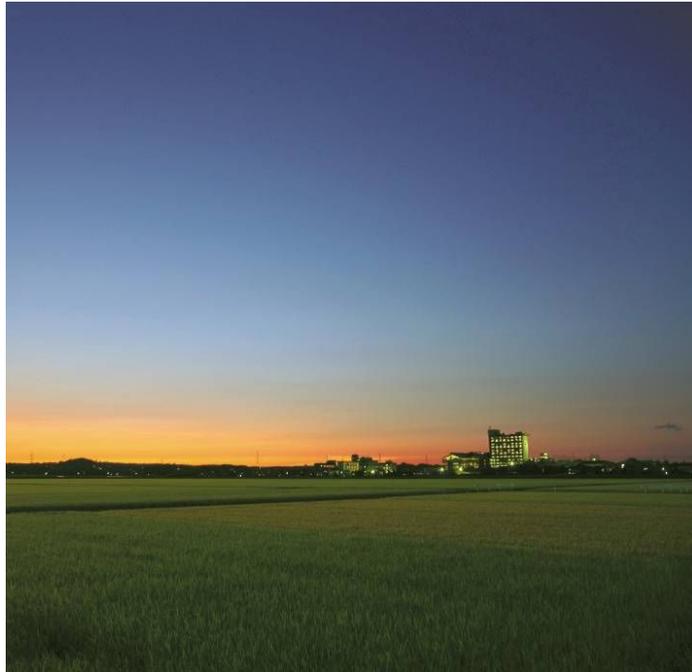




## Awara Onsen, Beloved by Artists and Writers

### Awara City Onsen, Futaomote, and Others

Awara Onsen lies surrounded by fields, and shines like a small starry sky. With soothing gardens at its lodgings, a relaxing atmosphere, sounds of *shamisen* performances by Awara's geisha, Echizen crab and shrimp, it is known as the Kansai region's "living room."



Awara Onsen viewed from its surrounding fields<sup>①</sup>

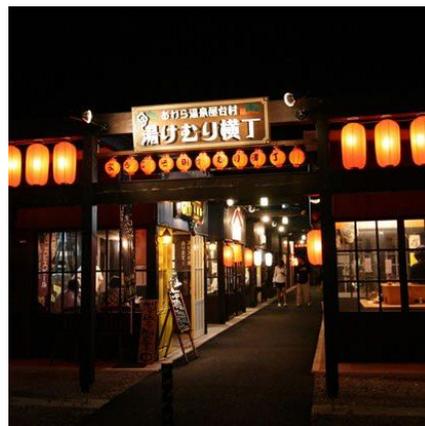
Surrounded by the Sakai Plain and rice paddies, the soothing atmosphere of Awara onsen has been praised by Tsutomu Mizukami, Katai Tayama, and many other artists and authors.

The onsen was discovered in 1883, when irrigation work uncovered a hot spring in the area.

At present there are over 30 lodgings there, and is included in the list of 100 locations recommended for the health benefits of their water.



Awara Onsen boasts a relaxing atmosphere



Steam Alley at night, lit by paper lanterns<sup>②</sup>



Awara Onsen geisha<sup>③</sup>



Awara Onsen Yukake Festival

The Onsen's geisha have a proud tradition of over 120 years, undergoing intense training daily to perfect their quiet, yet subtly beautiful arts. Visitors can experience geisha parties and even try the makeup and clothing of these performers. Additionally, every August welcomes a festival celebrating the water that is the town's treasure, with the light of *andon* lanterns (made using traditional Japanese paper) and candles creating a dreamlike atmosphere as festivalgoers take part in a water-throwing ritual central to the festival's program.



Trees lining the road to Awara Onsen (Ieyoshi, Awara City)



Migratory birds landing at Odsutsumi, known also as Kamoike (Kado, Mikuni-cho, Sakai City)<sup>④</sup>

The beautiful sight of tree lined roads running through open fields is treasured and maintained by local residents. Nearby Rt. 305 runs along Odsutsumi (aka Kamoike), an irrigation reservoir representative of Fukui's plain that can be viewed from one's car on the way to Awara.

