

JULY 2017

KUNISAKI **Now**

YOUR RURAL SUMMER GETAWAY !



**CULTURE
FESTIVAL
DELICACIES
ATTRACTIONS
YAYOI NO MURA**

Introduction

Thanks for taking Kunisaki now. This magazine will send the charm of Kunisaki peninsula for you. For example, the recommended places, foods, festivals and so on. I'm sure that reading this magazine will make you want to visit Kunisaki peninsula. In addition to that, many Kumamons are hidden in the magazine. Let's try to find them! The answer is written in this magazine. Enjoy reading!



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What's Kunisaki



The Kunisaki Peninsula can be found northern regions of Oita Prefecture, facing the Seto Inland Sea. At its center surrounded by many valleys is Mount Futago covered by forests and populated farmlands. The town called Kunisaki was formed by the merge of town Aki, Kunimi and Musashi. As of March 31, 2017, the city has an estimated population of 29,098. Kunisaki is home to many world famous temples such as Futagoji Temple and Fukiji Temple but visitors can also find many small less prominent, small and rustic ones.

As there are too many attractions in Kunisaki we would like to introduce the most prominent ones.

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Must see attractions of Kunisaki

Usa Jingu



In Japan there are several thousands of shinto gods worshiped around the country. One of them is Hachiman the deity of archery and war. Usa Jingu has a big influence how the religion of the region changed along the centuries. Usa jingu is famous for it's unique style (Hachiman zukuri stlye) which can mainly see in main hall. The shrine itself has two halls which are connected by their roofs.

Kurehashi

One of it's most beautiful sight is called Kurehashi, a bridge with a thatched roof.

It is usually not possible to cross the bridge as its doors are opened only once in ten years during a festival. Most of the buildings as a part of Usa shrine are painted in the same colored leaves style, creating a really unique atmosphere around the shrine area. The pond under the bridge is rich with fishes only found in Japan. People who wishes to immerse themselves in the atmosphere of old times and relax a bit are advised to visit Usa jingu and if possible cross the Kurehashi bridge.



Rokugo Manzan Temples



Kunisaki Peninsula's terrain is dotted with dozens of temples and some shrines and was traditionally divided into six areas. That is why the region is known as Rokudo Manzan. It contains elements of Buddhism, Shinto religions. Stone statues of Buddhas and other deities and guardians dominate the area which really is a fantastic sight to behold to everyone interested in unique places. The most exciting adventure is when one starts to ascend the 10 minutes stairs to the main shrine and while progressing observing the beauty not only of the statues but the nature surrounding everything. Those who travel here can surely experience the so called Shinto feeling so unique to Japan.

Kitsuki castle



Kitsuki Castle can be found east of the city of Kitsuki in Oita Prefecture. It towers above nature like a giant and is also one of the many beautiful buildings that can be found in Kunisaki. People who enter the castle can experience exhibitions of how the old atmosphere was there long ago and can even try on a samurai armor worn by Japanese 200 years ago. Within the museum there is also a museum exhibiting items related to Kitsuki. It's exterior is painted with beautiful white which faintly glimmers in the morning sunlight. Those who wishes to relieve the times of Japanese history and experience a breathtaking sight should surely come to Kitsuki castle.

Sakura Hachiman Shrine and Tsurugawa Shopping District

For those who are supernatural and adventurous enthusiast, may enjoy the empty yet quiet and eerie shopping district of Kunisaki. While you traverse through the historical Kunisaki Peninsula, you'll find not only historical artifacts and edifices, but the shadow of the city's former self, the shopping district. Located in Machitsurugawa, just a 5 minute walk away from the



shopping district, one of the famous Hachiman Sakura shrine, it's historical connection to the yearly pilgrimage is a great one. It is called a Hachiman Shrine, due to it being built towards the commemoration of Hachiman, god of war. Around 1,500 years ago, those residing in Kyoto, would travel all the way to the Hachiman Sakura shrine to give thanks. Moreover this is the "headquarters" of the Hachiman shrines.

This spiritual voyage took a number of days. The reasoning behind this voyage was that this is not only the oldest Hachiman shrine but this the supposed location where Buddhism and Shintoism were conjoined. The reasons behind the establishments of Hachiman shrines, can be traced back to the syncretic deity, Hachiman. Hachiman although a war of war and archery, was also credited to being a protector of the Yamato people, and a protector of the Minamoto clan during the Heian period. He is known as a syncretic deity due to the "Shinbutsu Shuugou" belief system, which means the combination of kami and Buddhas being worshipped together.

This picturesque temple will make you go back into time, to wonder how the people made their pilgrimage to this Hachiman shrine, and how the people lived.

Below lies Kyushu's most desolate shopping district.



This shopping district currently a show of its former glory, currently lies in peace. Its only residents are the leftover elderly shopkeepers and whatever other force that took refuge in empty buildings. Moreover you'll hear sounds of cicadas, chirping birds, and the infrequent cars that happen to pass through. However though, a few times out of the year, this shopping district becomes bustling area of joy and cheer. Just recently there was a Kunisaki fair, held in early July, welcomed the summer season.

Pictured here are the residents of the Kunisaki Peninsula who were not seen before. Though occurring at night, it doesn't stop people from coming out with their families to enjoy the festival.

Here you can enjoy Japanese and Western food. Foods such as crepes, french fries, takoyaki, shaved ice, and more will fill you night with delight! Moreover you can take witness to the people dressed up in beautiful yukata, which is a lightweight, and thinner kimono intended to be worn in the warmer months.



Yayoi No Mura Historical Park – Ankokuji Village Ruins –

-- By Michelle

It is said that travel is the best way for you to learn more about yourself; however, I would say that travel can not only let people get to know themselves, but also open a different world to you.

Yayoi No Mura Historical Park – Ankokuji Village ruins, which is located at Kunisaki county, Oita prefecture, is a place that allows people to experience ancient history, living and culture from Yayoi period to early Kofun period. Over here, you are able to directly touch and feel the history, and be truly embraced by atmosphere of Yayoi era.

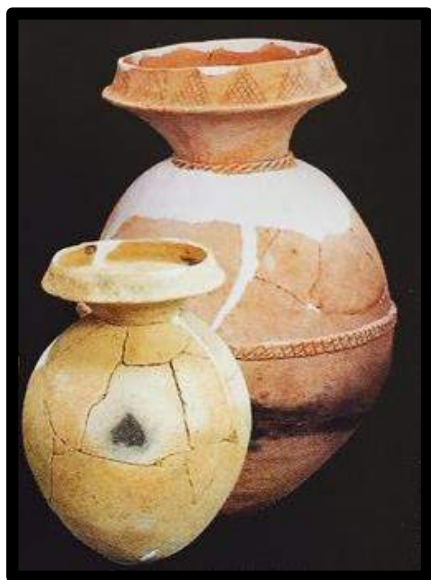
By wandering around the park, you would feel like you are accidentally traveling through the time and space, and go back to Japan of 1800 years ago.

Please open your mind and enjoy everything occurs in your tour, because there is always something more to discover!



HISTORY OF YAYOI

Yayoi Period is regarded as Iron Age era of Japan dated 300 BC – 300 AD, and the name of period is originated from a district in Tokyo where archaeologists first uncovered a particular type of pottery of this period.



[1]

Yayoi pottery was simply decorated, and produced on a potter's wheel, which was different from the totally hand-made pottery during Jomon Period. Moreover, iron and bronze was introduced during Yayoi era. Iron was mainly used for making agriculture tools, while bronze was usually used for ritual artifacts.

The most significant characteristic of this period was that people were aware of rice growing, and was first found the development of agriculture in the Japanese history. It is believed that the increasing of population was owing to the rice cultivation which also led to the settlement society.



[2]



WHAT'S FUN



For people who want to learn more about history, there is a history learning hall, which introduces history about Ankokuji Village ruins and Yayoi, and it not only has exhibition of some utensils of the period, but also provides a short film which helps people to understand more.

The majority of dwellings excavated from the Yayoi period was pit dwelling, flat-land dwellings and raised-floor houses are also found. You can see and even get into the two kinds of unique dwellings of Yayoi era, which are pit dwelling and raised-floor houses. In addition to the buildings from the Yayoi period, the surrounding nature environment and paddy field can also be explored at the park.

Furthermore, the park provides a variety kinds of facilities for you to experience the culture and life in Yayoi period. These facilities can be divided into two types, one is “permanent ancient experiences”, and the other one is “reservation ancient experiences”. The former one, which includes fire making experiences, casting experience, and so on, can be experienced whenever you visit the park. As for the reservation ancient experiences, which includes masonry oven cuisine experience, and fire making tool making experience, required reservation by one month in advance. In my personal experience, the masonry oven cuisine experience is one of the best things about the Yayoi No Mara. It was so much fun!



MASONRY OVEN CUISINE - PIZZA

Unlike general western style pizza, here you can create your own unique pizza by using hundred percent Japanese ingredient, such as venison, taco, hijiki, and sirasu (whitebait).

All of the ingredients and kitchenware are well-prepared, so what you need to do is simply cut those foods into small pieces. The staffs will kindly explain the steps, and stay by your side for any problem when you are making pizza.

You can put anything to decorate your pizza by using the ingredients you just cut, and the staffs will help you to put the pizza into oven afterward. Just needed to wait for another 3 to 5 minutes, and then here comes your lovely pizza.

YAYOI NO MURA

Location

Oita Prefecture,
Kunisaki,
Kunisakimachi
Ankokuji, 1639-2

Contact

TEL 0978-72-2677

Entrance Fee

Adult(High school
student and older)
200yen
Children (Primary and
junior high school
student) 100yen
Group (above 20
people) 150yen

Opening Hour

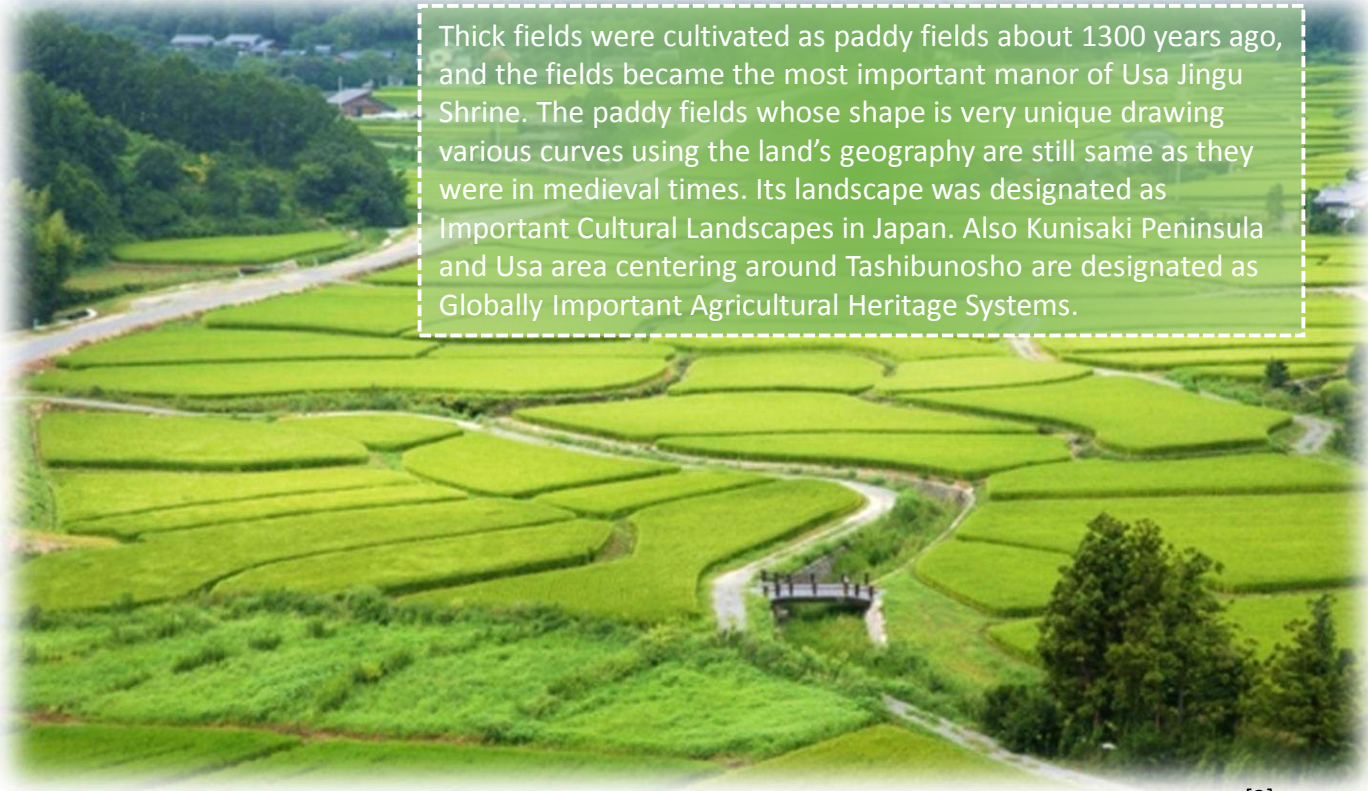
9:00am~5:00pm
Closed: Mondays, the
next day after national
holidays, new year
holidays (12/29~1/4)



Rice-planting festival at Tashibunosho

Manorial aspects are still remained. Its landscape is designated as Important Cultural Landscapes in Japan.

Thick fields were cultivated as paddy fields about 1300 years ago, and the fields became the most important manor of Usa Jingu Shrine. The paddy fields whose shape is very unique drawing various curves using the land's geography are still same as they were in medieval times. Its landscape was designated as Important Cultural Landscapes in Japan. Also Kunisaki Peninsula and Usa area centering around Tashibunosho are designated as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems.



[3]

Rice planting festival is held at Tashibunosho on 2nd Sunday in June every year. Many people take part in it .For example, children living in Bungotakada, university students like Oita university or Beppu university, and local people.In this festival we can experience Taue, Japanese traditional agriculture work ,and we can wear medieval costumes. Also, we can enjoy a lot of foods made by local people with using local ingredients. So we will become the ancient Japanese people and we can feel an atmosphere of ancient Japan!

Now that there are seldom chances for modern people to do rice planting in Japan so I think it is good opportunity for them to experience and learn about history of their own countries.Through this festival, we can experience the ancient Japanese life style not only Japanese but also people from foreign countries.

After reading this article, it must make you want to rice planting!



Why don't you join us?

Kebesu Festival



[4]

Kebesu festival is one of the most famous strange festival in Japan, and the festival is designated as National Important Intangible Folk-Cultural Properties.

It is held at the Kushikusha, Kushiku, Kunimi, Kunisaki city on 14 October every year.

In Japan, usually, the origin of a festival is known for local people but the origin of the Kebesu festival isn't known completely.

At this festival, a man who is called kebesu wear a mask dash for a fire and then, he scatters sparks of fire for the worshippers. The worshippers are poured over their bodies. It is believed that exposure to the sparks of fire brings good health. Many worshippers visit this festival to receive the blessing.

Yoshihirogaku

This festival is held at Yoshihiro, Musashimati on July. It has been designated as an significant intangible folk cultural asset. It is one of the traditional Japanese folk dance with taiko drums.



[5]

Imibetugusya Autumn Festival



[6]

Yabusame

This festival is held at Imibetugusya, Kunimimati, Kunisaki-city on October. Yabusame is a Shinto ritual. A man shoot a target riding the horse. This was popular skill in Heian and Kamakura period.

In Kunisaki, there are a lot of interesting festivals except for these. So, please come to Kunisaki!



Explore the Delicacy of Kunisaki

The Iyonada Strait that flows on the eastern side of the Kunisaki Peninsula is one of the largest fishing ports in Oita. There are abundant marine fish resources in Kunisaki, and the turbulent waters from the strait give the local fish exceptionally firm and oily qualities. Most of Japan's coastal cities are rich in fish, but not all of them as delicious as Kunisaki's. The cutlassfish is the largest commercialized fish in Oita, it can be enjoyed in a variety of ways, including sushi and tempura. Another special food is octopus, which with characteristically short and thick limbs, it has a slightly firm texture and a subtle flavor that fills the mouth with every bite. Also, we can taste them with the local sakes, which are using traditional methods to produce sakes with local spring water from the mountains of the Rokugo area and rice grown in the volcanic fertile soil of Kunisaki.



[7]



[8]



[9]

A Bite of Kunisaki

There are many delicious cuisines in Kunisaki as the circulation system, and the farming culture with special festivals made for praying for a good harvest. That's why the food here is fresh and sweet. Here are three restaurants I want to introduce.



[10]



1.ZECCO

Zecco is a famous restaurant in this area, which was established in 2013. It provides fresh vegetables, ingredients and unique cooking technique. Combining Japanese tradition and western style makes it different among the locals. Here are two local dishes:

Dango dumplings soup contains seasonal vegetables and long, stretched out Dango dumplings made with wheat flour, which tastes nice and smooth. Imokiri is a dish from fishing villages where soup stock made using dried Shiitake and the offcuts of fresh fish is then poured over noodles made with sweet potato flour and wheat.



[11]



[12]



[13]

2. 海辺と珈琲 ことり

It's an open-air Cafe located at the seaside. Small but exquisite and well-equipped. In the hot summer days, imagine you are sitting at the coffee shop, drinking coffee, blowing by the sea breeze, you never know how comfortable it is until you go there by yourself. All the coffee in the shop are hand grinded by the boss, which taste mellow and strong.



3. 国東ラーメン

Fortunately, in the night market activity, we were assigned to the local traditional ramen shop to work. This shop only sells only one kind tonkotsu ramen, priced at 650 yen. Boss and the shop assistants were very enthusiastic, and they invited us to eat the

delicious ramen.

There were only ramen, tonkotsu, onion, soup, four simple ingredients mixed together but created extraordinary taste. After the event, we took a picture together. A very happy and memorable experience that I will never forget.



Specialties & Souvenirs

The d-torso was invented in 1998, and started with a “paperboard assembly mannequin.” Based on the Dimension Transforming System, the d-torso has continued its development as a craft, designer interior object, display piece, and robot, as well as in packages and promotional media. Cardboard craft kits of animals and characters are so adorable that people are glad to collect them.



d-torso (アキ工作社)

©Disney

[14]

The local sakes in Kunisaki are proudly produced from fresh spring water of the Rokugo Mountains and the rice grown in the volcanic fertile soil using the skills and wisdom that have been passed down for generations.



[15]

1、KIWI

Kiwi from Kunisaki are superb for their balance of sweet and acidic qualities.



2. MANDARIN ORANGE

This smaller species of orange is known for its loose peel and bold flavours.



3. SHIITAKE MUSHROOM

The shiitake mushrooms have a rich and earthy flavor as growing in the World Agricultural Heritage area.

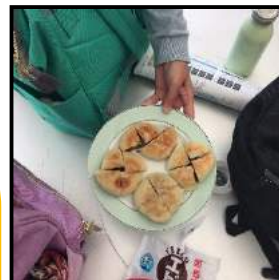


4. KABOSU CITRUS

Its fresh aroma and gentle acidity are a perfect complement to the fresh flavors of Kunisaki.



[16]



Karashishiitake



Tsukemono are Japanese preserved vegetables. They are served with rice as an okazu, with drinks as an otsumami, as an accompaniment to or garnish for meals, and as a course in the kaiseki portion of a Japanese tea ceremony.

Karashishiitake is Kunisaki's specialty, which is exquisite and delicious and popular with the locals.

Afterword



Team Kumamon



**Michelle
(Taiwan)**

It is a place of silence and peace, but as you explore the area, you will find it energetic and enjoyable.



**Miya
(China)**

Kunisaki is where you come and never want to leave, where you can feel the silence of nature, where you can hear the heart of land.



**Naoki
(Japan)**

I learned that there are a lot of fascinating things in Kunisaki peninsula, and all people live in there are so kind. I hope that people all over the world to visit there. I am going to struggle to broaden my knowledge of Kunisaki peninsula!





**Balazs
(Hungary)**

Kunisaki is the land
of improvement

The number of kumamon is
7! Could you find?



**Ariel
(America)**



Writing out the magazine was something I was expected to be something serious. However when we were told about it being an assignment, I was rather surprised. However gathering a bunch of foreign study abroad students to put together a magazine from their perspective, could work in Kunisaki's favor in order to attract for foreign visitors. Since the intention of the magazine is to be shown especially in English speaking countries, it would actually be very convenient to visit Kunisaki, since Oita Airport lie's there. However if there were sudden influxes of visitors to Kunisaki, what would Kunisaki o about hotel arrangements? What about access to reliable transportation? Moreover how would the natives honestly feel about it? The temples would also have to be cleaned up and there would have to be drastic cleaning to nature's landscaping.

As for my opinion of Kunisaki, it would be an ideal place for those who truly want to live in peace and tranquility. The atmosphere of the peninsula shows rural Japan's natural beauty, evident by the rolling green hills, and its ancient yet resourceful rice paddies. Although most of year, it is quiet and mundane, with inquent passing cars and school children, and sparse amounts of company workers, during festivals is when I witnessed the true spirit of Kunisaki. I saw the faces of smiling children along with their families, and many exasperated by the sight of non Asian foreigners. This would also be an ideal place for those who want to get away from the big cities like Tokyo, Osaka, Fukuoka, and others. Although many try to move to Kunisaki to stir up the economy, there would have a mass population increase to happen. In order to do that, there would have been employment and reliable transportation. I was not expecting at all to create a magazine in this class. I actually thought we were going to be volunteering at various places. However I forgot that in the title of the class also contained the words "Project Planning". So then I thought if we were also going to put festivals or get-togethers together as well. Eventually the whole class volunteered in various activities in the duration of the Kunisaki Summer Festival. So as for this class, I thought it was fun visiting a place which was once an integral part to the building block of Japanese society, but now lays in almost dead silence.

SOURCE

p8. [1] [2]: The pamphlet of YAYOI NO MURA

P11.[3]:<https://www.visit-oita.jp/spots/detail/4783>

P12.[4]:<http://www.city.kunisaki.oita.jp/uploaded/attachment/7836.pdf>

[5]:<http://www.city.kunisaki.oita.jp/uploaded/attachment/6437.pdf>

[6]:<http://www.city.kunisaki.oita.jp/soshiki/bunkazai/bunkazaiimi.html#nb0904>

P13.[7]: KunisakiWay,Kunisaki sightseeing guide book

[8][9]:https://www.facebook.com/pg/国東食彩-zecco-423014884458546/photos/?tab=album&album_id=663793313714034

P14. [10][11][12][13] :<http://nttbj.itp.ne.jp/0978721014/index.html>

P16. [14] [15] [16]:KunisakiWay,Kunisaki sightseeing guide book

