

群馬県～温泉王国 Gunma ~ Onsen Kingdom

Gunma Prefecture lies in the north of the Kanto region and is only an hour from Tokyo by shinkansen. Despite being so close to Japan's capital city, Gunma abounds in natural resources with beautiful mountains and clear running streams. It has so many famous onsen – traditional Japanese hot springs – that Gunma is called the 'onsen kingdom'.



Onsen

Gunma boasts many excellent onsen. Among them, Kusatsu Onsen has long been popular for the quality of its hot springs, and it produces the highest volume of natural hot spring water in all Japan. Many people visit this thermal area to enjoy the Onsen-gai in the heart of Kusatsu where you can see the 'field of onsen' called Yubatake and watch the 'Yunomi Show' [left], which is performed to lower the temperature of the onsen.

Other Gunma onsen which are famous throughout Japan include Ikaho, Minakami and Shima Onsens, as well as Hoshi Onsen pictured above.



Nature

Surrounded by magnificent mountains such as Mt Tanigawadake [far right], every season has its own beauty in Gunma Prefecture. In winter, visitors can enjoy skiing and snowboarding on powder snow.

Agricultural produce

Top quality food is produced in Gunma thanks to its wonderful natural environment. You can enjoy several of them all at once in the one dish, *sukiyaki*, which is a great way to savour Joshu beef, *shirataki* (noodles made of *konnyaku* jelly), Shimonita leeks and shiitake mushrooms. The custom is to eat the *sukiyaki* after dipping it in a sauce of egg with soy sauce.



Industry

For centuries, the production of silk and silk items flourished in Gunma Prefecture. The prefecture was at the heart of the modernisation of this industry during the Meiji Period in Japan, and the Tomioka Silk Mill and Related Sites [below] are now a UNESCO World Heritage Site because of their cultural significance.



CONTRIBUTED BY: Bureau of Tourism, Gunma Prefectural Government

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