

春

SPRING

Sandanzaki

Gentian

Milkvetch

Cherry blossom

Japanese anemone

Japanese buttercup

Bracken

White clover

Japanese violet

Saxifrage

夏

SUMMER

Wild strawberries

Streams

Evening primrose

Lily of the valley

Japanese thistle

Globe thistle

Lycoris lily

Leopard lily

Starry skies

Horsetail

Nandina

Japanese andromeda

Adonis

Quince

Common gardenia



After your hike why not relax in one of Kurokawa Onsen's many outdoor baths or try a foot bath?

Bathing tips

▶ Foot Bathing (Ashi-Yu) See map

Apart from Yamanoyu(100yen/fee), the foot baths in Kurokawa are free. Just take off your socks and shoes, sit down and soak your tired feet in the soothing hot water for about 15-20 minutes. This will help reduce the build-up of lactic acid and relax your leg muscles as well as warm up your entire body. Towels are not provided so please take your own.

▶ Outdoor Bathing(Rotemburo)

We recommend rinsing your body lightly starting from your hands and feet before entering the main bath gradually. Then sit on the edge and let the bottom half of your body warm up for a few minutes. Finally, enter the bath completely. This method of entering the bath helps reduce pressure on your lungs, enhances your blood circulation and allows you to stay in the water longer, although we recommend no longer than 20 minutes at one time.



Explore Kurokawa using an English Audio Guide

You can take it with you on your walking and bathing tour of Kurokawa.

- ▶ Rental fee: 500 yen / set (includes earphones)
- ▶ Rental time: Between 9:00 and 17:00 for a period of up to 3 hours.

Please Note
*We require a copy of your passport when you rent an Audio Guide
*Audio Guide sets must be returned to the Visitor Center by 5 pm or you may have to pay a fine.
▶ Rental place: Visitor Center
TEL. +81-967-44-0076 (9:00 ~ 18:00)

USEFUL INFORMATION

Public Toilets
Public Toilets are located at the Visitor Center, "Shinsui Park" and at "Suzume Jigoku" parking lot.

Emergency Contact
Please call the number below in the event of an emergency or if you get lost or start to feel unwell during your hike.
CONTACT
KUROKAWA ONSEN RYOKAN ASSOCIATION (Visitor Center)
TEL.+81-967-44-0076

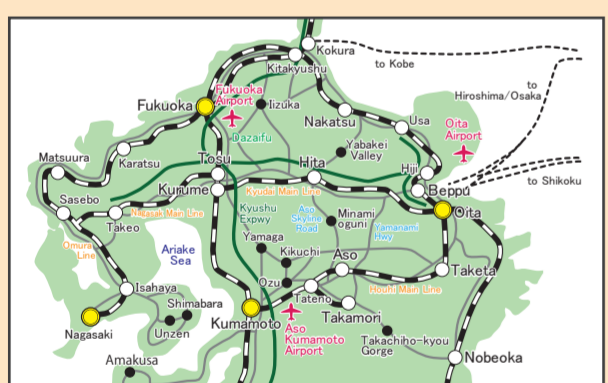
Drinking Water
Please make sure that you take adequate drinking water with you, especially in the summer months. The water from the streams and rivers in this area is NOT suitable for drinking.

Weather Conditions/Safety
During heavy rain some sections of the trail in 'Seiryu no Mori' may be flooded.

WALKING IN KUROKAWA English Map

黒川温泉 野みちをゆく

Map



Access

- From Fukuoka (via Hita I.C.)..... 2 h 30 min.
- From Kurume (via Hita I.C.)..... 2 h.
- From Kumamoto..... 1 h 30 min.
- From Beppu (via Yufuin I.C.)..... 1 h 30 min.
- From Hita..... 1h.

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Kurokawa Onsen lies nestled in a secluded and peaceful valley. During your visit, if time allows, why not take the opportunity to explore a little outside of the town itself and discover some breathtaking views and the nearby landscape of the Aso-Kuju National Park? From the Hirano Dai viewpoint on a clear day you can make out the form of the spectacular Sleeping Buddha in the distance, on a hot summer's day you can cool off in the shady woods at Seiryu no Mori, in autumn you can enjoy the changing colors all around and at any time of year you can wander around the intriguingly-named Suzume Jigoku (Sparrow Hell). Of course it goes without saying that a hike followed by a rotenburo(outdoor bath) and refreshments is the perfect combination and a wonderful way to spend half a day or so in Kurokawa...

HIKING ROUTES

There are three Hiking Routes around Kurokawa Onsen, each similar in length and using the Visitor Center as a Start/Finish point. You can rent an Audio Guide device from the Visitor Center for the duration of your hike for just 500yen. The English commentary provides descriptions of various places of interest at certain points along the hiking routes, or you can just use this hiking map and follow the signs to stay on the hiking course.

Route 1 ひとつやのぼり "Hitotsuyanobori"
 1-1 → 1-2 → 1-3 → 4 → 6 → 7 → 8&9
 Goal "Lover's Hill" Hirano Dai Plateau Viewing Point
 Approx 4km one way (1.5 hours)
 Enjoy views towards Mount Ikenomoto and back across Kurokawa. This is a moderate hike, mostly along paved surfaces and narrow roads and shaded by trees part of the way.

Route 2 まるぼのぼり "Marubanobori"
 2-1 → 2-2 → 2-3 → 5 → 6 → 7 → 8&9
 Goal "Lover's Hill" Hirano Dai Plateau Viewing Point
 Approx 4.3 km one way (1.5 hours)
 This is the hilliest and most challenging of the three hiking routes leading you along steep and narrow roads for the most part.

Route 3 わらびのぼり "Warabinobori"
 3-1 → 3-2 → 3-3 → 3-4 → 3-5&3-6 → 12 → 13 → 14 → 15 → 16 → 17&18
 Goal "Lover's Hill" Hirano Dai Plateau Viewing Point
 Approx 4km one way (1.5 hours)
 A route following alongside mountain streams and terraced paddy fields, not a difficult hike.

After approximately an hour's hiking from the Visitor Center, routes 1 and 2 merge and continue east towards an area containing the main points of interest, in particular Hirano Dai viewpoint. Route 3 however, which is a less hilly route suitable for rental electric bicycles, leads directly to Suzume Jigoku parking lot. From here we recommend that you hike up the natural trail through Seiryu no Mori to Hirano Dai viewpoint and back (1 hour) as this is the most beautiful section of the route. Or you may instead continue along the road which circuits Seiryu no Mori and leads to the Hirano Dai viewpoint. (approx. 15mins by bicycle)
 If you are pressed for time we suggest that you either drive, or take a taxi to either the Hirano Dai viewpoint or Suzume Jigoku parking lot and explore a little from there as this area provides the most interesting scenery.

*Of course, you may take as many photos as you like, but please do not pick the wildflowers or disturb the wildlife during your hike.

