

# W h a t ' s U p , O I T A !

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

July 2018 No. 26



**Greetings!** from Mitsuru Tokuno <tokuno-mitsuru@pref.oita.lg.jp>, the Head of the International Policy Division in the Oita Prefecture Planning Promotion Department

Just as how the Soccer World Cup is being hosted in Russia, we hope that talk of the Rugby World Cup, which will be hosted in various locations throughout Japan—including Oita, will bring excitement all across the world. In order to accomplish that, the governor as well as the prefecture and its municipalities are playing a central role in promoting Oita in Europe and Oceania. The details of that should be available in the next edition of What's Up, Oita! Additionally, we would like to introduce more information about people who are active overseas and bear connections to Oita, such as international students, ALTs, and CIRs who formerly lived here, as well as prefectural associations. We look forward to your cooperation.

## **International Rugby Match, “Team Japan VS. Team Italy” Took Place!**

On Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, the prefecture's first international rugby match, “The Japanese National Rugby Union Team VS. The Italian National Rugby Union Team” took place.

Around 26,000 people attended, and both teams' impressive plays were met with large cheers.

Although the Italian team began in the lead, the Japanese team clenched a victory at 34 – 17.

To strum up enthusiasm for the match, the Oita Rugby Festa was held near the western entrance prior to the match. Comedian SLIMCLUB, professional sumo wrestler Yoshikaze Masatsugu, and Oita Prefecture Rugby ambassador Imaizumi hosted a talk show. There was also a booth where participants could experience a lineout. The venue was bustling with spectators.

This test match was an opportunity to focus on the real 2019 Rugby World Cup. Simulations concerning transportation for spectators, traffic control surrounding the venue, and other aspects took place. There was no significant congestion on the whole concerning transportation or traffic. Traffic regulations, including prior notifications, functioned, and the traffic volume at major intersections had decreased by 20% in comparison to the week before. On the day of the match, around 100 volunteers served as guides from the shuttle bus platform, confirmed tickets inside the dome, and assisted with events. We would like to thank everyone who helped to make this test match possible. This allowed us to see a number of issues surrounding things such as guidance to the venue and the wait for taxis to leave the venue. We will sufficiently prepare for these things as we look towards the real event next year.



**[2019 Rugby World Cup Promotion Office]**

## *Olle in Onyujima*

I love islands. I thought my obsession would fade over time, but it's still here and going strong as ever. When I heard that a new olle trail had been added to Oita Prefecture—and that it was on an island—I knew exactly what my next destination would be.

The olle trail is located on the island of Onyujima, off the coast of the city of Saiki in southern Oita Prefecture. From Oita City, it's about an hour long train ride followed by a fifteen minute ferry ride.

If you start the trail at the Joeimaru Horikiri platform and end at Ishima Harbor, there's a sato-no-eki called "Shokusaikan" located directly across the street from the harbor. I started my trail by eating a hearty lunch of Oita's famous tori-ten. (I would need my strength after all.)

The staff members were very friendly and pointed me in the right direction for the olle trail. They warned me that the trail was long and steep in places, and told me that, towards the end, the trail diverged into two separate paths. One path essentially turned into mountaineering and the other continued on flat ground.

When I left the sato-no-eki, I fully intended to take the mountainous path when the time came to choose. By the time I'd finished with the first section of the trail (which was indeed long and steep), I decided against it.

I would like to go back to Onyujima and try that trail again someday (probably someday when the weather is a lot cooler). Next time, I will walk that mountain trail, and I won't let anything stop me!



### Editor's Note

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The rain is gone for now, but the heat has shown up to replace it. Oita has enough islands and beaches for me to know exactly where I want to be this summer.

