

Unzen: History, Adventure, and Natural Wonders

Come to Unzen, one of Japan's first and finest national parks. Stroll around the bubbling, boiling acres of volcanic activity that have long been referred to by the local people as *jigoku*, or "hells." Trek to the top of several nearby peaks, with routes ranging from family-friendly strolls and picnic spots to intermediate full-day climbs of rocky summits. Soak your cares away in the "hell"-heated hot spring baths found in quaint public spas and local hotels, believed to have health benefits and relaxing properties in their mineral makeup.

Come to Unzen, a destination of natural beauty year-round, from the azalea-blanketed slopes in full spring bloom to the rare winter phenomenon of rime ice that glitters diamond-like on the branches of the mountain forests. Explore this UNESCO Global Geopark, centered around a volcano that has been active for half a million years.

Come to Unzen, where you will discover a history dating back to the introduction of Buddhism some 1,300 years ago. Trace footsteps of Meiji-era Westerners, who would travel from Nagasaki and Shanghai to use the town of Unzen Onsen and its surroundings as a cool highland getaway from the oppressive summer heat of the cities.

Come to Unzen and spend some quality time in one of Kyushu's most wonderful natural playgrounds.