



Welcome to the Omura area.

*The Omura area consists of 2 towns Higashi Sonogi and Omura
Omura has 13 municipal ALTs, 3 prefectural ALTs and 1 SEA.
Higashi Sonogi has 4 municipal ALTs.*

Higashi Sonogi

With just a short 25 minute train ride north, the quaint sounds of Omura city become overpowered by the chirps of crickets, the sighs of the breeze that comes off the bay, and the laughing of elderly women gossiping about their day. This is where the town of Higashi Sonogi lays. While still technically being a part of the Omura district, Higashi Sonogi has its own special identity and unique features that sets apart from any other town in Nagasaki prefecture. Whether it's honing your photography skills at our famous Chiwata Station, or hiking through nature towards our Ryuutosen waterfalls, you will find that there is always something to do in this small area.

Higashi Sonogi is located about 45 minutes south of Sasebo city and Nagasaki city is about an hour and 20 minutes away. If you're looking for a much bigger city, Fukuoka (the biggest city in Kyushu) is only a 2 hour bus ride away. Being this interconnected in the heart of Nagasaki prefecture makes meeting with other ALTs and going to events fairly easy!

Higashi Sonogi is indeed a small town but it has all the essentials you need to get by. It has two supermarkets, and two convenient stores on either side of the town. There are restaurants scattered around town that offer an array of food. We even have a couple cute cafes were you can enjoy studying Japanese, or reading. Because the town is so small you really get to have an authentic experience living in Japan. You get to make real relationships with your coworkers, students, and BOE that other ALTs in the prefecture might not get. Don't be surprised if someone gives you a bag of sweet potatoes or two freshly caught fish out of the blue, because people are just that kind around here.

Omura

Lying between the hulking green mountains and calm blue waters of the bay, it's fair to say Omura (literally, Big Village!) is blessed with a pretty fantastic location. The misty mountains of Kurogi feel like they should be teeming with dragons (for all you Pokemon GO fans, this sadly isn't true), and sunsets over the bay honestly rival any you'll find around the world.

Omura is a perfect compromise in so many ways. An hour on the train to Nagasaki, or 2 hours by bus to Fukuoka, big cities are easy to reach. Yet it's also far enough away to have its' own distinctly local vibe and even its own slang!

In terms of size, Omura is also a perfect balance of bustling and quaint – Big enough to have all the shops, amenities and facilities you need, yet small enough to have a friendly local feel. It's almost impossible to make a trip to Uniqlo or Aeon Shopping Centre without getting a cheerful 'Hello!' from someone (whether you know them or not!), and after a lung busting night of high quality (ahem!) karaoke in a friendly local bar, there is always the option of a sneaky Big Mac on the way home... Or, if the packed and raucous bars are not to your liking, it's only a short trip up to the serene waterfalls and firefly lit rice paddies of the surrounding countryside.

You are never far from a tiny family run restaurant, a good quality flat white or a well-stocked supermarket, and whichever one you end up in, the staff will know you by name. Whoever said compromise was bad?!

As a city, Omura has an interesting and distinctive history. 400 years ago, it was the local seat of power, with a mighty castle and traditional samurai houses that you can still see today. The castle ruins lie in Omura Park, whose 2000 unique Omura-zakura trees make it one of the top 100 places for viewing cherry blossoms across the whole of Japan. And if you are planning a hanami party, why not stock up on Omura-zushi? Yes, there is a particular type of sushi from Omura that is served up all over Japan.

In fact, Omura is very much a food lovers town, and not just because of the huge quantity of great places to eat. The city is full of shops selling local fruit, vegetables and fish, and if you are lucky you may even get to try your hand at harvesting, picking, catching or making some of these wonderful Its about this right?!

Omura city website

<http://www.city.omura.nagasaki.jp/english/index.html>

Omura brochure

http://visit-nagasaki.com/Brochure/pdf/OmuraCity/Omura_City_Guide_Book.pdf



by William Tiley

Queen Omura

She dwells and stays
Inconspicuous but constantly in the way
Square sushi fashioned from swords
The vinegar and sugar from the days of the Lords
Dancing every year, movements taken from her
The culture is she and she is it
Omura thrives because of her grit

The sway of the trees
Breezes that brush the castle
Ever changing vegetation
A constant distraction
Quiet yet lively
The Japanese way
History nestled in the middle of a residential place
Preserved buildings and shrines
Next to stores, nightclubs, and places to buy wine

Summer ushers in a season of sweating
Humidity, waterfalls, fireworks – all part of the setting
Autumn she is mild tempered with an artistic flair
Color changing landscape as “kaki” bloom everywhere
Winter, she is mild, a friendly Southern lass
She likes to wear gray, very little white does she have
Spring, she is bold, loud and insists on change
As sakura blossoms fall, their ephemeral beauty on display
A time of renewal and drunken fun
Under the blossoms who never stay too long

But the Queen she is jealous and always watching from near and far
Hard to believe this peaceful town is built on traditions of her (war).

Omura Festivals

April – Hanami

Perhaps the most beautiful time of the year, Cherry Blossom season is famous all over the world. Omura is lucky enough to have some of the most beautiful viewing spots in all of Nagasaki and people throughout the prefecture will come to enjoy our Hanami festival. Bring a tarp, some snacks and drinks, and sit under and admire the delicate blossoms with some good company.

August – Omura Summer Festival and Fireworks

One of the highlights of summers in Omura is annual Natsu-matsuri, or summer festival. For three gorgeous summer evenings the whole town turns up for various, events, festival foods, and entertainment. Food and drink stalls line the main street from the station and everyone is in jovial spirits (often helped by street-beers). It's the perfect chance to meet friends old and new. The Hanabi (fireworks) are particularly enjoyable.

August – New ALT Welcome BBQ

The Nagasaki summer can be pretty humid; you may feel you've stepped off the plane and into a sauna when you first arrive. To help cool off, we like to get together to welcome the new starters from Omura and surrounding towns with an evening BBQ by the bay.

October – Halloween Cabin Party

Omura has a reputation from throwing one of the most awesome Halloween parties in the area, with JETs and friends coming from all over Block 10 to party. There's Cabin(s) In The Woods right near Lake Placid up where The Hills Have Eyes over Omura – this is where we congregate to spend the night. It's a real Scream.

Throughout the Year – Various

Here in Omura we're rather multicultural, so we'll often get together to celebrate festivals that are important to others. Whether it's a celebration unique to a country/culture or a particular festival that's special to someone, we'll usually congregate en masse to share food, drinks and festivities. Everyone is always welcome.

Festivals and Other Events:

Date:

Setsubun (Tomatsu shrine)	February 3 rd	Omura
Hanami (Cherry blossom festival)	End March – Early April	Omura
Shakunage /Rhododendron festival (Carpet sakura)	Early to mid April	Omura
Iris gardens	End May- Early June	Omura
Kayaze Firefly Festival	Early June	Omura
Nagoshi Matsuri – Fireworks show	August 1 st	Omura
Nagoshi Matsuri	August 1 st -3 rd	Omura
Omura ALT Halloween party	End of October	Omura
Kayaze Illumination	End of November - December	Omura

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<https://goo.gl/maps/pxTnuYSzhTT2>

<https://goo.gl/maps/15ynThUKDUB2>

<https://goo.gl/maps/BAKDwZ4WTKr>

<https://goo.gl/maps/UnTRz22FAjR2>

<https://goo.gl/maps/fUxikBadBug>



大村市マスコットキャラクター
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Recommendations:

Here are some recommendations from ALTs living in Omura area.

*For any other recommendations feel free to contact
Omura and Sonogi ALTs or the Omura area representative.*

Omura Area Representative:

Lisanne Wagner

wagnerlisanne@gmail.com

Places of Interest:

Omura Park

Park

Omura

<https://goo.gl/maps/iC>

Morizono Park

Park

Omura

<https://goo.gl/maps/Ji>

Tomatsu Shrine

Beautiful shrine near Omura station

Omura

<https://goo.gl/maps/a>

Nodake lake

Hiking

Omura

<https://goo.gl/maps/1qLLyaw6BFx>

Sunspa

Bathhouse

Omura

<https://goo.gl/maps/hPow5AKi1E62>

J-Bowl

Bowling

Omura

<https://goo.gl/maps/hk3RigDMPSn>

Seahat

Sport complex (Rock climbing ect.)

Omura

<https://goo.gl/maps/KsGTiqGT4du>

Kotohira Sky Park

Park / Hiking area

Omura

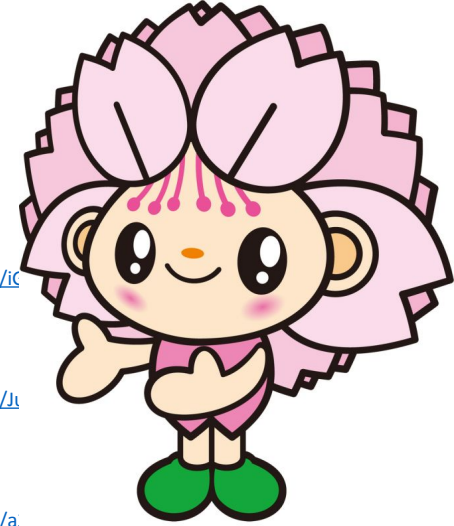
<https://goo.gl/maps/hXJdaZaCdFG2>

Omura city water park

(only open during summer)

Omura

<https://goo.gl/maps/vB5bh6w4KES2>



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Places of Interest:

International Plaza

Many local events take place here.
Come chat to [Kai Dirksen](#) about local events happening in Omura.

Omura

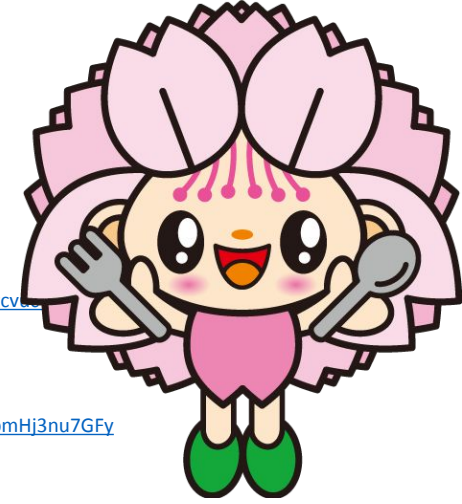
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Restaurants, Cafes & other:

Kiito's	Bakery	Omura
Café Olivea	Coffee shop	Omura
Baby Face Planet	Japanese / Western style	Omura
Namaste	Nepalese	Omura
Trico's	Wraps / Sandwiches	Omura
Wakatakemaru	Sushi	Omura
Nobuyuki	Japanese (Izakaya)	Omura
Pietro	Italian	Omura
Karate Chop	Vietnamese	Omura



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<https://goo.gl/maps/nk6eTZ86cVE2>

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Restaurants, Cafes & other:

Bamboo cafe

Ice-cream

Omura

<https://goo.gl/maps/2U6>

Shushu

Ice-cream shop

Omura

<https://goo.gl/maps/1LsLs7xnVmS2>

Sushiro

Sushi

Omura

<https://goo.gl/maps/Wo1noudUeQQ2>

Starbucks

Coffee

Omura

<https://goo.gl/maps/32QNNGkQKpn>

Waranaya

Pizza and pasta

Omura

<https://goo.gl/maps/ZLMTakBPN3D2>

Pizzeria bar Emme

Pizza

Omura

<https://goo.gl/maps/HMPfBRxrsuL2>

IL Rospaccio

Italian

Omura

<https://goo.gl/maps/asBLn9uEjLo>

Zero cafe

Sandwich shop

Omura

<https://goo.gl/maps/e7cWYwSq8PC2>

Daikichi Ramen

Ramen

Omura

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Torichiyou

Yakitori

Omura

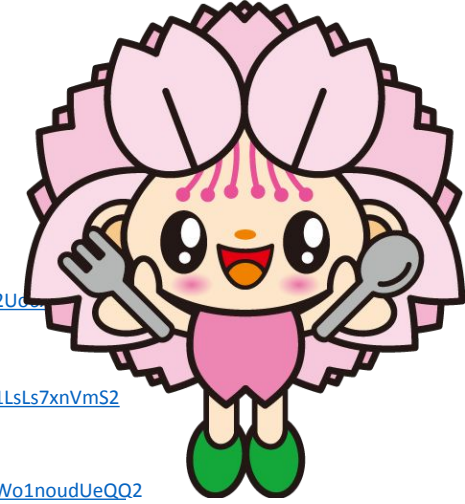
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Hikari Ramen

Ramen

Omura

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Bar & Local Entertainment:

Come On

Bar / Karaoke

Omura

<https://goo.gl/maps/u>

Pure

Bar / Karaoke

Omura

<https://goo.gl/maps/rHKwAY5iABR2>



Ronnie Scotts

Bar / Live entertainment

Omura

<https://goo.gl/maps/axBwJRCN6ES2>

Rons' Bar

Bar / Karaoke / Live entertainment

Omura

<https://goo.gl/maps/XVsBXRXWsCC2>

Marble

Wine bar

Omura

<https://goo.gl/maps/21iJ9ukYgt72>

Jin Jin

Bar and modern style isakaya

Omura

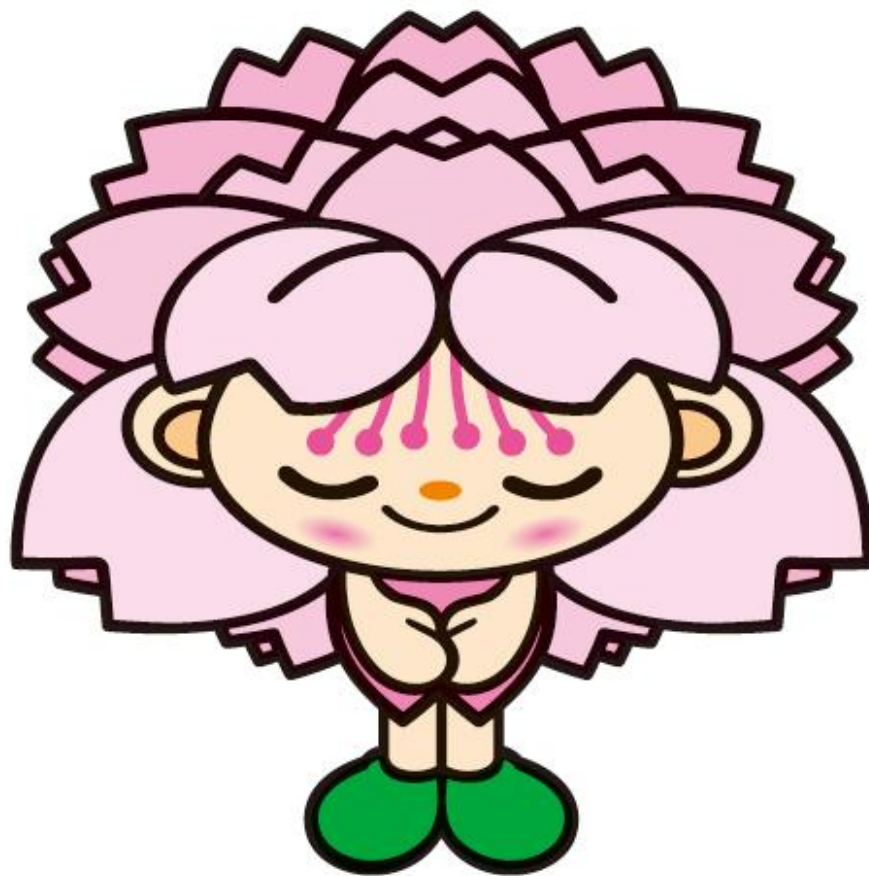
<https://goo.gl/maps/MRsukMNsdyt>

Shopping :

UNIQLO	Clothing	Omura	https://goo.gl/maps/Vh3qYL5U4
AEON	Clothing / Bookstore/ Restaurants	Omura	https://goo.gl/maps/Qr1Xqh3G3
SHIMAMURA	Clothing	Omura	https://goo.gl/maps/GaWShikW
NAFCO	Home and Furniture	Omura	https://goo.gl/maps/Ldj5QWndy1N2
OK HOME	Home and Furniture	Omura	https://goo.gl/maps/fUNzW3DHoTk
HARD OFF	Recycling store	Omura	https://goo.gl/maps/w9njalDqStj
MANGA SUKO	Recycling store	Omura	https://goo.gl/maps/ZbCsGpzoXwp
VILLAGE VANGARD		Omura	https://goo.gl/maps/Qr1Xqh3G3uT2
MEGA DONKI	Discount / International store	Omura	https://goo.gl/maps/AjiPSGZaQn42
TRIAL	Supermarket	Omura	https://goo.gl/maps/hCSEi2S2DuF2
KATORI STORE	Grocery store	Omura	https://goo.gl/maps/s9WuoEXJ7mF2
ISHIMURA	Snack and cakes	Omura	https://goo.gl/maps/yeSUpdrScBk



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