu City is famous for hot springs. The number of hot springs is 2,300, the number one in Japan. According to your physical condition and preferences, you can enjoy 8 types of hot springs. Of



(4) Kitsuki Castle (Shiroyama Park of Castle Ruins)



(4) Moat and Kimon Yagura Building of Hiji Castle



(4) Long Steps for Everyday Life between the District of Samurai Residents and the Town for Tradesmen.



(4) Park of Training Base Ruins of Human Torpedo, "Kaiten" (Hiji Town)



(5) Public Bath of Hot Spring ,Takegawara Onsen.



(5) Bouzu Hill (Pond where heat mud blows up like a shaved head)



(6) Funai Castle fortified in 1597



(5) Hell of Blood Pond.



(5) Yama Hell (Pond where water vapor is blowing up from near the mountain skirt).



(7) Saganoseki Fishing Port

completed in 1602 by Takenaka Shigetoshi, the first lord of the Funai clan.

The times go back and forth, Otomo Sorin (1530~1587), a feudal lord in Sengoku ages, is the most famous and familiar daimyo for Oita citizens. Sorin, a Christian, invited Xavier (a Spanish priest). His statues have been installed in several places, one of which is in the square of JR Oita Station (see the photo (6)).

(7) Saganoseki District in Oita City

course, there are hells that spouts various hot water from the deep part of the earth, and you can hear the heartbeat of the earth.

In addition, if you follow National Route 10 from Beppu City to Oita City, you will find an aquarium and artificial beach along the road. Takasaki Nature Zoo, a wild monkey, is also famous. In short, Beppu City is like a resort town full of hot springs, hell, and recreational facilities.

(6) CBD Zone in Oita City.

Proceeding National Route 171 toward CBD of Oita City, Funai-jo Castle is right next to the road. It used to be a place for loading and unloading cargo, but the castle was built by Fukuhara Naotaka in those days between 1597 and 1599, and



(6) Statue of Otomo Sorin in Oita Station Square

The Saganoseki Peninsula is located at the western end of Oita City and is famous for mackerel and horse mackerel fishing. The lighthouse is on the tip of the peninsula, from which the direction of National Route 197 changes along Usuki Bay, where you can reach two different beaches: black serpentine and white sand. If the weather is fine, you can see Shikoku at the observatory deck around Sekizakikan.

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