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"The month of running teachers."
December was a busy time for monks, who traditionally doubled as local teachers.



The universal "hot spring" logo.

Hot Spring in Cold Winter

Enjoy Open Air Hot Spring for Free

in Yubara Onsen Village

Having a nice hot bath is very relaxing, especially when it is cold outside. Soaking in an open air hot spring and watching the snow fall around you as you bathe is even more relaxing, and of course it's exciting!

This month I'll tell you about four natural hot springs (onsen) where you can enjoy bathing for 600 yen or less in famous Yubara Onsen Village.

Bathing outdoors without a single item of clothing on, is probably a very unusual concept for many readers, but no swimsuits are allowed in onsen, so leave your inhibitions behind and just have fun!

Sunayu 砂湯 Open Air Hot Spring (Free)

At the foot of Yubara Dam, Sunayu is an open air onsen surrounded by the rocks of the Asahi River. It is free and open 24 hours a day.

There are 3 different baths of different temperature, and each of them is rumored to have a different mystical effect: One for making the bather more beautiful, one for delivery of a healthy baby, one for longevity.

From December 22nd to 25th, Sunayu Onsen will be lit by candlelight for Christmas. It snowed last Christmas so bathers were treated to candlelit bathing as the snow fell!

Don't forget that Sunayu is a mixed sex onsen, so don't panic if you meet other naked customer of opposite sex.

Open everyday 24 hours a day. FREE!

TEL. 0867-62-2526



Maga Onsen-kan

真賀温泉館 (150 yen)

Maga Onsen is surrounded by mountains and had a long and distinguished history as an onsen for the Katsuyama and Tsuyama domains of the Edo Era.

A public onsen, Maga Onsen-kan still maintains the atmosphere of its boom days.

Drinking the water of this spring is said to be good for stomach problems.

Open 7:00-22:00 everyday.

Adults: ¥150 Children: ¥100

TEL. 0867-62-2953

Yumoto Onsen-kan

湯本温泉館 (600 yen)

A city run onsen, Yumoto Onsen-kan is in the center of Yubara Onsen Village. There is an onsen bath, a sauna, jet baths, large baths for families and/or handicapped people, and also a relaxing room with massage facilities. Locally made specialties and souvenirs are sold in a shop on the first floor.

Open 10:00-23:00 everyday. Adults: ¥600 Children: ¥300

TEL. 0867-62-2039

Taru Onsen-kan 足温泉館 (420 yen)

Taru Onsen-kan is located by the Asahi River. It is said that hot water from Taru Onsen heals cuts and rashes, and also make bathers' skin creamy and smooth.

The common bath was renovated in 1999.

Open 7:00-22:00 everyday.

Adults: ¥420 Children: ¥210.

TEL. 0867-62-2966