



2018

Host Town Oyamazaki



An Introduction to the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics Host Town Project

Oyamazaki Town Board of Education

2018/04/05

A word from the Mayor of Oyamazaki

Dear Reader

Fifty years ago our town of Oyamazaki at the foot of historical Mount Tennozan had grown too far to be called a village anymore and was raised in its status. With deep love for our native soil and a strong neighborly friendship we stepped up to the next stage of this place of great historic significance to face a new future together.

Today we are turning to the international stage to found new friendships and share our cultural heritage. We would like to build a long lasting Relationship beyond our borders with the country of Switzerland. The 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics provide us a great opportunity to promote the exchange between our countries.

Oyamazaki has always been the gate to Kyoto where nature, culture and technology met and harmonized. Now we would like to serve as an open window to Switzerland in Kyoto as well. We invite you therefore, to celebrate our 50th anniversary with us and create a sustaining partnership together.

On behalf of all citizens of Oyamazaki, I would like to thank you very much for your kind attention and hope to be able to welcome you to our charming town in the near future.

26 January 2018

The Mayor of Oyamazaki

山本 圭一
Keiichi YAMAMOTO



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Oyamazaki's orchid fairy "Raran-chan"
extends her greetings to you

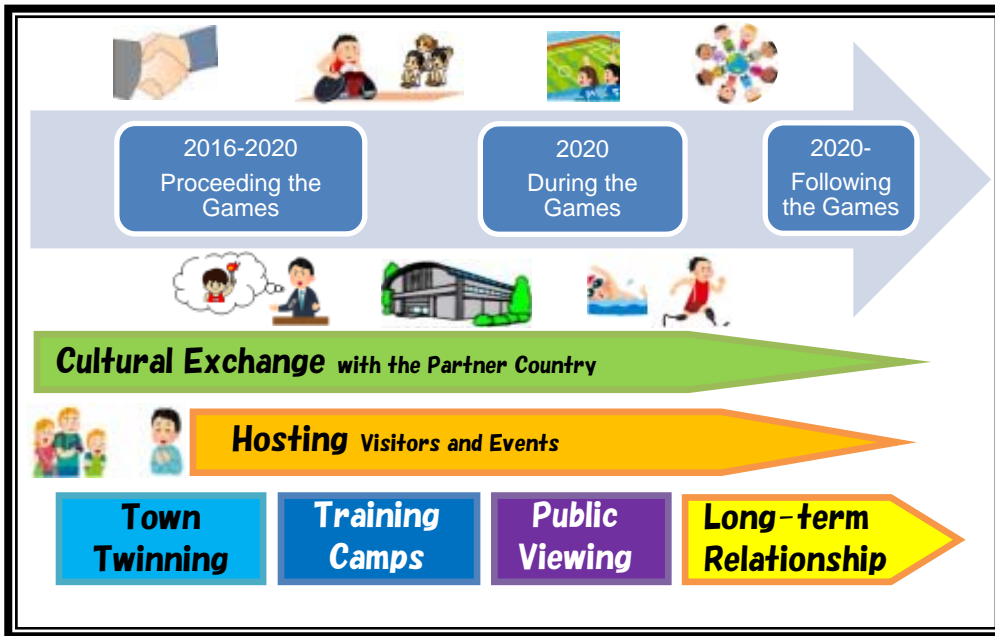
The Host Town Initiative

The Host Town Initiative aims to **promote human, economic and cultural exchange** between local communities in Japan and participating countries from abroad on the occasion of the **Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games**. For that purpose, a Host Town will organize cultural exchanges, host various events and invite athletes, coaches and staff from abroad. Through **educational and athletic exchange** these guests can **demonstrate their sports, conduct workshops** and bring their country's customs and cultures closer to the local residents.

Localities registered as Host Towns are usually **focusing on one country or Olympic discipline**. In this context, they can utilize financial support measures for exchange programs and sports facilities.

If a visiting team and the Host town agree, the national team from abroad may also hold **pre-games training camps** at the town, ensuring their athletes are in the best condition for competing.

Host Towns will hopefully **maintain exchanges** with athletes and support the staff of the country they have hosted following the games.



Host Town Initiative Overview

Vision

Oyamazaki Town has decided to offer itself as a Host Town to **Switzerland**.

We would like to deepen and expand with this beautiful country on our relationships from the past.

It was for example **Shotaro Kaga** (1888-1954), famous businessman and former owner of the Oyamazaki Villa, who was the first Japanese to climb the **Jungfrau summit** in Switzerland 1910.

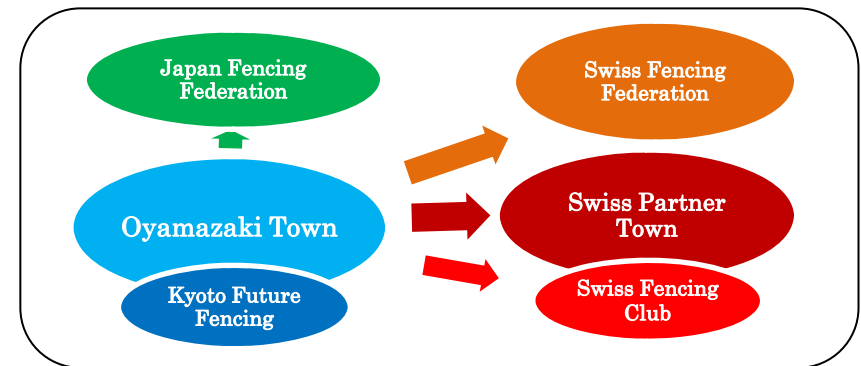
Relatives of Mr. Kaga are still living in Switzerland to this day and have already visited our town.



Fencing is especially popular in Oyamazaki and the town is home to the "**Kyoto Future Fencing Club**". For that reason, the town also decided to focus its attention to this Olympic discipline.

For the realization of the Host Town Initiative's goal, Oyamazaki pursues **Three Main Objectives**:

- ❖ **Create a Partnership with Switzerland through town twinning**
- ❖ **Organize Cultural and Athletic Exchanges with our Swiss partner**
- ❖ **Promote the Fencing sport with Olympians and Paralympians**



Stakeholders in the coordination of the Host Town Initiative

The Oyamazaki Host Town Project

The Project so far

With the introduction of the Initiative in 2016, Oyamazaki has formed its own **Host Town Project Team**. Since then, the town held various events, promoting Switzerland, the fencing sport and intercultural exchange. These include:

- ✦ An annual **Swiss Fair** with musical performances
- ✦ The Oyamazaki **Tennozan Fencing Cup**
- ✦ Events and **Seminars about Switzerland** for the local public
- ✦ Participation in the **JET Programme** (Japan Exchange and Teaching)



For strengthening its bonds with Switzerland, Oyamazaki is now looking for partner interested in **Town Twinning ("Jumelage")** and realizing projects to promote the exchange between Switzerland and Japan. As the Initiative suggests, we would organize **visits for representatives of both towns** and conduct activities furthering mutual understanding.

For the sake of an **athletic exchange** the partner town would ideally be home to a fencing club as well.

With the Games drawing nearer, Oyamazaki will also invite the **Swiss National Fencing Team** to visit the town. The team may of course hold its training camp in Oyamazaki and mix with the local public, enjoying culture and food.

In furthering the Host Town Project, Oyamazaki is **being supported** by the following organizations:

- ✦ **Cabinet Secretariat of Japan**
- ✦ **Embassy of Japan to Switzerland**
- ✦ **Consulate of Japan in Geneva**
- ✦ **Embassy of Switzerland to Japan**
- ✦ **Swiss Society of the Kansai**



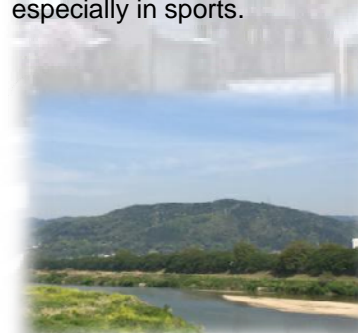
*Visit of Swiss Ambassador
HE M. Jean-Francois Paroz to Oyamazaki*

About Oyamazaki Town

Oyamazaki is located **15 kilometers south to the center of Kyoto** at the foot of **Mt. Tennozan**. It is also the meeting point of three rivers, giving it a distinctive heart shape. The town is easily accessible by both public and private transport.

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Area: | 5.97 km² | Suburban, rural |
| Altitude: | lowest 9.9m | highest 270.4m |
| Population: | 15'000 | |
| | July | February |
| Avg Temperature | 27° C | 6° C |
| Avg Precipitation | 230 mm | 80 mm |

The town of Oyamazaki has both a **long history and rich culture**. **Mt. Tennozan** for example may not be as tall as Mt. Fuji, but in Japan it is almost as famous. It is in fact the site where medieval lord Hideyoshi won the decisive "**Battle of Yamazaki**" in **1582**, leading to the unification of Japan and ending the warring states period. Since then the word "Tennozan" has gotten to be an expression which means "a great turning point in fights or challenges" in Japan, especially in sports.



Historically speaking, the town has existed since the beginning of the Heian period (794-1185). It started prospering as a commune specializing in the **trade of lamp oil** in medieval times. It flourished again under the rule of Hideyoshi, leaving many important cultural properties.

Due to the town's location, it has always been an important strategic site as the **entry point to Kyoto**.

Nowadays the town is frequently visited by tourists from Japan and abroad for its large number of **temples and shrines** and the **sightseeing spots** around Mt. Tennozan. The Oyamazaki Villa Museum and the Suntory Whisky distillery are also popular destinations for an excursion.

Introduction of the Kyoto Future Fencing Club

In **1988** the **National Sports Festival of Japan** was held in Kyoto prefecture. At that time, our town was the venue of the fencing tournaments. Since then it has become known as a **town of fencing** with various kinds of tournaments being held in our town gymnasium.



The “**Kyoto Future Fencing Club**” was also established in Oyamazaki in 1987 and has been active ever since. Even world famous fencer, Olympic medalist and president of the Japan Fencing Federation **Yuki Ota** used to belong to this fencing club when he was a junior fencer.

Kyoto Future Fencing

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Aimed at | Students (Elementary/Junior High-School) |
| Active members | 40 |
| Practice Style | Fleuret / Foil |
| Activities | Trainings 2x per week |
| Tournaments | Annual Tennozan Cup (nationwide) |



Sports Facility

With its Infrastructure laid out for the purpose, fencing trainings and Tournaments are usually held in the **Town Gymnasium**. The gym has been renovated and modernized recently. It reopened for engagements in April 2018.

Oyamazaki Town Gymnasium



| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Construction | 1986 | |
| Capacity | 530 guest seats | |
| | main hall | ancillary hall |
| Size | 1400 m² | 430 m² |
| Ceiling | 12.5 m | 9.45 m |

Features

Showers and locker rooms are located on the ground floor as well as the office, reception desk and a lecture room. The **guest seats** can be found on the upper floor. The building is renovated under **Universal Design** and freely accessible by wheelchair. It features an elevator with toilets on both floors. The lighting system has been modernized to LED fixtures and the entire building is **air-conditioned**.

Outdoor activities can be conducted on the nearby spacious Junior High-school grounds.

Hosting Visitors

Oyamazaki gladly **welcomes all visitors with an open heart.**

We are interested in a **direct exchange** with our partners, introducing the Japanese culture and history to our guests and learning more about Switzerland in turn.

We offer to teach our visitors about traditions such as the **Tea Ceremony** as well as arts and crafts. We would also be very happy to show our guests around the town and Kyoto prefecture, introducing them to Japan's fascinating **cultural background** and history. By taking part in events and joining the town's festivals, visitors could **mix with the local public** and get the chance for communication and understanding beyond the usual tourist's experience.



As sport is the perfect vehicle for intercultural understanding and the Host Town Initiative is founded on this principle, **joined sports activities** will also be an important part of our exchange with Switzerland. We would for example be delighted if Swiss junior fencers could also participate in our annual **Tennozan Fencing Cup.**

In regard to their **stay in Oyamazaki**, we can offer visitors our support in finding the appropriate accommodation. For exchange students we will also organize the stay with a **host family**. Further, the town's cozy boardinghouse **Hotel Dew** in front of Yamazaki station offers guests four comfortable rooms for a pleasant stay.

In case of the need for a doctor's visit and other **health related issues**, we will provide visitors with the information needed and arrange an appointment at a multilingual clinic close-by. We will of course also offer our **support in translation** and bridging cultural gaps should the need ever arise.

Since Oyamazaki is part of the **Otokuni district**, we are also working closely together with our neighboring cities of **Nagaokakyo and Muko**. It would therefore be easily possible to expand our joint activities to these cities.

The following pages introduce a few of the **possibilities for sightseeing** when visiting our town.

Historical Sights

The area around Tennozan features a number of **cultural hotspots**. On the mountains trails important temples, shrines and landmarks have been erected.

At its foot lies the **Hoshakuji temple**. It is said that after receiving order from the then ruling Shogun, Hideyoshi constructed its three-storied pagoda with his troops in a single night.



Oyamazaki is also famous for its tea-ceremony room (chashitsu) "**Taian**", which is designated a National Treasure. It was built during the Warring States Period by the founder of the Tea Ceremony Senno Rikyu.

In medieval times the servants of the towns **Hachimangu shrine** developed a refining method for perilla oil. As a result the town's merchants held the monopoly on the manufacture and trading of lamp oil in all of Japan. The shrine is still visited by many oil manufacturers for prayer in hope for success in business these days.



The **Kannon-ji temple** (also called Yamazaki Shoten) at the mountain's slope is the perfect place for the cherry blossom viewing in spring and the turning of colors in fall.

Museum & Restaurants

Oyamazaki Villa

Built partly in the style of a Swiss Chalet beginning of the Showa period (1926-89) by wealthy businessman Shotaro Kaga, the estate at the southern slope of Tennozan is nowadays enjoyed by many visitors as the Asahi Beer Oyamazaki Villa Museum of Art.

A number of Claude Monet's "Water Lilies" as well as traditional Japanese pottery ("Toujiki") are displayed at the museum.

The annexes of the museum, the "Underground Jewelry Box" and the "Dream Box", were designed by famous architect Tadao Ando.



Japanese cuisine

Oyamazaki possesses a few old-established Japanese style bar-restaurants (called Izakaya), some of which look down on a history of more than a hundred years. Using local ingredients the restaurants are famed for their traditional Japanese course menus. Other favorites include Tempura (battered and deep-fried vegetables and seafood) or a colorful Okonomiyaki (japanese omelet).

Western cuisine

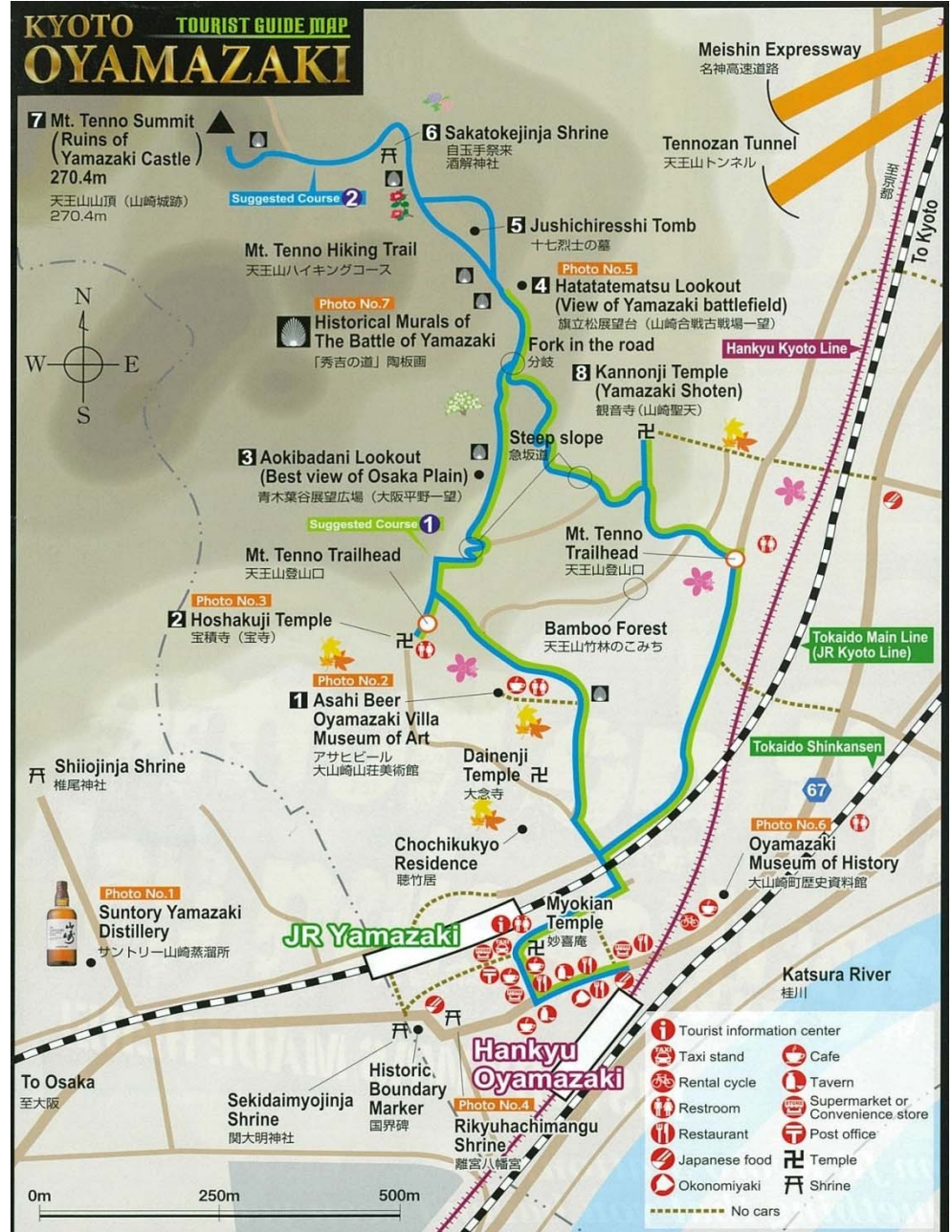
The western style restaurants in Oyamazaki serve a variety of seafood and Italian menus for both lunch and dinner. For the weary traveler, healthy and ample lunch courses are also provided. With a distillery in close proximity, some special whiskies for the connoisseur are available as well.



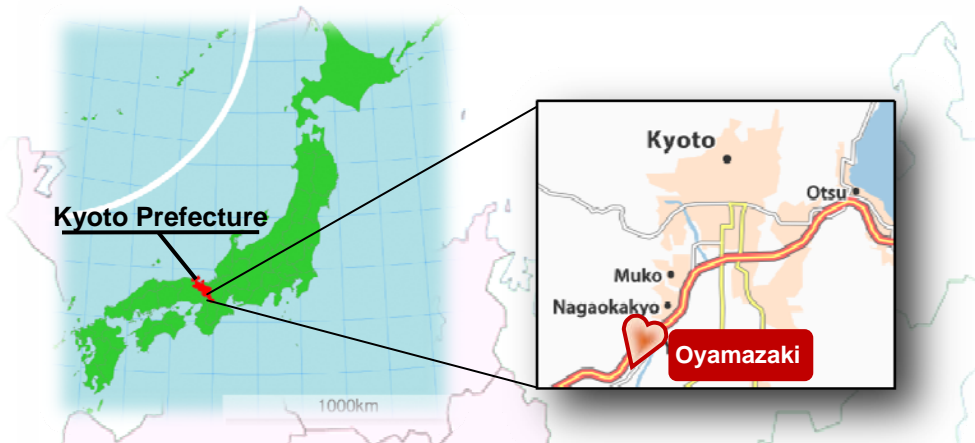
Cafés

Close to the station and in the museum, a number of cafés and bakeries can be found in town. Located in remodeled Japanese-style homes, they offer wide interiors and a friendly atmosphere. Served are a large variety of fresh bread, cutlery as well as hot snacks and homemade sweets.

Sightseeing Map



Access



Oyamazaki can be reached within 15 minutes by public and private transport from the center of Kyoto.

Public Transport

From JR Kyoto Station

Buy a ticket for a local train. Board a local train for Osaka from Platforms 4 or 5, and get off at the fifth station.



From Hankyu Kawaramachi Station

Buy a ticket for a local train. Board a local train for Umeda, and get off at the eleventh station.



Both Japan Railways and the Hankyu private railway operate a train station in Oyamazaki.

For visitors traveling from the Kansai International Airport the trip takes around 30 minutes from Osaka, resp. Umeda Station.

Private Transport

Oyamazaki lies directly at the junction of the Meishi Expressway, the Kyoto-Jukan Expressway and the Keiji By-pass, connecting the major parts of western Japan. Simply get off at the Oyamazaki interchange for access to the town.

Contact

Thank you for your interest in our town. If you would like to have further information concerning Oyamazaki and the Host Town Initiative please feel free to contact us

Oyamazaki Town Board of Education

Section for Lifelong learning

Host Town Initiative Project Team

Natsume 3, Enmyoji, Oyamazaki Town, Otokuni, Kyoto Prefecture, 618-8501 Japan

Phone: +81 (0)75-956-2101 (switchboard) → Extension 220

Direct: +81 (0)75 953 6014

Fax: +81 (0)75-956-0131

E-mail: educationboard@town.oyamazaki.lg.jp

Internet: <http://www.town.oyamazaki.kyoto.jp/> (Japanese)

<https://www.facebook.com/hosttownoyamazaki/>



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