

Delicious Local Products



Squid in Yobuko

Yobuko is called "Squid town", that much Yobuko's squid is well known to the people. People visit Yobuko to have fresh transparent squid all year around. It can be eaten as a "kizukuri" (sashimi prepared alive) and make tempura with its tentacles.



Saga Beef

Saga Beef is recognized as one of the best beef in Japan and is a rich & tender with beautiful marbled beef. It is very nice for steak, shabushabu and also for a special gift. This is gift from Saga's mild climate, pure water and clear air.



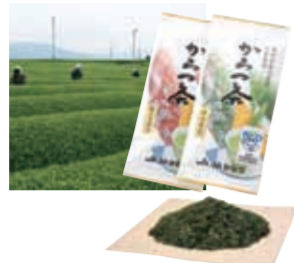
Saga Honoka Strawberry

Saga Honoka Strawberry is the original brand of Saga Prefecture. It's sour less, fine sweet, beautiful color and nice fusiform are very popular.



Decocon (sweet orange with a lump at the top)

Karatsu Matsuura area is the biggest decocon producing district within the Saga Prefecture. It is very sweet, rich in vitamin C & dietary fiber, and very good for health & beauty.



Karatsu Cha (Green Tea)

Karatsu is the 2nd place of green tea production area within Saga Prefecture, and its cultivation area is 108ha. Karatsu Cha has received the Minister of Agriculture prize in the past. There is a huge tea factory in Kitahata Karatsu which centralized the product, process, sales and shipping of it.



Oyster



Dried fish



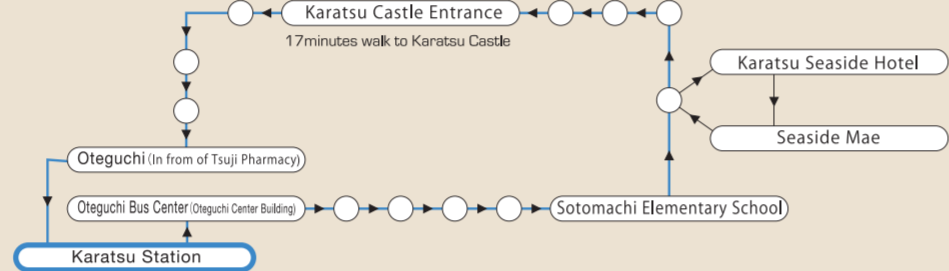
Grilled turban shell

Facilities	Business Hours	Close	Phone	Entrance Fee
1 Karatsu Castle (Tower)	9:00~17:00	Dec 29~31	72-5697	Adult: 410yen Child: 200yen
2 Former Takatori Residence	9:30~17:00	Mon (following day if it is a national holiday) & Dec 29~31	75-0289	Adult: 510yen Child: 250yen
3 Hikiyama Float Exhibition Hall	9:00~17:00	The first Tues & Wed of Dec & 29~31st Dec	73-4361	Adult: 300yen Child: 150yen
4 Former Karatsu Bank	9:00~18:00	Dec 29~31	70-1717	Free
5 Kawamura Art Museum	10:00~17:00	Open Sat, Sun & Public holiday	73-2868	Adult: 500yen
6 Nishinomori-yakata(souvenir)	9:00~17:00	Mon (following day if it is a national holiday) & Dec 29~31	75-3667	Free
7 Furusato Kaikan Arpino				
1F Souvenir shop	9:00~19:00	New Year's Day	75-5155	Free
2F Karatsu ware Exhibition Hall	9:00~18:00	Dec 30~Jan 1	73-4888	Free
8 Kyushu Olle Karatsu Course			82-4905	Free
9 Former Nakao Estate	9:00~17:00	Wed & Dec 29~Jan 3	82-0309	Adult: 200yen Child: 100yen
10 Tourist Information Desk	9:00~18:00	New Year's Day	72-4963	

TAXI	SHOWA TAXI	KANKO TAXI	KARATSU TAXI	ONSEN TAXI	Facilities	Business Hours	Close	Phone	Entrance Fee
	74-1234	72-4141	72-4222	70-5555	Karatsu Police Station		72-2101	72-5111	
					JR Karatsu Station		72-5801	73-3175	
					Karatsu Bus Center		73-7511	77-2611	
					Karatsu Tourist Association		74-3355	75-5199	
					Hospital		Red Cross Hospital	72-5111	
							Saiseikai Hospital	73-3175	
							Kahan Hospital	77-2611	
							Emergency Medical Center	75-5199	

Karatsu Loop Bus

East line



West line



Karatsu-yaki (Karatsu Earthen Ware)



Karatsu-yaki is known for its simplicity and sturdiness, and is considered as a traditional Japanese handicraft. There are many rumors about the origin, but it is believed that all started in the 16th century and was brought from the Korean Peninsula together with the Korean potters. It is said that "First-Raku, second-Hagi, third-Karatsu" when referring to ceramic ware used for the Japanese tea ceremony. In fact, Karatsu-yaki is loved by people who are expert in tea ceremony.

Major Types of Karatsu-yaki



E-karatsu



Chosen-karatsu



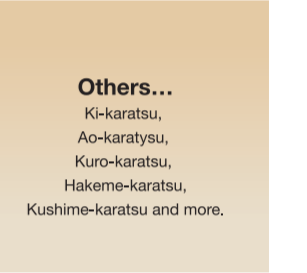
Madara-karatsu



Kohiki-karatsu



Mishima-karatsu



Others...
Ki-karatsu,
Ao-karatsu,
Kuro-karatsu,
Hakeme-karatsu,
Kushime-karatsu and more.



Karatsu City Map

A ticket valid for those three facilities is 1,000 yen



Hikiyama Float Exhibition Hall
14 different gorgeous Hikiyama floats for Karatsu Kunchi festival (November 2nd, 3rd and 4th) are exhibited in this place. The festival has been designated as a national important intangible folk cultural property and floats its self is important tangible folk cultural property in Saga Prefecture. They are made by wooden form, pasted with several hundred Japanese papers and covered with Japanese lacquer.



Former Takatori Residence
This is a former residence of Takatori Koreyoshi (1850-1927) who was a coal mine entrepreneur during Meiji period. And the residence was recognized as national important cultural property in 1998. This is beautiful Japanese residential architecture mixed with European style. The owner Mr. Takatori loved "Noh play", so he built Noh stage in the house. Beside, "Sugitoe" (painted cedar doors) or "Ramma" (decorated transoms above the doors) are also must-see.



Karatsu Castle (Tower)
Terazawa Shimanokami Hirotsuka, the first lord of Karatsu, constructed Karatsu Castle in 1608. The present castle was restored in 1966. Castle tower was built as a symbol of Karatsu and attract the citizens and tourists. And precious historical materials are exhibited on each floor as a folk museum; moreover the view of Nijnomatsubara pine grove from the top of the tower is amazing. Please enjoy a panoramic view of Karatsu City.



Nijnomatsubara Pine Grove
One of the three most beautiful pine groves in Japan. About 5km long and 1km wide of one million black pine trees forming a beautiful arch pine grove.



Former Karatsu Bank
Former Karatsu Bank was built in 1912 supervised by Tatsuno Kingo who was a great architect of Japan during Meiji and Taisho period. It was reopened to the public in March 2011 after the renovation.



Karatsu Kunchi Festival
Karatsu Kunchi is the prime festival of Karatsu Shrine and it is one of the biggest Kunchi festivals in Japan with history of 400 years. The festival is held from the 2nd to the 4th of Nov yearly. 14 floats to go on the parade with its festival music, especially on the 2nd of Nov at night, move down the streets with lanterns looks fantastic! And it is called "Yoiyama". Over half a million of people visit the town for this 3 days. Karatsu Kunchi is the most exciting days for Karatsu.



- Hotel & Ryokan
- School
- Restaurant
- Restroom
- Hot Spring
- Karatsu Ware
- Restroom (Wheel chair available)
- Hospital
- Shop
- ATM
- Parking lot
- Shrine
- Drugstore Pharmacy
- Post Office
- Temple
- Free Space (Internet cafe)