

As tourism to Beppu grew in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, residents competed to draw incoming tourists to their establishments in a city that overflowed with bathhouses. At the time the port functioned as the main entrance to the city and arriving visitors would walk up from the seaside into the upper part of the city to their lodgings. As competition for customers increased, neighborhoods began to cover their streets and alleys to lure in tourists seeking shelter from the frequent rain. These wooden super-structures have mostly been taken down, but some still exist, such as the one built over Takegawara Alley near the Takegawara onsen. Although the buildings in Beppu are modern, the streets in the area around Kannawa Onsen have been left unchanged, winding up and down the slopes like a maze filled with the steam of countless onsen.