



Located adjacent to Bungo-Mori Roundhouse Park, this facility used to be a rice storage warehouse built around the same time as the roundhouse and was later renovated. You can enjoy locally produced foods including Premium A-grade rice grown in Kusu as you watch the designed JR Kyushu sightseeing trains coming down the tracks from your seat with the great outdoors in the background. This facility is operated by the Gyouun Welfare Association as a collaboration between welfare and tourism sectors.



Gifts such as home-baked bread and cookies specially made for sale are also available here.



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- Railway heritage
- Bungo-Mori Roundhouse Museum
- Legend of the tree stump
- Lucky waterfall
- Andersen in Japan
- Mori no Crayon

のんびりしましょ  
**LET'S RELAX**



**Steam Locomotive No. 29612**

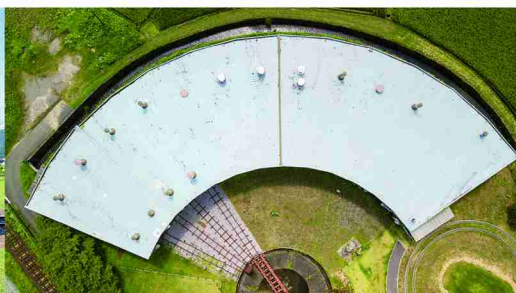
Another highlight at Bungo-Mori Roundhouse Park is the actual steam locomotive which is kept and preserved out in front of the roundhouse. It was in service for 55 years from 1919 to 1974. When the atomic bomb was dropped over Nagasaki in 1945, it transported many victims. After retirement, the locomotive was exhibited in Fukuoka Prefecture and was scheduled to be scrapped in 2013 due to deterioration. However, there arose voices that expressed regret they would have over its disappearance. As a result, it was nicely restored and put on display at Bungo-Mori Roundhouse Park. You are sure to find the sight of the vintage steam locomotive with the roundhouse in the background surprisingly photogenic.

**Former Bungo-Mori Roundhouse and Turntable**

This fan-shaped railway roundhouse is now the only such facility existing in Kyushu. The roundhouse started operation at the same time with the 1934 opening of the Kyudai Main Line, which still connects Kurume in Fukuoka Prefecture and Oita in Oita Prefecture. The former Bungo-Mori Roundhouse served as a central rail yard for water and coal used by steam locomotives, which were an important form of public transportation in those days. During the height of its prosperity, the roundhouse stored 25 steam locomotives with about 200 employees working there. It is also said that 5,000 people per day used Bungo-Mori Station at the time. Many of them were tourists who came to climb the mountains and take therapeutic baths. However, times have changed, and the Bungo-Mori Roundhouse was no longer needed in 1970 after steam locomotives were completely replaced by diesel locomotives and the turntable became obsolete.

Nearly half a century passed after its closure, when the roundhouse faced the danger of being dismantled. Forunately, it was saved by over 20,000 signatures collected by the locals who wanted to have it preserved and registered as a national cultural asset. Today it remains the same as it used to be when it was in operation.

The Bungo-Mori Roundhouse and Turntable were registered as a national cultural asset in 2012 and as a Japan Heritage Cultural Property in 2017. They are now big cultural assets for this small town as well as one of the most popular tourist sites in the town. With the Bungo-Mori Roundhouse Museum also opened on the premises, the old roundhouse and turntable will continue to watch over the changing of the times as part of Bungo-Mori Roundhouse Park.







# Bungo-Mori Roundhouse Museum



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At this museum, visitors from inside and outside the town can have fun with railroad-related toys and other products while learning the history of railroads. Both the interior and exterior were designed by Eiji Mitooka, who is renowned for his designing of JR Kyushu sightseeing trains, Yufuin no Mori and Nanatsuboshi in Kyushu trains, which are popular among visitors from abroad. On display here are works by Mitooka along using materials related to the Former Bungo-Mori Roundhouse and many railroads used in the past. You can also look at picture books of railroads and have fun in a wooden ball pit. Visitors of all ages, from children to adults can relax playing with origami, color by numbers, and mini plastic art all featuring railroads.

- Hours: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Closed: Every Monday
- (Closed the following Tuesday when Monday falls on a national holiday)
- Admission: ¥100 (junior high school students and over)



## Mini Train

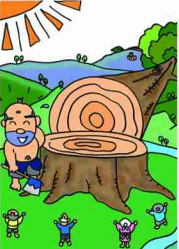
Enjoy a 316-meter-long ride on a mini train while taking in the sights of the cultural views of Bungo-Mori Roundhouse Park and the vast natural scenery including Mt. Kirikabu. (Adults can also ride.)  
Every Sunday: 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Canceled on rainy days. Out of service from December to February.)  
\*A small donation for maintenance costs is appreciated when boarding.



Mt. Kirikabu a long, long time ago



The large tree was cut down



Mt. Kirikabu a long time ago



Mt. Kirikabu today



Heidi Swings



KIRIKABU HOUSE (observation house)



## Legend of the Tree Stump—a Story about Kusu Town

A long, long time ago, there was a large camphor tree which reached out toward the heavens. No crops could be grown because its shadow covered the entire village. The troubled villagers therefore hired a giant wood cutter to cut down this large tree. Once the tree was removed, plenty of sunlight showered down on the village and people which restored their spirits. This mountain village then became a region producing delicious rice and vegetables. The mountain where the huge stump remained was named Mt. Kirikabu (mountain of the tree stump) and the village was named Kusu (camphor). It is said that various areas in Kyushu were named after this event, such as

Kurume which means "not coming this far", Nagasaki which means "the long tip of the fallen tree", Hakata which means "the shapes of the fallen leaves", and Tosu which means "the bird's nest that fell". Today, the peak of the mountain can be reached by car, where the Kirikabu House and the Heidi Swings can be found with a 360-degree panoramic view welcoming visitors.



google map



Mt.KIRIKABU

### Access to Kusu Town

- 70 min by car from Fukuoka Airport
- 60 min by car from Oita Airport
- 30 min by car from Yufuin Station
- 90 min by train from Hakata Station
- 80 min by train from Oita Station
- 30 min by train from Yufuin Station



### Access Within Kusu Town



**Kusu Town Office, Oita Prefecture**  
268-5 Hoashi, Kusu-machi, Kusu-gun, Oita-ken, 879-4492  
☎ 0973-72-7153  
mail : syokou@town.kusu.oita.jp

**Oita Prefectural Kusu Town Tourism Association**

296-13 Hoashi, Kusu-machi, Kusu-gun, Oita-ken, 879-4413  
☎ 0973-72-1313  
mail : info@kusumachi.jp



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JAPAN HERITAGE

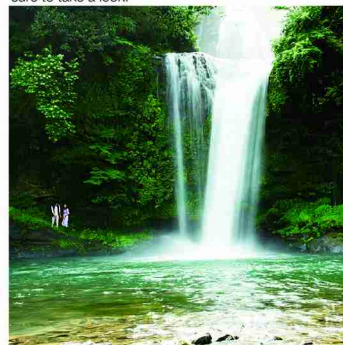


## Jion Waterfall



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This two-level waterfall, just a one-minute walk from the parking of Roadside Station Kurushima Memorial Hall, creates an environment where it feels like the temperature is lower by five degrees compared to reality. The back of the waterfall can also be accessed, and it is said that a trip around it clockwise brings good luck. The Limited Express Yufuin no Mori resort train slows down when it passes the waterfall, so please be sure to take a look.



## Kurushima Takehiko Memorial Hall



On display are various documents related to Takehiko Kurushima, who told stories to children all over the world and was later called the Japanese Hans Christian Andersen. Born in Kusu, he was also known as a descendant of a pirate who sailed the Seto Inland Sea.

<http://kurushimatakehiko.com/>



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