



The First Japan Geopark in Tohoku
Oga Peninsula and Ogata-mura Geopark

Seasonal Splendor in Ogata-mura

Sightseeing Pamphlet

Let's embark on a romantic
adventure in this vast land!

Feel at one with nature and experience the kindness of local people in this model agricultural village

The entire village sits below sea level.
People come to Ogata-mura to enjoy its green expanses, straight roads, the vibrant colors of its land and its big sky.
The nature you see here gives one a feeling of being in a foreign land



Embankments surround the village

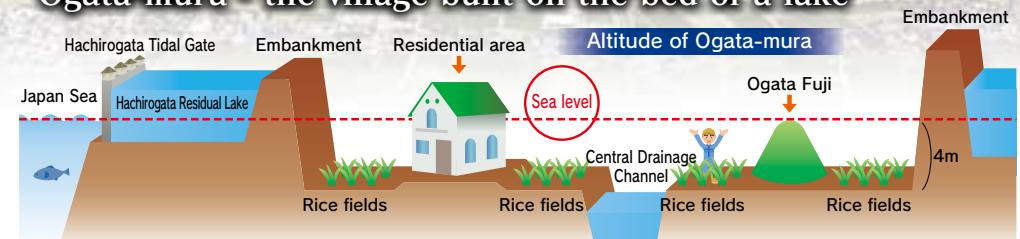
The Birth of Ogata-mura

Lake Hachirogata was once Japan's 2nd largest lake after Lake Biwa. In 1954 (Showa 29), two Dutchmen by the names of Professor Jansen and Forker, an engineer came to Japan. Their findings resulted in the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations recommending the reclamation of the lagoon. After 20 years and a cost of 85.2 billion yen this massive project was completed in March 1977 (Showa 52). The bottom of Lake Hachirogata was transformed into 17,229 hectares of newborn land.

Ogata-mura became an administrative area on October 1st 1964 (Showa 39). At that time there were only 6 families and 14 people in the village. People from across Japan were rigidly selected to become its settlers. As of April 1st 2016, the population of Ogata-mura was 3169.

A 52-kilometer embankment surrounds the village. The area is so vast that Tokyo's Yamanote line would fit right inside.

Ogata-mura - the village built on the bed of a lake



The illustration above clearly shows that Ogata-mura sits below sea level.

The 1st Japan Geopark in Tohoku

Oga Peninsula and Ogata Geopark



In September 2011, Ogata-mura and Oga City were approved as a joint member of the Japan Geopark Network. The geological and natural environment of this area combined with mankind's involvement with it provides a rich learning experience.

Let's experience the human impact on this land!

A Ogata-mura and Land Reclamation

Lake Hachirogata was the 2nd largest lake in Japan. The reclamation project was started by the Japanese government in 1957 and took 20 years to complete. The lake bed which sat below sea level was transformed into newborn land by reclamation and named Ogata-mura.

GEOSITE MAP



B Polder Museum of Ogata-mura

Learn about the reclamation project

The museum provides information about the land reclamation project, the history of Ogata-mura, local agriculture and the environment. A range of visual displays, diorama and a large multi-screen graphically depict the creation and development of Ogata-mura. In addition to the permanent exhibition, this museum stages themed displays throughout the year. (P13)



Q What is a Geopark?

A The Geo in Geopark refers to the Earth or Mother Nature. A Geopark is a special scientific area with outstanding natural, geological, ecological or man-made features. The places where these features can be seen are referred to as Geosites.

C Hachirogata Reclamation Monument

This monument commemorates the site where the formal reclamation ceremony took place in 1964. There is another monument depicting the water level before and after the reclamation. One is able to appreciate the hard efforts of those involved in the creation of Ogata-mura.



D Latitude and Longitude Intersection Monument

A monument stands at the point of 40° North and 140° East. There is a tower erected to signal the exact position. Ogata-mura is the only place where latitude and longitude points on the 10th degree meet in Japan. (P11)



The only place in Japan where longitude and latitude meet at the 10th degree!

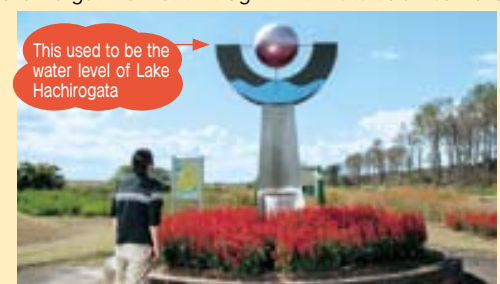
E Ogata Fuji

This man-made mound is Japan's lowest mountain. At a height of 3.776 meters tall, it is 1/1000th the size of Mount Fuji. Its peak rises to sea level. (P11)



Lake Hachirogata Water-level Commemorative Monument

At the same height of Ogata Fuji nearby, this monument commemorates the water level of Lake Hachirogata before reclamation. On the monument it says that one should never forget the fact that Ogata-mura sits below sea level.



F South Pumping Station

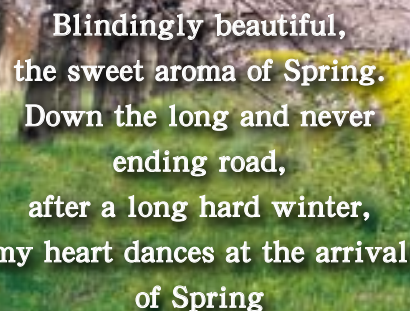
There are 3 pumping stations to manage the volume and flow of water circulating around Ogata-mura. The South Pumping Station takes out water from the central channel into the regulating pond and controls the water level west of Ogata-mura. You can see a wide expanse of reclaimed land and canals from here.



G Hachirogata Tidal Gate

Lake Hachirogata was a brackish lake - a mixture of fresh water and sea water. Upon completion of the reclamation, a barrier was built to separate Hachirogata regulating pond from the sea. The remaining lake area is now fresh water. A 370-meter long tidal gate not only stops seawater but also controls water volume around Ogata-mura and keeps the regulating pond at a constant level.





Blindly beautiful,
the sweet aroma of Spring.
Down the long and never
ending road,
after a long hard winter,
my heart dances at the arrival
of Spring

Ogata-mura Sakura and Nanohana Road - selected as one of 「The Most Tasteful 100 Landscapes」 by the Japanese Ministry of Environment

Take a ride on a 1/10 scale mini steam locomotive (SL) around the rapeseed blossom field. (P26)

Sakura and Nanohana Road

(Cherry and Rapeseed Blossom Road)

Seasonal viewing between the end of April and beginning of May

This is an 11 kilometer-long blossom known as the Sakura been selected as one of '100 the Japanese Ministry of A combination of pink cherry blossom and greenery of produces a stunning contrast. highlight in Ogata-mura's with tourists.

To coincide with the above Festival is held from late the Hotel Sun Rural in a 1.8 rapeseed. Many people come year to enjoy the beautiful staged events.

avenue of cherry and rapeseed and Nanohana Road. It has Best Aromatic Landscapes' by Environment.

blossom, yellow rapeseed
Japanese black pine trees
This seasonal event is a major
calendar and is very popular

event, the Sakura and Nanohana
April until early May outside
hectare field of blossoming
to Ogata during this time of
scenery and a wide range of

Carp flags swimming above a 1.8 hectare field of rapeseed.

Summer

The giving sun
blesses the land
and a gentle
breeze breathes
life into it.

As the sun beats down
the village bursts into life



Fall

The glisten of the
golden harvest
in this vast and
bountiful land
the farmers smile.

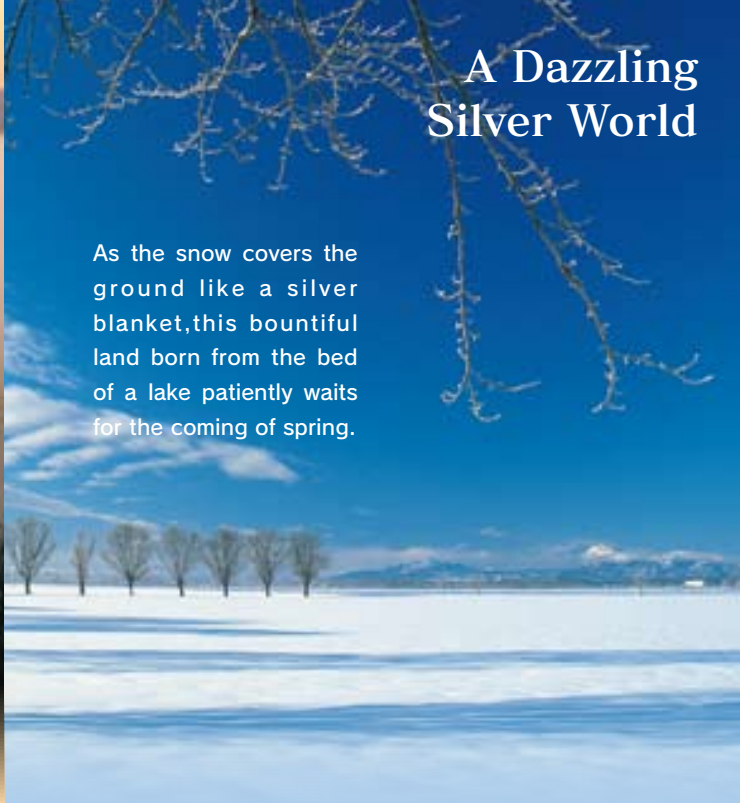
Ogata in its Glory
The Fall Harvest



Winter

A Dazzling
Silver World

As the snow covers the
ground like a silver
blanket, this bountiful
land born from the bed
of a lake patiently waits
for the coming of spring.



Enjoy

nature and all the wonderful things that Ogata-mura has to offer!

Fishing can be enjoyed all year round

Fishing in the waters around Ogata-mura



The village is surrounded by the residual part of Lake Hachirogata. It is a renowned fishing area. Even when these waters freeze over in winter, one can enjoy ice fishing for smelt too. Good fishing can be enjoyed all year round here.



Smelt

Inhabited by endangered bird species

Wild Bird Observation Station

This observation station lies in the Ogata Grasslands Wildlife Conservation Area, the first of its kind in Japan. The area is a paradise for around 200 bird species. The outside platform around the station is open to visitors.

■Ministry of Environment,
Tohoku Region Environmental Office
Akita Nature Conservation Office
Tel 018-867-8588

Birdlife in Ogata-mura



Eastern marsh harrier
Photo courtesy of Tsubame-Pro



Swans



Geese

You can see many wild birds here



A campsite with cherry blossom

South Pond Park (Minami no Ike)

This beautiful park comes alive with cherry and azalea blossom in spring. It was created to commemorate completion of the Hachirogata reclamation project. A glistening monument to the settlers of this new land stands here. The park also has camping facilities, so why not come here for a barbecue!



Enjoy camping under the cherry blossoms!



Japan's only 10th degree crossing point

Latitude and Longitude Intersection Monument

A monument stands at the point of 40° North and 140° East. Ogata is the only place where latitude and longitude points on the 10th degree meet in Japan.

It is also a popular place for matchmakers.



The lowest mountain in Japan! Ogata Fuji

This mountain is 1/1000 scale of the real Mount Fuji. At a height of 3.776 meters tall, its peak rises to sea level. It is therefore Japan's 'lowest' mountain!

International Solarcar Federation (ISF) Approved Track

Solar Sports Line

A 26-kilometer-long road running across the southeastern area of Ogata provides the stage for a wide range of sporting events. The facility is open to members of the public by prior appointment.

Tel 0185-45-3316



A reproduction of nature in Akita

Relax and enjoy
the tropical
vegetation

Seitaikei Park (Ecological Park)



This park replicates the nature found in Akita. In the greenhouse area, 500 plant species and 2000 plants are exhibited. One can also see tropical plants. Please feel free to come along at any time of the year to enjoy the park or learn more about the plant world.



■Seitaikei Park Tel 0185-45-3106 (Map26)
Open: 9am – 5pm Free entry
Closed: Every Monday (except when a Monday is a national holiday in which case closed Tuesday)
New Year holiday period (from December 29th until January 3rd)
The outdoor section of the park is closed between December 10th and March 9th during winter.

18,330 square meter playing area

Multi-purpose Sports Area Ground Golf Course

People from Ogata-mura and elsewhere enjoy playing ground golf on this purpose-built grass course. The area also holds numerous events throughout the year.



Fun for all!

■Ground Golf Course

Tel 0185-45-2955 (map26)

Open: 9am – 5pm (bookings open till 4pm)

Open Season from mid-March to mid-December

F e e: Adult (high school age and above) 200 yen

Child (junior high school age and below) 100 yen

Course 4 Courses 32 holes



Polder Plein
Ogata Multi-purpose
Sports Area



Polder Museum of Ogata-mura

Conveying the message of this massive reclamation project to future generations.



Living below sea level



Taming the land



Shell fossils

Ogata-mura Tulip Exhibition

Ogata-mura is the largest producer of tulips in the Tohoku region of Japan. The Tulip Exhibition takes place at the Polder Museum during mid-February. Come along and get to see a splendid array of these blooming flowers.



Ogata-mura Volunteer Guide Group

We have volunteer guides that will gladly provide you with information about the village, its agriculture and the Polder Museum. Please contact the museum on Tel 0185-22-4113 at least 1 week before your visit to book a guide.



■Polder Museum of Ogata-mura

Tel 0185-22-4113 (Map 26)

Open: Mar to Nov 9am – 5pm / Dec to Feb 9am – 4:30pm

F e e: Adult (over 18's) 300 yen (250 yen) ※ () group rate for

Child (under 18's) 100 yen (50 yen) over 15 persons.

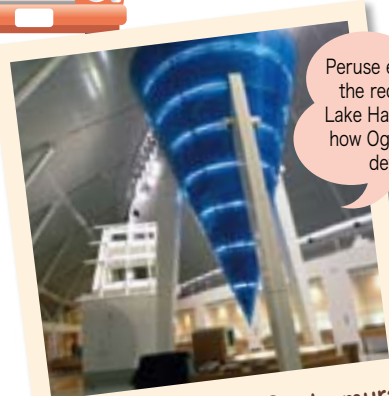
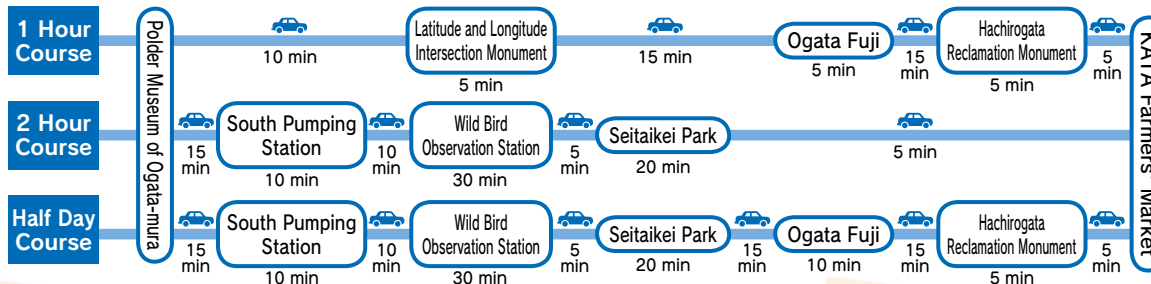
Closed: Apr to Sept 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the month.

Oct to Mar Every Tuesday / Dec 31st until Jan 3rd

※open Tuesdays on national holidays and will close the following day

Recommended Let's Enjoy Ogata-mura! Model Courses

Ogata-mura Sightseeing Courses



Peruse exhibits about the reclamation of Lake Hachirogata and how Ogata-mura has developed.

Polder Museum of Ogata-mura

Polder Museum of Ogata-mura
TEL 0185-22-4113



The Wild Bird Observation Station was refurbished in 2014 to coincide with Ogata-mura's 50th anniversary. Why not enjoy some birdwatching from its 2nd floor balcony?



Wild Bird Observation Station

Ministry of Environment,
Tohoku Region Environmental Office,
Akita Nature Conservation Office
TEL 018-867-8588

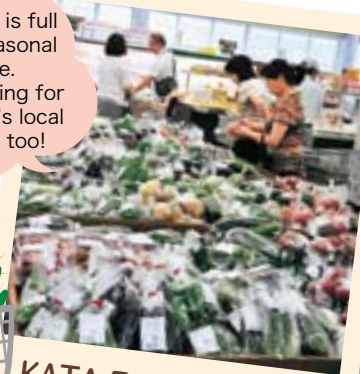


The summit rises to sea level. Even small children can enjoy climbing it!



Ogata Fuji

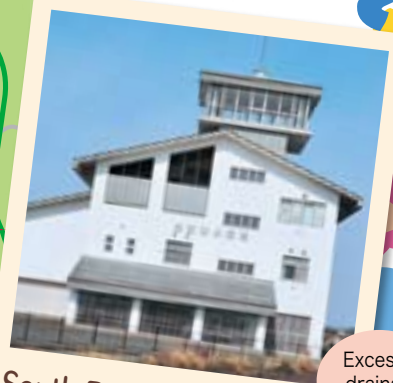
The market is full of fresh seasonal produce. Enjoy shopping for Ogata-mura's local specialties too!



KATA Farmers' Market

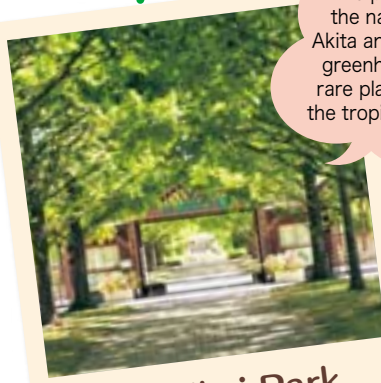
KATA Farmers' Market
TEL 0185-22-4141

Half Day Course



South Pumping Station

Excess water from drainage channels is pumped out here. Water management is of vital importance in Ogata-mura!



Seitaikei Park

Seitaikei Park (Ecological Park)
TEL 0185-45-3106

The park replicates the nature found in Akita and has a tropical greenhouse too. See rare plants and take in the tropical atmosphere!



Hachirogata Reclamation Monument

Visit the site of the reclamation ceremony. This is where Ogata-mura really began!



Stage a Sports or Culture Camp in Ogata-mura!

Sports Camp, Agriculture Experience Tours, Culture Study and Fact-finding Tours

Financial assistance is available for sports and culture camps, agricultural experience, study and fact-finding tours.

Grants for Camps



Camp Grants Available

The accommodation provider will deduct grant sum from the total amount on payment.

You only need to pay the balance.

(calculated on a per person/per night basis)

1 nights board with 2 meals* – grant = balance to be paid

*please inquire for more information regarding accommodation and meal costs for camps.

Accommodation is conveniently located near to Ogata-mura's sporting and cultural venues.

Sporting and cultural facilities are concentrated centrally and easily accessible on foot. A shuttle bus service is available for facilities located further afield.

Who is eligible to apply?

- Groups consisting of 5 or more persons seeking to use our sporting/cultural facilities and stay in Ogata-mura for more than 1 night are welcome to apply.

For what activities is financial assistance available?

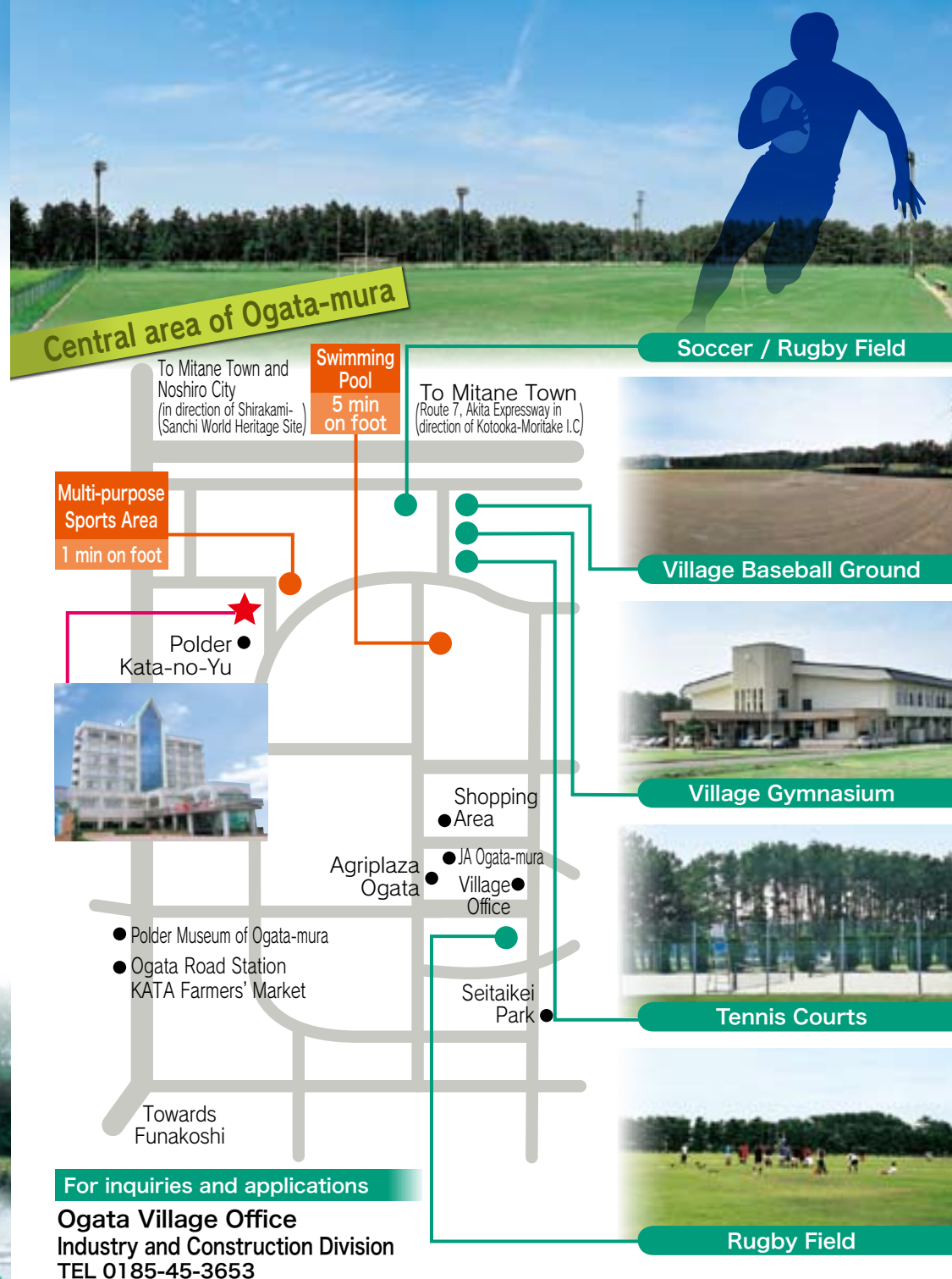
- Grants are available for sports camps, cultural activities, study camps, study workshops, orientations, seminars, practice matches, agricultural experiences, away days with overnight stays and fact-finding visits.

Eligible groups

- Financial assistance is open to universities, high schools, technical colleges, junior high schools, elementary schools, preparatory schools, select teams and corporate teams on a non-profit basis.

Eligible group members

- Students and instructors (teachers, team managers, head coaches, coaches, and managers) are welcome to apply for this grant. Parents of participants are sadly not eligible to apply. Agricultural experience, study and fact-finding tours are open to all applicants.



For inquiries and applications

Ogata Village Office
Industry and Construction Division
TEL 0185-45-3653

ホテル サンルーラル大潟



A moor onsen spring gushes out of the ground from a 5 million year old rock layer.

A Timeless Way to Rest and Relax

The source of this onsen (hot spring) is seawater trapped between rock layers some 5 million years ago at a time during the Cenozoic era when mammals and luscious angiosperm vegetation flourished around the world. The decomposed matter from this vegetation dissolved into the trapped sea water to create the Moor onsen hot spring we have today.



Hotel restaurant



Chapel



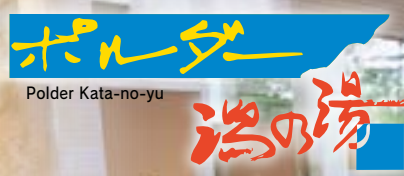
Hot spring on the 8th floor

美肌の湯
大潟モール温泉

For Beautiful Skin
Ogata Moor Onsen



■Hotel Sun Rural Ogata
Tel 0185-45-3311 (Map26)
Open all year round



The name "Polder" comes from the Dutch word for "reclamation". The name "Kata" comes from the name of Lake Hachirogata which existed where Ogata-mura now stands.

This large hot spring complex can cater for up to 100 male and female bathers at any one time. It has an ultrasonic bath, sauna and a variety of other baths to enjoy. This hot spring has something to offer people of all age groups.

Try our Moor hot spring – a rare experience even in Japan!

The use of the word 'Moor' in Moor onsen (hot spring) comes from the word for 'plant matter' in German and refers to the high content of decomposed vegetation found in the water. There are many hot springs in Japan but the Moor variety is very rare indeed. These waters effectively penetrate deep under the skin layer and warm the body with ease. It is also known for its beauty qualities because it acts as a natural cosmetic that soothes and moisturizes the skin.



Monthly karaoke competition



■Polder Kata-no-yu Tel 0185-45-2641 (Map26)
Open: 6am – 10pm Closed: 2nd Tuesday of every month
Fee: Adults 400 yen, Junior high school students 200 yen,
Elementary school students 150 yen



産直センター
KATA Farmers Market

湯の店
Kata No Mise



The KATA Farmers' Market offers a wide range of local specialties. The vegetable corner has a wonderful selection of freshly picked produce. Vending machines are accessible on a 24-hour basis.

The facility changed its name to Ogata Michinoeki (Ogata Road Station) in June 2008. It is a major tourist spot in Ogata so please visit!

We have plenty of
fresh vegetables!



■KATA Farmers' Market Tel 0185-22-4141 (Map26)
Open: Apr - Oct 8am~6pm Nov - Mar 9am~5pm
Closed: Dec 31st (pm) ~ Jan 1st



Garlic

This healthy ingredient will enhance any dish.



Ogata Pumpkin



Amsmelon
- richly sweet



Akita Amaenbo
- with a refined sweetness

Delicious!
That's a
natural taste
for you

Ogata-mura
Specialty



Really
popular!

Pumpkin Pie

This local specialty is a combination of Ogata pumpkin and sweet bean paste. This appetizing snack makes a great souvenir for friends and family.



Select Rice Flour

A healthy and delicious rice flour made with 100% Ogata-mura rice.



Sprouted Brown Rice
Macaroni



Ogata Sodachi
(rice cake)



Organic Solar Rice



Pumpkin Shochu

It is an alcoholic beverage with the sweet aroma of pumpkin.



Pan-fried Dumplings

The dumpling shells are made of rice flour and the entire production process takes place here in Ogata.



Akita Miso (fermented soybean paste)
Using Akita Komachi rice, soybeans and natural salt.

Sweets are popular too!



Horyu (boiled beans)

These specially selected large black soybeans have been cooked to perfection.



Pumpkin Bean Jelly

This lightly sweetened handmade bean jelly has the aroma and sweetness of ripe pumpkins.



Pumpkin Pie

A lightly sweetened handmade pie made with pumpkin produced in Ogata.



Ogata Sodachi (udon, wheat and thin noodles)
Made from 100% organically grown Akitaako wheat. (for sale during summer period only)

Ogata-mura Gourmet Guide

Where to get good food!

The springy texture of the rice flour shell is amazing!

These restaurants incorporate locally grown produce into their menus. Delicious desserts made from Ogata-mura rice are really popular too! Sample the culinary delights of Ogata!

New and popular gourmet dish Pan-fried Rice Flour Dumplings

The shells are made from 100% Ogata-mura rice flour and the filled with vegetables grown here too!

Where you can eat : Restaurant Flavorant at Polder Kata-no-Yu and Nanohana, Farmers' Restaurant at Kata Farmers' Market

For sale at : Kata Farmers' Market, Agriplaza Ogata and Polder Kata-no-Yu

Hotel Sun Rural Ogata – 8th Floor Japanese/Western Dining – Moren.

(Moren taken from the Dutch word for windmill.)



Western Japanese

This restaurant is situated on the top floor of the Hotel Sun Rural Ogata. You can enjoy a wide range of Western and Japanese dishes while taking in the view.

Open: Lunch time 11:30am – 3pm (last order at 2pm)
Dinner time 5:30pm – 9:30pm (last order at 8:30pm)

3, Aza Kita 1 Chome, Ogata-mura, 〒010-0441
TEL 0185-45-3332

Hotel Sun Rural Ogata – 1st Floor Chinese Sichuan Restaurant – Comet



Chinese

A restaurant offering wonderful Sichuan dishes in a relaxed and homely atmosphere.

Open: Lunch time 11:30am – (last order at 2pm)
Tea time 2pm – 5pm
Dinner time 5pm – 9pm (last order at 8:30pm)
Bar time 9pm – midnight (last order at 11pm)

3, Aza Kita 1 Chome, Ogata-mura, 〒010-0441
TEL 0185-45-3332

Polder Kata-no-Yu Restaurant Flavorant for light meals



Meals

Moor-teishoku meal

Offers a wide range of Japanese-style dishes from donburi (rice bowls), teishoku (meal sets) and steak. We recommend the Moor teishoku meal made up of four dishes. All rice served is produced in Ogata. Morning teishoku meal sets are available on Sundays from 6:30am – 8:30am

Open: 11am – 2pm, 3:30pm – 8:30pm

Closed: Every 2nd Tuesday in the month

3, Aza Kita 1 Chome, Ogata-mura, 〒010-0441
TEL 0185-45-2641

Restaurant Panda and Ogata Sushi



Light snacks, meals and sushi

Fried ginger pork teishoku meal

This family restaurant offers everything from ramen noodles to sushi. Over 200 items are available on the menu. Table, counter and tatami mat seating is available. Groups and parties welcome.

Open: 11am – 10pm

Closed: Every Wednesday (and every 3rd Sunday in the month)

23, Aza Chuo 1 Chome, Ogata-mura, 〒010-0443
TEL 0185-45-2759

Traditional food & drink Aji no Sato Ki-no-Ya



Food & drink

Chanko nabe (stew)

This establishment offers not only local delicacies but also a large menu offering everything from snacks, yakitori (grilled chicken), sashimi (raw fish) to gratin and ramen noodles. Its nabe (stew) dishes are especially popular. Keep an eye out for the "Specials of the day". Tatami seating is also available on the 2nd floor.

Open: 4pm – 11pm Closed: Every Tuesday

30, Aza Chuo 1 Chome, Ogata-mura, 〒010-0443
TEL 0185-45-2758

Cocotier



Sweets and Desserts

Danish pastry of the day. (raspberry & blueberry, fig)

This shop uses seasonal fruit and ingredients to produce a range of handmade cakes and desserts. Dining facilities available. Handmade bread is baked and sold on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays too.

Open: 11am – 6:30pm

Closed: Sundays (and 2nd Monday in the month, plus occasional holidays)

5-8, Higashi 2 Chome, Ogata-mura, 〒010-0442
TEL 0185-27-8250

Kata Farmers' Market Nanohana, Country Village Restaurant



Meals

Black soybean miso ramen

New flavors fresh from Ogata! Popular dishes include rice bran (komenuka) ice cream and miso ramen. Ramen is made from black soybeans grown in Ogata-mura. The gelato is really popular too.

Open: 11am – 2pm

2, Aza Nishi 5 Chome, Ogata-mura, 〒010-0445
Tel 0185-22-4141 FAX 0185-22-4142

There are lots of sweets and desserts to be enjoyed

at the KATA Farmers' Market!



Handmade Chiffon cake

Lightly sweetened

Moist and fluffy

Nanohana Chiffon

4-13, Aza Nishi 2 Chome, Ogata-mura
TEL/FAX 0185-45-2622
Over the counter sales available

Local Bakers' Group



Simple homebaked food

Kata Bakery

American-style bakery & sweets



Scones are our best seller!

Splendor

Our rice bran (komenuka) ice cream is really popular!



Tomapi (bell pepper) and black miso brown rice flavored gelato

Yearly Calendar

Events Festivals

April to early May	Cherry and Rapeseed Blossom Festival
May	World Econo Move
June	Akita Prefecture Inter-highschool Boat Racing Tournament
July	Akita Prefectural Boat Racing Competition Ogata-mura Summer Regatta Sanchoku Melon Festival in Ogata
August	Ogata Village Bon Dancing Competition World Green Challenge Solar Car & Bicycle Race

September	Hachirogata Reclamation Memorial Ekiden Relay Race Katsuranomiya Trophy All Japan Student Water Ski Competition Ogata-mura Ekiden Relay Race Ogata Shrine Reitaisai Festival
October	New Rice Harvest Festival in Ogata
February	Furusato Winter Festival Tulip Flower Exhibition Sanchoku Festival in Ogata(Tulip) Ogata Arts and Culture Festival



Summer Regatta

Rowing is an enjoyable sport and has been used in the village as a way to bring people together. The winning teams of the Ogata-mura summer regatta get to compete in a national regatta.

Hachirogata Reclamation Memorial Ekiden Relay Race

An ekiden relay race is held at the beginning of September every year to commemorate the reclamation ceremony of September 15th 1964.



New Rice Harvest Festival in Ogata

Rice tasting and the sale of rice and other agricultural produce takes place. There are also many other events to enjoy at this autumnal festival.

Ogata Shrine Reitaisai Festival

A Shinto festival takes place every year on September 10th to pray for a good harvest. The procession makes its way around the village on its way to the shrine.



World Econo Move

This competitive event has taken place around the Solar Sports Line since 1993.

Sanchoku Melon Festival in Ogata

Ogata is famous for its melons. This seasonal event enables visitors to enjoy locally grown melon and a wide selection of agricultural produce. One can enjoy timetabled events, a flea market and free museum entry. This event takes place in front of the Polder Museum.



Ogata Village Bon Dancing Competition

The Bon Dancing Competition takes place in the main shopping area. There is a fancy dress competition and Miss Yukata contest.



Ogata Arts and Culture Festival

There are many artistic and cultural groups in the village. This event allows them to display their works or perform in front of an audience.



Furusato Winter Festival

This enjoyable event takes place on the multi-purpose sports ground. Activities include horse riding, horse-drawn sleigh rides, treasure hunting games and much more. Ogata's delicacies are also available for purchase at the event.

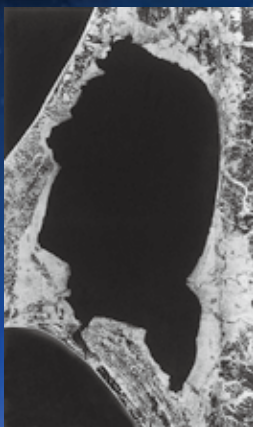
Under A Wide Sky on Land Reborn

Ogata-mura, Akita Prefecture

Ogata-mura <http://www.ogata.or.jp/>

Inquiries

1-1 Chuo, Ogata-mura, Minami
Akita-gun, Akita-ken
Tel.0185-45-2111 Fax.0185-45-2162
E-Mail ogata_mura@ogata.or.jp



Before reclamation



After reclamation