

Katsura River

The Katsura River starts in the city of Kitsuki in Oita prefecture near Mt. Futago, the highest peak on the Kunisaki Peninsula, and runs through Bungotakada and into the Suonada Sea. The river is a major landmark in Bungotakada, which lies near the mouth of the river. The Katsura is a tidal river, and changes in the direction of the water's flow can be seen from along its banks. At high tide, the river is pushed upstream; and at low tide, birds walk on the depleted riverbed.

Many attractions and events are located on or around the river, including Showa no Machi, a retro shopping district. The river also plays a key role in festivities and events like the Horan-enya festival held in January that features a boat traveling upstream. Spectators on the riverbank offer goods like money and sake, and the oarsmen jump into the river to retrieve them. Another event is the Wakamiya Hachiman Shrine Autumn Festival during which a portable shrine is carried across the river.