



Chinoike Ointment

Renowned across Japan, an ointment effective for skin diseases, made from the clay found at Chinoike-Jigoku.

おすすめ 食&おみやげ Souvenirs

Jigoku Steam-Baked Pudding

Pudding steamed in hot water from Umi-Jigoku, made using only milk, sugar and eggs. People across the nation appreciate the rich hand-made taste of this delight.



Bath Additive

These Magma Onsen bath additives are made by rapidly evaporating the spa waters of Umi-Jigoku. (Umi-Jigoku)



Barley Shochu Liquor

(Restaurant Umi)



Hot Spring Soft-Boiled Egg

A specialty of the Jigoku Meguri. (each Jigoku)

Kabosu & Pomelo

Available on a limited seasonal basis, Kabosu citrus fruit are sold at Umi-Jigoku from late August through the end of October, while pomelo are available at Tatsumaki-Jigoku from late December through the end of March.



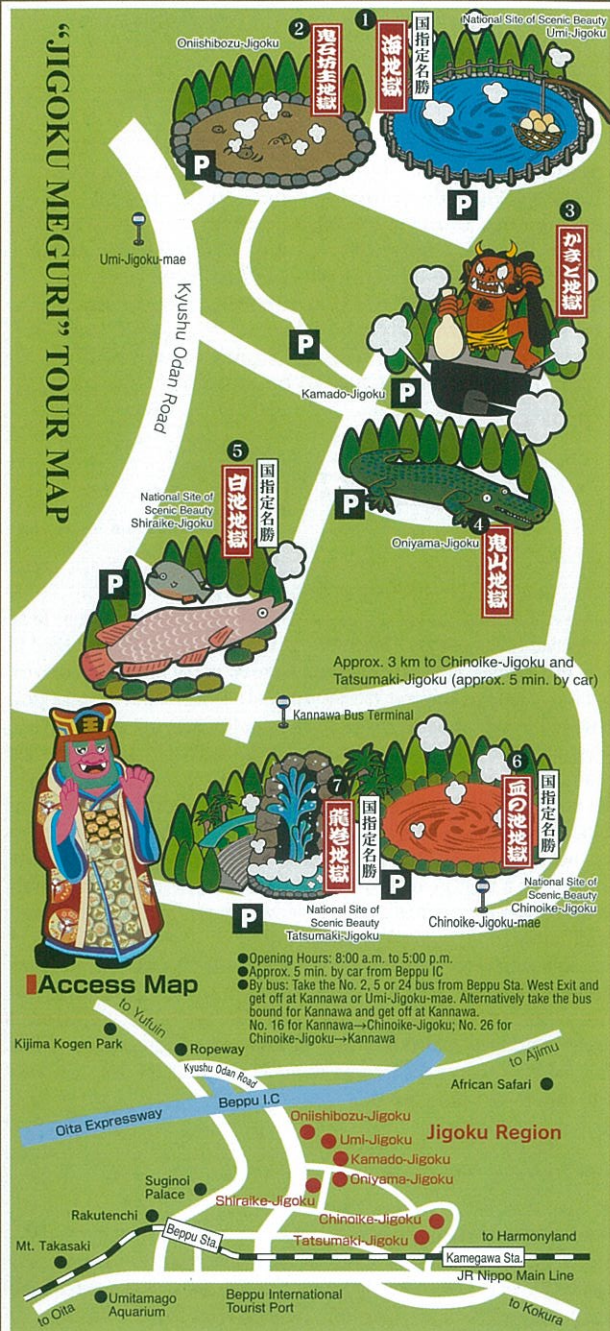
Jigoku Cap Jigoku T-shirt

(each Jigoku)



Dango-Jiru Soup

A special dumpling dish uniquely cooked according to local Oita tradition. (Restaurant Umi)



BEPPU “JIGOKU MEGURI” “HELL TOUR”

地獄めぐり

The Beppu Jigoku Association 559-1 Kannawa, Beppu-City, Oita
TEL (0977) 66-1577 FAX (0977) 66-7921
<http://www.beppu-jigoku.com/>



1 海地獄
国指定名勝

National Site of Scenic Beauty
Umi-Jigoku

Gazing out upon the mystically cool cobalt-blue of this pond stirs images of a crystal-clear sea, but in fact the water temperature here is a scolding 98°C. This feature was created 1,200 years ago after the volcanic explosion of Mt. Tsurumi, and corresponds to a site labeled "Kuberi-no-Yu" in the *Bungo Topography*.

Japan's No. 1
V. Amazonica



2 鬼石坊主地獄

Oniishibozu-Jigoku

This place is called Oniishibozu-Jigoku ("Oniishi shaven head hell") after the name of the area, Oniishi, and because the large and small bubbles of hot gray mud that boil up here look like the shaven heads of monks.



3 かまど地獄

Kamado-Jigoku

The origins of Kamado-Jigoku's name stem from ancient times with the custom of using the fumes of this spring to cook offerings of rice to the guardian god at the Kamado Hachimangu Shrine Festival. High-temperature water and blisteringly hot gas are expelled here. The spa temperature is 90°C.

The Origin of "Jigoku"

Even more than a thousand years past, from ancient times the Jigoku Region of Kannawa and Kamegawa is described as home to fuming gas expulsions, bubbling mud, and steaming hot water in the *Bungo Topography*. It was a place that people feared to approach and was said to have been an accursed land. There is no surprise that it came to be known familiarly as a place of "jigoku" ("hells"). Even today, the locations in Kannawa where hot springs well up continue to be known by the name "jigoku."

地獄讃

My Admiration for Jigoku

Heaven, as depicted by Dante, John Milton, or William Blake, seems neither beautiful nor interesting at all to me.

However, I find the visions of hell conjured by these literary masters to be tremendously interesting. The cruelty of beings is so vividly expressed in them that I almost feel that I would prefer to go to hell rather than heaven. In this day and age, however, the heavens and hells described by these great poets and writers no longer evoke yearning or fear amongst many people. Nevertheless, if you visit Beppu you will be confronted by a vision of eight great hells appearing before you. And these are certainly terrifying hells. Hot water gushes forth from the ground, roaring and rumbling fiercely, as numerous enormous crocodiles jostle violently with each other. Though you may not be able to see demons, it is clear that one false step, one slip, will bring you to a rapid demise. When I consider that these hells must surely be hotter than the reported cauldrons of hell, all my longing for hell fades swiftly away.

Human beings need to experience hell in this life at least once, to empty themselves of their superfluous accumulations, to reflect on their past conduct, and to contemplate the path ahead. For this important purpose, I highly recommend a visit to Beppu, to witness the many aspects of hell. Only those who have been through hell and lived to tell the tale are worthy to be called true human beings.

今 東光 Writer and Buddhist Priest
Kon Toukou Winner of the 1957 Naoki Prize

今 東光

National Sites of Scenic Beauty

One of the cultural treasure designations of the Japanese government, it signifies a spot of unusual scenic beauty. The first hot springs to receive this designation were the Umi-, Chinoike-, Tatsumaki- and Shiraike-Jigoku.

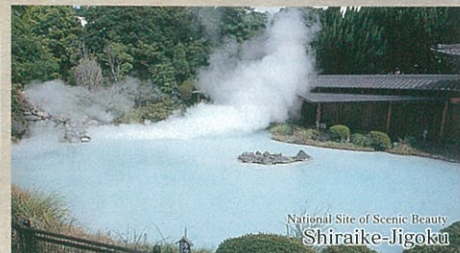


Oniyama-Jigoku

Oniyama-Jigoku, named after the Oniyama district in which it is found, is also known by the familiar moniker Wani-Jigoku ("crocodile hell"). Crocodiles were first bred here in 1923 using the hot spring's warmth, and today the tank kept here is roughly 100-strong. The spa temperature is 98°C.

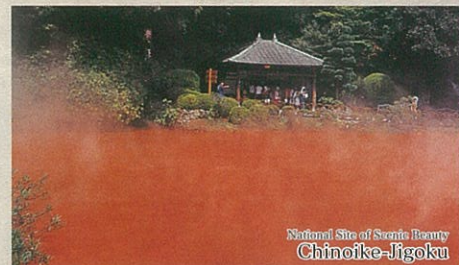
5 白池地獄

国指定名勝



National Site of Scenic Beauty
Shiraike-Jigoku

The Shiraike-Jigoku ("white pond hell") is so called because the colorless water that spouts from the ground naturally turns a bluish white due to the temperature and pressure drop when it joins the pond waters. A variety of large-sized tropical fish are kept on the spring grounds, warmed by its waters. The spa temperature is 95°C. Sodium chloride hot spring containing boric acid.



National Site of Scenic Beauty
Chinoike-Jigoku

The clay is steaming hot to the point that the steam is red. Japan's oldest natural Jigoku is noted in the *Bungo Topography* as "Akayusen." Chinoike Ointment, effective for skin diseases, is made from the red clay produced here. The spa temperature is 78°C.

7 龍巻地獄

国指定名勝



National Site of Scenic Beauty
Tatsumaki-Jigoku

Tatsumaki-Jigoku, a geyser, has been designated as a natural monument by Beppu City. Geysers are a type of hot spring that spouts out boiling water and steam at intervals. The geyser here is particularly remarkable among the world's geysers for its short intervals between spouts.

4 鬼山地獄

6 血の池地獄

国指定名勝