

Ozu

To recognize and support each other in the Hiji River basin city

“Fushikaden”

Ozu Fushikaden

There are countless things that seem to be lost with the flowing times and the changing era.

The beautiful natural scenery, rich history built by our ancestors, the institutions and customs passed down that we would like to protect dearly, and the passionate feelings of the many who have traveled between their hometown and Ozu.

There is past and there is present – this place remind us of that.

This is Ozu, where you can glimpse vestiges of its well-loved history.

In the beginning of the 15th century, Zeami (c.1363-c.1443 Japanese aesthetician, actor, and playwright) wrote on the aesthetic beauty of Japan in a book called "Fushikaden (Style and the Flower)".

We hope that this brochure will become the "Fushikaden" for Ozu.

We pray that those who read this brochure will rediscover the charm of Ozu and become elements that will further foster the town's vitality into the future.

With the Hiji River which flows unchanged from the ancient past, we will carve out a new history for ourselves.

Hiji River where refreshing wind blows, the "appearance" of history that Ozu Castle tells us now, the famous architecture that blooms like a flower in Shisei the legend surrounding Sakamoto Ryoma and such are the reasons why we named this booklet "Fushikaden" as it takes up the charm of Ozu from a variety of angles.

"Fushikaden" is the first book written about the Noh theory, the first in Japan by Zeami based on the testament by his father Kanami, and is also known as "Kadensho".



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Ozu-Fushikaden

Chapter of the Wind

Riverside journey that invites the wind


Meet a living landscape.

Rivers give rise to life. They foster industry and provide a route along which people and freight can be transported.

They serve as a gathering place that soothes people and provides tranquility.

Ehime Prefecture's longest Class A river at a total of 103 kilometers in length, the Hiji River is all of these things, and more.

The river has been a constant throughout the history of Ozu, which is known as the "Little Kyoto of Iyo."



River fishing on the Hiji River is a scene often seen from the past. From June to December is the ayu fishing, and from August to May is the crab fishing. There currently are approximately 1,000 river fishermen; the eel and bullhead and such are also bounties of the Hiji River.

With the Tosakatoge Pass as the watershed, Hiji River flows into the Iyonada Sea after collecting the flow of roughly 470 tributaries including the Kawabe River and Oda River.

The part of the river's name "Hiji" has been written using both the Chinese characters meaning "compare" and "will (比志)", and also the Chinese characters for "compare" and "government (比治)". There are many theories about its naming.

A commonly known theory is that it was named for its appearance of bending like an elbow (肘), or "Hiji" in Japanese.

Another theory says that it was named as such because it contains a great amount of soil, which can also be pronounced as "Hiji" in ancient times.

Hiji River is a presence that the people of Ozu could not do without.

There are records that during the Taisho Period (1912-1926) it housed about 40 river ports between which traveled as many as 400 boats.

To put it simply, the river played a role as a channel for distribution.

Timber cut upstream and agricultural products harvested midstream were carried downstream.

On the other hand, it carried upstream miscellaneous goods and food not available there. They were then delivered to mountain villages where these supplies were hard to get a hand on.

Lumber assembled into rafts and carried on the river was also a distinctive sight here, but it disappeared sometime in the early years of the Showa period (1926-1989).



Hiji River of blessing and nurturing

**Is Hiji River
a playground for everyone?
No it's a place to learn for everyone.**

In late August colorful canoes come together on the riverbed of Moriyama.

Looking closer, you will see the participants of the "Ozu canoe touring ekiden tournament" eagerly waiting for the signal to start.

This tournament which began in 1990, is composed of a 5-men team, relaying about 15 kilometers that are divided into 5 sections, the canoe itself being the baton.

Participants are increasing every year and it is exhilarating to see the 50 and more colorful canoes gliding on the river like a water slider.

After the tournament ends everyone works to beautify the Hiji River.

Participants become familiar with Hiji River and will learn many things while deepening ties with others.

In addition, the "Dragon Boat Tournament" will be held at Kanogawa Lake early August.

In this tournament, teams of 10 compete in a time trial race with 8 rowing, 1 steering and one keeping the rhythm playing the drums.

The race is a round-trip of 450 meters and the athletes and spectators alike get caught in the moment.

Meet a living landscape.



In the fall, with the lowering water temperature, ayu moves downstream to spawn. The seto-cast net fishing is aimed at these ayu moving downstream. The fishermen wades into the river and casts the net, confirming the existence of the fish and the cast shadows. River crab fishing is allowed during June and July. The caught crab can be enjoyed boiled or cooked together with rice.

Ayu (sweetfish), Kawakani (river crab), eel, bullhead, natural food storage

Hiji River is a river of blessing.

About 1000 fishermen fish in this river for ayu, kawakani, eel and bullhead.

There were more professional river fishermen in the past but with the environmental changes the numbers have decreased and the majority are now part-time fishermen.

Still the river fishermen proudly say "The condition of Hiji River is good, and we are able to fish good quality ayu".

The fishing method is determined by the species and ayu is allowed to be caught from June 1st to the end of the year, and are caught using a cast net, decoys and fly fishing.

Additionally, in autumn seto-cast fishing, where bamboo split into 5 cm widths are driven into the river at appropriate intervals to catch the ayu on their way downstream for spawning are caught. Ayu are scared of the seto-cast (bamboo) and make a U-turn upstream.

And the traditional fishing method is to use a throwing net there.

For kawakani fishing, a crabbing basket, and for eel fishing a jindo (also called hell) trap is used.

What is interesting is bullhead fishing.

A trap called four-hand net is set in advance and using a rope with turban shells dangling from it, moves the rope from upstream to downstream while making noises so the bullhead tries to escape the noise into the net.

The traditional fishing methods definitely involves much labor.

But in order to continue to live in harmony with the Hiji River, it's not something to be spared.

Gaina

The People of Ozu

Looking at the Hiji River as a river fisherman

Yasuo Nakatsuka

I have lived together with the Hiji River as a river fisherman for 30 years. What I always feel, is how beautiful Hiji River really is. I think there are not many rivers left in this country that still retain so much of its natural state like this river. I am a part-time river fisherman and cook, and take pride in catching a fish and cooking it and having the customers take joy in eating it.

* The term "Gaina" is a local dialect and means "amazing".

Art, wind and the deer



One step inside the Utamaro Pavilion, you will be drawn into the colorful world of Utamaro's ukiyo-e woodblock prints

The relationship between Utamaro and Ozu

In 1999, at the old town of Hijikawa, two woodblocks by the famous ukiyo-e artist Kitagawa Utamaro were discovered. The printing industry during the Edo period, including ukiyo-e were supported by woodblock printing technology and the first of these are the woodblocks.

The woodblocks were made from wild cherry wood. After being used, these blocks were recycled and carved down so a new pattern could be carved, and were eventually demolished; therefore only a few of these blocks remain.

Even for Utamaro where many of his printing exist, when it comes to woodblocks only two have been confirmed, one at the Watanabe Art Museum in Tottori and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston in the US.

Furthermore, the woodblocks found at Hijikawa were the right and left section of a 3 woodblock picture called "(Kitsune tsuri no zu)", and only the central part is missing.

The town then asked masters who have inherited the traditional woodblock art technology to restore these and through their efforts a full 3 sheet set of this block picture with brilliant colors came to life.

At the "Utamaro Museum" the discovered woodblocks and the restored woodblock prints are on display at all times to pass this important historical material to future generations.

Utensils and tools used by woodblock craftsmen and the production process are also exhibited as well as the customs of Edo during those times, and one can feel the allure of ukiyo-e and the breath of life the craftsmen who created these breathed into their work.

Look, we can see it!

Appearance of the wind which is not visible to the eye

The Hijikawa area where refreshing breeze blows is known for the town revitalization being conducted with "wind" as a theme.

At the center of this is the "Wind Museum".

Any movie, music, books, kites or windmills that is related to "wind" or titled "wind" are exhibited in this museum. Here one can enjoy and at the same time learn the relationship between man and wind.

It also has the first dragon collection exhibition corner in Japan.

Wind is something that is not visible to the eye, but by visiting this museum you will be sure to start seeing the invisible wind.

Meet a living landscape.



The woodblock prints to the right and left are what had been discovered in Hijikawa Town and the central section is what has been restored for the "Kitsune tsuri no zu" print.



The Utamaro woodblocks that were stored in a perfect condition



A scene at the "Tsutaya Koushodo", a picture book and wood print selling store that introduced Utamaro to the world is reproduced



At the "Wind Museum" exhibitions related to wind from not only within Japan but from the world are collected and exhibited



"Rokumeien" where at certain times of the year you can see cute fawns

The banks of the lake with a dam Deer and people paradise

Kanogawa Lake is a lake that was formed with the completion of a dam in 1959.

It's designated as a Hijikawa Prefecture Natural Park and is popular as a location to become familiar with and enjoy the four seasons.

Outdoor sports like fishing for Japanese white crucian carp ("hera-buna") and other carp, canoing and boating can be enjoyed. In the winter mandarin ducks come to live out the winter on the lake, and in the spring the cherry blossoms add color to the edge of the lake.

On the hill overlooking Kanogawa Lake, a leisure zone has also been formed.

At the Rokumeien where especially cute deer may greet you, the cozy Rokumeien Cabin, is gaining popularity with families.



Cherry blossoms at the Kanogawa Lake in the springtime



Traditional tase of Hiji River

Stroll leisurely through the old town in a jinrikisha (rickshaw)

Ozu, which flourished from the old times as a castle town flourished most in the Konan district. And the symbol of the prosperity was the "Ohanahan Street".

This street got this name because the televised NHK morning TV drama "Ohanahan" was shot in this location in 1966. Paved with cobblestones, with waterways where carps swim, this plaster walled and storehouse buildings are mainly from the Meiji to the Taisho period.

It is just the ideal location for a drama set but even now, people live here peacefully and are engaged in business.

The streets leading from this "Ohanahan Street" to Shihomachi Street and onward to Ebisu Street all have distinctively different atmosphere and is the perfect location for a stroll.

The northern end of the east side of Ebisu Street is where elegant samurai estates and namako walled storehouses are located, and is famous for being a "Meiji era housing" street.

If you want to travel in the same neighborhood with a different eye, we highly suggest the "Ozu town scape and tourism jinrikisha (rickshaw)".

The slow laid-back speed is well suited to this nostalgic town.

Meet a living landscape.



The "Ozu's Fireworks Festival Display" is held on August 3rd and 4th on the riverbanks of Hiji River. During the 2 days of the festival, about 4,000 fireworks decorate the sky.



Ukai (cormorant fishing) is held from June 1 to September 20. Two types of houseboats are available, to be chartered, or to be ridden with other passengers



The houseboat is where you can feel the charm of Hiji River and the basin with the five senses.



Fireworks, Ukai (cormorant fishing), Imotaki (taro cooking) Tradition nurtured by Hiji River

Hiji River has also become a stage for seasonal tradition. One of them is the "Ozu's Fireworks Festival Display" held during the summer.

People gather on the riverbed of Hiji River or the Ozu Castle, or and such places where they want to view the fireworks from and watch the large flowers blooming in the night sky.

The "Ozu ukai for tourists (cormorant fishing)" was started in 1957 and is considered to be one of the three main cormorant fishing in Japan, and features the longest course riding on the houseboat downstream.

At dusk, spectators riding a houseboat will dine and wine on board.

When the surrounding is shrouded in darkness, cormorant ships with bonfires burning red start to appear and the cormorants manipulated by their keeper dive down to catch the ayu.

The perfectly matched performance of the cormorant keeper and the cormorant and the wind that races across the surface of the wind that races across the surface of the river will make you forget the summer heat.


Hiji River is also the stage of the "Imotaki" (taro cooking) which starts in late August and is held until late October.

In a large pot erected on the river bed, summer roots (taro), konjac, poultry, shitake mushrooms, fried tofu and other ingredients are simmered.

Everyone gathers around the pot, and drinks sake to promote friendship among themselves.

Live with Hiji River It is said to be a connection unique to the people of Ozu.

Gaina



The People of Ozu

Usho (the second master cormorant keeper in Japan)

Kozue Sasaki

I was born near the Hiji River and due to lucky circumstance, was able to make Hiji River my workplace as well. Hiji River is beautiful to view from the river bank but when you ride on the boat and are nestled in the bosom of the river, it brings an indescribable sense of security. Our mission in life is to pass this beautiful river over to the next generation. While many things rapidly change in these times, we would like this presence to be an unchangeable presence.

And to Iyonada Sea



The Nagahama Ohashi Bridge cost 290 thousand yen (in those days) and took two years to construct from 1933

What blooms on the Goro riverbed is the love of the citizens

In 1991, 15 people from Goro in Ozu City launched the “Goro Committee to love flowers” and started a town revitalization movement, growing broccolini in spring, and cosmos in the autumn.

“We really didn’t promote ourselves but the number of participants increased every year, and now in March we hold a broccolini flower festival” says Chairman Sadao Fujita.

Because the flower field that is managed by Mr. Fujita and his group can be viewed from the embankment, it may be that the reputation of this field spread by word of mouth by people who saw the flowers. Then, broccolini, sunflowers and cosmos flower field managed by the Ozu Agricultural High School were created, and the Goro riverbed became the place to go to enjoy the flowers during spring, summer and autumn.

This means that Mr. Fujita and his group managed to let their love for flowers blossom into something large.



Chairman Fujita of the “Goro Committee to love flowers” (right) and Vice-chairman Takaaki Mise

Once a week the Akabashi does a good job

In Ozu, you can come across a mysterious natural phenomenon.

From late autumn to winter, fog often makes an appearance on the Ozu basin.

When this fog moves down to the estuary with the wind, the “Hijikawa Arashi Storm” (strong winds accompanied by fog) occurs.

The Hijikawa Arashi Storm sometimes reaches offshore of Iyonada Sea as well.

When the “Hijikawa Arashi Storm” occurs, a breathtaking view of the beautiful sea of clouds can be seen from the Kinzan Shusseki temple at an altitude of 820 meters.

The Nagahama Ohashi Bridge that extends across the Hiji River estuary (commonly known as the Akabashi or the red bridge), was built as a prefecture road bridge in 1935.

The bridge, 226 meters long, and 5.5 meters wide, which was constructed with a mechanism to let the middle

Meet a living landscape.



The mechanism is like that for a well to reduce the action of opening and closing so the power necessary to operate is 7.5 horsepower or 2 electric motors. It can also be operated manually during power failure. It was registered as a tangible cultural property in 1998.

Scenery around Nagahama Ohashi Bridge around 1935

portion of the bridge to open up, is the oldest bridge (Bascule type opening and closing steel bridge) with moving section in Japan.

Why does the middle section of the bridge go up?

It's because in the times when the Hiji River was used as a distribution route, it enabled the larger boats carrying lumber and such to pass under the bridge.

But this Akabashi was in active service only until around 1965.

With the advance in motorization, large ships traveling the river were slowly dying and becoming a thing of the past and the role of the movable bridge was over.

A new Nagahama Ohashi Bridge was constructed in 1977.

The traffic volume for Akabashi has plummeted drastically.

However this bridge, which supported their industry and life for a long time, holds fond memories for the people who have lived here.

In summer, Nagahama Akabashi summer festival is held here at the edge of the bridge.

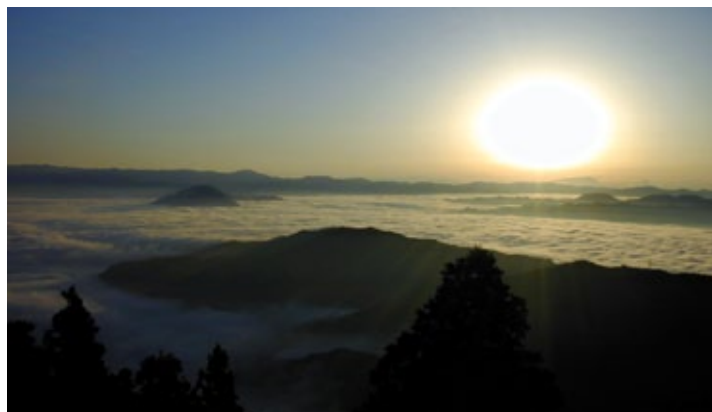
In addition, once a week, on Sunday afternoons, the movable section is moved once as part of the inspection.

This bridge with a definite existence over the Hiji River, is gently observing the life of the citizens.



This temple which is surrounded by natural forest is a famous temple going back 1200 years.

On a clear day one can see straight to the mountains in the Chugoku and Kyushu regions and the Ishizuchi mountain range. The rising sun from the sea of clouds that can be seen early in the day during the winter months is a masterpiece in itself.



A tapestry of seasonal flowers

The city of Ozu is adorned with beautiful flowers that bloom progressively throughout the year, creating a picturesque landscape that inspires and excites residents and visitors alike. Discover how spending a leisurely journey enjoying the city's floral beauty can soothe your heart and fill your soul with joy.

What marks the coming of spring at Ozu are the broccolini flowers making the Hiji River riverbed and Nagahama district yellow as if a carpet was spread on the ground.

The cute and adorable flower will evoke the child in the people who see them.

The cherry blossoms at Ozu Castle and at Kanogawa Lake, and the double-flowered cherry blossoms at Gion Park will make what is a familiar scenery into something that is exceptional.

One of the ways to enjoy the city is to tour the flower points scattered throughout the city.

Tomisuyama Park is where one of Japan's leading Azalea garden is located, and during golden week (end-Apr to early May) 63,000 bushes of azaleas blossom in the park.

In addition, at the only flower paradise in Ehime called Maruyama Park, one can enjoy looking at a variety of flowers such as azaleas, calanthe, kerria, forsythia, double-flowered cherry blossoms etc..

Above all, through April-May, about 3000 rhododendron bushes bloom and fill the surrounding air with a sweet fragrance.

At Ozu Flower Park you will be greeted by many flowers especially during spring and summer.

There are places where you can enjoy the forest which are popular with the families and couples.

There are many other flower spots in Ozu where you can see hydrangea, iris, cosmos and other flowers, so exploring Ozu will become a fun thing to look forward to.



Ozu Flower Spots

- Inariyama Park / Autumn leaves
- Ozu Castle-Shiroyama Park / Somei-yoshino cherry tree, iris
- Kanogawa Park-Kanogawa Lake / Somei-yoshino cherry tree, azalea
- Garyusanjo (mountain villa) / Leopard plant
- Gion Park / Double-flowered cherry blossoms
- Kinzan Shusseki temple / Hydrangea
- Kushu Iris Garden / Iris
- Goro riverbed-underneath Hatanomae Bridge / broccolini, sunflower, cosmos
- Sarugataki Park / Wisteria
- Shirataki Park / Autumn leaves
- Tomisuyama/ Azalea, Somei-yoshino cherry tree
- Broccolini highway / Broccolini
- Niiya Iris Garden / Iris
- Japanese Calanthe Garden / Calanthe
- Flower Park Ozu / Tulip, pansy, poppy, broccolini, cosmos, marigold
- Furusato Park / Azalea
- Maruyama Park / Rhododendron, azalea, calanthe, kerria, forsythia, double-flowered cherry blossoms
- Youshunin temple / Hydrangea



- 1 Tomisuyama is renowned as one of the famous places in west Japan to see the azaleas. Every year the Azalea Festival is held from late April.
- 2 Goro riverbed where broccolini flowers bloom over a 7 hectare equivalent field.
- 3 The rhododendron are in full bloom at Maruyama park from mid to late April. When they are blooming a "Rhododendron Festival" is also held.
- 4 When the cherry blossoms are blooming, Ozu Castle is a scenic splendor indeed. Many flower viewing visitors also come to visit.
- 5 This is how the Nagahama area looks as pretty broccolini flowers bloom along the Yosan train tracks. The view of these broccolini flowers from the train is also highly admired.
- 6 The 3,000 hydrangea bushes along the path to Kinzan Shusseki temple. Because it is located in a mountainous area at an altitude of 820m, the flowers are later to bloom than on the plains, and fully blooms from early to mid-July.
- 7 Flower Park Ozu when the tulips are in bloom. The perfect spot to enjoy with family.
- 8 Flower Park Ozu when the cosmos are in bloom. After the cosmos, marigold flowers will bloom.

Taste history at Ozu Castle

Long ago, the city's name of "Ozu" was written with different kanji characters than are used today.

After becoming the feudal lords of the area at the end of the Kamakura period, the Utsunomiya family built a castle at Ozu and ruled for about 230 years, until the Sengoku period.

Later, more modern castles were built while Ozu was ruled by the Todo and Wakisaka families.



Ozu Castle pictorial diagram from the 5th year of Genroku (1692) (Ozu City Museum)

A famous castle at Little Kyoto of Iyo

The castle was built by Lord Takatora Todo

The Utsunomiya clan who reigned about 230 years from the Kamakura period to Sengoku period ended with Naoyuki Ohno, their vassal depriving them of their feudal lord rank during the reign of Toyotsuna Utsunomiya. During the times of the Toyotomi regime, Ozu Castle changed ownership very rapidly, from Katsutaka Toda, Takatora Todo, to Takasuke Ikeda.

After the Battle of Sekigahara, by his achievements, Takatora Todo was given half of the Iyo domain including Nanyo and in the 13th year of Keicho (1608) when Takatora moved to Ise · Iga, Yasuharu Wakizaka moved here the following year as the 53,000 koku castle owner.

During the era of Todo and Wakizaka, Ozu Castle was reinforced into a modern castle.

Through the Siege of Osaka in the 3rd year of Genna (1617), Wakizaka was forcibly relocated to Shinano-iida and in his stead, Sadayasu Kato was sent from Yonago Clan as a 60,000 koku castle owner. Six years later, when Sadayasu suddenly died, his eldest son Yasuoki at 13 years old inherited the family estate and in the 16th

year of Kanei (1639) internally divided 10,000 koku to his younger brother Naoyasu. With this, the Niiya Clan was born which continued until the Meiji Restoration.

The name of this location was changed from “Otsu” to “Ozu” during the Yasuoki reign. The Ozu clan was well known as an academic land and Yasuoki especially was committed to strengthening the clan, and is known by future generations as the wise lord who did a lot of public service. When he was 64 years old, he entrusted the clan to his grandson, Yasutsune Kato, and after retirement, shaved his head and changed his name to Gessou. Gessou passed away 3 years afterwards and is currently interred at Nyoho Temple, which is a historical and well-known Temple, overlooking the Hiji River.



Public portrait of Sadayasu Kato, the first Ozu clan lord



Interior of the restored castle tower



Creation of Japanese nails during the Ozu Castle restoration



Master craftsmen who were involved in the construction

Fortification story of the castle in the Heisei period

Four Yagura Turrets left behind

The reign of the 13 generations of the Kato Clan lasted for approximately 250 years. During this time, despite ordeals related to nature such as flooding of Hiji River, the country was never once the site of any battles. Due to this, various cultures aged in Ozu and many buildings and specialities remain to this day. The warm and genial spring weather period ended with the Meiji government abolishing the clan system.

Unfortunately the Ozu Castle keep, the residence of generations of the Kato clan, were demolished in the 21st year of Meiji (1888). What remained were the four yagura turrets, Daidokoro Yagura Turret and Koran Yagura Turret located on Honmarru at the Shiroyama summit, Owata Yagura Turret located on the east corner of the Ninomaru Bailey, and Sannomaru Minami Sumi Yagura Turret located at the south corner of the outer moat of the Sannomaru Bailey. corridors to the keep (Shiroyama summit, main keep Daidokoro Yagura Turret, Koran Yagura Turret, south corner of third enclosure).

For a long time the citizens would look at these turrets and remember the old days. However there were increasing momentum to rebuild the castle. In response to this, in the 16th year of Heisei (2004), the Ozu Castle of the Heisei Period was completed.

Beyond the 400 years of time

When reconstructing Ozu Castle, the major theme was to reproduce the Ozu Castle as it was in the old days as much as possible. For example, the design was based on old pictures and tower stationary from the Edo period, and photographs from the Meiji period.

And not only the appearance, but the materials and the construction method as well, was kept as much as possible to how it was done to the old castle. So, for construction they invited skilled carpenter from Toyama prefecture specializing in temples, shrines and etc. In addition the local carpenters who wanted to have a hand in the construction "build our castle with our own hands" participated in the construction. They all together made the wooden



The Sannomaru Minami Sumi Yagura Turret of Ozu Castle that was reconstructed in the 3rd year of Meiwa (1766)



Exhibition at the Castle tower



Koran Yagura Turret that was reconstructed in the late Edo period

framework and tackled the very difficult task of coating the white plaster. With a lot of trials and tribulations, finally, the four-layer four floor magnificent castle was completed. This is not just a simple restoration. From the nageshi and taruki (beam running between columns in traditional Japanese architecture) to the Japanese nails used for the raft, every one of the pieces were crafted using the old method in truth, it was “building a castle”. And, beyond the 400 years of time, the master carpenter of the Edo period and the contemporary carpenters have come together to unite. Currently there are only 12 castles left that were constructed during the feudal government period. In the twelve old castles, the Matsuyama Castle and Uwajima Castle from Ehime Prefecture are included. Of course in terms of history, our castle may not hold a candle to these constructed castles. However, in terms of building the castle, the feelings that were put there by all who took part in the construction, overwhelms what happened and is no way inferior.

Beautiful as a picture of one width

The height of the four-layer four floor magnificent castle constructed on where the original keep used to stand, is 19.15 meters. After the war, there were 4 fully-fledged wooden castle restoration in Japan, but Ozu Castle is the tallest of them all. Furthermore not only the castle tower but the Tamon Yagura Turret connecting the Daidokoro Yagura Turret and Koran Yagura Turret were also constructed, and this poise is magnificently reproducing what is called a double-articulated tower.

Hiji River is a symbol of Ozu. There are numerous viewpoints to view the Hiji River like Garyu Sanso, Tomisuyama, or the Hiji River bridge, but the Hiji River viewed from the Ozu Castle is one rank above the rest. And the appearance of Ozu Castle from the banks of Hiji River is a beauty that surpasses it.

Gaina



The People of Ozu

Ozu Castle castle tower restoration project carpenter union

Representative

Takatsugu Sugano

We, the local carpenters, with our feeling of “build our castle with our own hands” wrote a letter to the contractor. Our joy when we received the reply “Let’s do it together” cannot be expressed with words. We immediately formed a union and by living together with the carpenters, we deepened our relationship. We feel the restoration of Ozu Castle was aided by the ties between the people.

The great scholar from the Ozu clan Footprint of Toju Nakae

The 15 year old who succeeded to become the heir of
one hundred koku

There is one person we should not forget when looking into the history of Ozu. Confucian scholar - Toju Nakae from the early Edo period. Toju was born in Omi province in the 13th year of Keicho (1608) and became the adopted son of his grandfather who was a vassal of Lord Sadayasu Kato, in the Yonago province. The following year in the 3rd year of Genna (1617) the Kato clan was moved to Ozu, and the grandparents also moved to Ozu. He inherited the 100 koku at 15 years of age, and at 25, tried to get his mother who lived alone in Omi to move to Ozu, but was stubbornly denied. With his thoughts about his mother and anxiety about his own health, Toju asked for permission to resign from the Clan but was denied permission, and chose instead to leave the clan at the age of 27.



Portrait of Toju drawn by Yotoku Wakamiya, the Ozu clan patronage painter (Ozu City Museum)

Toju was expecting a severe punishment and waited in Kyoto for pursuers to catch up with him, but in the end, he was not punished. After returning to his hometown, he opened a private school “Toju Shoin” to educate the common people, and he dedicated his life to “Ko” to investigate and enlighten the filial piety for the heart of a million people. People would reflect back and respect Toju as “Saint Omi”.

Root of Japan’s yangmingism

The interpretation of Confucianism which started with Confucius had Neo-Confucianism and yangmingism. Neo-Confucianism justifies the secular identification order, and was accepted as a teaching of the shogunate. On the other hand, yangmingism says that anyone regardless of rank or status, has a “conscience” at birth and must correctly develop this heart. The first stance Toju took was Neo-Confucianism, but as he studied deeper, he started to harbor doubts about the doctrines of Neo-Confucianism. The book he met when he returned to his hometown was the “Complete works of yangmingism” and this allowed him to eliminate all his doubts. Because of this, Toju was positioned as the “Root of Japan’s yangmingism”.

Ozu and Toju

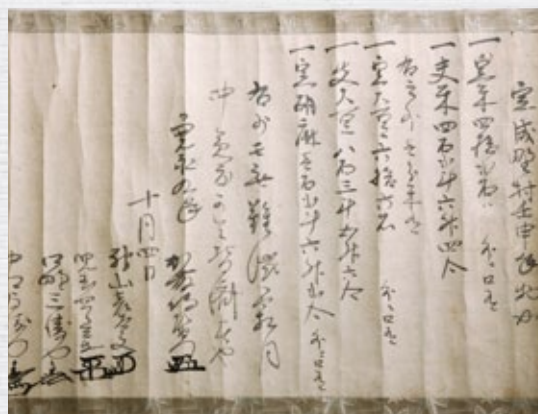
The period Toju spent in Ozu is not that long. But the Ozu clan members attended the academic school run by Toju on the way to and on the way back from Edo. In addition, the celebration movement for Toju in Ozu was started in the middle of the Edo period and has continued until the present day, showing how deep his influence still is. Numerous historically related sites also exist in Ozu. There are two remains of where Toju lived, one is where the Ozu Elementary School is located, the house he lived in as an adult is located in the Prefectural Ozu high school in the location where his house stood. There was a well called “Water of Nakae” at the time. Also the “Shitokudo” which was built in the 14th year of Showa (1939) as an imitation of samurai houses of those times, is a location where you can sense the virtue.

At the Ozu City Museum, there are historical materials related to Toju. The diploma with the signature of “Youemon Nakae” dated the 9th year of Kanei (1632) that defines the formation of the Naruno village annual tribute and the portrait of Toju drawn by Yotoku Wakamiya, the Ozu clan patronage painter of the later Edo period and such, all treasure class materials.

For 360 years from the period of Toju, Ozu has existed as a land associated with Toju and has learned much from Toju and continued to expand the future of the land.



Water of Nakae



“Narunomura Jinshinnotoshi mononari wo sadamu” that was signed in the 9th year of Kanei (1632) (Ozu Municipal Museum)



Shitokudo

Welcome

to the stage of drama

**Movie “Otoko wa Tsurai yo”
(It's tough being a man)**

Otonosama Park

The “Otonosama Park” on the banks of the Hiji River is a historical park in which the “Old Kato family main house” built in the 14th year of Taisho (1925) (country registration tangible cultural property) and the “Ozu Castle Sannomaru Minami Sumi Yagura Turret” are. In the Movie “Otoko wa Tsurai yo-Torajiro to tonosama” (It's tough being a man-Torajiro the lord) released in the 52nd year of Showa (1977) the “old Kato family main house” was used for the lord's residence. The prestigious residence worthy of the old feudal lords is a must-see.

The secret confectionery
of the Ozu clan's Edo mansion

Shigure

The Ozu confection "Shigure" is a wagashi made with azuki beans and glutinous rice that are then steamed. It has a history of being originally a secret confectionery of Ozu clan's Edo mansion. The chewy texture and the elegant sweetness is a special feature of this confectionery, and several confectionery shops in the city provide their own improved "Shigure".



Feudal cuisine as a famous Ozu delicacy

A rich culture flourished in Ozu during the feudal period, giving rise to among other things, to famous cuisine.

This article introduces some well-loved local food culture whose roots can be traced back to feudal origins.

Deepen the friendship while
surrounding the pot at the
dry riverbed.

“Imotaki” (taro cooking)

The “Imotaki” (taro cooking) that is held every year from late summer to autumn at the Hiji riverbed was started more than 300 years ago. The summer taro are simmered in a large pot and eaten while admiring the harvest moon. This practice, they say, originated with “Okomori” (to confine to a shrine or temple for a certain period of time to pray to the gods) that was held for fellowship purposes in the Edo period. This is an amiable practice that is appropriate for the productive season of autumn.





Even the Shogun smacks
his lips

Ayu no Kanroni (sweet simmered ayu)

Kanroni, natural ayu caught at Hiji River that are carefully simmered for a long time with sugar, soy sauce and sake was a historical dish offered as a gift from the Ozu clan to the Shogun. It is also referred locally as "amedaki" or candy cooking and it's characteristic is that it is simmered for a long time so that the whole fish, from the head to the tail, can be eaten.

You can have a taste of them at the local restaurants.



Rice cakes loved by the
wise man

Gessoumochi

Bearing the issue of the 2nd clan lord Yasutsune Kato, "Gessoumochi" is azuki bean paste wrapped in bracken mochi made using a unique process, and sprinkled with blue soybean powder for an elegant mochi cake. Gessou also loved this confectionary and took it along with him as gift when going for sankin-kōtai ("alternate attendance", a feudal lord's alternate-year residence in Edo). A long-established store founded in the 1st year of Kanei (1624) still makes this confectionary in the same way it was made hundreds of years ago.



Famous architecture bloom in the ancient capital

Befitting its reputation as the “Little Kyoto of Iyo”, Ozu is a veritable treasure house of historical architecture.

Extravagant monasteries, ancient Buddhist temples, brick buildings that tell the history of local industry…

all of these bear witness to the passage of time by teaching us what the city was like in times long past.

Don't miss the famous buildings of Iyo's Little Kyoto, which bloom like so many flowers.



Nestled in the number one scenic area of Hiji River

Garyu Sanso (mountain villa)

The Garyu pool which is said to be the premier scenic spot for Hiji River has a story that the 3rd feudal lord Yasutsune Kato said that "Mount Horai (Mount Penglai) looks like a dragon lying down" and thus named this location. The Garyusanso (mountain villa) is standing in a location overlooking the Garyu pool. Originally, it was a garden created by Kanbei Watanabe, a senior statesman for Takatora Todo during the Bunroku period (1592-1596). It is said that Lord Yasutsune planted yoshino-cherry trees and Tatsuta maple and others to make the garden look even more deeply interesting. Since then, this place has become a playground for the successive lords, and comforted the heart of these lords. During the Meiji period further landscaping was performed. Torajiro Kouchi, a businessman from Ozu who made a fortune in Japan wax and silk, who was from Ozu City, built the Garyuin, Furoan and Chisian, which took 10 years to conceptualize, 4 years to build, with 9,000 manpower. The buildings were designed by Jinbei Yagi, the Kyoto teahouse architect, the handiwork was done by Kyoto Senke Jyusshoku, the construction by famous carpenters from Kyoto and Ozu and the painting and writing was requested to authority at that time, with an impressive array of people being involved in the design and construction.

Garyuin or the main house is a neat (The style of residential architecture with features of a detached tea-ceremony house.) building. It is said that the villa was designed based on references from famous imperial villas in Kyoto such as Katsura Rikyu, Shugakuin Rikyu, Nashmoto-no-miya Otsunegoten, and the open latticework on the handrail, and the Yakusugi ceiling and others are intricate in details, showing the work of skilled craftsmen.

The Furoan which is also a sukiya-zukuri building is built like a stage that juts out over the river, and the building itself is likened to a ship. On a moonlit night, the light of the moon reflects off the river to the curved ceiling, so the building is very chic, incorporating such intricate tricks.

Chisian was originally built as a bathroom but in the 24th year of Showa (1949) renovated into a tea house. The name "Chisi" that this building is named after is derived from the concept that the academic Toju Nakae had.

In addition, the garden which took 10 years to create by "Uetoku", a gardener from Kobe, is famous for effectively using old trees, stepping stones and moss with Tomisuyama, Jinrakuyama and Hiji River as a background.



Opened by the 2nd Lord of Ozu, Yasutsune Kato



Nyoho Temple

Located east of Garyu pool, in the middle of Tomisuyama, Nyoho Temple is an ancient temple that was opened on the 9th year of Kanbun (1669). It was founded by Yasutsune Kato, the 2nd Ozu lord, and it is said the temple was opened by Youtaku Bankei, a Zen priest from the early Edo period. Thereafter it flourished as a family temple of the Ozu clan and had many branch temples in the Edo period. The existing Buddhist sanctum, was erected in the 10th year of Kanbun (1670), and has been designated as an important cultural property of the country.

With an Irimoya-styled roof, this Buddhist sanctum, covered in deep green, is full of hidden beauty. In addition, the moss covered stone lanterns and the Chōzubachi (washbasin for ablution), and the Jizodo are spectacular as well.



Jinya (administrative headquarters of a small domain) of Niiya Clan, the branch clan of the Ozu Clan



Rinpo-kaku

The Jinya is a 10,000 koku of the Niiya Clan, a branch of the Ozu Clan. Sadayasu Kato, the first lord of Ozu, left a will instructing his heir, Yasuoki (2nd lord of Ozu), to give 10,000 koku of the 60,000 koku that the Ozu domain had to his second son Naoyasu. Yasuoki kept his word and gave the Jinya of the Niiya Clan to Naoyasu on the 19th year of Kanei (1642). The Rinpo-kaku is what remains as the holdover from the council office which was built in the 4th year of Keio (1868). It is a typical samurai building of the Edo period and a subtle elegance can be felt in the humble building. Currently, the site where the Jinya used to be is the Niiya Elementary School, and the Rinpo-kaku quietly looks over the children.



Overflowing with the scent of cultural enlightenment



Ozu Red Brick Building

From the end of the Edo period, the sericulture and silk industry had flourished in Ozu. For this reason, in the middle of the Meiji period, the immediate issue became the development of a financial institution. So in the 29th year of Meiji (1896), the Ozu Commercial Bank was established at the request of the locals. When the bank was opened, it was housed in a residential area, but as the business prospered, a new western style building was constructed in the 34th year of Meiji (1901). This building is a brick building built in the UK fashion but with a Japanese style hipped roof, a combination of east and west structures. Currently the building is called the Ozu Red Brick Building and has a gallery and a resting space, and relays sightseeing information.



A place of healing from the old days of the Taisho period
(1912-1926)



Oyabu Onsen

Oyabu Onsen is located in the deep mountains by a mountain stream in Ehime Prefecture where there are many famous onsen, and was crowded from ancient times with people who came for a cure. The main building is a wooden three-story structure and is said to have been completed during the mid-Taisho period (Taisho period: 1912-1926). It is registered as a tangible cultural property of Japan. It is constructed in an irimoya style (hip-and-gable roof) with a tiled crosspiece with corridors, and is an imposing building with an entrance, hall and resting space on the 2nd floor. On the first floor there is a dining room and a room with an old-fashioned hearth where the river fish can be cooked in the pot hanging on a hook and directly on charcoal. The building with the bath was built in the Showa period, so it is also brimming with atmosphere.

Healing hot water

In a public inn surrounded by nature,

relax in the hot spring while viewing the Kanogawa Lake.



Ozu City Exchange Promotion Center Kanogawa Lake Villa



The wide window in the bath which overlooks the lake is also the pride of this Kanogawa Lake Villa. The clinging hot springs will help to improve your skin.



The facility on top of the hill is popular with families and groups

The “Ozu City Exchange Promotion Center Kanogawa Lake Villa” is a public inn located on a hill overlooking the Kanogawa Dam. While being nestled in the green mountains, it is possible to spend a hot and soothing moment. The bath that this inn can be proud of is the natural hot spring (spa) that day visitors can use as well. The spacious bathroom has a large glazed glass window on one side, so you can address the view of the lake while stretching your arms and legs in the bath.

The hot spring composition is hypotonic alkaline cold mineral spring, and is said to be effective for neuralgia, muscle pain, joint pain, fatigue recovery, health promotion, and is also popular as "water for beautiful skin". A sauna, waterfall shower and coral bath -these variety of baths are part of the fun as well.

The tastefully furnished guest rooms come in 4 types - single, twin, Japanese-style room, and a special room. Ingredients such as dwarf rill trout and Japanese char that can be said to be mountain ingredients are served in the restaurant. There are places in the facility where one can rest a while after taking a bath.

Kawabe Hometown Inn



The dining room can be used by day guests as well. The dishes served with all the mother's heart poured into it is hearty and delicious.



It is said that those who graduated from this school drop by feeling nostalgic.

The Daigo elementary school where 150 students attended during the peak period.

But the number of students gradually dwindled and it was forced to be closed in 1977.

The remaining school building became a meeting hall and a folk museum, but the number of users did not increase.

So in June 1988, it was opened as "Kawabe Hometown Inn" where people who were from the town could stay when they came back to visit.

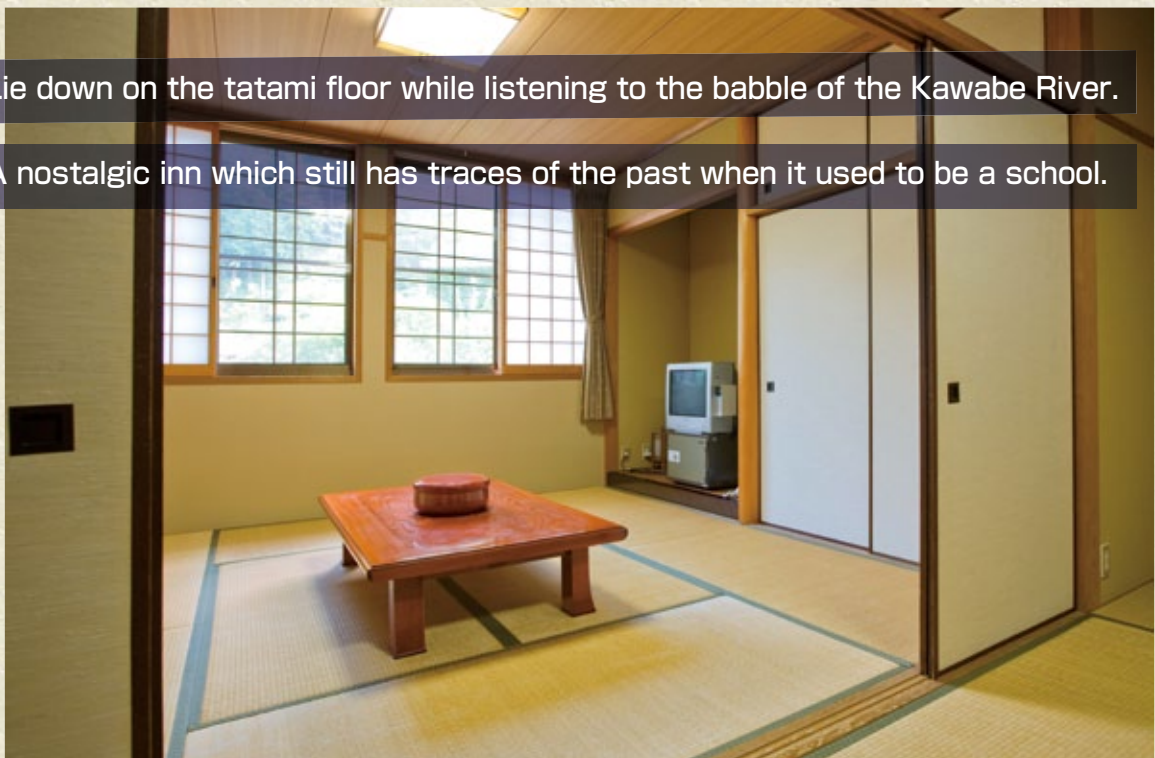
In order to take advantage of the school as an inn, renovations were made to the large classrooms to make them into smaller tatami-mat guest rooms. In addition, wide verandas, baths, a kitchen and a dining room were also created. The local mothers wield their pots and pans to cook in the kitchen. Dwarf rill trout and rainbow trout made into sashimi or salt grilled, hog hot-pot and pheasant sukiyaki, and mountain vegetable dishes are very popular among the staying guests. Above all, the original Satsuma soup using dwarf rill trout is popular as being simple in taste.

The Kawabe River which flows near the inn and the scenic covered bridge and such fill the area surrounding the inn with lots of nostalgia. There is a "Dappan no hi Memorial Pavilion" near the inn which is loved by Ryoma fans.

Inn of relaxation

Lie down on the tatami floor while listening to the babble of the Kawabe River.

A nostalgic inn which still has traces of the past when it used to be a school.



伝 Sakamoto Ryoma and Ozu

There is a widely accepted theory that Sakamoto Ryoma passed through Ozu. He is said to have spent the night before leaving, at Shunpei and Shingo Nasu's house (father and son) in the town of Yusuhara Kochi Prefecture. Upon leaving the island of Shikoku, he then sought the assistance of Tomiya Kinbei, a merchant in Ozu's Nagahama district. In short, Ryoma chose to follow a route that allowed him to benefit from the aid of many allies.

The first step of Dappan was in the land of Ozu

Foot of the covered bridge

Ozu City, Kawabe district.

This district, located upstream of Kawabe River which is one of the tributaries of the Hiji River is surrounded on all sides by mountains. The village is reminiscent of the original landscape of Japan, and is scattered with covered bridges that are called Roman Eight Bridges.

To begin with, the covered bridges were, not only a road to connect the livelihood of the people living there, but a place to store their crops, firewood, charcoal and agricultural machines. In addition, on the approach to the shrine, the covered bridge is said to have been born of the deep faith of the ancient people. In the Shikoku area there is a custom where we warmly entertain the pilgrims. There is a legend that the bridge was built with a roof by the local people who were concerned, so that these travelers would have a place to stay out of the rain.

By one of the Roman Eight Bridges, at the foot of Miyuki Bridge is a stone monument called "road where Ryoma Sakamoto had passed". This Miyuki Bridge was a bridge that was laid when the Ten Shrine was founded in the 2nd year of Anei (1773) and has been rebuilt several times.

The current bridge was built in the 19th year of Meiji (1886). With the pine tree bark used as a roofing, the bridge also uses zelkova tree lumber, and was built without using a single nail, which makes it full of uniqueness and style.



The Miyuki Bridge that is surrounded by a lush growth of trees



The Honen Bridge that was created by relocating the bridge that had spanned the Kawabe River



Ryuo Bridge located on the road leading to Akitaki Ryuo Shrine

Across the border to Iyo

Sakamoto Ryoma on March 24 in the 2nd year of Bunkyo (1862) performed a farewell ceremony as a final parting at the Warei Shrine in Kochi City, the guardian deity of Saitani-ya (trade name of where he was born), and ran to find freedom from Yusuvara in Kochi Prefecture to Nagahama in Iyo.

Ryoma fans gather from all over the country

In recent years, a growing number of Ryoma fans follow the route Ryoma took to Dappan (becoming a lordless samurai). What sparked this interest was the “Walk the Ryoma Dappan no michi in Straw Sandals” event that started at the former Kawabe village in 1989. While this is an event where you walk the road that Ryoma walked through the Kawabe mountainside, many people, young and old, men and women gather every year. There are many Ryoma fans who come here from far away outside the prefecture; they proceed through the harsh mountain road while being healed by the tranquil nature surrounding them. In addition, there are now a night festival prior to the “Walk in Straw Sandals” event and a shorter walking route; Kawabe has now become a place that Ryoma fans want to visit at least once.

The statue of the flight, erected in 1998. From the left, Sawamura Sonojo, Sakamoto Ryoma, Nasu Shunbei. The expression on all three of their faces are full of hope and strong determination.





Dappan no hi Memorial Pavillion interior appearance



Dappan no hi Memorial Pavillion (panel corner)



Dappan no hi Memorial Pavillion (left) and Saitani-ya (right)



Dappan no hi Memorial Pavillion (diorama)

Museum to learn about the Dappan route

Virtual Dappan experience

At Kawabe there is a museum where you can virtually experience the Dappan route took by Ryoma. This is the “Sakamoto Ryoma Dappan no hi Memorial Pavillion” located on the banks of the Kawabe River. The facility is all about Ryoma. In the panel exhibition corner introducing friends of Ryoma, you will be surprised at how wide it is. From the shadow art reproducing the scene where Ryoka decides to Dappan (becoming a lordless samurai) and relays that to his older sister, one is impressed at his strong determination. In addition, it is possible to imagine walking beside Ryoma while he walked to his freedom by the detailed photographs and dioramas. Adjacent to the pavillion is the "Exchange Center Saitani-ya", a public inn named after “Saitani-ya” the trade name of where Ryoma was born. The Japanese style building was made using lots of lumber and in the large living room is a nostalgic hearth. Sit comfortably beside the hearth sipping the sake that Ryoma loved, and talk with others there about Ryoma. Just across from the Exchange center and the river is the bronze statue of Sakamoto Ryoma, Sawamura Sonojo and Nasu Shunpei, called the “Statue of flight” which can not be overlooked.



**Preservation Society of Kawabe
Sakamoto Ryoma Dappn no michi**

Vice Chairman

Yoshiteru Umeki

In 1988 a local paper ran an article about a new theory that “Ryoma conducted Dappan by crossing Kawabe” and us volunteers formed a preservation society. When we first started, we never expected that it would continue this long, or that it would increasingly liven up with the years. That many people gather in the Kawabe that is usually very quiet and give us local people their energy, that is a great joy. For myself, to walk the Dappan no michi has become a pleasure to look forward to.



Dappan route reminiscent of Ryoma of the era

From the calm sea to a turbulent life

Message of the wind

The Dappan no michi that Ryoma took is mostly a mountain path that is at times relentless, though it crosses over some rural roads and forest roads. This almost defunct road is maintained and preserved mainly by the Preservation Society of Kawabe Sakamoto Ryoma Dappan no michi and other local volunteers. Along the way there are sudden appearances of waterfalls with torrential sound. There are mountain scenes that almost look like something out of an old story. And all of a sudden you will be aware of the total quietness where all you can hear is the sound of your breath and the leaves underneath your feet. You will breathe, and feel the mysterious silence of nature around you.

What did Ryoma see here? What did he think? The fairly simple act of “walking” will lead you into the philosophical world of thinking.

About 15 km from the Enokigatouge pass, the Izumigatouge pass is where presumably Ryoma passed the night on the Dappan no michi. The goal for “Walk in Straw sandals” event is here. Between the forest trees there is a monument engraved with “Accommodation point”.

What did Ryoma dream of when he slept here on an improvised bed he made the first night after he started walking the Dappan route towards freedom? If you close your eyes and listen to the sound of the wind and the shaking branches of the trees you may be able to be a step closer to his state of mind. It may have been a message from Ryoma himself.

From Nagahama in Iyo to the big world.

When Ryoma and his group departed Izumigatouge pass, they boarded a riverboat at Shukuma village (current Uchiko-town) and is said to have gone downstream from Oda River to Hiji River. There are places associated with Ryoma at the Nagahama district, at the entranceway to the Hiji River as well. One of them is the “Tomiya Kinbei house” located in the immediate vicinity of the Nagahama Ohashi Bridge. The Tomiya family members were wealthy merchants wealthy merchant that for generations were dyers, and Kinbei aggressively doing his business also aggressively supported the loyal imperialists. Torataro Yoshimura had committed Dappan ahead of Ryoma, and he had asked Kinbei to take care of Ryoma. For Ryoma, being offered the kind hospitality of Kinbei must have brought tears to his eyes as he was probably totally exhausted. Even now the descendants of Kinbei live in the Tomiya house, and a stone monument inscribed “Accommodation place where Sakamoto Ryoma and Yoshimura Torataro stayed” is quietly standing there. The next day, Ryoma set sail from the



Estuary of Hiji River dyed crimson at sunset and the Seto Inland Sea

harbor at Ego to Choshu. From Nagahama in Iyo to the big world. The stormy and stressful life of Ryoma continued to accelerate.

Seto Inland Sea where the Iroha-maru sleeps

In 2010, an interesting document on the Ozu clan was made public. It is a purchase agreement for the "Iroha-maru". Iroha-maru was a steamship purchased by the Ozu clan on the 2nd year of Keio (1866) and was loaned to the Tosa Kaientai Troops lead by Ryoma on April 8 of the following year. But only 15 days after this, while on a voyage from Nagasaki to Osaka on April 23, it collided with the Kishu Clan Steamboat Meiko-maru at Bingo-nada. All the cargo on the ship became feed for the fishes in the ocean. It is famous that at this time the Tosa Kaientai Troops, hoping to reclaim the damage that was done, conducted the first marine accident investigation with the Kishu-clan.

For a long time it was said that the Iroha-maru was purchased from a Dutchman called Bauduin, but upon investigation of the contract, it was found that the ship was purchased from the Portuguese consul.

At Tomonoura, (Fukuyama City, Hiroshima Prefecture) in the Seto Inland Sea that spreads out from Nagahama Port, still lies the Iroha-maru, sleeping at the bottom of the ocean. Solving of the mystery of Ryoma's life and the history surrounding him starts here.



Tomiya house Ryoma was offered kind hospitality from Kinbei here. Do not bother the Tomiya family currently in residence there.

Welcome

to the stage of drama



Movie "Onnanoko Monogatari"
(girl's story)

Sea of Nagahama

The movie "Onnanoko Monogatari" released in 2009 was based on an original manga written by Rieko Saibara who is originally from Kochi Prefecture. One of the main shooting location chosen for the movie was Ozu City, the land of the beautiful mountain, river and sea. The scenes that appear in the movie are the Hatanomae Bridge blooming with sunflowers from one end to the other, and the banks of Goro and the sea of Nagahama. The lyrical landscape of Ozu have further enhanced the excitement of the movie.

Furusato (hometown) Ozu Sparkling Map

Lots of places to see and enjoy
Thoroughly experience
the charm of Ozu

Sparkling Town view



Vestiges of a bygone era can still be seen in Ozu. The Konan district is one of those, developing as a castle town in the Edo period and as a base for the booming local economy during the Meiji and later periods. The "Ohanahan-street" where the warehouses are plastered white (photo) and the "Meiji era housing" where substantial residential houses are, are nostalgic streets and tie the past to the present, and speak eloquently of the history of Ozu.

Sparkling Nature



"Sanbaidani fall" (photo) is a beautiful 15 m waterfall located in the upstream of the Kibishi river in Kawabe district. One can view the majestic figure from Ryujin Bridge, one of the Roman eight Bridges. There also is a "Shirataki" about 6 km upstream from the mouth of the Hiji River, famous for the autumn leaves. The 60 m high waterfall acclaimed by the poet, Ujo Noguchi is famous for being the stage for "Ruri Hime Festival". In addition, about 3,000 mandarin ducks fly into "Kanogawa Lake" from November to February which is a must-see.



Sparkling Village, Riches of the soil



Ozu City is blessed with fertile soil and water, and has a thriving production of vegetables, rice, citrus, bamboo shoots and chestnuts. The "Miracle shiitake mushroom" that is a registered trademark of the Forestry Cooperative and the Ehime Taiki Agricultural Cooperative and such "Ozu brand agricultural products" are actively carried out. These local products are available at "Taiki direct selling Aitaina", "Road Side Station Seiryu no Sato Hijikawa river" and "Ozu Town Station Asamoya".



Sparkling Landscape



The "Alpine menhir (photo)" is said to be over 2,000 years old and one can see such mysterious landscape produced by people and by nature. The "human face rock" overlooking the Nagahama Honai Line (prefectural road) is a rock that was carved by a stone mason when the road was completed 150 years ago from Magaribuchi to Kushu. The rock is 5m high and 3m wide and it feels like the large rock is protecting the people as they come and go. Other than that the Lion rock of Kushu is also famous.

Sparkling Cultural assets



In Ozu you can encounter not only valuable cultural assets but the sparkling river and mountain assets as well. The wooden "Juichimenkannon" designated as an important cultural property of the country is the main deity of the Banshouzan Zuiryou Temple (Okiura Kannon) and is said to be created during the Heian period, about 1,000 years ago. The "Mokuzoshakanyorai-zazo" that is enshrined in the main hall of the Shusseki temple was created during the Nanbokucho period (1336-1392) and is a prefectural designated tangible cultural property. In this temple there is a cooper bell "Doushou" (nationally designated important cultural property) that is said to be an offering by Takatora Todo.

Sparkling River, Sea



Ayu, bullhead, kawakani and natural ayu that grow in the beautiful stream of Hiji River have become the favorite of the people who visit Ozu City, especially ayu because it was presented to the Shogun as grilled or as kanroni. On the other hand, fresh caught seafood from Iyonada Sea is also popular. The blowfish especially which is considered as a luxurious delicacy, mainly in the Nagahama area is offered as a full course consisting of sashimi, hot pots, deep-fried and cooked with rice.

Aiming to create a town that is brimming with vitality

Ozu City is located in the western part of Ehime Prefecture, and the prefecture's largest first-rate river "Hiji River" flows slowly through the center of the city, and pours out to the Seto Inland Sea. The fertile soil from the mother river nurtures the land so it is suitable for agriculture, and during the generations of feudal domains, Ozu prospered as a castle town of 60,000 koku. The townscape where the atmosphere of the castle town remains and the rural beauty of the Hiji River has made the town also be called as "Little Kyoto of Iyo" and "Riverside District Ozu".

In addition, Tomisuyama in the springtime is decorated with "Somei-yoshino cherry trees" and "Azaleas" and in the summer with "Ukai (cormorant fishing)" and from autumn to winter is when the "Hijikawa Arashi Storm" blows to make a fantastic unique world, weaving the Ozu landscape with the four seasons.

In this age of full-fledged decentralization, the mission that has been imposed on local governments, we think, is to take responsibility and determination to activate the local region.

Under these circumstances, we feel that the activation measures sought for the region are for the citizens, companies and local government to cooperate with each other to make effective use of the local resources, and to transmit information to increase the existing population.

We will work just as hard from now on to "Aim to create a town that is brimming with vitality".

This municipal census handbook is to enable the youthful generation who will be responsible for the next stage to connect with "Ozu as it is now", and to introduce the major policy initiatives and the citizens who work hard in the region; and to follow the footsteps of Sakamoto Ryoma that remains in Ozu. We hope and pray that this booklet will help you in understanding the planning of Ozu City.





Ozu City Mayor
Hiroshi Shimizu





Ozu City Comprehensive Plan

Sparkling creation of

Ozu City

~ To recognize and support each other in the Hiji River basin city ~

City planning that highlights nature

Preserving and utilizing nature and conserving the Earth's environment

Trees, rivers, village communities, the ocean... The rich natural landscape and environment of Ozu is the common heritage of all residents.

Today, the community is coming together to take the action necessary to ensure that this important legacy can be passed down intact to the next generation.



72 % of the city limits is covered with rich forests, and the fields around the Hiji River and its surrounding, and the coastline of Iyonada Sea and such are what makes Ozu City natural scenery beautiful and makes us proud. In this wonderful environment, citizens live a life with purpose, so that their life in the future can be maintained, along with the attempt to conserve and improve water sources in the forest, as well as conservation and creation of the natural environment and natural landscape of nearby rivers and Iyonada Sea and mountains, we will strive for biodiversity. Especially regarding the Hiji River, we will cooperate together with the cities and towns through which the river flows, and maintain the clean river by promoting educational activities towards conservation. Each citizen must also in their daily lives consider the amount of detergent used as well as throwing away waste matters illegally if you want to keep the river purified.

In addition, we would like to actively promote opportunities for environmental education and environmental learning as school education and lifelong education.

Furthermore, regarding the global warming and resource saving that is a common global problem, we would like to structure a sustainable society for the future, and enable to hand over a secure global environment to the next generation, and promote administrative initiatives to control carbon dioxide emissions as well as cooperate between the citizens and business to strengthen efforts. Regarding conservation of resources, we aim to achieve a variety of approaches from reviewing the current life styles to the introduction of new earth energy friendly to the local environment.

This is what I love about Ozu!

We love Ozu City



Ozu city which is my second hometown is attractive with friendly people and charming nature

I turn settlers

Ajwang Amon Otieno

I am from Kenya, but I have lived in Ozu, my wife's hometown from 10 years ago. The people of Ozu are kind and the nature is very beautiful. The fact that they cherish the forest and the river, I think is also wonderful.

City planning that highlights culture

Enriching preschool education, school education, and adult education

Today, the need to foster vitality among children is a key issue for all of society. To that end, it is important for the community to join together so that all residents can learn and work together



Some of the major problems faced by the regional community are the progress of core families, low birthrate and the increase of our elderly population. These problems decrease the chance for children to play with other children and interact with the elderly and other people in the community as well as experiencing nature or crafting experience or “learning” in the process of interacting with other people. In addition, we cannot deny that the attitude of “parenting by everyone in the community” or “help each other” is fading away and it is possible that this erosion of community strength may have an impact on various things. So first, to make sure that our children grow up healthy and be responsible for the region, we conduct support enhancement and of early childhood education in the home and community, and at the same time, enhance pre-school education, transmit child-rearing information and enhance outgoing and fun learning opportunities.

In addition, the opportunity to create a connection between parents, foster a growing momentum to watch the children throughout the community, such as the support of child care circles, is the direction of our ideas and we also would like to clarify the direction taken to develop the town by our citizens.

In school education, an emphasis on improvement of motivation and academic ability to learn, in order to nurture a "zest for living" for the children, we review the educational environment from both sides of the mind and body. At the same time we are also working on the development of a safe and comfortable educational environment.

In addition to these efforts in order for that each citizen to be able to continue touching on new knowledge and culture over a lifetime, and live a rich spiritual life, we will support a variety of activities, including activation of cultural and physical activities.

This is what I love about Ozu!

We love Ozu City

**Various cultures alive in Ozu
If drums can tie the times together**

Ozu Garyu Drum Preservation Society
Chihiro Yamada

We, in Ozu, have a great historical heritage such as Garyu Sanso, Ozu Castle and the town-scape. We wish that our drums have a connecting role for the diverse cultures of Ozu, and show how wonderful Ozu really is.



City planning that highlights peace of mind

Fostering health for all residents and enriching the regional medical system

The first and most important step in assuring the ability of all residents to enjoy a healthy and safe life is for each and every resident to take a new look at his or her daily life. The city of Ozu is working to offer concrete support for this endeavor in the form of both infrastructure and services.



In the year 2000, with a developing aging society, and increase in lifestyle-related diseases, and the disturbing food eating habits of the children and the decrease in physical condition, the country developed a national health movement called "National Health Promotion Movement in the 21st Century" (Healthy Japan 21). In addition Health Promotion Law in 2002, and the Basic Food Education Law in 2005 were determined to promote health for the whole country.

In order to respond to these developments in 2004 in Ozu we developed "You're the castle lord!

Using healthy dishes (Healthy Japan 21, Ozu City plan version)" under the slogan of "I have the leading role in health promotion" and in cooperation with related organizations, we have promoted health.

In order to further activate these movements, we carried out health education and health checkups tailored to each life stage, and continue to support health promotion.

Specifically, the improvement of children's eating habits and exercises, support for mental health maintenance for pregnant women and infants, classrooms for promoting physical and mental health for the elderly so they can be self-supporting - we are working to resolve the issues for each generation.

In addition, while enhancing the initial medical care by a "family doctor" for each region, we are also strengthening the provision and emergency medical systems of high-quality medical services.

In terms of welfare we will promote the building of a "Universal Designed Town Plans" so that it is easy to live, especially

for the children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. We will not just solicit cooperation from the government but from the citizens and businesses as well.

This is what I love about Ozu!

We love Ozu City



What gave me a goal in life was my experience swimming in the Hiji River at an young age

Japan Paralympic contestant

Kazuki Saso
(South Ozu Junior High School teacher)

When my leg became disabled, I remembered how I used to swim in the Hiji River when I was young, and started swimming again. I will further challenge these as an athlete and as a leader and give back what I owe to Ozu.

City planning that highlights dynamic vitality

Expanding and developing industry through a series of aggressive initiatives

The city of Ozu is rich in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries that take advantage of the surrounding area's natural bounty. To ensure a bright future, the city is pursuing a well-balanced policy of industrial promotion that seeks to foster the development of a new generation of workers while building new systems and structures and facilitating partnerships between industry and commerce.



Sparkling vitality for town development. What is first required is the promotion of the primary and secondary industry for the expansion and development of each industry in a proactive approach to produce the vitality of the region.

In particular, Ozu City has been blessed with a fertile soil and first class quality water of the Hiji River, and has evolved as the prefecture's leading agricultural zone, and is known for thriving with vegetables, rice, wheat, soy, citrus cultivation, and animal husbandry. On the other hand, the lack of successors faced by farmers all over Japan is by no means an exception at Ozu City. It is essential to first ensure motivated leaders, develop agricultural production corporations, and more, and create a safe and secure "Ozu brand agricultural products" and PR these. And not only have the agriculture officials and government become supporters of the agricultural products of Ozu, but the citizens of Ozu as well.

In Ozu City where 72% of the total area is occupied by the forest, the effective utilization and protection of the forest is essential. At the same time, we are focusing on the promotion of agriculture and fisheries in Hiji River and Iyonada Sea. For example, Ozu is "5th in production of shiitake mushrooms in the municipal unit in the country (2008 annual production)", and "Miracle shiitake mushroom" is how we branded that shitake mushroom. Reputation in the market is also very good.

Not only agriculture, forestry and fisheries industry, but also attracting factories, supporting new enterprises in cooperation with agricultural, forestry, and fisheries industries, and furthermore provision of commercial service that is bustling and vibrant, are an important issue to build a good industrial structure with balance. Through these initiatives, we will create a stable employment.

This is what I love about Ozu!

We love Ozu City



We can do it because it's Ozu Challenging a new style of farming

Agriculture successor
Tsuyoshi Ninomiya

It has been over 6 years since I took over the farm, and I am not only involved in cultivation but also operate a pear and sweet potato farm for tourists. Because Ozu has good advantages in the soil, many customers come and the exchange I have with them is what encourages me.

City planning that highlights a pleasant lifestyle

Developing robust infrastructure and healthy living environments and assuring safety

There is an urgent need to pursue city planning in a way that fosters a pleasant lifestyle by developing transportation and other infrastructure.

Going forward, the city will strive to become an appealing community including through initiatives to beautify the local landscape



In 1993 Ozu City was designated as "Yawatahama and Ozu area basae urban area" and a succession of large-scale commercial facilities and corporations advanced, resulting in many jobs being created. On the other hand, there is a decrease in commercial business in the existing central city, and in the intermediate regional area. A project promoting business with a star plan is currently being developed in the framework of Ozu City urban planning. It aims to activate existing urban area by the development of roads, parks, sewers, and such life infrastructure. At the same time planned development of the Higashi-ozu district, strengthening of disaster prevention of the urban area, promotion of settling the younger people and such overall environmental improvement are being looked into.

For the maintenance of the road network and ports, with the opening of the Matsuyama Expressway between Iyo - Ozu, access has dramatically improved to Kansai and Chugoku regions. At the local harbor Nagahama Port, we are promoting the expansion and maintenance of the port area. The development of other public transportation network, as well as information network is also an important issue. Especially for the information network, utilization and promotion of Ozu City's intranet in cooperation with citizens and telecommunication operations, improvement of utilization, editing and transmission capacity of information of the citizens and operations, and correction of the information gap in the region will be conducted. In addition to these, creating a beautiful landscape that is unique to this land which is worthy of the "Beautiful city award" we received in 2005, and taking advantage of the historical town scape, we will create a fascinating Ozu City.

This is what I love about Ozu!



We love Ozu City

**Safe child-rearing while being supported by the local government
The anxiety and loneliness of child-rearing can be eliminated**

Housewife
Mayumi Goto

I am in the midst of child-rearing and what I appreciate more than anything else is the various support offered by the regional support center. They will listen to any anxiety I have and provide me with the opportunity to make friends with people in similar situations.

City planning that highlights people

Pursuing resident participation, broad interaction, and healthy administrative and financial governance

With four cities, towns, and villages coming together to form the new city of Ozu, there is greater need for interaction and partnership among residents than ever before. The city is committed to helping residents of all ages enjoy fulfilling lives.



In 2005, the 4 municipalities merged together to create a new Ozu City. Since then, we have actively carried out more than we did previously, such as exchanges between the citizens to unite their feelings in order to create a unique town taking advantage of the characteristics of each region.

And for a town development where the citizens are more active and independent, we have enhanced the provision of local government information and town planning information, and expanded the participation opportunities for citizens towards policy formation and planning.

We will actively promote town development activities where the citizens and the local government cooperate with each other. Also with the Ozu City Promotion of Gender Equality ordinance in 2005, and the Ozu City Promotion of Gender Equality planning in 2006, Awareness-rising activities utilizing various public relations and an “Ozu women’s cram school” was held to realize a gender-equal society.

Regardless of gender, we aim to create an environment where individuality and ability can be sufficiently exhibited.

For a society where human rights are respected for every citizen, we will promote education on human rights as well as human rights awareness activities at homes, schools, local communities and workplace. We will focus on enhancement of the counseling system too.

We will also focus on sports that help healthy development, maintenance of health, and help enhancement, and provide dreams, hopes and excitement to the people. We will bring brightness and vitality to the city by supporting and attracting professional sports practices and national sports tournaments. We will then strive to enhance the inter-regional exchanges and international exchanges, and lead these to the activation of the region. We will also work with full power to bring financial soundness to the local government.

This is what I love about Ozu!

We love Ozu City



Let us bring excitement to the town together!

To be blessed with such friends

Pokopen Yokocho instigators

(From left) **Akira Otani, Motoshi Hiromi**

The Pocopen Yokocho is where the small time candy stores and antique shops are and is the transmission point for events by the citizens. The presence of people in our group who enjoy what we are attempting to do becomes our driving force.

Government and City Assembly

The Ozu City town development has the following 7 issues: "success with the settlement of the young people", "human resources responsible for the future", "vibrant industry", "mutual support and health", "rich nature and safety" "healthy citizens" and "autonomy, self-reliance". In response to these issues, we set a specific target of "sparkling people Town development for sparkling people", "knowledge and action town development" and "cooperative and working town development".

In response to this fundamental principle, a future of Ozu City was drawn "Sparkling and creative Ozu ~To recognize and support each other in the Hiji River basin ~" joining forces with our citizens, we will support each other and live in the beautiful and sparkling natural environment, work creatively, and realize a lifestyle that is spiritually rich.

In addition, we are promoting the "Hiji River symbiosis project", "children's future project", "cultural creation projects", "welfare project for health and peace of mind", "vibrant creative project" and the "regional forces creative project" as concrete symbol projects. With these reforms, for efficient implementation of effective government that is responsive to the needs of the citizens who are increasingly diverse and sophisticated, we will aim to manage the local government hand-in-hand together with our citizens.

At the city assembly, each member will constantly have an awareness of the issues, and think together with the citizens about how to steadfastly deal with the issues with the prospect of a better Ozu City, and step forward together. We plan on utilizing the affairs planning committee, welfare committee on education and the industrial construction committee, which are internal organizations of the city assembly, realize a better town planning while carefully deliberating and reflecting the voices of the citizens.



Center: Hiroshi Shimizu City Mayor
Left: Kenichi Kojima Vice City Mayor
Right: Tadashi Kanamoto Education Superintendent



Seasonal *Diary* beauty of Ozu

A rich variety of seasonal events held throughout the city provide unparalleled opportunities to share in the joy brought on by Ozu's rich history and natural beauty.

From late March:
From late March:

From early April:

Early April: Cherry Blossom Festival [Ozu Castle: until April 25]
Early April: Kanogawa Rhododendron Festival [Maruyama Park, Hijikawa Town: until April 30]
Early April: Garyu pass [Nyoho Temple dry riverbed: Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays until May]
Early April: young ayu released [Nyoho Temple riverbed]
Early April: Hiji River excursion [Hiji River: until October]
Early April: Hijikawa Town haiku competition, tea party [Hijikawa Wind Museum]
Early April: Rhododendron gate ball tournament [Oodaba fureai square]
17th: Okiura Kannon Spring festival [Banshouzan Zuiryou Temple]

From 20th: Large Calanthe Exhibition [Japan Calanthe Gardens: until May 5]
Mid-April: Ochado Azalea Festival [Hirano]
Mid-April: Hataki Cherry Blossom Festival [Gion Park: until end April]
Late April: Tomisuyama Azalea Festival [Tomisuyama Park: until mid-May]



May 3:
Late May:

Okawa Koinobori over the river [Okawa]
Jizodo firefly Festival [Hirano]

June 1:
Early June:
Early June:
Early June:

Ukai (cormorant fishing) starts (afternoon ukai: every Sunday) [Hiji River: until September 20]
Yanagisawa Firefly Festival [Yanagisawa]
Iris Festival [Niiya]
Kushu Iris Festival [Kushu]



July 1:
Early July:
Mid-July:
Mid-July:
July 21:
Late July:

Sports Park pool opening [Hirano Sports Park]
Nagahama Ohashi Illumination lights up [Nagahama: until September]
Prayer for Ocean Safety Festival [Nagahama beach]
Road Station Night Market [Clear stream village of Hijikawa]
Suitengu Fireworks [Nyoho Temple dry riverbed]
Junior Triathlon [Green Park]



August 3, 4:
Early August:
Early August:
Early August:
Early August:
August 13:
August 14:
Mid-August:
Mid-August:
Late August:
Late August:

Ozu's River Fireworks Festival Display [Kohoku dry riverbed, Konan dry riverbed]
Nagahama Akabashi Summer Festival [Akabashi Square]
Dragon Boat Tournament [Kanogawa Lake]
Kanogawa Summer Festival [Kanogawa mall and others]
Pear Farm for tourists [Kamisugai]
Yamatosaka Night Kagura [Former Iwaya Elementary School]
Kawabe Furusato Festival [Kawabe Furusato Park]
Aoshima Bon Odori [Aoshima]
Ehime YOSAKOI Festival [Green Park and other locations]
Canoe Touring Ekiden Tournament [Hiji River]
Imotaki [Kohoku riverbed, Nyoho Temple riverbed until late October]



September
2nd Sunday:

Mid-September:

September 23:

Walk the Ryoma Dappan no michi in Straw Sandals [Kawabe Furusato Park starting point]
Tourism Sweet Potato Garden [Kamisugai Matsukubo Complex]
Mountain Stream Fishing Tournament [Kawabe Hometown Inn]



Early October:
2nd Sunday:
Mid-October:
Mid-October:

Citizen Athletic Meet [Hirano Sports Park]
Kawabe Fureai Festa [Kawabe Hometown Inn]
Ozu Music Festival [Civic Center]
Science Experience Festival [Seishounen Koryu no Ie]

November 1:

November 2, 3:
November 3:

3rd Sunday:
Mid-November:

November 23:
Late November:

Late November:

Japanese Maple Festival [Shirataki Park, Niiya Inariyama Park: until November 30]
Ozu Festival [various locations in the city]
Ozu Roman Festival, Festival Square [Konan, Green Park]
Shirataki Waterfall Festival [Shirataki Park]
Hijikawa Fureai Festival [adjacent to Wind Museum]
Ruri Hime Festa [Shirataki Park]
Unkai Festival [Unkai Observation Park]
Ozu City Ekiden Tournament [Nagahama - Ozu]



Before or after
December 1:

End December:

Road Station Anniversary Event [Clear stream village of Hijikawa]
Strawberry Farm for tourists [Higashiwakamiya, Sugeta: until late May]



January 9 -11:
Early January:

Early January:

Ebisu Festival [Ozu Shrine]
Coming-of-Age Day Ceremony [Civic Center]
Midwinter Swim Meet [Hiji River]

Early February:
Early February:

Ozu City Health Marathon [Hirano Sports Park]
Hataki Gion Festival [Gion Shrine]

Early March:

3rd Sunday:
Mid-March:

Mid-March:

Sea Breeze Walk Broccolini Tournament [Nagahama - Futami]
Pokopen Festival [Omoide Square]
Goro Broccolini Festival [Goro riverbed]
Broccolini Festa [Hatanomae riverbed]



- Summer: Parent and a child concert [Civic Center]
Ozu Summer University [Civic Center]
- Autumn: Ozu Music Festival [Civic Center]
- Every Sunday (April-November), 3rd Sunday (December-March): Pocopen Yokocho [Omoide Square]
- 3rd Saturday of every month: Nagahama free space [Nagahama Honmachi street]

INTERVIEW

Love letters to Ozu

Enjoy these love letters addressed to Ozu
by people who were born and raised here,
and who love their hometown dearly.



©Takarazuka Revue Company

I want to shine as a Takara-jenne from Ozu City

Takarazuka Revue Company Snow Troupe Sakina Ayakaze

It's amazing that 6 years have flown by since I left my hometown of Ozu. I have a very fulfilling everyday life but even so, when I go back to Ozu I feel relaxed and filled with a warm feeling. What jumps to the eye when I return home is Tomisuyama. Since I was a child, my family and friends went to see the azaleas and orienteering at field trips from school, and the fact is, I have a lot of fun memories of Tomisuyama. From the observatory at the top, I used to look down at my house and the school...it almost seems like yesterday. The fireworks display that takes place at Hiji River was also one of the events I really looked forward to. The fireworks flowing to the river surface like a waterfall was a favorite of mine. Oh yes! And the memorable Imotaki. Until I left Ozu, I thought Imotaki was a practice anywhere in Japan. Now it seems funny that I thought so. The delicious broth and the soft taro roots... I sometimes yearn to eat them again. For everyone in Ozu, Takarazuka may seem far away. But we do performances in Ehime and in Shikoku as well too when we are on a national tour. I would definitely like everyone to see a Takarazuka Revue. I will continue to perform as a Takara-jenne from Ozu City and do my best on stage. And on my days off I would like to return to Ozu to reenergize myself.

PROFILE

Sakina Ayakaze

Born on February 13 in Ozu. After graduating from the Public North Ozu Junior High School, she entered Takarazuka Music school. Her debut was in March 2007 on "Secret Hunter" with the Snow Troupe. In 2010 rookie performance on "Dawn at Solferino". Her hobby is reading.

INTERVIEW
Love letters
to Ozu



The "Ozu Daifuku" is also an Ono brand product. Ms. Miyoshi's senior students developed the sweet potato daifuku and the apple pear daifuku. Ms. Miyoshi and the group made the broccolini daifuku and the shitake mushroom daifuku. The cute package and the wrap were also designed by the students. The daifuku and the udon are both sold at Taiki direct selling Aitaina store and such.

I want to boast about the specialty products of Ozu

Ozu Agricultural High School
3rd year Food Chemistry

Mari Miyoshi



We at the Food Chemistry of the Ozu Agricultural High School have developed a variety of original food through comprehensive training and research. Development is done by students in groups, and the major theme requirement is that we take advantage of agricultural products from Ozu. There are also cases where we carry out assignments at the request of companies and organizations. The Shiitake Mushroom udon and the shiitake mushroom daifuku that we developed came about from a request from the Ozu City Forestry Association requesting "food using shiitake mushroom from Ozu". In fact, the senior students already produced "Miracle cookies" and

these are just a part of the whole. I was in charge of the udon, and though the image of mixing the dried and powdered shiitake mushroom into the udon wheat and mixing it was in my mind... in actual fact when trying to make it, the particle size of the shiitake mushroom powder was too large and the udon dough was flakey or the scent was a bit too much when smelling it ... it was hard to create a product that I really wanted. After repeated trial and tasting, I did not want to see or smell a shiitake mushroom anymore. But because of our struggles, we were very pleased with the finished products. We ourselves sell the products on Saturday and Sunday at the JA direct sales stores but what I enjoy hearing very much is to have the local people tell us how they enjoyed the products and how "delicious" it was. And it was an extra harvest for us to have achieved a deeper understanding of the specialty of Ozu, our homeland.

Postcards connecting hearts

Ozu High School Hidamarinokai

Yuko Hosokawa



From the right, Aya Ohno, Yuko Hosokawa, Mariko Yano

Hidamarinokai writes postcards to the elderly people living by themselves in Ozu district.

What brought this about was an elderly person living alone who died alone in the neighborhood.

Receiving a great shock, and wondering what we high school students can do, we came up with writing postcards. So with Aya Ohno, Mariko Yano and myself, we went to the principal at our school for consultation and the principal said "there are privacy and financial issues but let's do it, the school will help out" and cheered us on our way, and we were

able to clear many of the problems. I recruited students to write postcards and 100 students volunteered and we were able to send postcards to 160 people.

Many also received a reply and in some cases, it has developed into a correspondence.

It was a better-than-expected response. We have asked the junior students to continue with this activity and I myself would like to continue to be involved in this activity even after I graduate.



"I was so glad many people in my group decided to cooperate" says Ms. Hosokawa



By coming in contact with people of all ages, the communication skills of the students are improving drastically. This is one lesson you cannot learn in the classroom.

Widely appealing the nature of Ozu

Nagahama High School
Natural Sciences Division

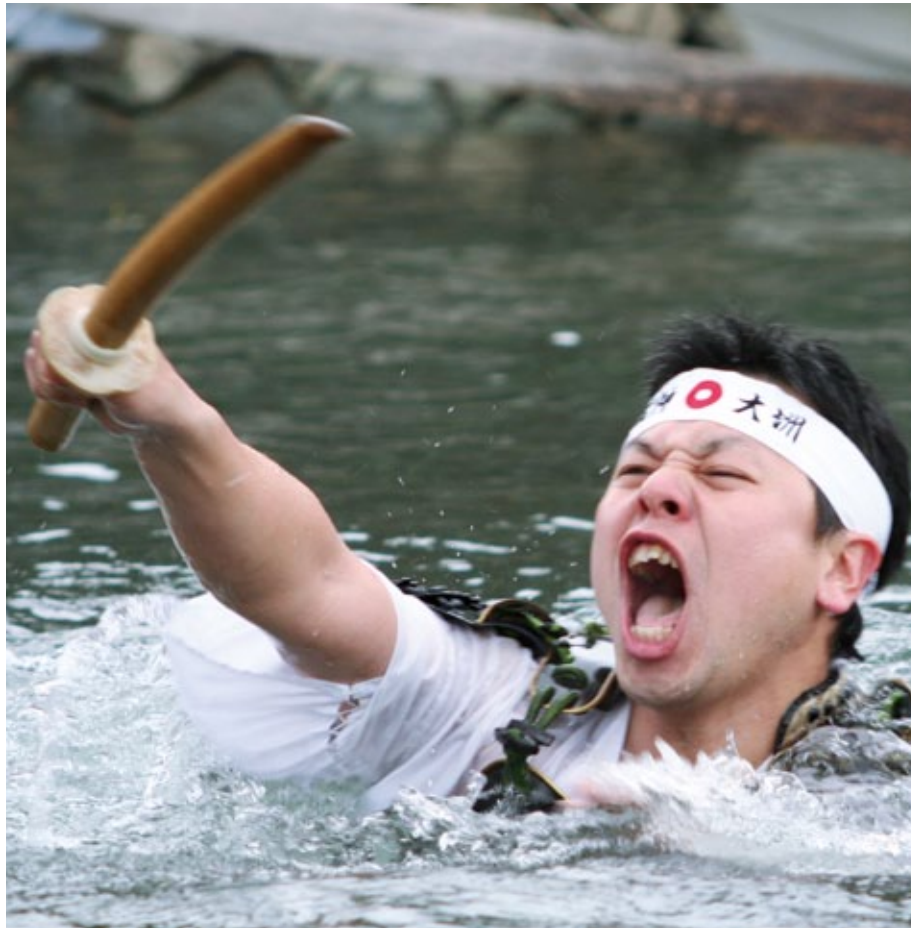
Masaichiro Ohno

The "Nagahama Town Aquarium" started with the residents of Nagahama district breeding fish at their house and stores and deciding to make this a speciality of the region in 1999. We the students at Nagahama High School also participated and currently we breed and exhibit 23 water tanks filled with creatures by the seashore, ocean fishes in Nagahama and fishes from the Nishiumi and other seas in Okinawa. The club after day-to-day looks after the water, the cleaning and the feeding and not only



do we do research on the creatures, we also exhibit the creatures to the public as the "Nagahama High School Aquarium" on every third Saturday. At the most we had 200 people visit our aquarium, and explaining about the creatures we take care of was very rewarding indeed. Also taking the aquarium to various places in Nagahama district on business trips is popular. The efforts of this "Nagahama High School Aquarium" made us deeply aware of the marine resources at Ozu and how important nature is. In addition, by fostering a life together with other students, I feel like the communication is becoming very meaningful too. We would like to PR what we do so that more people would know what we are doing.

INTERVIEW
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Ozu Shindenryu is a swimming technique for battle, and the official feature of this is to swim while facing the enemy in front of you. Because of this, a special foot movement called "aoriashi" is used. "In a river with very little buoyancy, wearing 7 kg of armor is not an easy thing to do" says Chairman Imai.

This treasure from the feudal lord domain era to the future

Ozu Shindenryu Preservation
Society Chairman

Kaname Imai



The Ozu Shindenryu was established by the cousin Shume Mitsunao of the first Ozu clan founder Sadayasu Kato in the 3rd year of Genna (1617).

Initially it was called Shindenshume-ryu after the founder and practiced by the warriors as one of the martial arts in the Hiji River.

Currently in Japan, 12 types of swimming techniques have been certified as originating in Japan, and this Shindenryu technique boasts a penetration rate of being in the top 3 among them.

It was passed from the Ozu clan to the Matsuyama clan who appears in the "Saka no Ue no Kumo (Clouds Above the Hill)" and was initially practiced in the pond of the Matsuyama Clan.

It then spread across the country and now the Shinden-ryu technique has been passed down in many places like Niigata, Tokyo, Kobe, Tsuyama, Hiroshima and Kyushu. This is how much history this Ozu Shindenryu has, but the sad thing is that the local people have forgotten how important this is. There are only about 30 people who have inherited this technique and we show off the technique on the Coming-of-Age Day but this was not enough. So we decided to PR our activities by wearing armor and armed with flags to the Hachiman Shrine and other such activities. We also hold summer swimming schools and swimming lessons to put our strength in training successors. With all the Japanese swimming styles still remaining, it is only in Ozu that a swimming school is held in the river.

Shindenryu was born on the Hiji River and have also been designated as an intangible folk cultural assets of Ehime Prefecture. I would like to pass this Ozu Shindenryu, an important treasure of Ozu that we have inherited, to the next generation.



Preservation Society members practice very hard for one year from the early spring, and then they showcase the Kagura dance in various locations. "The joy of the spectators become the joy of the performers" says Chairman Kido.

Fascinated by the fantastic old picture scroll

Yamatosaka Shime Kagura Preservation Association Chairman
Sugami Kido



Yamatosaka Shime Kagura is said to have started 500 years ago and was designated as an intangible folk cultural assets of Ehime Prefecture, in 1970.

This was dedicated to the Tenman Shrine and the Mishima Shrine by people who lived on the tribuar of Hiji River or the Kawabe River right banks and currently it is being staged not only locally but out of the city as well, and the number of times it is staged is over 40. The largest

number of crowd attracted is on the last day of boar on the 10th month by the lunar calendar where the Kagura is staged as an offering at the Matsushima Shrine at the annual festival (otoi boar festival). It is conducted under the fantastical beacon, and the sword dance and yamatanoorochitaiji (yamata large snake fighting) is a fun attraction for people who live in these mountains, now and in the past. There are currently 11 people who perform the kagura in the preservation society. It is very encouraging as we even have people in their 30s. We also visit the city's elementary school and stage a kagura based on Japanese mythology. Through these activities, it would be nice if a wide range of people of all ages took an interest in this art.

I want to leave records and memories

Aoshima Bon Odori Preservation Society Chairman

Hidenori Kamimoto



Aoshima is 13.5 kilometers from the shore of Nagahama and during the early Edo period was an uninhabited island until Yoshichiro from Banshusakosi Village (currently Ako city, Hyogo Prefecture) went to live there with 16 families. These predecessors thought fondly of their homeland and to comfort their boredom was the Aoshima Bon Odori that was designated as Ehime Prefecture's intangible folk cultural assets in 1965. Initially the Bon Odori was held over two days, with the one on August 14 for a memorial service for the deceased and the one on

the 15th to pray for a good catch in front of the patron god. Centered on the Yaguradaiko frums, the islanders dressed in heroic and elegant costumes dance to the lyrics of the the Ako's forty-seven warriors and the Shizugatake seven spear, and Nasu no Yoichi is a masterpiece. It has been attracting attention as a valuable cultural heritage. But in recent years due to the decline in population and the aging number of islander, the Bon Odori was held for only 1 day experimentally in 2010. At the preservation society, together with the Nagahama community association and the Nagahama Junior High School, are working together as a region to continue with the tradition of this Bon Odori.



"It may be that in the future it may be difficult to show off this Bon Odori like we do now" says Chairman Kamimoto. "That's why we want to make sure that it is firmly entrenched as a record to leave to future generations".

Hokoten in Nagahama is alive and fun

Akabashi Free Playing Space

On the 3rd Saturday of every month the Nagahama "Akabashi Street mall" in Ozu City becomes a pedestrian only space where anyone can hold a flea market! The people who hold the flea market and the consumers enjoy the time together. Sales of food and miscellaneous goods, fun events, such as exhibitions and live performance on the street - it is filled with fun events!

An event where information about the good things of Ozu can be widely distributed

Ozu Industry Fiesta

All the good things produced within Ozu City are gathered under one roof and information about the products and businesses are disseminated far and wide at the "Ozu Industry Fiesta" that was held in 2010. In the future, with this event at the center, we will disseminate information within the city as well as outside the city as well, and lead it to an increase in the consumption of local products.



Ozu Industry Fiesta

Attention to brand shiitake mushroom

"Miracle shiitake mushroom" and "Shiitake Mushroom Festa"

Dried shiitake mushroom produced in Ozu boasts a production of more than half of those produced in the prefecture and especially the dried shiitake mushroom that was grown on raw wood was branded and trademark registered as "miracle shiitake mushroom". We are working to establish and expand the brand as well as widen the sales channels and consumption. Every year on November 23 we hold a "Shiitake Mushroom Festa" and it has increased in participants and visitors every year.



Shiitake Mushroom Festa

Ozu Sparkling Information

Make Ozu more attractive, and make Ozu into a more fun town. The citizens, local government, and companies have engaged in a variety of initiatives that makes full use of the characteristics of Ozu. Why not get yourself involved to make Ozu into a more sparkling city?

Food ingredients of Ozu Take advantage of them in Ozu

Promote local production for local consumption

Local consumption means to mainly consume locally what is produced locally. As a means to deliver safe and healthy ingredients to the consumer, and to activate regional agriculture it is attracting attention. We at Ozu are also working to establish a system to promote local production for local consumption and take advantage of the abundant food in Ozu.

One of Japan's three major Ukai (cormorant fishing)

Attraction of Ukai in Ozu increasing Revival!! Hiji River Ukai

The "Ukai (cormorant fishing) tourism" that has attracted many tourists in the Showa period is on a decline along with the changes in the times. So, those registered Ukai stores and the tourism association played a center role in the revival of the Ukai tourism and is developing "Daytime Ukai" as well as researching distinctive dishes. Let's look forward to the increased charm of Ukai in Ozu.

Noon Ukai



Nice memories in Ozu

School excursion goods developed together with Matsuyama City

Ozu is where one can experience many things from nature to historical culture. With the development of the highway, and the fact that in the tourism sphere from Matsuyama City, we are developing, together with Matsuyama City, school excursion goods promoted by Matsuyama City. We are working on a menu that will remain a lifetime of memories for the children such as canoeing, ukai, imotaki and such.



Hundred Tatami Mat House

The "Hundred Tatami Mat House (nickname)" Open to the public

Renovating Suenaga's family house

Designated as a tangible cultural property for the country, the "Former Lord Suenaga's family house and the Hundred Tatami Mat Room" is an old Suenaga family mansion that flourished during the Meiji period, and has gridded windows, sea cucumber walls, folded coffered ceiling. The park is so that you can walk freely, and regional events are held in the event square.



Aitaina

Jam packed with Ozu produce!

Ozu local production for local consumption base facility
Taiki direct selling Aitaina

Vegetables produced locally and processed products produced by local producers, gelato using seasonal agricultural products (ice cream) and such fresh and safe products are offered.

In addition, a "Citizen Service Center" has been opened on the premises and copies of residential card and seal registrations and such documents can be issued here.



Road Side Station Seiryu no Sato Hijikawa

Lots of information and specialties Stop by during your journey!

Road Side Station Seiryu no Sato Hijikawa "Road Side Station Seiryu no Sato Hijikawa" is a road station where locally grown fresh vegetables and processed food are sold, with an on-site commercial premises. It has become a comprehensive exchange point in the region. You can also taste the special Hijikawa ramen.

© Road Side Station Seiryu no Sato Hijikawa
☎0893-34-2700

Imotaki to croquettes

Urban development through food!
O-grade local gourmet contest

Development of food by taking advantage of traditional food culture and ingredients of Ozu, and digging up of traditional cuisine that is not well known, a contest was held, aiming to develop and revitalize local products to new specialty products. The first round was a croquette that was made by taking advantage of imotaki yam roots, a traditional food culture of Ozu, and won three stars.



Ozu croquette

Both information collection and attendance Starts with Ozu tourism

Ozu Town Station Asamoya

There is a tourist office, special products sales corner, and restaurant and such established tourist center for the Konan district. Here you can register for ukai and imotaki, tourist rickshaw, and mini tours conducted by a guide familiar with everything local.

©Ozu Town Station Asamoya
☎0893-24-7011

Ozu Town Station Asamoya



Ozu History Exploration Museum



Dragon Boat Tournament

Important teamwork Participate with the goup on a tournament Dragon Boat Tournament

Every year in early August the "Dragon Boat Tournament" is held in the natural rich Kanogawa Lake. Teams are formed by region, workplace, classmates and such and complete with each other in boats decorated as a dragon, and is a tournament that is heated and exciting with prizes awarded to the top teams. Come join us.

Surrounding Ryoma Clarifying the mystery in the history

Ozu History Exploration Museum

This Ozu History Exploration Museum introduces Ryoma and the end of the Edo period and their relation to Ozu using various documents. One of the exhibit of interest is the purchase agreement for the "Iroha-maru". With the discovery of this document, it was now clear that the "Ozu clan purchased the Iroha-maru from a Portuguese", a new revelation.

For inquiries, contact Ozu Town Station Asamoya.

Lots of people are coming Famous autumn events Hijikawa Fureai Festival

On the 3rd Sunday of every November we conduct the Hijikawa Fureai Festival at the Kazenori square next to the "Hijikawa Wind Museum, and Utamaro Pavilion". The purpose of this is to have exchanges between the nature of Hiji River, culture and the people and many events are held here like song shows and large raffle draws. Enjoyed by the young and old, it draws a large crowd.



Mini walk with a tourist guide

Yawatahama material cooperative
lumber factory



Promoting the timber industry Activation of Nanyo!

Yawatahama material cooperative lumber factory
72% of Ozu City is forest and we have accumulated a rich forest resource.

Therefore, efforts are made to promote the timber industry, and to connect this to forest management and activation of the forestry business, we have attracted and maintained large-scale lumber processing facilities. In the future, as a base for branding and distribution of Japanese cypress lumber, we will continue to contribute to the revitalization of Nanyo region.

Feel the fascination of Kawabe while being immersed in the mood of Ryoma!

Walk the road of Sakamoto Ryoma
Dappan no michi

There are many who come back year after year to the annually held "Sakamoto Ryoma Dappan no michi". We also conduct a mini walking tour at all times with a tourist guide for part of the Dappan route. Why not walk the route listening to the interesting and sometimes amusing stories by the tourist guide?

© Kawabe Hometown Inn
☎0893-39-2211



The voice from the participants who lived in Kawabe area

We are always looking forward to joining the event. It's fun to re-discover the fascination of Kawabe.

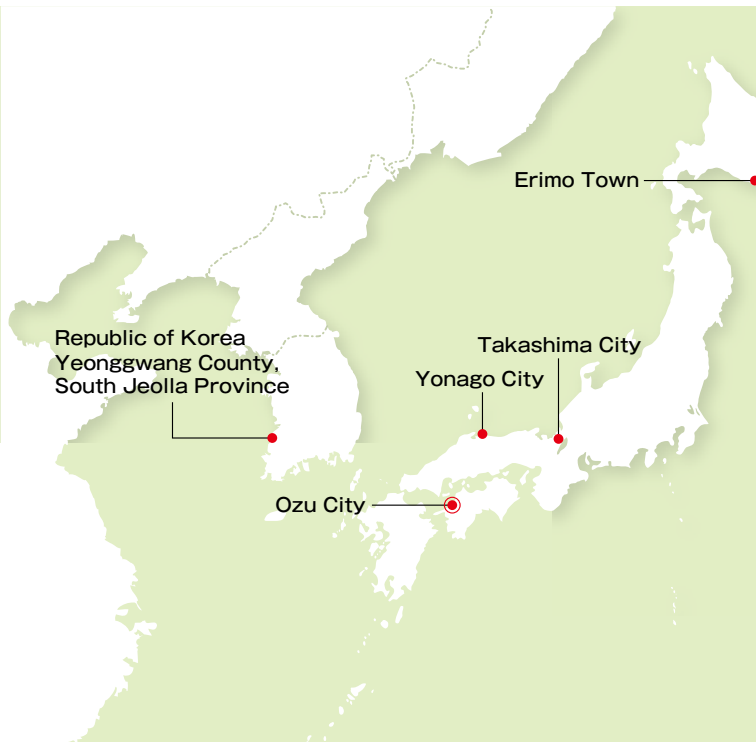
Building a brighter future
while deepening and improving
relationships

Friendship Cities

The city of Ozu and the city of Takashima in Shiga Prefecture have signed an agreement friendship exchange based on their mutual connection to Nakae Toju.

We are also building friendly relationships through a variety of cultural exchange activities with the Erimo Town in Hokkaido, the city of Yonago in Tottori Prefecture, and Yeonggwang County, South Jeolla nam Province, Republic of Korea.

We look forward to pursuing the growth and development of our respective communities while deepening these exchanges.



Takashima City, Shiga Prefecture

Friendly exchange city
associated with Toju Nakae

Takashima City is the birthplace of Toju Nakae, and the Toju Shoin where Toju, after returning to his hometown spent his time teaching his students still remains to this day, and since the celebration for Saint Omi is thriving, we have been considering from some time to become an exchange city with them. Each year, at the Roman Festival on November 3, a Takashima City product fair is held, and along with the operation "Journey to visit Takashima City" which is conducted every two years, many exchanges between us two cities have been carried out.

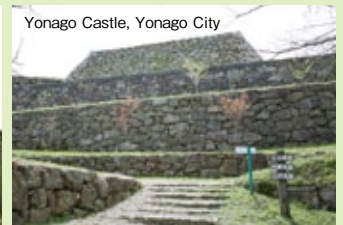
On September 1, 2006, both citizens promising to expand the circle of friendship, signed a friendly exchange agreement.



Takashima City Redwood Boulevard



Toju Shoin marker, Takashima City



Yonago Castle, Yonago City



Erimo-town



Bekusu coastal road, Yeonggwang County

Erimo Town, Hokkaido

Exchanges at the edge
of the wind

Erimo Town is located in the southeast end of Hokkaido, and is rich in marine resources such as kelp, salmon, sea urchin and such and a magnificent scenery. Because it is Japan's strongest wind zone, in 1997 a "House of Wind" was opened and this facility signed a sister museum alliance with our "Wind Museum". In 2010 to commemorate the 130th year for Erimo Town, we participated in that event and continue to deepen our exchanges.

Yonago City, Tottori Prefecture

Associated with the
"Kato clan", the Ozu lord

Ozu clan founder lord Sadayasu Kato was transferred from the Yonago Clan in the country Hoki, so historically Yonago City has deep ties with our city. Yonago City also has continued to develop as a "gateway to the Sanin", and with the Oyama National Park, among others, it is also a town rich in nature.

With an event "journey to visit Yonago" conducted every two years, the citizen exchanges between us is thriving as well.

Yeonggwang County, South Jeollanam Province

Exchange across the country
with Gang Hang

Located in northwestern Jeollanam Province, the South Korean county of Yeonggwang is bordered by the Yellow Sea to the west and by Jeollabuk Province to the north. Yeonggwang and Ozu have embarked on a series of exchanges centered on Gang Hang, a Korean neo-Confucian scholar active during the late sixteenth and early seventeenth century. The city looks forward to pursuing these and other cultural exchanges in a manner befitting this era of internationalization.

영광군은 대한민국 전라남도의 북서부에 위치한 군으로 서쪽으로는 황해에 면해있고, 북쪽으로는 전라북도과 접해있습니다. 영광군과 오즈시는 400년 전의 유자(儒者) 강항과의 인연으로 교류를 행하고 있습니다. 국제화 시대에 걸맞은 문화적인 교류가 이루어지기를 기대하고 있습니다.

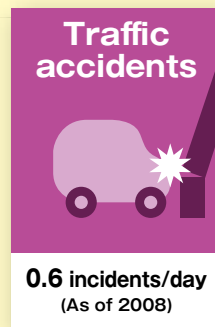
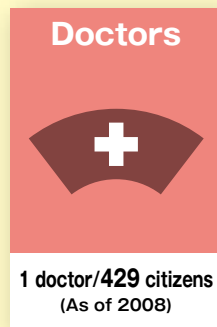
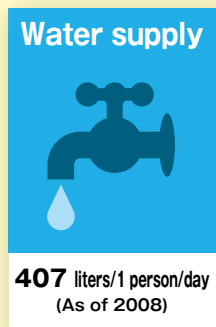
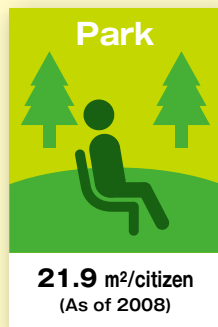
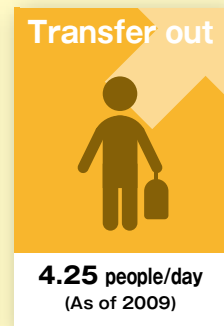
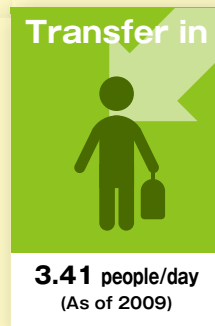
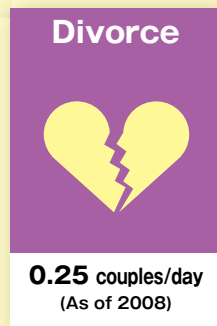
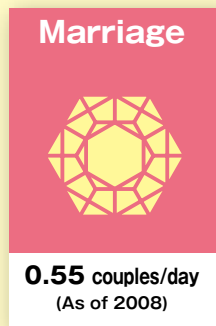
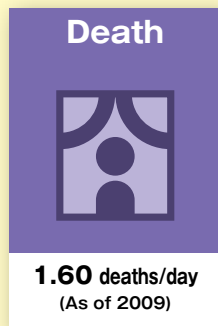
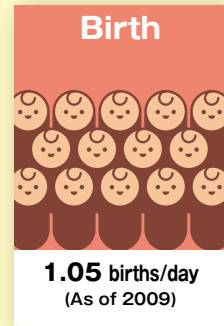
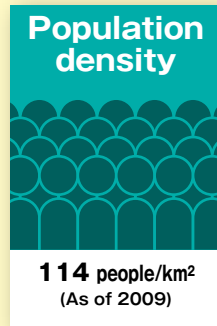
Life of Ozu citizens seen in images

Municipal census

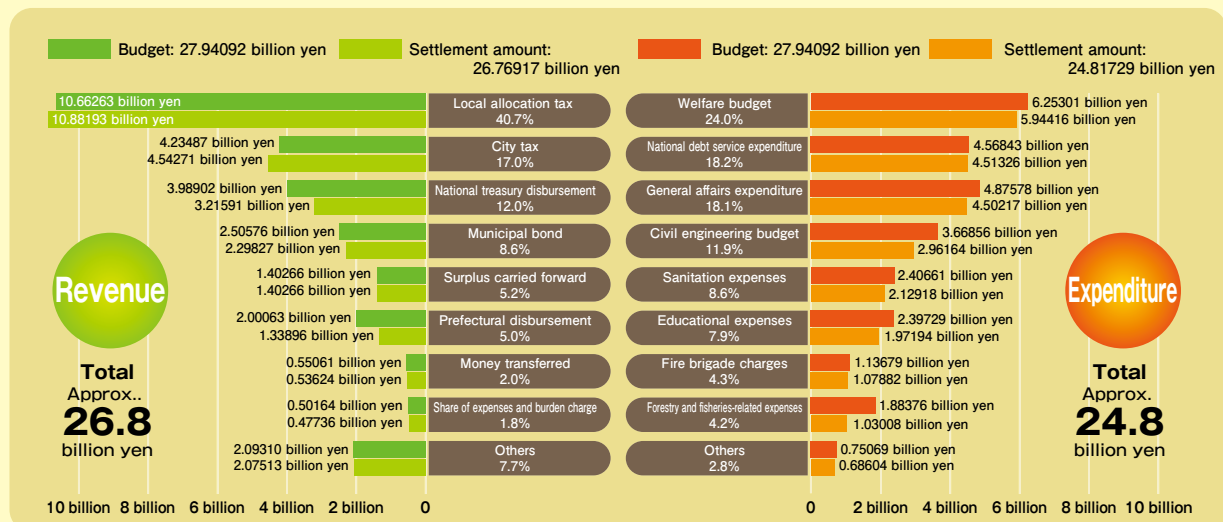
(2011 end of February)

Area: 432.20km²
 Population: 48,350
 (Male: 23,005,
 Female: 25,345)

Number of households:
 20,162 households



2009 general account budget, settlement of accounts



Ozu City Census Handbook 2011

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Ozu City's Profile

Position: Terrain and traffic



Ozu City is a town located in the Nanyo area at the entrance to Ehime Prefecture, and spreads from east to west in a gentle curve; 38 km from the east to the west, and 21 km from the north to the south with a total area of 432.20 square kilometers.

It is a watershed city for Hiji River, a first-grade river that flows through the center of the city, and with a land structure of mountains at an altitude of 300 to 1,200 meters and its flat section along the river. The city has been formed in the central area of the Ozu basin and the Hiji River estuary.

As for the transportation network, the four national routes of 56, 197, 378, 441, as well as the major local roads Ozu-Nagahama line, Nagahama-Nakamura line, Odakawabe-Ozu line and others connect various areas of the city.

Moreover, there are two JR Yosan Lines, the Nagahama route and the Uchiko route.

In addition, the expressway that cuts through Shikoku is currently being maintained, and it is expected to further expand the sphere.

City emblem



An emblem that was designed based on the family crest (bull's-eye) of the Kato house of the Ozu Clan from the Edo period.

The blue symbolizes the Hiji River flow, and the intellectual and clear heart of the people.

City flower and trees "azalea"



Azaleas are familiar to everyone and is widely planted in family yards.

There are approximately 63,000 azaleas planted at Tomisuyama, which is a tourist attraction during the Azalea Festival when many people from outside the city also visit.
