

The Beppu Hells (Jigoku) are seven hot springs located to the north of Beppu city that form the backbone of tourism to the region. Leading up the mountain towards these hot springs are many shops selling a food called Jigoku-mushi. Steam from underground hot springs is used to cook vegetables and meat. Recently, local restaurants have used the steam to create new culinary sensations, including everything from steamed pork buns to steamed pudding. Many local homes also draw up onsen water for their personal baths and to heat their homes in the winter. The entire community around Beppu owes its existence to the onsen that permeate every part of life in the city.