

# About Ozu Town

## 大津町の紹介

Ozu town has a population of about 30,000 people and is located on Kyushu, Japan's southernmost main island. Ozu is in the Northern part of Kumamoto prefecture, about 20 kilometers (12.5 miles) to the east of Kumamoto City. It is found between Kumamoto City and Mt. Aso.

Route 57 and the JR Hohi Train Line (Hohi-honsen), two of central Kyushu's major transportation routes, cross the city from east to west and provide easy access to all parts of Kyushu. Kumamoto Airport is also located in the local vicinity. The various means of transportation have helped make Ozu a prosperous and industrialized town.

Currently several international and domestic enterprises are located in Ozu and through these companies Ozu has become very well known. The most predominate point of Ozu's industrial strength is the Honda Motor Company.

On the other hand, away from the urban area you can also see beautiful scenery and abundant nature such as rice fields, bountiful forests and the gigantic caldera of Mt. Aso. Ozu's location near Mt. Aso, an active volcano, is the origin of its unique agriculture which allows the town to specialize in cultivating sweet potatoes (karaimo) to a quality level that has become famous throughout Japan.

The convenient transportation, modern atmosphere, and the incredible natural scenery make Ozu a wonderful place to live!

大津町は、日本列島の南(九州)にある熊本県の中北部に位置する人口約3万人の町です。県都の熊本市から東に約20キロの距離にあって、ちょうど熊本市街と阿蘇の間です。

また、町内を九州横断ルートである国道57号線とJR豊肥本線が東西に貫き、熊本空港もすぐ近くにあるなど交通の要衝として発展してきました。現在も多くの企業が立地し、工業の町として知られています。特に、ホンダの二輪車工場が町内にあって、これは町の産業の中心でもあります。

一方、市街地から外れた地域では、田畑や阿蘇外輪山にかけて森林が広がり自然豊かな風景がみられます。特に農業では特産のカライモが全国的に有名です。このように、大津町は交通の利便性をはじめ、自然環境にも恵まれており、とても暮らし易い素敵な町なのです。