

Known as the “hot spring of beauty,” Otakinoyu is just minutes from the Yubatake hot water fields of Kusatsu.

Drawing its water from the Nikawa hot spring source with acidic sulfur, Otakinoyu’s 100% natural free-flowing water baths have long been beloved by Japanese men and women alike. The *awase-yu* baths with gradually escalating temperatures have been popular since ancient times and may be the secret to clear and healthy skin.

These spa waters are said to be beneficial for skin complaints and disorders as well as general skin beautification, making Otakinoyu an ideal spot to indulge in a little self-care. The *onsen* has special “cloudy water” days on the second and fourth Saturday of each month when the hot spring deposits are cleaned from the piping mechanisms, resulting in spring water densely filled with enriching minerals.

Otakinoyu offers various baths partitioned for men and women, with its famed *awase-yu* baths varying in temperature from a relatively cool 38 to a steamy 46 degrees Celsius. These temperatures are maintained not by dilution but by natural cooling, which allows bathers to become accustomed to the naturally high temperature and acidity of the hot spring waters. The *awase-yu* bathing style has been a huge draw for Japanese travelers for centuries and is quite rare even in Japan, so be sure to experience it for yourself.

Other baths include the vast great bath and open-air bath, both partitioned for men and women, as well as hot water cascades that mimic the natural flow of waterfalls.

Otakinoyu also offers private “Shakunage” baths for rent at 2,000 yen per hour, available for couples and families to bathe together, and these private baths are barrier-free for all to enjoy.

Otakinoyu doesn’t just offer bathing but a full resort experience, as visitors to the *onsen* are also able to relax in the lounge café with premium Japanese-style ice cream, try Kumazasa udon at the Yunohana restaurant, or find that perfect gift at the souvenir shop.

Other facilities include a sauna and massage rooms, as well as relaxation rooms for families and private functions available from 1,000–2,000 yen per hour.

With such a wide range of bathing, cuisine, and relaxation options on offer, Otakinoyu is a luxurious Japanese *onsen* experience that is sure to be the highlight of your journey to Kusatsu Onsen.

Otakeinoyu

Opening hours: 9:00 am–9:00 pm (entry closes 8:00 pm)

Prices: Adults 900 Yen, children 400 Yen (ages 3–12); towel sets are available for 250 Yen

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