



# WHAT'S UP, OITA!

Bringing the latest from Oita, Japan to all those connected to Oita thriving all across the globe.

## Germany and Oita, a Bond across Generations

On Thursday, October 14, Colonel Kiesewetter and his wife, stationed at the German Embassy in Japan, came to Oita Prefecture, paying a courtesy call to Governor Hirose. They visited areas connected to the Colonel's ancestor and ended with a commemorative speech.



Colonel Kiesewetter (center) and his wife (second from left). Mrs. Kiesewetter is wearing a kimono she learned to put on herself through a kimono fitting class.

Colonel Karsten Kiesewetter, Defense Attaché of the German Embassy, and his wife, during their visit to Oita, participated in a memorial service for the colonel's ancestor, a WWI prisoner of war who, after being interned in Oita, came to rest in the Sakuragaoka cemetery (a former army cemetery). They then went to see a photo exhibition of the Oita Prisoner of War Camp, held at the Oita Prefectural Art Museum (OPAM). Afterwards, they met with the governor at the Oita Prefectural Government building. The colonel and the governor spoke passionately about how together, the German PoWs and the citizens of Oita of the time transcended the differences between their countries and fostered a truly heartwarming sense of friendship.

### Visiting Taketa and Hita



The Kiesewetters visiting the Mayor of Taketa



Rentaro Taki Memorial Museum



The couple visiting the *Kangien* in Hita.

The next day, the colonel and his wife visited Taketa, a sister city of Bad Krozingen in Germany (via their shared interest in onsen research) and Hita, the hometown of Governor Hirose.

In Taketa, following a courtesy call to Mayor Doi, they visited, among other sights, the Rentaro Taki Memorial Museum and Hirose Shrine, which is famous for being a good spot for *Chikuraku* (竹楽).

In Hita, they went to see the *Kangien* (咸宜園) as well as Sarayama, home of *Ontayaki* (小鹿田焼), an Important Intangible Cultural Property. On their third day in Oita, at Beppu University, they gave a speech themed around "Cultural Exchange between Japan and Germany," celebrating 160 years of friendship between the two countries.

Their visit, realized while Corona is showing signs of calming down, was a truly great opportunity to reaffirm the connection that exists between Germany and Oita.



## ~A Beautiful New Sightseeing Spot is Born!~ Enjoy the view from the summit of Mt. Takasaki!



Mt. Takasaki is famous throughout Japan as a habitat for Japanese macaques, with Mt. Takasaki Monkey Park being a major sightseeing spot for Oita City. However, now in addition to the park, Mt. Takasaki has a brand new attraction.

The trees of the mountain trails have been cut back and signs for easier navigation have been placed down, so now you can enjoy the breath-taking, all-encompassing view from the mountain indeed once known as Mt. Shihatsu (四極山), the mountain of the four poles (north, south, east, west).

Please take a look at the video below! Enjoy the sights from a trek on Mt. Takasaki Therapy Road, an Oita Forest Therapy Road.\* Don't miss the view from the summit!

### ■ Video Information



Title: Hike Mt. Takasaki –Mt. Takasaki Therapy Road–

(Japanese) (English)

URL: <https://youtu.be/SaXHWsvK9TI> (Japanese) (Oita City Official YouTube Channel)

<https://youtu.be/JkwRyoi1KME> (English) (Oita City Official YouTube Channel)

\*Info: "Oita Forest Therapy Road" Homepage <https://www.oita-foresttherapy.jp/>



## Mt. Takasaki Therapy Road

Mt. Takasaki Therapy Road is beginner-friendly, and is one of the more popular Therapy Roads within the city. Getting from the southern entrance to the summit takes about 45 minutes by foot. In addition, near the summit you can see the remains of Mt. Takasaki Castle, a mountain castle used by the Otomo clan. And if you're lucky, you might even see a wild macaque or two!



Therapy Road



A view of the Oita City side from the summit,  
Including Tanoura Beach



A macaque and its child.  
They show their faces from time to time!