

The Hot Springs of Shiobara

Each of the hot-spring areas contains a number of individual *onsen*, and even neighboring baths can have very different characteristics. This list starts with the easternmost *onsen* at the entrance to the valley (on the right side of the diagram) and follows the river toward its source in the northwest (on the left side).

Ooami Onsen

This is the deepest point in the valley. Stairs lead down from the highway to two outdoor baths 150 meters below.

Qualities: sodium sulfate springs

Temperature: 40°C–50°C

Color: clear

Fukuwata Onsen

Some of the spring waters are piped in from the Shiogama area. Fukuwata has been the site of many traditional inns (*ryokan*) since 1533, but the current buildings date back to 1949, when the *ryokan* were all destroyed by fire and had to be rebuilt.

Qualities: sodium and calcium chloride springs, hydrogen carbonate springs

Temperature: 70°C

Color: clear, gold

Shiogama Onsen

The hot springs in Shiogama produce more water than any other area in Shiobara.

Qualities: sodium chloride springs, sodium sulfate springs

Temperature: 38°C–76°C

Color: clear

Shionoyu Onsen

Located on the Kanomata River, these springs have the highest salt concentration of any in Shiobara.

Qualities: sodium chloride springs, simple springs

Temperature: 29°C–59°C

Color: clear, dark reddish brown, light gray

Hataori Onsen

These springs are located in the central part of town. Hataori Onsen was the setting for a novel by Ozaki Kōyō (1868–1903) that made Shiobara famous throughout Japan.

Qualities: simple hot springs, chloride springs, hydrogen carbonate springs

Temperature: 42°C–76°C

Color: clear

Monzen Onsen

Located in central Shiobara Onsen, not far from Myōunji Temple.

Qualities: chloride springs, hydrogen carbonate springs

Temperature: 54°C–74°C

Color: clear

Furumachi Onsen

Many inns, restaurants, and souvenir shops are located near these springs in the middle of Shiobara.

Qualities: simple hot springs, chloride springs, hydrogen carbonate springs

Temperature: 30°C–70°C

Color: clear

Nakashiobara Onsen and Kamishiobara Onsen

Located in the northern reaches of Shiobara. These two *onsen* are the newest hot springs in town.

Qualities: simple hot springs, chloride springs, hydrogen carbonate springs

Temperature: 16°C–67°C

Color: clear

Arayu Onsen

This is the only *onsen* in Shiobara's highland area and is located near two ski resorts.

Qualities: simple acidic sulfur springs

Temperature: 50°C–77°C

Color: clear, milky white

Motoyu Onsen

Site of the first hot springs discovered at Shiobara. Located inside a dense forest on a quiet mountain, the *onsen* here draws a large number of guests.

Qualities: sodium and calcium chloride springs, hydrogen carbonate springs, sulfur springs

Temperature: 35°C–56°C

Color: clear, black, pale green