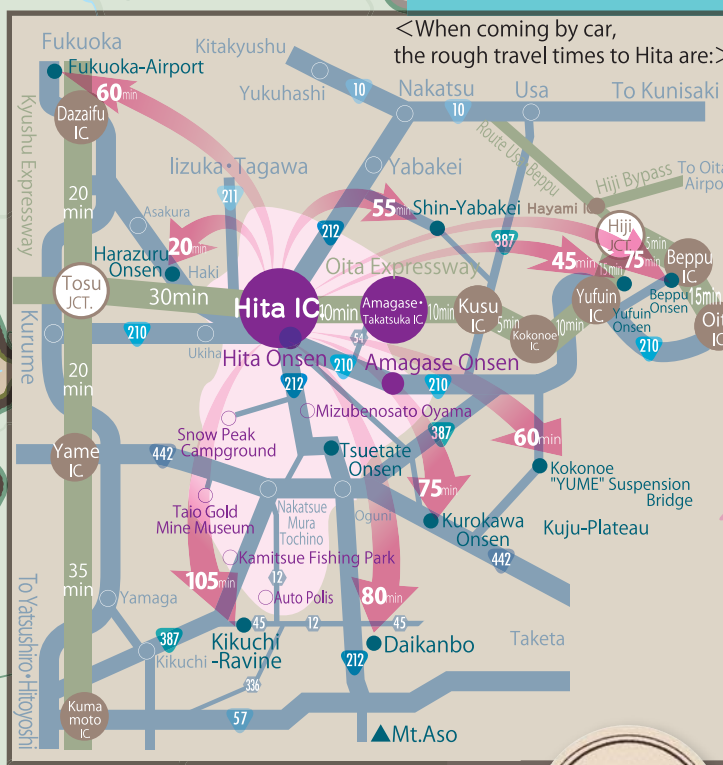




Hita, known as Kyushu's "Little Kyoto," is a small town nestled in a valley surrounded by beautiful mountains. In the past, Hita was Kyushu's cultural and economic capital. Given Hita's rich commercial history, a great many people passed through the area, including famous cultural figures, writers, and artists. Many historical buildings and relics remain in Hita to this day, telling the story of its prosperous past. From autumn through spring, the town is often cloaked in a thick morning fog, which creates a mysterious atmosphere unique to Hita. Today, as in the past, this mist gently enfolds the natural beauty, rich history, and friendly people of Hita.



# Hita Map

Hita City Map Kyushu Japan  
Hita-Amagase-Oyama-Tsue

# Hita Map

**[Contact Information]**  
Hita City Tourism Association  
Oita Prefecture Hita City Moto-Machi 1-1-3  
Telephone Number 0973-22-2036  
Hita City Tourism Association Amagase Branch Office  
Oita Prefecture Hita City Amagase-Machi Sakuradake 540-1  
Telephone 0973-57-2166  
Hita City Commerce & Tourism Department  
Tourism Promotion Division  
Telephone 0973-22-8210 (direct line)

**Transportation**

**JR** JR Hita Station TEL.0973-23-2528  
JR Hakata Station Express Train (via Kagoshima main Line) 1 hour 10 minutes  
JR Oita Station Express Train (via Kyudai main Line) 1 hour 40 minutes  
JR Kurume Station Express Train (via Kyudai main Line) 40 minutes  
JR Kokura Station via Hita-Hikosan Line 2 hours 10 minutes

**Bus** Hita Bus Terminal TEL.0973-22-7681  
Fukuoka Airport Highway Express Bus 1 hour 15 minutes  
JR Hakata Station Highway Express Bus 1 hour 40 minutes  
Tenjin Bus Terminal Highway Express Bus 1 hour 30 minutes  
Beppu Highway Express Bus 1 hour 20 minutes  
JR Nagasaki Bus Terminal Highway Express Bus 2 hours 20 minutes

**Car**  
Fukuoka Interchange 1 hour 10 minutes  
Oita Interchange 1 hour 15 minutes  
Kumamoto Interchange 1 hour 30 minutes

**Car Rental**  
Car Rental at Hita Station 0973-22-2036

**Hita Taxi Services**  
Isago Taxi 0973-22-3135  
Hita City Taxi 0973-22-3161  
Hita Kanko Taxi 0973-22-5353  
Hato Taxi 0973-23-5148  
Shin-Mikuma Taxi 0973-23-3902

**Bicycle Rentals**  
200 yen/first hour (after that 100 yen per hour)  
1 Day Rental 700 yen  
2 Day Rental 1,200 yen

**[For Reservations]**  
Hita City Tourism Association  
TEL.0973-22-2036 (Information Office)

## Hidden among the mountains: Kyushu's "Little Kyoto"

Hita has been a popular tourist destination since the Edo period. The historical ambience is particularly well preserved in the Mameda-machi and Kuma-machi areas of Hita.

Since before the Meiji period, Hita served as Kyushu's center of politics, economics, and culture. During the Edo period, the ruling government placed its administrative offices for Kyushu in Mameda-machi. Many buildings of the period remain today, and Mameda-machi has been designated by the national government as a preservation district. Kuma-machi sits along the upper reaches of the Chikugogawa River – Kyushu's largest river. Several hot spring inns line the banks of the river, overlooking the stately flowing waters. The atmosphere is reminiscent of Japanese towns of years past. In the middle of the river lies Kizan Park, an area perfect for enjoying a quiet walk along the river. Hita has a historical ambience - especially the Kuma-machi and Mameda-machi areas, and here one can feel the atmosphere of Japan's past.

**A gorgeous, dream-like world.**  
In spring, "Ohinamatsuri"-the Doll Festival is held in Hita. This traditional event for girls has been observed since ancient times. Because Hita was the cultural and economic center of Kyushu, many wealthy bankers and other merchants were very active in the area. These merchants brought home for their daughters beautiful traditional hina dolls they had bought in Kyoto and Osaka. Today, during the festival, these dolls are displayed in the grand former homes of the wealthy merchants, many dating back to the Edo and Meiji periods. Other festivals and events, such as the Hita Tenryo Festival and the Hita Gion Festival, allow visitors to get a feel for Japanese history and the changing seasons of the year.



The citizens of Hita are grateful for blessings of green forests and clean water. Hita is blessed with an abundance of endlessly flowing water and green mountains, and water has played a major role in its history.

Hita is home to green mountains and abundant pure water. Hita has long been known as "Suikyo (home of water) Hita" due to its green mountains and abundant pure water. Suikyo Hita is symbolized by the Mikumagawa River, which is the main source of Kyushu's largest river. The Mikumagawa River runs from east to west down the center of the Hita basin, eventually flowing into the Ariake Sea. Visitors can ride on covered pleasure boats behind the inns of the Kuma-machi area and watch as fishermen employ the help of cormorants to catch fish. This traditional method of fishing goes back 400 years. Visitors can also visit a mountain forest that was voted one of the three most beautiful forest areas in Japan. Hita is grateful for, and respectful of the abundant blessings of nature that have played such a vital role in its history.

**Relax in a Place of Green Tranquility**  
Kyushu's largest river, the Chikugogawa River, begins in a piece of untouched nature in the Tsue region, at a height of more than 1,000 meters. The waters of the Gozendake spring bubble from the Maetsue-Gozendake Mountain, surrounded by virgin ash forests. Visitors can enjoy fishing for salmon and rainbow trout in the beautiful mountain streams of the Kamitsue Fishing Park. Visitors can also enjoy the Okuhita Campground located on a mountain slope in Maetsue at an altitude of 1,231 meters. The Taio Kazoku Ryokomura family camping and lodging facilities at the Nakatsue Taio Kinzan Gold Mine are fully equipped to host visitors. Throughout the year various events associated with nature are held, such as the Hita Oyama Plum Blossom Festival and the Hita River Festival, allowing visitors to truly capture the feeling of Japan's changing seasons.



Hita's Treasures are its Historical and Cultural Heritage  
The entire town is a museum.  
The passions from generations past can still be felt today.

Historic relics can be found throughout the town. Hita's history extends back more than a thousand years, and many important sites and artifacts remain. Among them is the statue of the 11 faced goddess of mercy, located in the Yokoji Temple on Mount Jigenzan. It has been designated by the Japanese government as an important cultural property. Additionally, the Hita Shrine, where the legendary sumo wrestler Okura Nagasue, who is said to have won an important national sumo tournament over one thousand years ago, is enshrined, is known as the home of the God of sumo.

The Ono Oimatsu Shrine, founded by Okura Nagasue, is one of the few buildings in Kyushu that remains from the Muromachi period, and it has been designated by the Japanese government as an important cultural property.

The unique garden of Denraiji Temple, built during the Kamakura period, is said to be the oldest garden in Kyushu. In the Edo period, the ruling government placed important government offices in Hita, making it the center of politics, culture, and economy in Kyushu. One of the reasons Hita was chosen was because of its advantageous geographic position: being accessible by both water and land.

The Ishizaka Ishidatani Stone Walkway is a famous iconic example of Hita's geographical importance. Similarly, medical relics from the Edo period are on display at the Gyotokuke House, which itself is an important historical example of design from that period. The Kyu-Yahatake House is a traditional farmhouse built 250 years ago. The Seikeibunko Library acts as a resource center that tells Hita's more recent post-Meiji period history. The birth-home of Inoue Junnosuke, who was the Minister of Finance during the beginning of the Showa period, has been preserved as a memorial, and many of his handwritten documents, as well as a tape recording of his voice are on display.

The relics from ancient times up to modern times that can be found in Hita make the entire town a museum. The passions from generations past can still be felt today.

## The pride of Hita – Hirose Tanso

Opening the doors of learning to all.

Tanso showed a talent for literature as a boy, and grew to become a great educator. In 1817, at the age of 36, he opened his own private school, named "Kangien Academy". The word "Kangien" derives from classic Chinese and means that all things are good. In other words, all who have a desire to learn can do so. Tanso offered an equal education for all citizens regardless of social status, age, or educational background. This was an epoch-making proposition in Japan at that time. More than 5,000 students studied at the academy since its opening, making it one of the largest private schools in Japan during the Edo period.





Area guide

**Hita Area** The Hita area is divided into the Mameda-machi area, the Kuma-machi area, and other surrounding areas.

**Mameda Area** Visitors to the Mameda-machi area can stroll along streets that date back to the Edo period, discovering historical sites, souvenir shops, restaurants, hotels and other attractions.

**Kuma Area** In the Kuma-machi area visitors can view the stately flowing Mikumagawa River, and enjoy dinner on a roofed pleasure boat. Visitors can also stroll along the historical streets, enjoying the many interesting sites, and spend a relaxing night at one of the six hot spring inns that line the river.

The traditional ambience of a Japanese mountain village is preserved at Onta village, where pottery is made using time-honored methods. In other parts of the Hita area, tours can be taken at a brewery or at a shochu distillery.

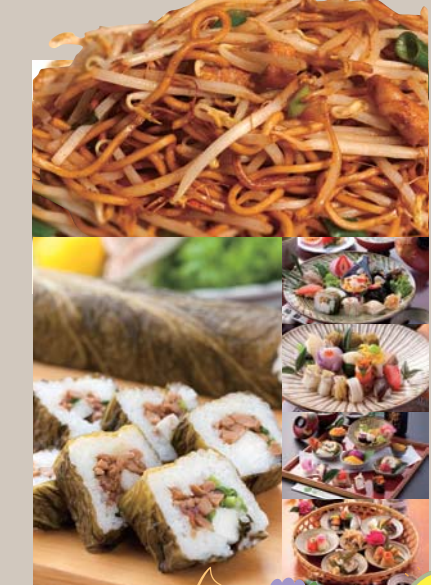
**Amagase Area** The Amagase area is famous for its hot springs, or onsen. It is said that the first hot spring spa in Amagase was opened 1,300 years ago, and still today relaxing in the abundant hot water is highly recommended. Lodging is also available. Also Takatsuka Atago Jizoson is a popular place to visit in this area. It is said that wishes made here are more likely to come true. There are also places where visitors can try their hand at farming, or enjoy viewing seasonal flowers.

**Oyama Area** Oyama is most famous for its ume (Japanese plum) production, and a wide variety of other fruits and vegetables are produced here as well. The many products made from ume are all perfect for souvenirs. There is also a hot spring spa with an outdoor bath that overlooks a river gorge. Visitors can relax in the hot springs while enjoying the beautiful view.

**Tsue Area** The Tsue area is home to spectacular mountains and valleys as well as clear streams. Visitors can visit an old gold mine, and during the spring and summer camping and fishing can also be enjoyed. There is also a car racetrack in the Tsue area, where nationally recognized events are held. The area is also known for abundant agricultural products.

Hita Area Foods

Hita is famous for its Yakisoba (Fried Noodles) with its crunchy noodles and crisp bean sprouts or the unique Hitan Sushi made with seasonal pickled vegetables.



Special Product

Hita Products Beer, sake, shochu, mineral water, and soy sauce, all made with Hita's famous underground water, are all highly recommended products from Hita, as are traditional crafts made of cedar and bamboo.



**Hita Ayu Yanaba (Hita Sweetfish Restaurant)** **map Hita**

This restaurant is only open when sweetfish are in season. Visitors enjoy eating sweetfish near the banks of the Mikumagawa River, the main source of Kyushu's largest river, the Chikugawa River.

[Address] 1233-22 Wakamiya-machi  
[TEL] 0973-24-0420  
Open from the middle of July to beginning of November  
Open daily, depending on river conditions.

**Sapporo Beer Kyushu Hita Brewery** **map Hita**

Free admission to tour the brewery ¥500 for a short tour followed by beer sampling (2 varieties) - (approx. 40 min.)

Sapporo Beer is one of the best breweries in Japan, and at the Hita brewery visitors can see first hand how beer is made. Many visitors also enjoy sampling fresh draught beer at the conclusion of the tour.

[Address] 6979 Oaza-Takase  
[TEL] 0973-25-1100  
Open 10:00-17:00 (Admittance until 16:30)  
Short tour followed by beer sampling (2 varieties). Tours once every hour (reservation required).  
Closed every Wednesday (or the following day if Wednesday is a national holiday) from December to April. Closed New Year's Holiday, irregular holidays.

**Tenryo Hita Museum** **map Hita**

Admission: Adults ¥310/Children 6 to 18 ¥210

Over one hundred works of calligraphy and historical documents, mostly from the Edo period, are on display, giving the visitor a look at Hita's history. Documents explaining why the ruling government placed its administrative office for Kyushu in Hita during the Edo period can be found here. Also many famous Japanese persons of culture, including artists, writers and calligraphers visited Hita, and their accounts of these visits can be read here.

[Address] 11-7, Mameda-machi  
[TEL] 0973-24-6517  
Open 9am-5pm  
Closed Wednesdays (or the following day if Wednesday is a national holiday) and December 29th through January 3rd

**Ichiko Hita Distillery** **map Hita**

Free Admission

Ichiko Shochu commands a top share in the domestic shochu market, and here visitors can take a tour of one of their distilleries, as well as sample their products.

[Address] 610-1, Nishitani  
[TEL] 0973-25-5600  
Open 10am-4pm  
Closed Tuesdays (except when Tuesday is a national holiday), Obon Holiday and New Year's Holiday

**Onta Pottery Village** **map Hita**

Onta is home to ten potter households, and the Onta pottery produced here is very popular both within Japan and abroad. The area has a nostalgic feel from Japan of years ago, and visitors can hear the echoing sound of the "karasu", a traditional device used by the river's power to crush the clay into powder. Hearing the sound of the karasu alone is reason enough to visit this area.

[Address] Motoe-machi  
[TEL] 0973-29-2020 (Onta Pottery Museum)  
Open 9am-5pm  
Closed Wednesdays (or the following day if Wednesday is a national holiday), Obon Holiday and New Year's Holiday

**Kusano Honke (Kusano Family House)** **map Hita**

Admission: Adults ¥500 (¥550 during Tenryo Hita Hina Doll Festival)/Children 13 to 18 ¥250

This was the home of one of Hita's leading merchants, and four times a year items representing seasonal festivals - Hina Doll Festival, Children's Festival, Gion Festival and Autumn Festival - are put on display. The building itself has been preserved from the Edo period, and has been registered as a site of national cultural importance. Visitors can feel Japan's culture in the changing seasons.

[Address] 11-4, Mameda-machi  
[TEL] 0973-24-4110  
Open 10am-5pm (Admittance until 4:30pm)  
Open throughout the Hina Doll Festival and the Gion Festival periods

**Shizantei Kalkokan (Historic Building)** **map Hita**

Admission: Adults ¥350 Middle and High School Children ¥250

This former restaurant had its beginnings in the Edo period. Pottery, reports and cups, used for entertaining dignitaries, as well as various pieces of art from the Edo period are on display here. This hall also served as an important meeting place for government officials and intellectuals. In the past, many people passed through Hita due to its strategic location, and as a result this hall was used by a wide variety of people.

[Address] 12-3, Mameda-machi  
[TEL] 0973-22-5467  
Open 10am-4pm  
Closed Thursdays & irregular holidays

**Nihongan Museum** **map Hita**

Admission Adults ¥350/Children 6 to 18 ¥250

This building, in which popular Japanese pharmaceutical company, Nihonkankin produced and sold medicine, is now a museum where vintage medicine production tools and equipment are on display. The building itself is quite unique, and from the top floor, visitors can look out over the whole city of Hita.

[Address] 4-15, Mameda-machi  
[TEL] 0973-23-6101  
Open 10am-4pm (February 15th through March 31st 10am-5pm)  
Closed from June 1st to August 31st, and from December 1st to February 14th

**Hirose Museum** **map Hita**

Admission: Adults ¥450 /Children 6 to 18 ¥350

This was the home of one of Hita's wealthy merchants, and tools and documents from the days when Hita was a center for banking are on display here. Hina dolls from the end of the Edo period are also on display. The building itself also dates from the Edo period. In the latter part of the Edo period it served as a school of finance and economics. The great educator Hirose Tanso was born in this building, and some of his artifacts are also on display.

[Address] 9-7, Mameda-machi  
[TEL] 0973-22-6171  
Open 9am-5pm  
Closed Mondays, New Year's Holiday and at other times at the owner's discretion

**Kuncho Sakagura Museum** **map Hita**

Free Admission

This sake brewery was built during the Edo period, and here one can learn about the history and methods of sake production. Sake and other products can be purchased at the shop here, including some items that are only found here.

[Address] 6-31, Mameda-machi  
[TEL] 0973-22-3121  
Open 9am-4:30pm  
Closed New Year's Holiday

**Takatsuka Atago Jizoson (Statue)** **map Amagase**

The Takatsuka Atago Jizoson is believed to have been built during the Nara period. It is said that wishes made here are more likely to come true, so it is particularly popular among students hoping to pass their entrance exams. Also, the walkways of the area are lined with stalls selling locally grown agricultural products and tourist souvenirs, many unique to this area.

[Address] 3740, Amagase-machi Mabaru  
[TEL] 0973-57-9200

**Rose Hill Amagase** **map Amagase**

Admission: Adults ¥300, Children 6 to 15 ¥100 (5 and under free)

A wide variety of beautiful roses grow on the high plateau. Spring and fall are the best times to see the roses in bloom.

[Address] 4384-3, Amagase-machi Itsuma  
[TEL] 0973-57-8187  
Open 9am-5pm  
Closed Tuesdays and New Year's Holiday.

**Kamitsue Fishing Park** **map Tsue**

Admission: Adults ¥1,030 Elementary School Children ¥510 Middle & High School Children ¥820

Visitors can enjoy fishing in a natural canyon stream. Grill your own fish or have it grilled at the cafeteria for ¥150 per fish.

[Address] 1666-62, Kamatsue-machi Oaza Kawahara  
[TEL] 0973-55-2003  
Open 8:30am-5:30pm (from October to March open 8:30am-5pm)  
Closed Wednesdays (except during summer vacation) and New Year's Holiday

**Hara Jirozaemon Soy Sauce and Miso Factory** **map Hita**

Free tours

Visitors can tour the soy sauce and miso factory. A soft drink called Ramune is also produced here. A variety of dolls are displayed at the Kyushu Toy Museum which is located within the shop.

[Address] 5-4, Nakahon-machi  
[TEL] 0973-23-4145  
Open 9am-5pm  
Closed January 1st through 5th

**Hita Gion Floats Museum** **map Hita**

Admission: Adults ¥310 Children 6 to 18 ¥210

This museum houses articles related to the Hita Gion Festival, a summer event with roots in ancient times, during which people pray for protection from sickness and disaster. The area has a nostalgic feel from Japan of years ago, and visitors can hear the echoing sound of the "karasu", a traditional device used by the river's power to crush the clay into powder. Hearing the sound of the karasu alone is reason enough to visit this area.

[Address] 2-7, Kuma  
[TEL] 0973-24-6453  
Open 9am-5pm  
Closed Wednesdays (or the following day if Wednesday is a national holiday) and December 29th through January 3rd

**Takatsuka Atago Jizoson (Statue)** **map Amagase**

The Takatsuka Atago Jizoson is believed to have been built during the Nara period. It is said that wishes made here are more likely to come true, so it is particularly popular among students hoping to pass their entrance exams. Also, the walkways of the area are lined with stalls selling locally grown agricultural products and tourist souvenirs, many unique to this area.

[Address] 3740, Amagase-machi Mabaru  
[TEL] 0973-57-9200

**Rose Hill Amagase** **map Amagase**

Admission: Adults ¥300, Children 6 to 15 ¥100 (5 and under free)

A wide variety of beautiful roses grow on the high plateau. Spring and fall are the best times to see the roses in bloom.

[Address] 4384-3, Amagase-machi Itsuma  
[TEL] 0973-57-8187  
Open 9am-5pm  
Closed Tuesdays and New Year's Holiday.

**Kamitsue Fishing Park** **map Tsue**

Admission: Adults ¥1,030 Elementary School Children ¥510 Middle & High School Children ¥820

Visitors can enjoy fishing in a natural canyon stream. Grill your own fish or have it grilled at the cafeteria for ¥150 per fish.

[Address] 1666-62, Kamatsue-machi Oaza Kawahara  
[TEL] 0973-55-2003  
Open 8:30am-5:30pm (from October to March open 8:30am-5pm)  
Closed Wednesdays (except during summer vacation) and New Year's Holiday

**Taio Kinzan Gold Mine & Museum** **map Tsue**

Admission: Adults ¥1,030 Elementary School Children ¥510 Middle & High School Children ¥820

Here visitors can visit an actual former gold mine, which at one time boasted the highest volume of gold extraction in all of Asia. Today, visitors can walk through the mine's tunnels and see how miners worked to extract gold. Above ground, there is a restaurant where visitors can enjoy local cuisine made from fresh seasonal ingredients.

[Address] 3750, Nakatsue-mura Gose  
[TEL] 0973-56-5316  
Open 9am-5pm (from November to December) 10am-4:30pm (from December to February)  
Closed January 1st

**Snow Peak Okuhita Campground** **map Tsue**

This campground is operated by Snow Peak, a large manufacturer of outdoor goods. Tent sites and cottages are available for use by visitors to this highland plateau - elevation 950 meters. Tents and outdoor cooking supplies are available for rent.

[Address] 64-1, Maetsue-machi Ono  
[TEL] 0973-53-2358  
Open 10am-7pm (from April to October)/11am-6pm (from November to March)  
Closed Wednesdays (except when Wednesday is a national holiday)

Tours and Hands-on Japanese Experiences