



Beppu

Nationally Important Cultural Landscapes

Yukemuri (Onsen)

Landscapes

Sightseeing Map



Cultural Landscape



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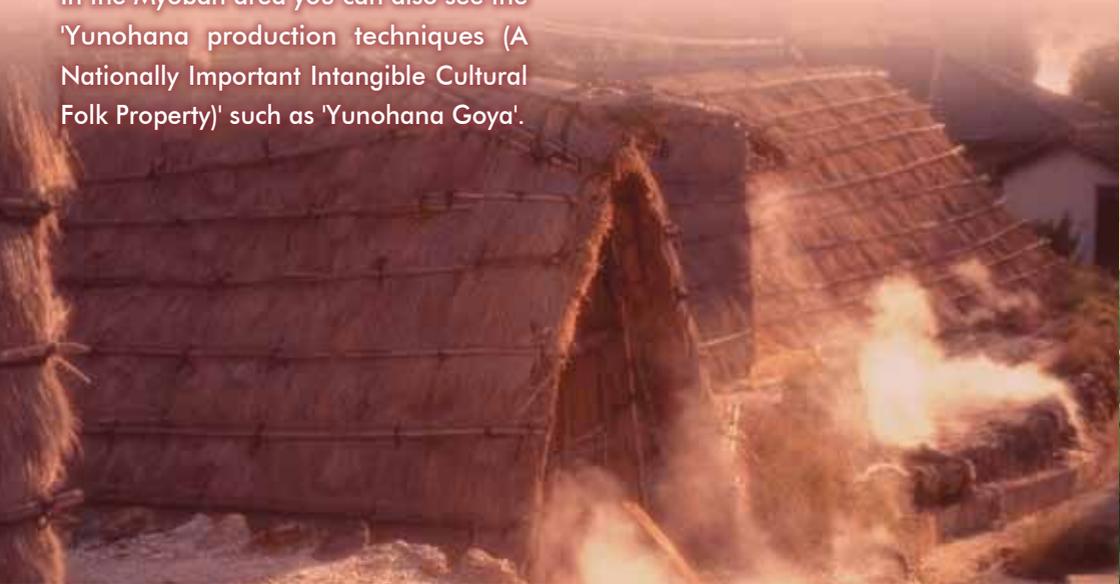
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The cultural landscape of the Myoban area has been shaped by the lives of the local residents.

It is important to the locals that the culture and landscape are protected so that it can be passed on to the next generation.

In the Myoban area you can also see the 'Yunohana production techniques (A Nationally Important Intangible Cultural Folk Property)' such as 'Yunohana Goya'.



Yunohana

Onsen words

Yunohana (bath salt) is often sold as a souvenir in the onsen (hot spring) area. The main component are the flowers of sulfur which are oxidized and precipitated from dissolved hydrogen sulfide obtained from onsen water. However Beppu Myoban Onsen Yunohana is different from other Yunohana as it is the only bath salt in Japan that has been recognized as a quasi-medicine.

Cultural Landscape



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The cultural landscape of the Kannawa area is based around the daily lives of the local people and it is often difficult to recognize the value of such scenery. From here you can see traces of the old Toji bathhouses and the "Jigoku" ('Hells'), which are a National Place of Scenic Beauty.



Gichi (Blue Clay)

The special component in making 'Yunohana' is a blue clay called 'Gichi' which is found in the Myoban area and is essential in Yunohana production.

Toji

A traditional medical treatment in which you undertake a long stay (at least a week or more) in an onsen area to treat a specific disease or illness.

Kinou Onsen-yoku

The act of bathing in 2 onsen with different properties, allowing the bather to enjoy the effects of both onsen.

Myoban Cultural Landscape

In the Myoban area, Yunohana is made from the production of alum. Myoban's unique scenery includes lines of thatched roofs.

The start of 'Bungo Myoban' production

In the first half of the 17th Century, through the hard work of Goroemon Watanabe from Higo (Kumamoto), alum production began in Beppu. This was the first time alum production occurred in Japan.

Myoban area in the 17th-19th Century

What is Myoban (Alum)?

A material used for dyes, water purification, and medicine.

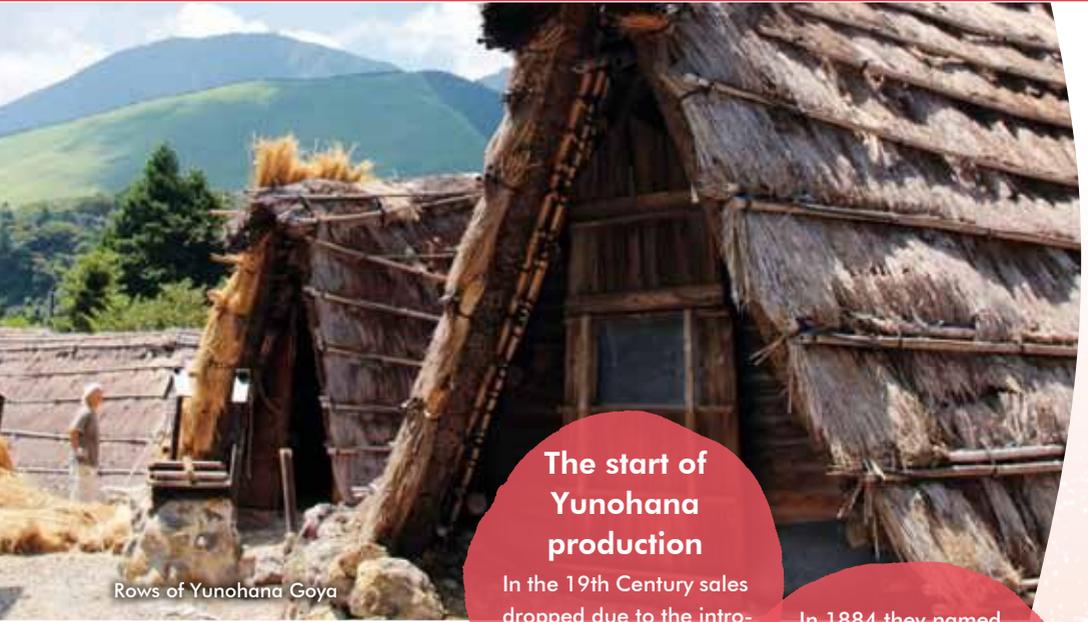
In the 18th Century, Kisuke Wakiya developed a new way to produce alum. This improved production technique led to the ban of imported Chinese alum, which meant that 'Bungo Myoban' alum made up 70% of Japan's total alum production.



Alum crystal

One of the features of this area is the unique landscape which has been preserved to this day. Elements such as the special Beppu Stone (made of andesite from Mt. Tsurumi) on which the Yunohana Goya huts stand.





Rows of Yunohana Goya

The start of Yunohana production

In the 19th Century sales dropped due to the introduction of cheap imported alum.

In 1884 they named 'Yunohana (the flower of Onsen)' which are the crystals created during the process of making alum and then sold as bath salts. These bath salts became famous and production picked up.

What is Yunohana?

Made by using onsen gas and steam. It is used for bath salt production and allows the enjoyment of a Myoban onsen even at home.

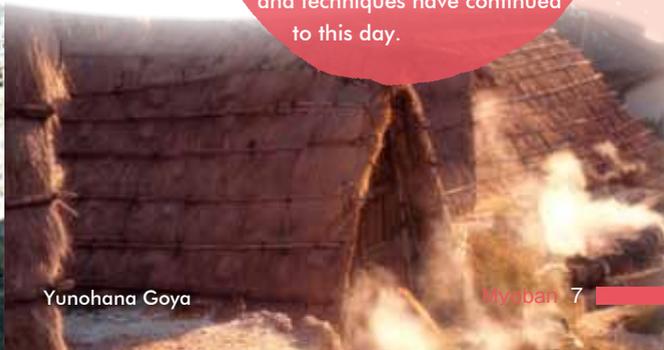


Yunohana crystal

After World War II, the demand for Yunohana dropped dramatically and its continued production became difficult to justify. However due to the efforts of the manufacturers, the traditions and techniques have continued to this day.



Yunohana Goya and stone wall



Yunohana Goya

A Nationally Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property

Beppu Myoban Onsen

Yunohana

Production Techniques

A unique crystallization technique used only in Beppu

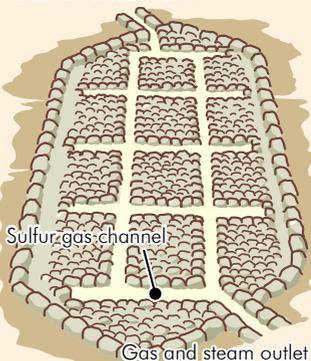
Building a Yunohana

Goya (hut)

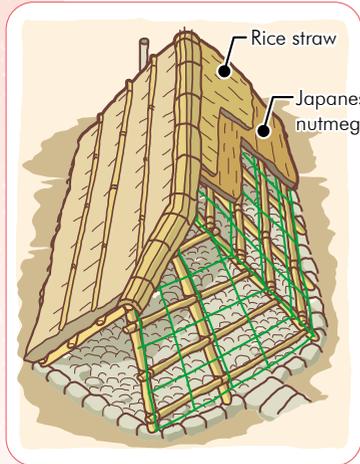
Making the Toko (floor)

Channels for the sulfur gas are made along the floor.

Gas and steam outlet



Building a Goya (hut)



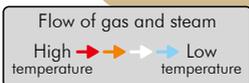
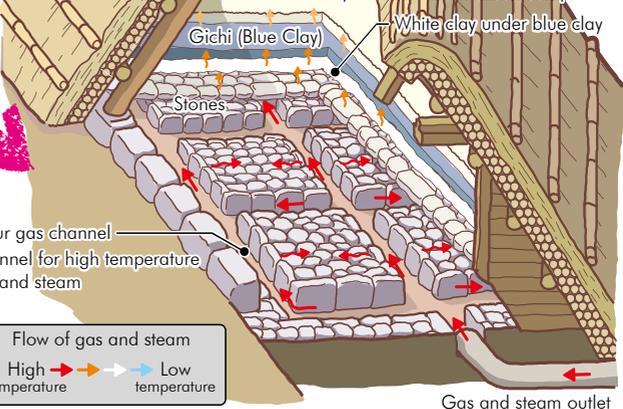
Rice straw and Japanese nutmeg tree branches are used to make the hut roof. It keeps out the rain, lets out vapor from the inside and keeps the temperature and humidity of the hut at a fixed levels.

Rice straw and Japanese nutmeg tree branches are used to make the hut roof. It keeps out the rain, lets out vapor from the inside and keeps the temperature and humidity of the hut at a fixed levels.

To maintain strength, the branches of the Japanese nutmeg tree are placed underneath.

The sulfur contained in the hot spring steam reacts with the aluminum and iron in the Gichi (blue clay) and creates Yunohana.

Yunohana: Crystal made from onsen components



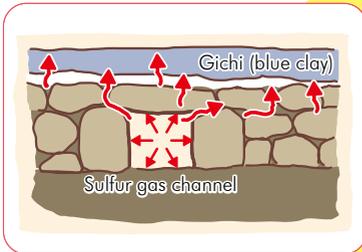
Normally, Japanese Yunohana are made by scooping out deposits from hot springs, but in Beppu they use a special crystallization method which requires skill and experience.

Since Beppu is the only place in Japan that uses this traditional method of Yunohana production, it has been designated as a Nationally Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property.

Designated in 2006

Making Yunohana

■ Drawing out gas and steam



Gas and steam will pass between the stones so that it enters all of the blue clay.

About 1 month

■ Control of humidity and temperature

To keep the appropriate temperature and humidity, the gas and amount of steam is controlled by the outlet and triangle window at the entrance of each hut.



■ Adding the Gichi (blue clay)



The blue clay that contains aluminum is separated into small pieces and spread out on the floor of the hut. It takes great skill to make sure that the combining of the gas and steam with the blue clay creates the right chemical reaction.



■ Collecting Yunohana

After the gas and steam react with the blue clay, Yunohana crystals will slowly form. They will be collected about one month later, once they have reached a size of around 10-30cm.

明礬 Myoban Characteristic Scenery



Buildings constructed using wooden boards placed in either ita-bari (vertical) or yoroi-bari (horizontal) patterns.

The gas and steam contains sulphur that quickly degrades the huts so people in the Myoban area use outer walls made up of either vertically placed ita-bari or horizontally placed yoroi-bari. These wall designs mean that they can easily be replaced as needed.

(MAP) D-2

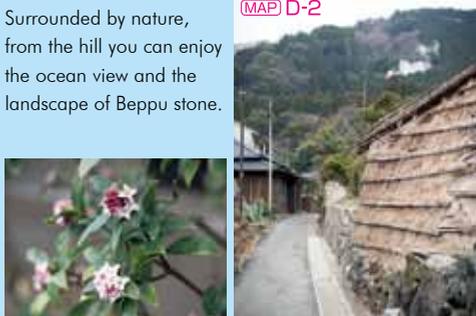


(MAP) C-1



Surrounded by nature, from the hill you can enjoy the ocean view and the landscape of Beppu stone.

(MAP) D-2



(MAP) B-2



(MAP) C-2

Ruins of Yakushi-sama-Yutaki

This stone water spout was used until 1958.



(MAP) C-1



Kakujusen (MAP) B-2

A public bath opened in the 17th-19th Century and is still in use today despite having changed locations. There is a Jizo-sama at the entrance.



It is fun to see the different facial expressions on the Jizo-sama.



Onsen and Jizo-sama

In Beppu, there are many areas where Jizo-sama (guardian deities) and Yakushi-sama (buddha able to cure all ills) are placed at the entrance to the onsen. Some public baths also put out saisen-bako (offertory boxes) so that people can put their bathing fee in the box and offer a prayer to show appreciation.

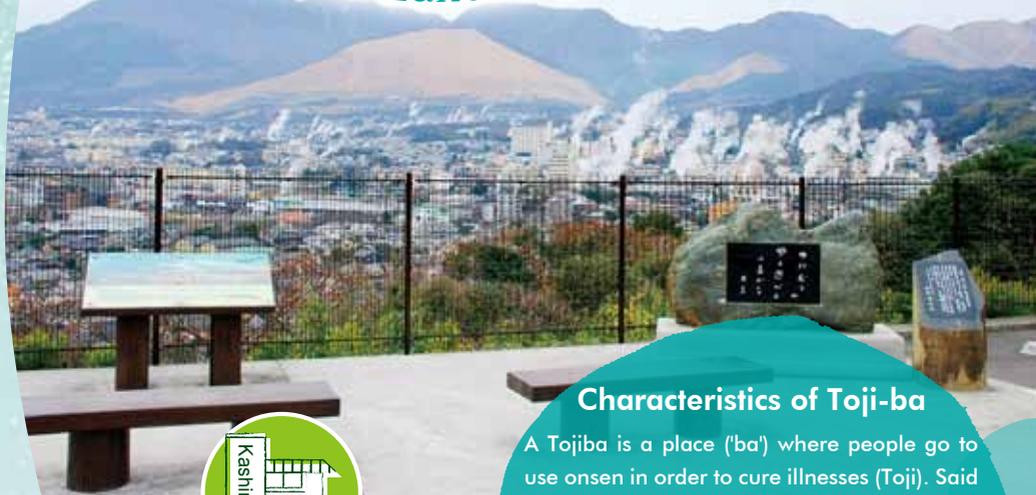
Local Custom of 'O-Jizo-sama no O-Settai'

O-settai is an old traditional event undertaken to show appreciation to the numerous Jizo-sama placed at onsen and ryokan (Japanese style inns) in the Myoban area. The owners of the Jizo-sama welcome visitors by serving snacks and foods.

Some areas worship Kobo Daishi (previously known as Kukai, a monk who founded the Shingon school of Buddhism), but in the Myoban area they worship Jizo-sama (the Buddhist guardian deity of children and lost souls).



Kannawa Cultural Landscape



Characteristics of Toji-ba

A Tojiba is a place ('ba') where people go to use onsen in order to cure illnesses (Toji). Said to have been developed by Ippen Shonin (a Buddhist preacher who founded the Ji-shu branch of Pure Land Buddhism) in the 12th-14th Century, Kannawa Onsen is one of the oldest Tojiba in Beppu City. Even now, the traditional hot spring atmosphere, and Toji culture, is still going strong.



Local Area

In Kannawa there are Kashima and Jigoku-gama, public baths and shops all along the street. You can move from one to the other easily as they are all within walking distance.

The Tojiba system still exists, so you can experience it for yourself!



How to spend time during Toji

Toji Lifestyle

People taking part in Toji rent accommodation (Kashima), take public baths, buy produce from local shops and cook meals using a Jigoku-gama (a natural onsen steam cooker).

Duration

The phrase 'seven days, one cycle' is generally the minimum timescale used for Toji, as it is believed that various substances, including illnesses, make their way around the body over the course of seven days. Many people doing Toji will repeat the cycle two or three times.



Umi Jigoku

Making Use of Onsen Resources

The fact that the hot springs are used in so many different ways it is thought to be an important part of the appeal of Kannawa. You can experience numerous ways of using the high-temperature steam in this area.



Footbath / Foot sauna / Stone footbath

Warm your feet with hot water and steam.

MAP C-6

Steam bath

A sauna-style facility where you can feel the benefit of acorus graminus (medicinal herbs) combined with the hot spring steam.



Jigoku-mushi

A cooking method using hot spring steam to steam food. This heightens the natural flavour of the ingredients while giving them the aroma of the hot spring.

Eat



Heal

Hot
spring
steam

See

Umi Jigoku
(A National Place of Scenic Beauty)

MAP C-3



Jigoku-meguri ("Hell Tour")

In Beppu, the areas where boiling hot gas and steam emerge are called the "Jigoku" ("Hells"). At the end of the Meiji period (1868-1912) tourist fees began being collected at Umi Jigoku ("Sea Hell"), and since then many other Jigoku were opened to the public, becoming the centerpiece of tourism in Beppu.

Gas-liquid separation device

This device is used to separate the hot water, gas, and steam from hot spring sources. The gas and steam gathered by this machine are used for 'Ashi-mushi' (foot saunas) and 'Jigoku-mushi' (steam cooking). A lot of the famed 'Yukemuri' (plumes of steam) seen in Kannawa are made by devices like this.



Experience Toji !

4 Facilities Used for Toji



Kashima



Look out for the word "かしま" (Kashima) on signboards



Kashima are low-cost temporary rental accommodation where customers can stay and cook for themselves in order to stay for a longer period of time. There are steam cooking facilities like Jigoku-gama (a traditional cooker used to steam food using natural hot spring steam), and sometimes the accommodation also has its own onsen.

There are numerous shops scattered around the Ryokan (Japanese-style inns) and Kashima (rental accommodation), selling daily necessities for Toji life and ingredients needed for Jigoku-mushi-style cooking, such as meat, fish and vegetables.



Shops

There are tours organised by locals where you can take a tour of the various shops before enjoying some Jigoku-mushi-style cuisine.

Have fun getting Jigoku-mushi recommendations from the local shops!



How to cook your ingredients, Jigoku-mushi-style

- Steam them using a Jigoku-gama cooker at the Kashima (rental accommodation)
- Steam them using a Jigoku-gama cooker at a hotel that allows you to bring and cook your own ingredients
- Steam them using a Jigoku-gama cooker at a local shop

While the food is cooking, you can visit a nearby public bath.



Jigoku-gama (Steam cooker)

Steaming the ingredients in the hot spring steam gives them a richer flavour. Prepare the ingredients, put them into a bamboo basket, place it in the Jigoku-gama steam cooker, then all that's left to do is wait for this simple but delicious and healthy meal to cook!

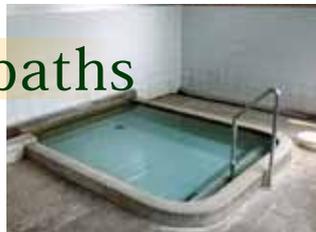


The seafood, vegetables and meat will have a soft and flaky texture after steaming.



Public baths

In addition to the municipal onsen, there are also public baths managed and operated by residents. All these onsen are popular with the locals, as well as tourists and people taking part in Toji.



(MAP) C-5 Shounin no yu



(MAP) B-6 Tani no yu



(MAP) D-6 Netsu no yu



(MAP) B-6 Jigokubara Onsen

鉄輪 Kannawa Characteristic Scenery



Fujiya Ryokan

Once a long established Ryokan (Japanese-style inn) in Kannawa for over 100 years (until 2001), it is now used as a gallery and café. They also offer tours of the building.

[MAP D-6](#)



Yukemuri (onsen steam)

You can often see Yukemuri (onsen steam) emerging from gaps in the street and from the river.

[MAP B-6](#)



Cobblestone pavement made using Beppu Stone

Andesite from Mt. Tsurumi is called Beppu Stone, and is used for the cobblestone pavements and stone walls in Beppu.

[MAP C-6](#)



Ruins of Shibu no yu Taki yu

These are the ruins of Taki yu located behind Shibu no yu.

[MAP C-5](#)



Ippen Shonin and Kannawa

The Yuami Matsuri Festival is held every September in Kannawa to remember Ippen Shonin (a famous Buddhist preacher who developed the Kannawa area). A statue of Ippen Shonin is carried around the district in a portable shrine and washed at public baths.

Start from
Eifuku-ji
Temple



Eifuku-ji
Temple

Locals join the
procession

Head to the public baths

Bathe the statue at these
two public baths

Participants use
a ladle to pour onsen
water on the statue



Mushi
yu

Shibu no
yu



Even on non-festival days, you can still pour hot onsen water on the Ippen Shonin statue located in front of the Mushi-yu to pray for healing. Just pour water on the body part of the statue that corresponds to the body part you want to be healed.



Facilities related to Ippen Shonin

MAP C-5



Shibu no yu

One of the onsen developed by Ippen Shonin. It is loved by the locals, as well as tourists and people taking part in toji.

MAP C-6



Mushi yu

Another of the onsen established by Ippen Shonin before later being rebuilt at its current location in 2006. In the original location, you can see the ruins of the stone chamber of the steam bath which has now been restored.

MAP C-5



Eifuku-ji Temple

In 1276, Ippen Shonin visited Kannawa and opened a Ji-shu (Pure Land Buddhism sect) Buddhist retreat which later became this temple.

Myoban X Kannawa

2 Egg Tour



Myoban egg

The water that makes up the onsen in Beppu is categorized into 7 different types. Two of these are the Myoban-acid-sulfate and the Kannawa-sodium-chloride springs. It is said that hot spring-steamed dishes will vary in flavour depending on what kind of hot spring the steam was from.



Kannawa egg

Access between Myoban and Kannawa

Please enjoy the scenery of these two areas as you travel between them.

Myoban⇒Kannawa

★Bound for

Beppu Station West Exit
Beppu Station

Get on the bus



From Kannawa to Myoban

Approx. 20min



From Kannawa to Myoban

Approx. 5min

Based on bus stop



View of Beppu Bay from Beppu Myoban bridge



Ocean at the end of the street

- Jizo-yu-mae
- Myoban
- Konya-jigoku-mae
- Myoban clinic
- Teru-yu

- Umi-jigoku-mae
- Kannawa

Kannawa⇒Myoban

★Bound for

Safari Senninda
APU

Bus stop (MAP) C-5 Get on the bus



Mountain background of Yukemuri



Stone footbath and Yukemuri (steam plume) in Otani Park

2 Bath Tour



Myoban Onsen

Exfoliate dead skin cells

Kinou Onsen-yoku

Kinou Onsen-yoku is a method in which you bathe in two different onsen in order to benefit from the synergistic effects of both types of hot spring. Myoban Onsen will help exfoliate dead skin cells, and Kannawa Onsen has a moisturizing effect that will make skin beautiful.



Kannawa Onsen

Contains a lot of metasilicic acid which has a moisturizing effect



MAP B-2

Kakujsen (Sulfate spring)



MAP C-6

Sujiyu (Chloride spring)

Public Bath

Manners

- ① Give a cheerful greeting.
- ② Before taking a bath, wash your body and get used to the hot water temperature.
- ③ After washing your body, get into the bath quietly.
Do not take a towel into the bath water.
- ④ If you feel that the water is too hot, ask others 'May I add more cold water?'
- ⑤ Please do not sit on the edge of the bath.
- ⑥ When you use the shower and wash bowl, please avoid splashing others around you.
- ⑦ After bathing, use agari-yu (clean water) to rinse your body, then use a towel to dry yourself before returning to the changing room.
- ⑧ Do not forget to stay hydrated (drink water etc.) before and after bathing.

