

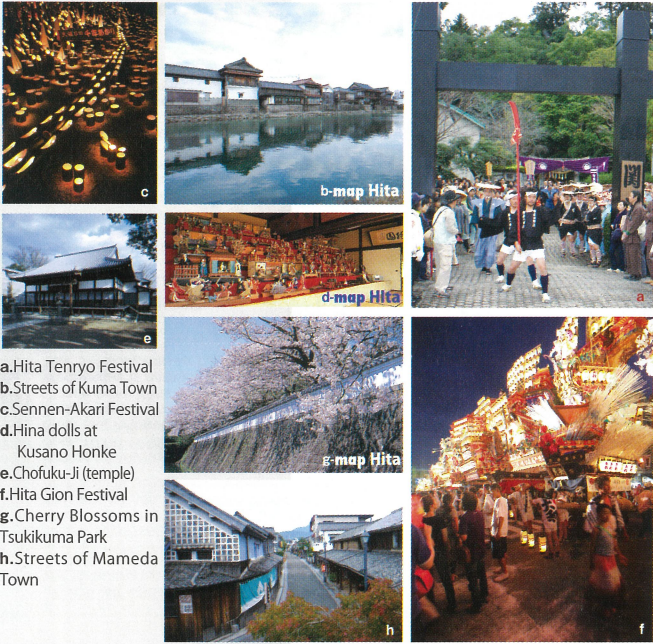
Hita has been a popular tourist destination since the Edo period.

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.

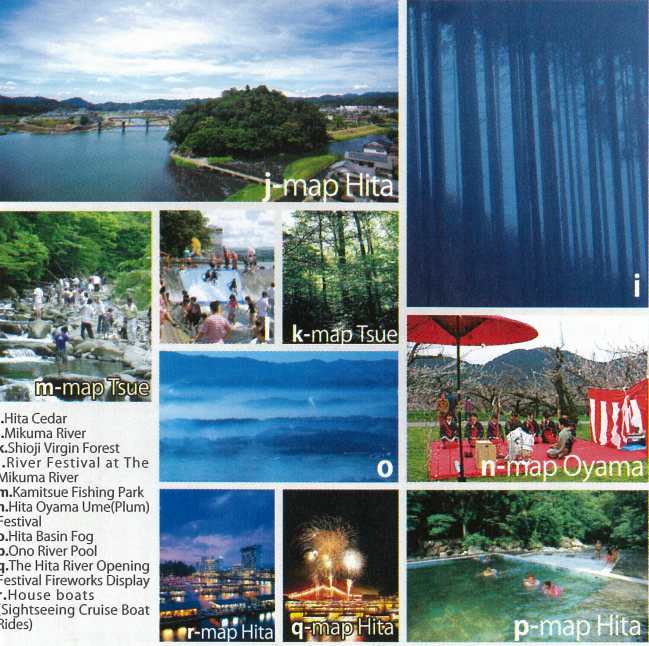
Hita is blessed with an abundance of endlessly flowing water and green mountains, and water has played a major role in its history.

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 Okuhiita 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



Basin(Bonchi) character
「Bontan」

Rental Lockers

•small lockers 300 yen(1day)
•large lockers 400 yen(1day)
※Additional fee charged
after 12:00 a.m.

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)

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.

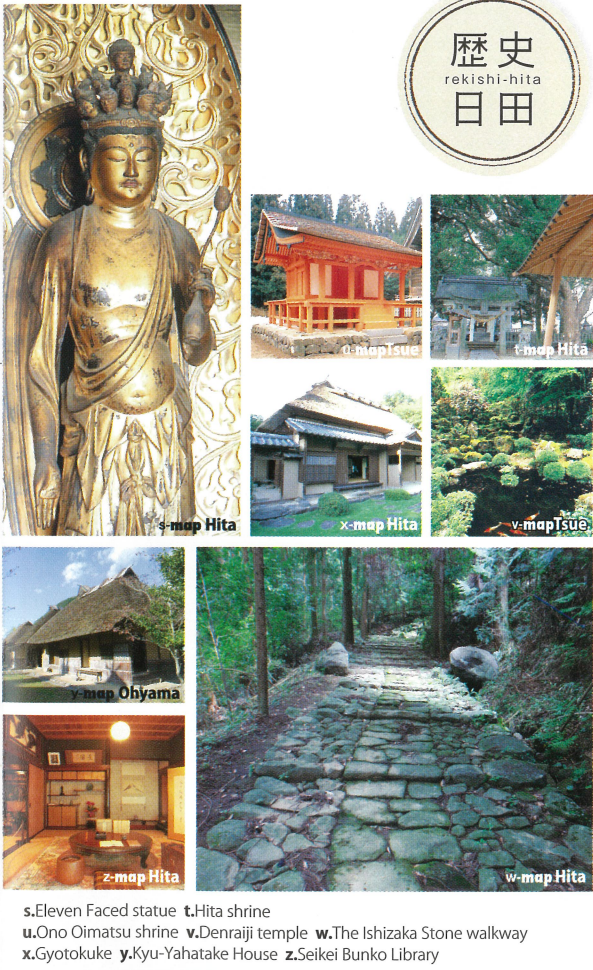
The Ono Oimatsu Shrine, founded by Okura Nagasue, is one of the few buildings in Kyushu that remains from the Muromachi period, and it has been designated by the Japanese government as an important cultural property.

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 Ishidatami 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.



s.Eleven Faced statue t.Hita shrine
u.Ono Oimatsu shrine v.Denraiji temple w.The Ishizaka Stone walkway
x.Gyotokuke y.Kyu-Yahatake House z.Seikei Bunko Library

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 "Kangi" 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.

