

Nationally Selected Important Cultural Landscape
A town with a history and romanticism of ship transport at Mogami River

国選定重要文化的景観

最上川舟運の歴史とロマンの町

大江
おおえ
Oe-machi

山形県大江町 Oe-machi, Yamagata Prefecture

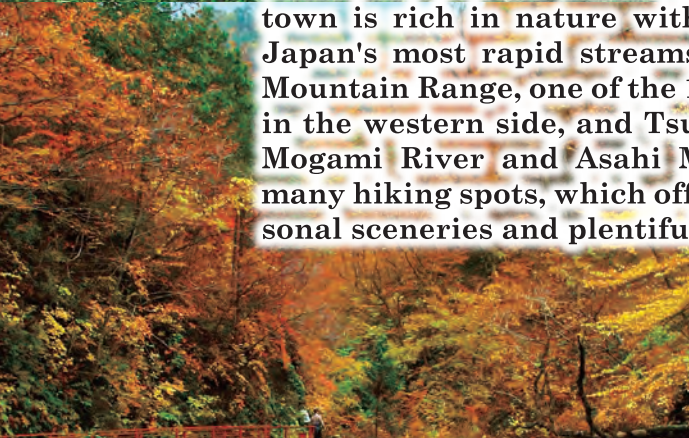
Rosy Lilies at Oyama Nature Park



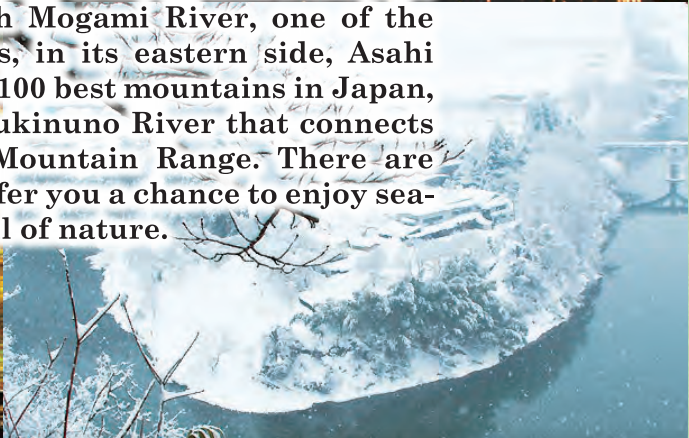
Lantern Adrift Fireworks Festival



Oe-machi is located almost in the center of Yamagata Prefecture and the western side of Murayama Plain. The town is rich in nature with Mogami River, one of the Japan's most rapid streams, in its eastern side, Asahi Mountain Range, one of the 100 best mountains in Japan, in the western side, and Tsukinuno River that connects Mogami River and Asahi Mountain Range. There are many hiking spots, which offer you a chance to enjoy seasonal sceneries and plentiful of nature.



Jintsukyo gorge surrounded by autumn leaves



Mogami River in winter

Oe-machi is said to have started with a riverside port for the transportations on Mogami River and a castle town. The river port of Aterazawa had developed since the Genroku time of the Edo era as a relay point for the transport of Mogami River that ran between Sakata and Yonezawa. Many different culture had blossomed in Mogami River.

Thanks to river transport including Hina dolls after elegant Kyoto culture was delivered from Kyoto tripped along with the stream of Mogami River. During the peak period of ship transportation on the river, a market had used to be held in the town that attracted visitors. Aterazawa was once known as a business town that delivered wealth and prosperity to the area.

A townscape is created with a series of a typical style of town houses with a frontage of three-ken and a half and a depth of 20-30 ken (1ken is the same size of one tatami mat) Also, warehouses that remind us of the period of prosperity are still well-maintained on the street.

The scenery was designated on March 27, 2013, as an important cultural landscape site by the central government as a scenery of "the transportation of Mogami River. The selection was the first in Yamagata Prefecture.



① Tateyama Park 楯山公園



Mogami River View Point selection point

It is on the top of a hill in the northern side of Aterazawa Station, the last stop on JR Aterazawa Line. The park lays on the site of Aterazawa Tateyama Castle, which was owned by Oe family, a local ruling family. From the resting house on top of the hill, you can enjoy sceneries of the combination of the great stream of Mogami River and Asahi Mountain Range / Zao mountains. The place is known as the best to view Mogami River that has a length of 229 meters. That spot attracts painters and photographers from inside/outside the prefecture. In 2002, the place was selected as one of the 100 Japan's best footpaths.

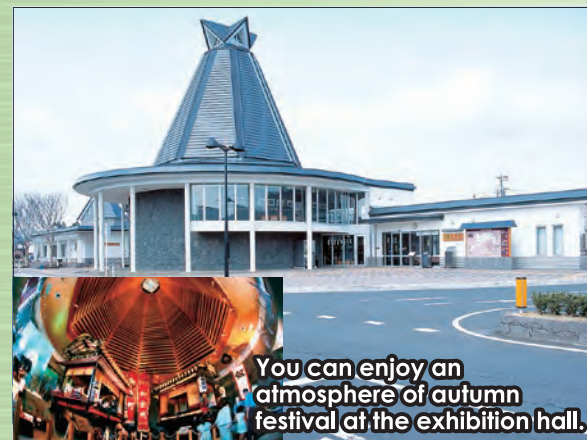
Access: 13 minutes walk from JR Aterazawa Station
10 minutes walk from Domeki bus stop of Yamako Bus Sagae Miyajuku Line

Tourist spots, facilities

観光名所・施設



② Oe-machi interaction Station 大江町交流ステーション



The station was established with the aim to distribute information on the history, culture, tourism of the town. Its unique feature includes that a part of the building is used as Aterazawa Station. The modern building has stone walls, which are related to the history of the town, and locally produced Nishiyama-sugi cypress, a material of the building seen everywhere. Inside the building, there are corners for local specialty and information corner, gallery, exhibition hall, etc.

TEL.0237-62-5501
Access: 1 minute walk from JR Aterazawa Station

You can enjoy an atmosphere of autumn festival at the exhibition hall.

③ Roadside Station Oe 道の駅おおえ



The roadside station stands along Route 287 that stretches through Oe-machi. Local agricultural products and agricultural processed products, specialties from Oe-machi, etc. are available for sales as well as a light meal corner. "Tagayase Oe", a popular market that sells fresh seasonal mountain vegetables and agricultural products, is available. After enjoying shopping, visitors can relax at Terme Hakuryo Health Hot Spring Hall.

Regular closing days: the end of a year and New Years Day holidays
TEL.0237-62-5845(used as a fax number as well)
Access: 4 minutes walk from Funauta Hot Spring bus stop of Yamako Bus Sagae Miyajuku Line



④ Terme Hakuryo Health Hot Spring Hall テルメ栢陵健康温泉館

The water quality of the spring is highly concentrated, which is rare in the nation. The hall has been renovated and reopened in June 2014 with newly opened bath rooms and open air baths. The feature includes that the color of the baths changes to one of six different colors daily like emerald green, creamy white, etc. It is loved by many fans inside/outside the prefecture. In addition to two indoor baths, toron-sauna, the set temperature of which is as low as 50 degrees and gentle to our body. In the open air baths, a large-scaled lighting effect, providing images of fireworks and lanterns using 189 organic EL displays, can be enjoyed.

Admission fee: Adult ¥350, Child ¥150 (discount tickets available)
Regular closing days: the 1st Thursday of month (excluding public holidays)
TEL.0237-83-4126
Access: 8 minutes walk from Funauta Hot Spring bus stop of Yamako Bus Sagae Miyajuku Line



Open Air Bath



⑤ Kokai-in Sanmon gate 巨海院山門

The gate was originally used as one for Aterazawa Kourushigawa Castle, which was build around 1622-1624, after the demolition of Aterazawa Tateyama Castle. It has been said that the gate was transferred to Kokai-in in around 1648. Kokai-in is also a temple of Sakai Naotsugu, a land leader of Aterazawa-han (area size of 12,000 goku). There are tombstones of Naotsugu and his wife within the site. They have been designated as a cultural asset to towns.

Access: 1 minute walk from Kourushigawa bus stop of Oe-machi Public Bus



⑥ Oe-machi Historical Folk Museum 大江町歴史民俗資料館

The building of the museum was originally located 10+ kilometers inside the mountain. They were a main building and warehouse of Saito Family, which has known as a land owner of Juro-hata in Shichiken area in 1660s. Inside the building, many traditional tools for civil work and agriculture such as aoso making, wax work, sericulture, etc. are displayed. Also Hina Doll Festival is held in the end of March every year.

Admission fee: Adult ¥100, Student ¥50, Child ¥30 (a group discount available)
Regular closing days: the 2nd / 4th Monday, the end of a year, New Years Day holidays
TEL.0237-62-3666(Oe-machi Education Culture Department)
Access: 1 minute walk from Chuo Public Hall bus stop of Oe-machi Public Bus



⑦ Oyama Nature Park 大山自然公園

A symbol tower of the park for lookout is located in the center of the park. The attached green park equips play equipment like swings, see-saws, etc., which allow anyone from children to elderlies to play together.

Access: 13 minutes by taxi from JR Aterazawa Station



⑧ Oku Oe Yanagawa Hot Spring 奥おおえ柳川温泉

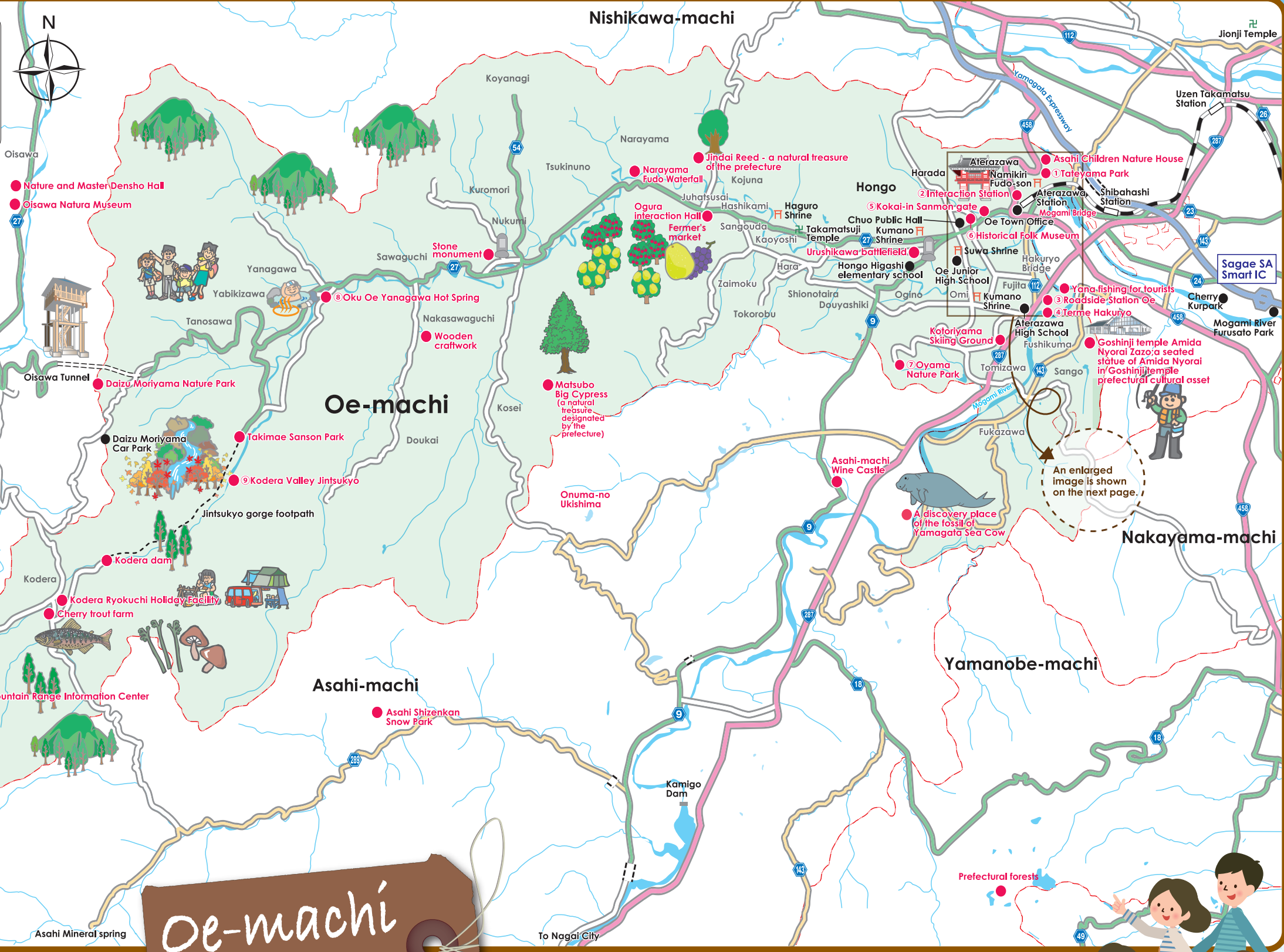
The hot spring is quietly laying on the foot of Asahi Mountain Range. The hot spring offers a great thermal effect as it is also called as the Spa of Heat. The spa is effective for various diseases including arteriosclerosis and chronic skin diseases. The water is drinkable. It is a heavenly feeling as you relax in their open-air baths. The spa accommodates day trippers, as well as provides accommodations, and newly opened foot baths. A noodle making activity is also popular.

Admission fee: Adult ¥350, Child ¥150 (discount tickets available)
Accommodation fee: ¥4,770 (excluding consumption taxes and bath taxes)
Regular closing day: the 1st Tuesday (excluding public holidays)
TEL.0237-64-2151
Access: 1 minute walk from Yanagawa Hot Spring bus stop of Oe-machi Public Bus

⑨ Jintsukyo gorge surrounded by spring greenery 新緑の神通峡



- Legends**
- Highway
 - National road
 - Major rural road
 - General prefectural road
 - General road
 - JR lines
 - Border between city, town or village



Oe-machi
大江町
マップ Map



An enlarged image is shown on the next page.

Prefectural forests

A discovery place of the fossil of Yamagata Sea Cow

Asahi-machi Wine Castle

Matsubo Big Cypress (a natural treasure designated by the prefecture)

Onuma-no Ukishima

Asahi Mineral spring

Asahi Mountain Range Information Center

Koderama
Koderama Ryokuchi Holiday Facility
Cherry trout farm

Kodera dam

Koderama Valley Jintsukyo

Takimae Sanson Park

Daizu Moriyama Nature Park

Oisawa Tunnel

Nature and Master Denso Hall
Oisawa Natura Museum

Oe-machi

Asahi-machi

Yamanobe-machi

Nakayama-machi

Nishikawa-machi

Oe-machi Map

大江町マップ

Enlarged view

A breathtaking scenery from Nipponichi park



Asahi Children Nature House



Tateyama Park (Nipponichi Park)

Monument of Mogami River Boatmen Song



Nationally designated historical site Aterazawa Tateyama Castle site



The fireworks and lanterns in the reflections of Mogami River are traditional summer items of Oe-machi.

A port town for Mogami River transport
Oe-machi Aterazawa Walking Map

最上川舟運の港町
大江町左澤
散策マップ

The townscapes of Aterazawa and Mogami River that can be seen just after coming out of the tunnel is breathtaking.



Lantern adrift



Monument of the song of Saito Mokichi

Peach Fruit Workshop
Craftwork made with peach seeds

Monument of the birthplace for Mogami River Boatmen Songs

Remain of a dock



Remain of Yonezawa-han kawajin-ya

JR Aterazawa Line (Fruit Line)

Remain of Hara-machi Bansho

Monument of the song of Saito Mokichi

Footpath

Nanjo Jizo statue



Old Mogami Bridge

The old Mogami Bridge has been used for over 70 years since it first opened in 1940. The beautiful appearance of the bridge with its three arches symbolizes Oe-machi. It is designated a National Public Works Heritage site.

You may find a manhole cover with a design like this.



Monument of the song of Saito Mokichi

Monument of the song of Saito Mokichi

Mogami Bridge

Aterazawa Elementary School
This is the oldest school in Nishi Murayama area.



Kokai-in Sanmon gate



Exercise Center



Chuo Public Hall



Historical Folk Museum

A replica of Yamagata Sea Cow is exhibited.



Oe Town Office



There are many old houses in a traditional town-house style standing along Chuo Street.

ATERA Machinaka Exchange Center



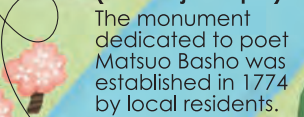
Chuo Street Shopping Arcade



Hara-machi Street



Basho Tombstone (Shonenji Temple)
The monument dedicated to poet Matsuo Basho was established in 1774 by local residents.



Kourushigawa area
There are warehouses, storehouses, and old wooden houses.



Hachiman Shrine



Aterazawa Bridge



Gomen-machi warehouse



The craftsmen living in Gomen-machi were exempt from tax and domain duties. This is said to be the origin of the name of the town. (gomen means "sorry" in Japanese)



Mogami River side Footpath

In the Edo Period (1603-1868), wealthy merchants in Aterazawa domain such as sake brewers and wholesalers lined up at Hara-machi Street, and markets were held regularly. Tiled roofs, mud walls, warehouses, and old pine trees of old family houses connect the atmosphere of the old days with the present.

To JR Aterazawa Station

Hakuryo area

Hakuryo Bridge

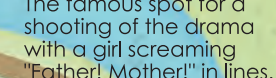


Mogami River

Yana fishing for tourists



A place that a drama "Oshin" was shot.
The famous spot for a shooting of the drama with a girl screaming "Father! Mother!" in lines.



Roadside Station Oe



Terme Hakuryo Health Hot Spring Hall



Monument of Mogami River Boatmen Songs
The Boatmen Song can be listened.



This mysterious hot spring changes its color every day.

Tsukinuno River (old Urushi River)

To Hakuryo area

特産品

イベント



Fruits

A variety of locally produced fruits includes La France (pears), apples, plums, peaches, grapes, cherries, etc. Interaction facilities such as hot spring facilities in the town sell fresh seasonal fruits. Hope you enjoy relishing delicious fruits.



Hikari

Well taken care deliciousness made by local people and the blessing of nature in Oe.

Relish a variety of delicious fruits proudly produced by Oe while thanking for the benefit of nature.



Craftwork

These craftworks are made with peach seeds. The product with a unique design and texture is great as a gift.



Aoso

Aoso is a vegetable fiber used for making kimonos. Oe-machi was well known for its production of high-quality Aosos from the Edo Period (1603-1868) to the pre-war period (-1940). Aoso leaf paste is used in a wide variety of dishes. The Historical Folk Museum offers local Aoso specialty dishes for parties of 10 or more. Reservations required.

Yamagata Furusato Food Contest of 2015 Received the Award of Excellence in the Cooking and Side Dish Category

Yamagata Local Chicken

Yamagata Jidori (local chicken), which growth period is approx. 120 days (double the usual broiler chicken), has a great meat quality. Please enjoy its Umami, richness, and crunchiness. Hope you try this valuable, delicious yet healthy ingredient.



Grilled Ochi Ayu

Ochi Ayu fish is those swimming along the river during the spawn time. Female Ochi Ayu carrying eggs has a great texture that Summer Ayu doesn't have, and even male Ayu is said to be having well-matured deliciousness in addition to its firm body and sweet tastes. Enjoy the indescribable flavor of Ayu.



Local sake

Oe-machi is said to be suitable to grow sake rice. Oe Nishiki sake is made with polished sake rice called Dewa Sansan and Miyama Nishiki and the spring water from Asahi Mountain Range. The popular range of the local sake includes Honjozo-shu; pure brewed Sake, Junmai-shu; Sake without added alcohol, Junmaiginjo-shu; Ginjo Sake without added alcohol called "Jintuu-no Shizuku" as well as a real shochu called "Funauta-no Sato". Please enjoy the local sake, proudly produced by Oe-machi.



Seicho Mogami River Boatmen Song National Competition

Oe-machi is the origin of Mogami River Boatmen Songs. The purpose of the annual competition is to pass down an orthodox tune of the Songs to next generations and to promote the town as a "town of Boatmen Song". Participants from inside/outside the prefecture demonstrate their proud singing ability. Moreover, various activities are held that are related to Boatmen Songs. Period: the 4th Sunday of June every year.



Be thankful for beautiful nature
People's joy that is welling up
Nature, people and townscapes - everything become shine and lively.



Lily Festival

The annual Lily Festival takes place at Oyama Nature Park between late May and early June. The forest is covered with elegant pink rosy lilies fully in bloom. Various events are scheduled for your enjoyment.



Suigo Oe Summer Festival Lantern Adrift / Fireworks

The fireworks festival has the longest history in the prefecture. Thousands fireworks released at three spots and lanterns covering the surface of the river create a magical atmosphere. Period: August 15 every year.

Oe Autumn Festival / September

For many people, local autumn festivals would be the best memories of their hometown. On a day of the annual festival, which is held at the same time of Aterazawa Hachiman Shrine Annual Festival, rhythmical festival music of each group is played along with the sounds of flutes, drums and shamisen. Anyone from adults to children are excited on this day.

Passing down local traditions to next generations by teaching children choreography and music that we've learnt when we are little, telling children an origin of the traditions - the love to their local area and the passion for carrying on traditions are nurtured naturally through such activities.

Festival calendar

- March ◆ Oe Hina Doll Festival (Historical Folk Museum / privately owned house)
- May ◆ Spring Oku Oe Yanagawa Hot Spring Festival (Yanagawa Hot Spring)
- May-June ◆ Oyama Nature Park Lily Festival (Oyama Nature Park)
- July ◆ Hydrangea Festival (Terme Hakuryo Health Hot Spring Hall)
- August ◆ Suigo Oe Summer Festival Toro Nagashi / Fireworks (Mogami River side)
- September ◆ Oe Autumn Festival (Parade: Aterazawa Station Square)
- Around October ◆ Oku Oe Yanagawa Hot Spring Festival (Yanagawa Hot Spring)

Other events include the sales of specialties and products from the town.



Oe Hina Doll Festival / March

Oe-machi had once blossomed as a port for a relay point of Mogami River transport. The townscape of Hara-machi with houses of merchant families and sake breweries standing along the street still maintains the atmosphere of the old times. Within the town, some items can be still found from Kyoto culture and Hina Doll cultures brought by river transports, and they have been handed down with care. In Aterazawa, you have a chance to view valuable Hina dolls that have been carefully stored at each long-lasting families.



ACCESS



Sendai 仙台	Senzan Line 1hr	Yamagata 山形	Aterazawa Line (Fruit Line) 45min	Aterazawa 左沢
Tokyo 東京	Yamagata Shinkansen 2hrs 30min	Yamagata 山形	Aterazawa Line (Fruit Line) 45min	Aterazawa 左沢



Sendai 仙台	Route 48 1hr 50min	Aterazawa 左沢				
Sakata 酒田	Yamagata Expressway 1hr 20min	Nishikawa 西川	Route 112 / 458 15min	Aterazawa 左沢		
Sendai 仙台	Tohoku Expressway 20min	Murata JCT 村田JCT	Yamagata Expressway 1hr	Sagae 寒河江	Route 287 10min	Aterazawa 左沢
Tokyo 東京	Tohoku Expressway 4hrs 30min	Murata JCT 村田JCT	Yamagata Expressway 1hr	Sagae 寒河江	Route 287 10min	Aterazawa 左沢



Contact Oe-machi Regional Promotion Department

Oe-machi Tourism Local Products Association website <https://oekanko.jp/>
A town of trend, Oe-machi website <http://www.town.oe.yamagata.jp/>

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