

# What's up, OITA!

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Bringing the latest from Oita, Japan to all those connected to Oita thriving all across the globe.

## RWC2019 Japan Sees the Successful Completion of Five Matches in Oita!

During the period of the Rugby World Cup 2019 Japan, a total of five matches were held at Oita, and the stadium received 173 thousand visitors from both Japan and abroad. The two quarterfinals, in particular, attracted many overseas guests, and for a while the atmosphere of Oita felt like that of a foreign country's.



Moreover, around 110 thousand visitors made use of the Fanzone set up at the southern exit of the JR Oita Station, with many of them enjoying the games with a mug of beer in hand. Aside from local delicacies like fish-and-chips with an Oita twist, Oita Wagyu, karaage and Hita yakisoba, the Fanzone also provided unique facilities and experiences such as footbaths, rugby-related activities, Japanese calligraphy and Kunisaki Shichitai grass friendship bracelet making workshops, which proved to be extremely popular among visitors. *(Continued on following page)*





(Continued from previous page) The restaurants and tourist attractions across the prefecture were lively with the presence of rugby players and spectators. We are pleased to say that they appeared to have fully enjoyed the charms of Oita during their stay.



### Eat and Yell! *Yufuin Ushikui Zekkyo Taikai*

The *Yufuin Ushikui Zekkyo Takai* ('Eat-Beef-and-Yell Tournament') has convened successfully for the 45<sup>th</sup> time. The weather was clear on the day, and around 650 participants arrived at the scene. After enjoying a meal of barbequed Oita Wagyu, around 100 participants, ranging from children to elderlies, gathered at the spacious pasture grounds and yelled at the top of their lungs. Heartfelt cries like 'The Japanese team will definitely win the RWC!' and 'It's not as if you can knock back a bottle of mirin like beer, so why on earth is it taxed at 10%?' were heard as the air filled with excitement, offering fun snippets of Japanese current affairs.

## ~Oita, my sweet home~ Photo gallery feat. Usa and Bungo-ono



Ajimu Winery,  
Usa



Fukino Waterfall,  
Usa



Buta-horomon (pork offal),  
Bungo-ono



Yujaku Park,  
Bungo-ono



## Hita Tenryo Matsuri and Sennen Akari

Tucked away on the far western corner of Oita is the city of Hita. Once a *tenryo*, a prosperous administrative district run by the Tokugawa shogunate, present day Hita is well known for its yearly festivals. Every year, the streets of the city come to life in the second weekend of November with the convention of the Hita Tenryo Matsuri and the Sennen Akari, two festivals that celebrate the region's rich history.

During daytime, processions of parade-goers dressed in Edo period costumes march the historical streetscape of Mameda-machi in high spirits as a part of the Hita Tenryo Matsuri. The sight of 200 people marching under the autumn skies is quite a sight to behold.

With the sun sinking below the horizon, the landscape transforms utterly as lanterns floating in the Kagetsu River and lined along its banks light up one by one. Oita is Japan's leading production place for the *madake* bamboo, and is renowned for its traditional bamboo crafts; Sennen Akari, 'Light of A Thousand Years', is one of the events that celebrates this proud heritage, and the scrupulous attention to detail paid to creating an elaborate world bathed in the warm light of tens of thousands of bamboo lanterns offers just a small glimpse into the love the locals have for their land.



### 40<sup>th</sup> Hita Tenryo Matsuri and 15<sup>th</sup> Sennen Akari

Sat 9th ~ Sun 10th November, 2019

Mameda and Tsukikuma Park area, Hita City

<http://www.city.hita.oita.jp/>

### Words from the editor

The days turn shorter and the nights grow colder. The gentle glow of festive candlelight becomes all the more comforting as we approach winter.

- Xin Lan Xie, CIR from Australia