

**Arita Dam**

At Arita Dam visitors can enjoy the reflections of seasonal flora on the celadon-colored water while strolling on the trail that encircles the lake created by the dam. The lake has no official name, but it is known locally as the Hisoku no Umi or “Secret Color Lake” due to the water’s greenish tint. As the surrounding leaves turn from green, to red and orange, to finally brown, the changing colors of the forest reflect on the surface of the lake. Along the trail is a bronze statue of a woman created by the renowned sculptor Koga Tadao (1903–1979). The view of the lake from the Arita Dam observation point is popular among Arita residents, especially when the spring cherry blossoms or fall foliage are at their peak.

Arita Dam was one of many constructed after disastrous flooding hit northern Kyushu in 1953. The Arita River system had flooded, and the banks could not be widened to prevent future flooding due to the heavy concentration of homes along the river. The multipurpose dam was built for flood control, water intake stabilization, conservation of the river environment, and to stabilize the town’s water supply.