

Chinda Falls

CHINDA FALLS / ONO



おおいた豊後大野ジオパーク
Oita Bungo-ono Geopark

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Area Information



Roadside Station Ono

43-10 Onocho-Tanaka, Bungo-Ono, Oita Prefecture
Tel: 0974-34-3231 Parking Capacity: 40 cars
Open Hours: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Roadside Station Ono offers home-made steamed bread and locally produced vegetables. The restaurant serves a wide variety of dishes featuring local gamecocks (Toyo no Shamo).

Oita Bungo-Ono Geopark Promotion Council <http://bungo-ono.com>
Bungo-Ono City Commerce and Tourism Division, 1200 Miemachi-Ichiba, Bungo-Ono, Oita Prefecture 879-7198, Japan
TEL: 0974-22-1001 (main) FAX: 0974-22-1426



CHINDA FALLS / ONO

The place where rivers and history intersect

Chinda Falls

Chinda Falls is comprised of two waterfalls: Odaki (Male Falls) on the main stream of the Ono River, and Medaki (Female Falls) on the Hirai River, a tributary of the Ono River. Odaki is 97 meters wide and 17 meters high, and Medaki is 4 meters wide and 18 meters high. It is said that the waterfalls were created at the point where the waters from the main stream and tributary flowed together. The waterfalls were also depicted in an ink wash painting by the famous painter Sesshu, who was popular about 600 years ago. This painting also appears in The Chorography of Bungo (Bungo Kokushi). The 13 vertical sections of the waterfalls were reshaped several times before reaching their present appearance.

1 Ono River ferryboat and fish migration route sites

From the end of the Edo period until the beginning of the Meiji era, ferryboats traveled along the Ono River. However, since the boats could not go past the waterfalls, people and cargo had to be unloaded here. This was also true for the migratory fishes like ayu, which couldn't climb upstream past the waterfalls. But in 1913, a fish migration route was made by digging a tunnel that connects the top and bottom of the waterfalls so that the fish could swim upstream.

The yellow lines are thought to have been fish ladders.



2 Ruins of the Chinda Hydroelectric Power Generation Plant

At Chinda Falls, electricity is generated using the gravitational force created by the falling water. In 1909, a dam was constructed upstream from the waterfalls and a power generating facility that was built downstream began supplying electricity. Back then, the generated electricity was used to operate streetcars between Oita and Beppu, which contributed to Japan's modernization. Eventually, the dam was moved further upstream to provide a stable supply of electricity, while the flow of the water was stopped to prevent the cliff of the waterfall from falling apart due to water pressure. As a result the scenic beauty of the waterfalls was ruined.

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*The current power plant is relocated 2 kilometers downstream.



When former power plant was in operation

Landscaping works

Local residents were waiting anxiously to see the waterfall recover its beautiful appearance, and finally in 1996, the original scenic beauty was restored. A great amount of work was done to make sure the cliff would remain stable, and by making reference to Sesshu's Chinda Falls, an ink wash painting that shows the 13 vertical sections of the Chinda Falls, the landscape work was completed.



Chinda Falls without water

Created by a large eruption of Mt. Aso, it promoted modernization

The rocks that form the shape of the waterfalls are from the pyroclastic flow, which occurred during the great eruption of Mt. Aso some 90,000 years ago. These rocks, called Aso ignimbrite, resulted from the cooling and hardening of pyroclastic flow, and the countless number of cracks in the rocks is the reason for the formation of this beautiful landscape. Because the rocks fell apart in vertical strips, the rocks formed the vertical sections. This is one of the distinctive landscapes of Bungo-Ono Geopark.

This waterfall was created with natural rocks. I've heard it once dried up.

Later it was restored through the efforts of concerned people.



Geoguide

Dam

Odaki (Male Falls)

1



Photo spot

The picture on the cover was taken at this spot.

Ono River



Water outlet of the electric power plant

Photo spot

You can view the former Chinda Power Plant site and Odaki (Male Falls).



2

Parking

Restroom

Parking for large buses

Hirai River

Medaki (Femal Falls)

A great artist's rendition

What is different from the ink painting done 600 years ago?



Chinda Falls by Sesshu (Replica) Owned by Bungo-Ono City's Ono Branch Office



Pocket Park