

The Charm of Kumatori Town and Its People



About Kumatori Town

Kumatori Town is an inland residential town, 30km south of Osaka City, the largest city in western Japan. The greatest distance between its eastern and western borders is 5km, and the one between its southern and northern borders is 8km. The town is heart-shaped, covering 17 square kilometers in area and has a population of 44,000 made up of 17,000 households.

Its southeastern part is covered with hills and forests, and its north western area is gently sloped. The climate is temperate with little rainfall, affording its residents a comfortable environment.



Town's Major Sightseeing Spots

• Important Cultural Property " The Naka family residence "

Designated as an Important Cultural Asset
The Naka family is an old respectable one that once received the honor of a visit by the retired Emperor Go Shirakawa who took holy orders in religion while on a pilgrimage to the Kumano Sanzan Shrines in Wakayama Prefecture circa 1160s during the Heian Period. The age of the house has not yet been authenticated, but it may have been built about 400 years ago during the Edo Period, judging from the facade of the structure. The unusually large 450 square meter edifice set itself apart from others in the surrounding Kinki Region through its magnificent structure and its gorgeous Chinese style gate, and attests to the opulence and prosperity of the Naka family at that time.

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Kumatori Town



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• Heritage of Industrial Modernization Kumatori Community Center " RENGAKAN "

A textile factory built of brick in the early 1900s was turned into the Community Hall, retaining much of its original appearance.



• Okuyama-Ameyama Natural Park

This is a vast 130ha forested park. The area around Eiraku Dam is especially popular for its many cherry trees, and attracts more than 100,000 visitors a year.



Major Events

• **The Danjiri Festival** (Danjiri is an all wooden 4-wheeled vehicle, weighing 3 to 4 tons, with an enshrined " house structure ", decorated with wooden carvings of Samurai figures and the like on its outside walls. It is pulled through the streets by dozens of young people):

The two-day Danjiri Festival is held in October of each year, offering thanks for the grain harvested that year, and praying for a rich harvest in the years ahead. This traditional festival originated in the Senshu Region, the southern part of Osaka Prefecture, and dates back to the early 1700s. It is really breathtaking to watch the Danjiri being speedily pulled along by young people running through the streets while navigating 90 degree corners during the daytime, and at night, seeing the Danjiri decorated with many lanterns rising up to nearly 5 meters, looking like a hill. It provides a most fantastic and impressive view.



Agriculture and Industry

• " Water " Eggplant

(Specialty product)
Thin-skinned, fluffy, juicy



• Butterbur

Tender, rich in smell, mildly bitter in taste



• Senshu Onion

(Specialty product)
Juicy, sweet, tender



• Towels

The Japanese towel manufacturing industry originated in this region in the 1890s.



Town's People

Introduction of the people engaged in tourism:



- Students (Osaka University of Tourism) :
Their RUSH Student Project Team will show tourists around the town engaging the town tour bus.
- Agriculture: Burdock Leaves
- Local Industry: Towels
- Tourism : Nagaïke Oasis
- Festival: Danjiri Festival