

Different types of Countryside Stays

Vacation Rentals



A growing number of vacant homes and traditional folk houses are being converted into accommodations that can be rented out in their entirety for a private vacation with family or friends.

Gastronomy



Experience local foods and food cultures developed from the ingredients, customs, traditions, and history of the land born from its unique climate and natural features during your Countryside Stay.

Traditions and Culture



Surrounded by the sea and separated by mountain ranges, each region of Japan possesses its own completely unique traditions and culture, even when compared with neighboring regions.

Connecting with Locals



Countryside Stays are hosted by local people. The bonds formed through helping out with farm work, learning about traditional craftsmanship from skilled artisans, and other experiences will be a highlight of your trip.

Find out more about Countryside Stays

Where can I stay?



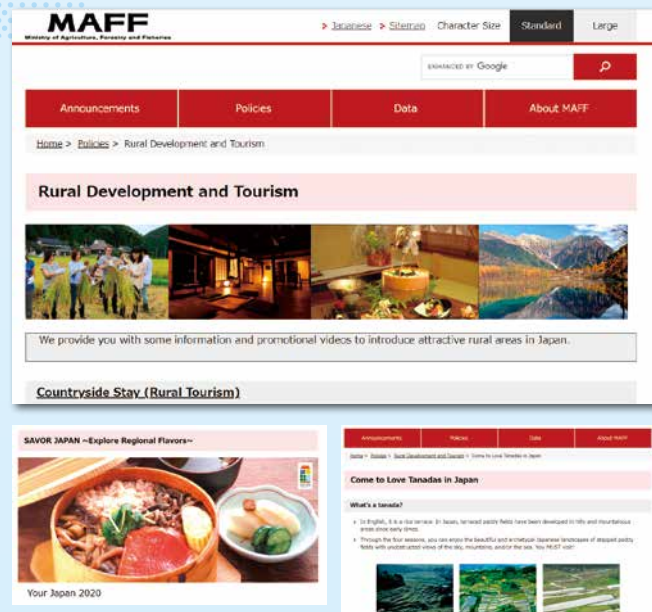
Countryside Stays Japan

This site introduces the many attractions of Japan's major rural regions. The particular activities and local foods characteristic of each region are introduced with vivid photography.



Countryside Stays Japan

What are rural communities like?



Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)

This site introduces MAFF's diverse initiatives, including Countryside Stays and SAVOR JAPAN, a restaurant guide that introduces the traditional food cultures unique to different regions of Japan. Those who are interested in trying a Countryside Stay should also check this site.



Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)

Countryside Stays

Journey to Experience Rural Japan



Japan is a mountainous, heavily forested island nation that stretches from north to south.

This topography has nurtured a wide variety of unique, local cultures shaped by daily life in Japan's farming, mountain, and fishing villages.

Nowadays, Countryside Stays are an increasingly popular form of travel that allows you to experience these local foods and cultures.

Why not immerse yourself in this side of Japan, too?



Japan's rural communities are working toward the SDGs

What are Countryside Stays?

Countryside Stays are a form of travel in which visitors stay in rural farming, mountain, or fishing villages, forging connections with the local area while enjoying regional specialties and activities that make use of the abundant local resources.



Stay

In addition to countryside inns and hotels, you can stay in a rural guest house owned by a local family. Recently, a growing number of traditional Japanese houses are being converted into cozy accommodations.



Eat

The best part about staying in a rural community is tasting fresh, seasonal ingredients cultivated in places abundant with nature. You can also try regional dishes not found anywhere else.



Experience

Immerse yourself in every part of life in a rural community! There is always something to do in the countryside, whether enjoying the nature, culture, and history, or taking part in farming, forestry, or fishing activities.



H Ryokan KIGUSURIYA

Experience traditional folk house lifestyle by staying at this historic inn

Established in 1919, KIGUSURIYA is a traditional *ryokan* inn with a long history. Guest rooms are located in the main building and annex, both of which are built in the style of traditional Japanese homes. The annex, now a private accommodation available to rent in its entirety, is an over 130-year-old folk house that was once the residence of the village head. The annex offers guests the chance to relax without being disturbed by other guests. Enjoy a comfortable stay in a historic folk house updated with air conditioning and modern indoor plumbing.



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- Wi-Fi Cashless payment
 - Private accommodation available Online booking
 - Parking available Pick up/drop off included



I Ine Funaya Fuga

A private lodge renovated from an *ine funaya*

This traditional *funaya* (boat house) has a boat storage area on the first floor that opens directly to the sea and a living area on the second floor. It pairs with the main house on the mountainside across the road. As many as 230 such *funaya* line a five-kilometer stretch of coast along Ine Bay. Bathe in the silky natural hot spring water, said to be good for the skin, then get a good night's sleep in the comfortable guest room beds. Around the town, guests can find restaurants and cafes overlooking the sea, as well as activities including cruising along Ine Bay.



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J Setouchi Cominca Stays Hiroshima CHOJAYA

Travel to discover a rich food culture and mountain village landscape

CHOJAYA is a traditional folk house built over 250 years ago that was converted into a lodging facility and opened in fall 2019. While the building retains its earthen floor and exterior walls of clay and straw, which serve as a visual reminder of its former life as a farmhouse, the interior and other places have been renovated to create a unique atmosphere that blends the old and new. Guests rent the entire building, which ensures privacy during their stay. Another highlight is the dinner service, which involves a skilled chef trained in creating high-class, multi-course Japanese cuisine traveling to the accommodation to cook for guests.



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K Hiuchi

A guesthouse that pays homage to one of the world's greatest architects

Situated high up on the Shonai Peninsula, this guesthouse feels like a secluded hideaway. The chic exterior is a work of modern art and is said to have been inspired by Cabanon, the final residence of the global architect Le Corbusier. Separate bedrooms on the first and second floors make this a perfect getaway for families, as kids and adults can spend their time as they wish and use the space in their own way. Guests can also enjoy picking olives, a specialty at a nearby farm.



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L Chashin

Experience the "essence of tea" at a unique Japanese lodge

This private accommodation was opened in May 2019 as a lodge where guests can experience the essence of tea in Miyazaki Prefecture, one of the top five tea-producing regions in Japan. Renovated from a traditional folk house that once belonged to a prominent local family, the atmospheric interior includes a spacious Japanese-style room with tatami flooring where guests can spend time in quiet reflection away from the hustle of daily life. There is a specialty store selling Japanese tea within walking distance and a restaurant and hot springs facility 15 minutes away by car.



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G Matsunaga Rokkan Fujiya

A journey of self-discovery at a spiritual retreat

This *ryokan* is located at the foot of Myotsuji Temple, a national treasure in Fukui Prefecture. The elegant building blends in with the surrounding mountains, creating a relaxing environment. Try harvesting seasonal vegetables and herbs on a farm tour held every day, then enjoy an innovative dinner course of Buddhist vegetarian delicacies prepared using the harvested vegetables. The following morning, take part in a meditation session in the main hall of Myotsuji Temple, an experience only available to *ryokan* guests. Face your inner self through mindfulness while being immersed in nature and history.



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F Satoyama Marugoto Hotel Nakayomo

Enjoy every part of life in a mountain village

Satoyama Marugoto Hotel Nakayomo, a single hotel situated in an entire mountain village (*satoyama*) on the Noto Peninsula, offers private accommodation in a peaceful location facing an expanse of rice paddies. Available are experiences such as daily walking tours and the opportunity to harvest seasonal produce with local grandmothers. Dinner is served at Kayabuki-an, a thatched roof restaurant that also serves as the hotel's front desk. Here, guests can enjoy a farm-to-table meal around the traditional hearth (limited to one group at a time).



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A Heart'n Tree Guest House & Cottage

Experience life at a country inn atop a hill

Heart'n Tree is situated at the top of a small hill in Tsurui Village overlooking dairy farms. Rent out an entire cottage or stay at one of the three rooms in the guest house, each of which accommodates up to three people. Tsurui is a dairy farming village surrounded by nature. Try making string cheese using locally-produced milk, baking bread, or making herb salts. Relax while gazing at the sunrise and starry night sky. Here, guests can escape from the hustle and bustle of the city and plenty of heartwarming, fulfilling moments.



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B Hiraizumi Club ~Farm & Resort~

Team building at a private group retreat

Hiraizumi Club is a private lodge limited to one group of guests per day nestled in a peaceful mountain village. This is a great place to take a workation while discovering the area's history and traditional culture. Experience the diverse local culture in a stress-free facility fully equipped for remote work. The warm, wooden interior and soft lighting provide a refreshing change from the everyday. For dinner, try making a local dish called *hattojiru*, miso soup with kneaded flour dumplings and root vegetables.



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C Historic Monument Renovation Hotel Iizuka-tei

Relaxing moments in sleek accommodations

Located northeast of Tokyo in Nakagawa Town, this hotel is an over 200-year-old tangible cultural property that has been updated with state-of-the-art technology and stylish interiors. The six unique guestrooms include apartment-style rooms with a living room and other amenities suitable for a comfortable long-term stay, in addition to renovated storehouses equipped with modern facilities. The hotel offers a relaxing atmosphere and a full lineup of activities, such as a dining experience at a farmer's house.



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D THE FARM

Stay overnight in a cottage and enjoy nature to the fullest

Cottage Grande, a two-story cottage with a rooftop terrace, is perfect for a family or group stay. In front of the cottage is a BBQ area where guests can grill and eat vegetables harvested at THE FARM. The first floor bedroom has two semi double beds, while six *futon* bedding sets are provided in the Japanese-style room on the second floor. The focal point of this cottage is the large tree growing inside the property that reaches up to the second floor. There is also a hammock in the atrium living room.



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E KURABITO STAY

Stay at a brewery to experience the sake culture rooted in Saku

KURABITO STAY offers the opportunity to spend a night at Kitsukura Sake Brewery, a traditional local sake brewery with over 300 years of history, try brewing sake, and experience a day in the life of a sake brewer (*kurabito*). A 100-year-old building within the grounds of the brewery, where sake brewers used to sleep in the days of old, has been given new life as a space for guests to stay while living like a *kurabito*. Take a stroll in and around the brewery and you'll be warmly welcomed as a sake brewer by the town and its people.



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This information is current as of February 28, 2022. Please note that details may vary depending on the season, number of guests, room type, and other factors.

Recommended Countryside Stays

Selected from over 500 certified areas across Japan

