



KUROKAWA ONSEN  
温泉  
黒川

## English Map & Onsen-Hopping Guide

### WELCOME!

Welcome to Kurokawa Onsen, one of the most beautiful hot spring towns in Japan! We hope you'll make the most of your visit here by exploring some of the numerous outdoor baths (露天風呂 rotenburo) dotted in and around the town. The locals call it "Rotenburo Meguri", we call it "Onsen-Hopping"! You'll discover baths along the river and in the woods, in the center of town or overlooking mountain views, cave baths, rocky pools, wooden tubs, standing baths, mixed baths, historic baths, modern baths and more.... Please use this guide map to help you plan your own personal "Onsen-Hopping" course, but do bear in mind that some of the larger, central baths will be very busy at weekends, peak holiday periods such as Golden Week and in the autumn. Why not try bathing earlier or later in the day to avoid the crowds, or perhaps choose one of the smaller baths in more tranquil locations on the outskirts of town?

### Kurokawa Onsen Ryokan Association

[ Visitor Center ]

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kurokawaonsen english



# KUROKAWA ONSEN MAP

**Tired feet? Try one of the relaxing foot baths (足湯 ashiyu) dotted around town. (Most are free, but some may have a small charge.)**

**Spending a day or more in Kurokawa?**  
Ask for the Kurokawa Hiking Course Map at the Visitor Center! Don't miss the view from Lovers Hill (Koibitotachi no Oka) just 2km out of town.... See the spectacular "Sleeping Buddha"!

#### Event calendar

1st from 11:00 a.m.	Drum performance (Yamanami Taiko) Mochi (rice cake) pounding and free soup
January	Every Sunday from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.
Mid	Drum performance & Mochi (rice cake) pounding
July	4th Sunday
August	4th Saturday
October	1st Saturday
4th Sunday	

This is a brief description of some events that take place in the local area. Please ask at the Visitor Center or check our website for more information.

#### BATH OPENING TIMES

**8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

(However, please note that at certain times some baths may be closed for cleaning or maintenance work. We recommend that you check the current situation here or at the Visitor Center)

<http://www.kurokawaonsen.or.jp/english/nyuyoku/>



## ONSEN-HOPPING PASS ONLY ¥1300!!

Available from the Visitor Center or the reception desk at any of the 24 participating Kurokawa Onsen Ryokan Association member inns.

This wooden onsen-hopping pass (nyuto tegata 入湯手形) lets you try 3 different outdoor baths (rotenburo 露天風呂) for only ¥1300\* Just pop it round your neck, and present it each time you visit a different bath so it can be stamped. It's valid for upto 6 months, and you can also keep it as a souvenir of your trip.

Please purchase one pass per person. A children's pass is available for ¥700.

(\*A saving of ¥300, as entrance to individual outdoor baths is usually ¥500)

## TAKING A DIP, KUROKAWA STYLE...

Several inns switch their baths over once or twice a day so first check that you enter the correct changing room or bathing area!

女性 (josei) WOMEN 男性 (dansei) MEN

A mixed bath (混浴風呂 konyoku buro) will also have gender separate changing areas that then lead into the mixed bath. Toilets are sometimes located outside the immediate changing / bathing areas, so make sure you go before you change! Take it easy if it's your first time in a hot spring and try several short dips rather than one long one, as the water is hotter (42°C) than a normal bath.

- Remove ALL clothing and jewellery and use the basket or lockers provided. DO NOT wear a swimsuit!
- Proceed to the bath taking only a small "modesty" towel with you, shampoo (シャンプー) and body soap (ボディソープ) are usually provided.
- First shower briefly, or rinse your body using a scoop or bowl provided and hot water from the bath, then enter the main bath to relax and warm up. NEVER use soap, shampoo or other products in the main bath but only in the designated washing areas. DO NOT immerse your towel in the water, but leave it on the side of the bath.
- After you have warmed up you can take a break to wash and shampoo in the washing area and perhaps try the various baths offered outdoors (露天風呂 rotenburo) and indoors (内風呂 uchiburo). Be sure to rinse off any suds before entering the main bath again.
- Finally, there's no need to rinse the beneficial hot spring waters from your skin, but do use your towel to wipe off excess water before returning to the changing room.
- Most inns provide a room (休憩場 kyuukeijo) or area where you may then drink water (available from water coolers or a spout with a ladle) and relax after your dip.

**PLEASE use lockers for your valuables!**  
**PLEASE do not take food and drink into the bathing areas!**  
**PLEASE mind your step in and around the baths!**

## YUKATA RENTAL

How about dressing for the part in a cool cotton Yukata?

For only 1000 yen you can rent a Yukata set (cotton robe, obi belt and setta sandals) from the Bechin-kan building (べっちゃん館) located just behind the Visitor Center. Changing rooms and lockers are provided. Come early as availability is limited!

**RENTAL TIME : Between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.**

**SOME USEFUL JAPANESE**

- 女性 (josei) = women ● 男性 (dansei) = men ● 露天風呂 (roten buro) = outdoor bath ● 内風呂 (uchi buro) = indoor bath
- 混浴風呂 (konyoku buro) = mixed bath ● 貸切風呂 (kashikiri buro) = private bath ● お風呂 (ofuro) = bath
- 飲用 (inyo) = drinking water ● 掃除中 (soji chu) = currently being cleaned ● 休館 (kyukan) = closed



# WHAT'S IN THE WATER?

Kurokawa's hot spring waters are cooled to between 40 and 42°C for comfortable bathing. Generally the waters are ideal for relaxing, soaking tired muscles and pampering the skin, and certain types of spring are said to help treat specific illnesses and conditions.

The following is a very simple KEY to the eight recognised categories of hot spring waters found in Kurokawa.

**Mildly Acidic Simple Springs** (tanjunsen 単純泉) PH3~6 are suitable for all skin types and may help relieve fatigue and insomnia.

**Mildly Alkaline Simple Springs** (tanjunsen arukari-sei 単純泉アルカリ性) PH 7.5~8.5, suitable for all skin types and said to smooth the skin.

**Sulphur Springs** (iousen 硫黄泉) give off a characteristic smell and are often cloudy or milky, useful in the treatment of acne and skin complaints.

**Hydrogen Carbonate Springs** (tansansuisoensen 炭酸水素塩泉) are refreshing and said to soothe burns and help heal scars.

**Chloride Springs** (enkabutsusen 塩化物泉) and

**Sulphate Springs** (ryusannensen 硫酸塩泉) are both saline springs which help the body to retain heat and the skin to retain moisture.

**Ferruginous (iron) Springs** (gantetsusen 含鉄泉) said to help treat anemia, rheumatism and excema.

**Acidic Springs** (sanseisen 酸性泉) PH2~3 have a powerful antibacterial quality and although they may be used to treat athlete's foot and certain skin diseases they are not suitable for sensitive skin.

\*More detailed information about bathing in Japanese Hot Springs may be found in English, Chinese and Korean on the Japan Health and Research Institute website: [www.jph-ri.or.jp](http://www.jph-ri.or.jp)

# GETTING AROUND



• Many of the baths listed here are just a short walk from the Visitor Center, electric bicycles are available for hire from the nearby Bechin-kan building (べっちゃん館) or a taxi to those baths on the outskirts of town will cost around 1000 yen.

• If you are driving, parking is free in and around Kurokawa.

• Please note that in winter, snow may make driving hazardous.

\*Yamamizuki Inn provides a shuttle minibus for Onsen-Hopping Pass holders wishing to visit their baths, which runs regularly throughout the day between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

# PRIVATE BATH HIRE

If you want to try the hot springs but would prefer a "private" or "family" bath (貸切り風呂 kashikiri buro) these are also available for visitors to hire at ten inns around Kurokawa. However, please note that the Onsen-Hopping Pass does NOT include this type of private bath hire.

Opening times and fees will vary (as a rough guide ¥1000 per person per 50 or 60 min time slot) and at busy times you may need to wait.

## 21 YAMABIKO RYOKAN



やまびこ旅館

Capacity: 50  
Men only: 20  
Changes daily  
Indoor: 42  
Locker: 7min.

[Phone] +81-967-44-0311

Largest outdoor bath in Kurokawa, a popular and central location along the riverside.

## 16 RYOKAN NANJYOEN



旅館 南城苑

Capacity: 10  
Men only: 10  
Private bath hire  
Indoor: 20  
Locker: 1min.

[Phone] +81-967-44-0553

Centrally-located baths just across from Visitor Center offering mist saunas and facial steamers.

## 12 OKYAKUYA



御客屋

Capacity: 9  
Men only: 9  
Indoor: 18  
Locker: 5min.

[Phone] +81-967-44-0454

Close to the river, the outdoor baths are secluded. Known for their beneficial waters since the Edo Period.

## 8 YUKYONOHIBIKI YUSAI



湯峡の響き 優彩

Capacity: 20  
Men only: 20  
Indoor: 30  
Locker: 5min.

[Phone] +81-967-44-0111

Spacious and neat stone baths with a roof are offered by this large central hotel.

## 6 RYOKAN OKUNOYU



旅館 奥の湯

Capacity: 20  
Men only: 8  
Indoor: 25  
Locker: 15min.

[Phone] +81-967-44-0021

Several baths including large main mixed bath and smaller mixed bath directly overlooking the river.

## 1 SAN-AI KOGEN HOTEL



三愛高原ホテル

Capacity: 25  
Men only: 15  
Indoor: 16  
Locker: 60min.

[Phone] +81-967-44-0121

Stunning open views of the Aso landscape from these outdoor baths a 10-minute ride from the center.

## 22 KUROKAWASO



黒川荘

Capacity: 30  
Men only: 30  
Indoor: 50  
Locker: 10min.

[Phone] +81-967-44-0211

Relax in spacious and secluded baths set near the river with unusual rock formations nearby.

## 15 WAFURYOKAN MISATO



和風旅館 美里

Capacity: 15  
Men only: 15  
Indoor: 15  
Locker: 1min.

[Phone] +81-967-44-0331

Sulphur spring waters of this centrally-located outdoor bath sometimes change from clear to milky or bluey-white.

## 14 RYOKAN ICHINOI



旅館 壺の井

Capacity: 15  
Men only: 15  
Indoor: 20  
Locker: 5min.

[Phone] +81-967-44-0881

Rocky baths surrounded by trees, the sulphur spring waters sometimes run clear, sometimes cloudy.

## 13 OYADO NOSHIYU



お宿 のし湯

Capacity: 20  
Men only: 20  
Indoor: 20  
Locker: 2min.

[Phone] +81-967-44-0308

Large rocky baths reached after a walk through the pleasant garden of the inn compound.

## 5 IYASHINOSATO KIYASHIKI



いやしの里 樹やしき

Capacity: 10  
Men only: 10  
Private bath hire  
Indoor: 10  
Locker: 15min.

[Phone] +81-967-44-0326

A selection of baths, including a mixed bath and wooden tub, nestled on the wooded riverbank a little way from the center.

## 2 GENRYUNOYADO HOZANTEI



源流の宿 帆山亭

Capacity: 15  
Men only: 15  
Indoor: 20  
Locker: 40min.

[Phone] +81-967-44-0059

Peaceful wooded location a little way out of town, milky white water runs into spacious and rustic outdoor baths.

## 23 RYOKAN KONOYU



旅館 こうの湯

Capacity: 20  
Men only: 20  
Indoor: 30  
Locker: 15min.

[Phone] +81-967-48-8700

Set in wooded area on outskirts of town and featuring deep standing baths as well as regular baths.

## 19 FUMOTO RYOKAN



ふもと旅館

Capacity: 10  
Men only: 10  
Indoor: 8  
Locker: 5min.

[Phone] +81-967-44-0918

Secluded baths set directly above the river, women's bath is surrounded by bamboo.

## 17 RYOKAN YAMANOYU



旅館 やまの湯

Capacity: 10  
Men only: 6  
Indoor: 10  
Locker: 2min.

[Phone] +81-967-44-0017

Compact baths tucked away on a hillside are reached by elevator to 4th floor, then steps.

## 10 RYOKAN WAKABA



旅館 わかば

Capacity: 10  
Men only: 10  
Private bath hire  
Indoor: 20  
Locker: 7min.

[Phone] +81-967-44-0500

Pleasant secluded outdoor baths set above the river, a roofed area allows comfortable bathing even in the rain.

## 7 RYOKAN NISHIMURA



旅館 にしむら

Capacity: 10  
Men only: 10  
Private bath hire  
Indoor: 20  
Locker: 5min.

[Phone] +81-967-44-0753

Old-style, wooden building in the town houses one bath directly on the river's edge and one roofed bath.

## 3 SATONOYU WARAKU



里の湯 和らく

Capacity: 8  
Men only: 8  
Indoor: 16  
Locker: 30min.

[Phone] +81-967-44-0690

Quiet setting on the outskirts of town, unusual cave style bath as well as larger open bath.

## 24 RYOKAN SANGA



旅館 山河

Capacity: 20  
Men only: 20  
Private bath hire  
Indoor: 18  
Locker: 30min.

[Phone] +81-967-44-0906

Tranquil setting in woods on the edge of town offering one of the largest mixed outdoor baths.

## 20 RYOKAN YUMOTOSO



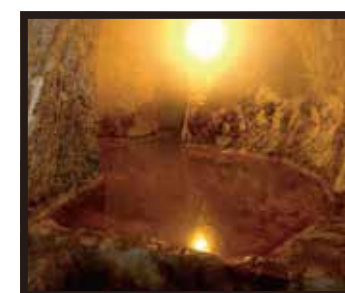
旅館 湯本荘

Capacity: 8  
Men only: 8  
Indoor: 24  
Locker: 5min.

[Phone] +81-967-44-0216

Offers a large wooden sake barrel bath indoors as well as an outdoor bath surrounded by thick bamboo.

## 18 YAMANOYADO SHINMEIKAN



山の宿 新明館

Capacity: 10  
Men only: 15  
Private bath hire  
Indoor: 15  
Locker: 5min.

[Phone] +81-967-44-0916

Central riverside location, popular outdoor Sulphur spring baths set inside unusual, dark and steamy caves.

## 11 IKOI RYOKAN



いこい旅館

Capacity: 20  
Men only: 20  
Private bath hire  
Indoor: 40  
Locker: 5min.

[Phone] +81-967-44-0552

Large outdoor mixed bath as well as a variety of baths including (for the ladies) beautifying "Bijinyu".

## 9 YUMERINDO



瀬の本館 夢龍胆

Capacity: 30  
Men only: 20  
Indoor: 16  
Locker: 10min.

[Phone] +81-967-44-0321

Large mixed outdoor bath complete with roofed area, pleasant sound of the river nearby.

## 4 YAMAMIZUKI



山みず木

Capacity: 35  
Men only: 35  
Indoor: 50  
Locker: 20min.

[Phone] +81-967-44-0336

Popular, large outdoor baths are set directly on the riverside in a spacious area behind the inn. Shuttle bus available.