#DEEPJAPAN IN LATE SPRING:

SAVORING THE BEST OF THE SEASONS IN THE BEAUTIFUL COUNTRYSIDE OF GIFU

May 14th/ 15th/16th

or

May 31st/ June 1st/2nd

3 days/ 2 nights tour in 2027

HIGHLIGHTS:

Hike in pristine nature: walk gentle to moderate mountain trails once used by villagers to connect small villages of Central Japan with the rest of the world. These quiet paths wind through tranquil mountain forests and open up into rural landscapes of Iiji in Ena and Nakatsugawa areas of Gifu prefecture, with blue skies reflected in water-filled rice paddies. Hikes are unhurried with regular breaks and time for photography and quiet appreciation of pleasant season we offer this tour on.

Stay in a traditional Japanese house @kannagara.iiji for 2 nights, a beautifully maintained traditional home that offers a rare opportunity to live as locals once did - without sacrificing comfort. Sleep on high quality futon mattresses, enjoy spotless facilities and wake to rural tranquillity and fresh mountain air. Stroll through the village and experience the slower rhythm of village life in tune with turning of the seasons.

Dinners with locals: share home cooked evening meals, with most of ingredients highly seasonal and locally sourced. This is not a performance for tourists but a genuine stay among the people that are proud to call this place home.

A Bespoke Pace
Whether you seek a vigorous mountain challenge or a meditative retreat, our itinerary adapts to you. Use our core plan as your compass, but feel free to inform us in advance what is usually your rhythm. As much as possible, time permitting, we will try to prepare accordingly.

Curated Experiences
Elevate your journey with our hand-picked add-ons. From a private sake tasting led by master brewers to the meditative brushstrokes of a calligraphy masterclass, we can tailor the details to suit your passions. Simply let us know your preferences early on, and we will handle the rest.

Stress-Free Exploration
Leave the logistics to us. We provide private, comfortable transportation for all excursions, ensuring participants of the tour remain warm and dry regardless of the weather. Forget the schedules of public transit; instead, lose yourself in the breathtaking scenery through the window of your private shuttle.

Peace of Mind
Travel with confidence. Our local hosts are experts in these mountains, prioritising your safety and comfort at every turn. We monitor the trails daily so you can focus entirely on the crisp air and the rustle of the turning leaves.

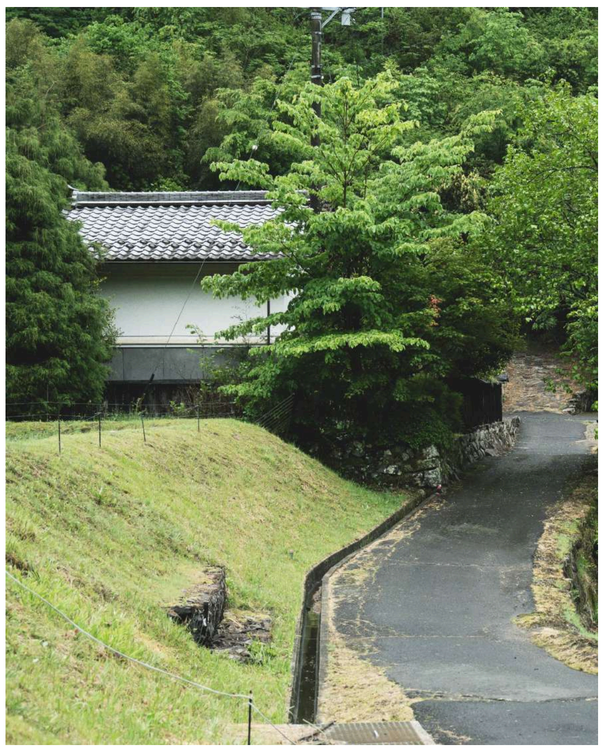
Intimate Groups, Authentic Connections
By limiting our groups to just six guests, we protect the quiet dignity of the villages we visit and ensure you receive personalised attention. This is a journey of “quality over quantity”, designed for meaningful interaction and lasting memories.

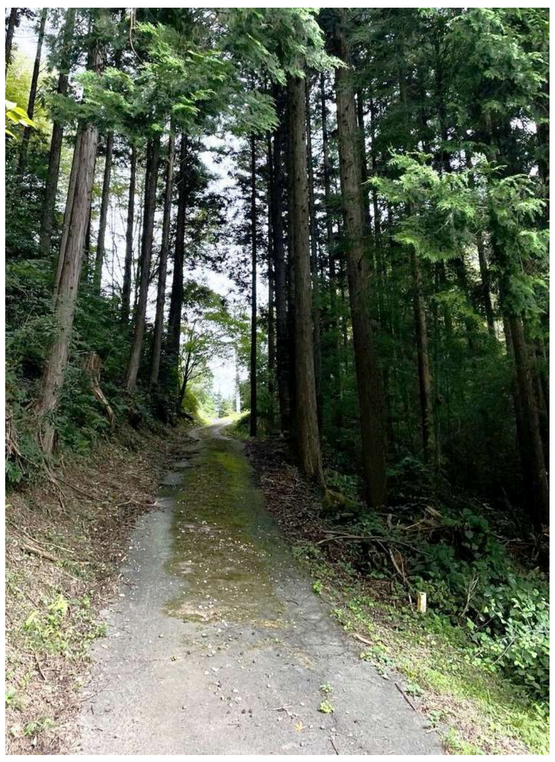
Ultimate Privacy
For those seeking an exclusive escape with family or colleagues, our private tour option allows you to reserve the entire experience for your group. Enjoy the undivided attention of our hosts and the luxury of a customised itinerary, tailored exclusively to your inner circle.

ITINERARY OUTLINE

#DEEPJAPAN
IN LATE SPRING

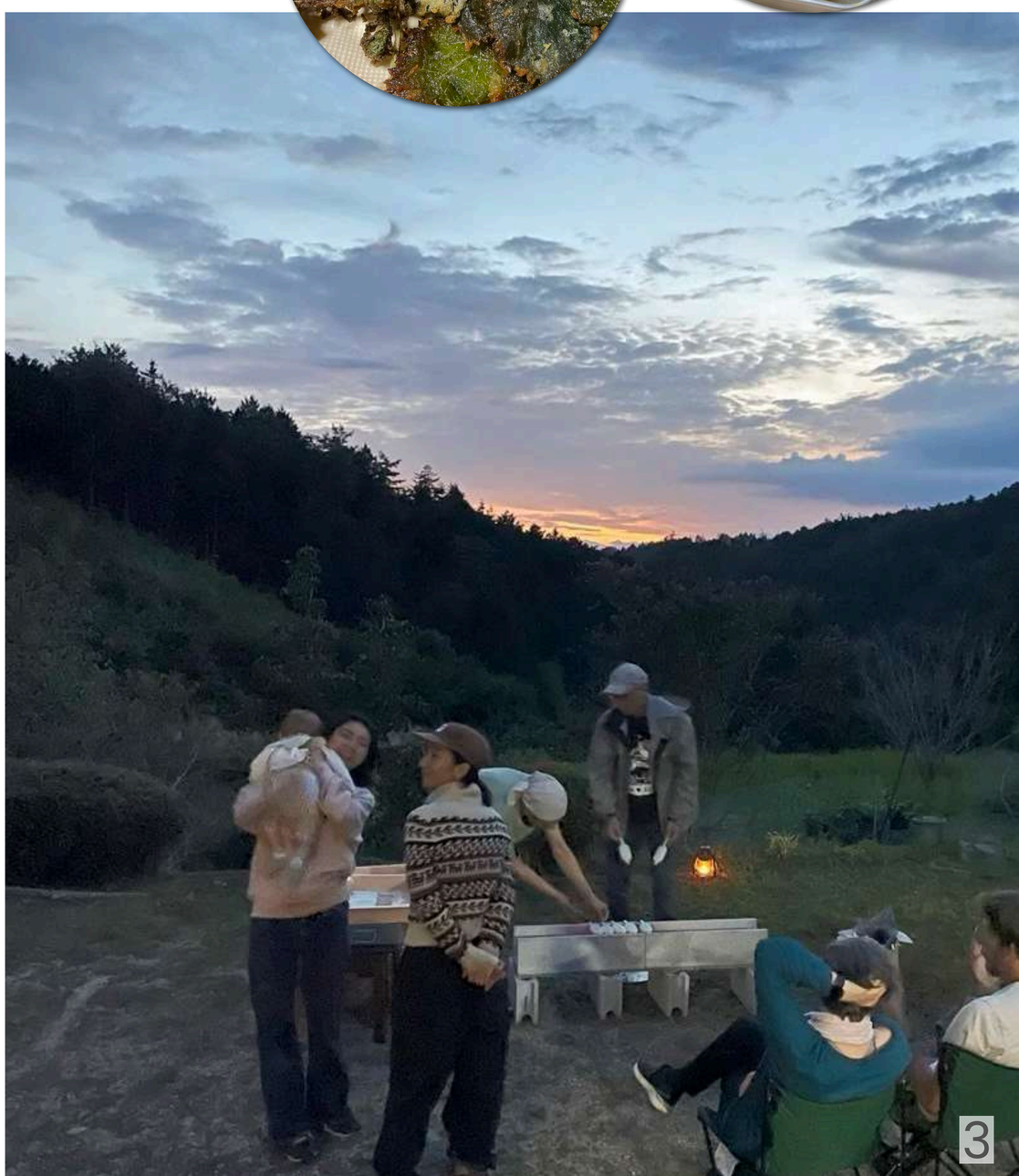
DAY 1
HIKING THROUGH POSTCARD-PERFECT RURAL PANORAMAS, FOLLOWED BY DINNER WITH LOCALS





Arrive ready for hiking and meet the local tour organizers at **JR Ena Station or JR Nakatsukgawa Station***, who will take you to the starting point of the mountain trail. Your luggage will be transferred separately by car.
Set out along the traditional paths that once connected the isolated village of Iiji with the outside world. Enjoy ever-changing rural scenery as forest trails open onto mountain views and quiet agricultural landscapes.
Approaching your accommodation—a beautifully preserved traditional Japanese farmstead—you will arrive 1–2 hours before sunset. Upon arrival at your guesthouse for the next two nights, your host will provide a short orientation tour of the house.

Relax while gazing out over a forested valley, or watch your hosts prepare dinner. Grill **gohei-mochi** (a regional specialty rice dumpling rarely found in major cities) together on the outdoor patio.
As night falls, enjoy star-filled skies and the sounds of nature far removed from the bustle of urban life.
Share a handmade dinner with local community members, featuring homemade dishes such as tempura made with locally grown vegetables, croquettes, and other regional specialties.
A local Shinto priest may join as a bartender for the evening, preparing a drink and assisting with the grilling of gohei-mochi.
Retire for the night on a traditional futon.



Transportation:
car with professional driver, from the official start time to luggage drop-off at the guesthouse.

*either JR Ena or JR Nakatsugawa stations are starting points - which one is at discretion of tour organizers.

DAY 2
HIDDEN GEMS: A DEEP DIVE INTO RURAL JAPANESE CULTURE

Begin the day with a gentle morning walk around the guesthouse. Take in fresh greenery, blue skies reflected in water-filled rice paddies, traditional farmhouses, and surrounding pine groves.
Enjoy a self-service breakfast at your own pace, then relax until the scheduled meet-up time.
Visit a local kabuki theatre for a behind-the-scenes tour, including a rare opportunity to step onto the kabuki stage and peek into the changing rooms. The scent of Japanese cypress still lingers in this newly renovated building, where local enthusiasts of jikabuki have passed down the tradition through generations.
For a deeper look into everyday life of the past, visit a nearby local museum. Hina dolls and vintage posters remain carefully preserved on the second floor— linger as gentle reminders of a way of life slipping from living memory.

Lunch: TBC
(either a light meal on the go or a refined multi-course lunch. Please note that start times are fixed, and reservations for formal dining must be made well in advance.)
In the afternoon, observe local customs as your hosts pay respects at a picturesque Shinto shrine, offering insight into living spiritual traditions.
Return to the guesthouse for dinner—similar in warmth and generosity to the previous evening, but with different dishes and a new team in the kitchen.
Once again, a local Shinto priest may join as bartender, preparing drinks and assisting the team in serving various local specialties.
Retire for the night.

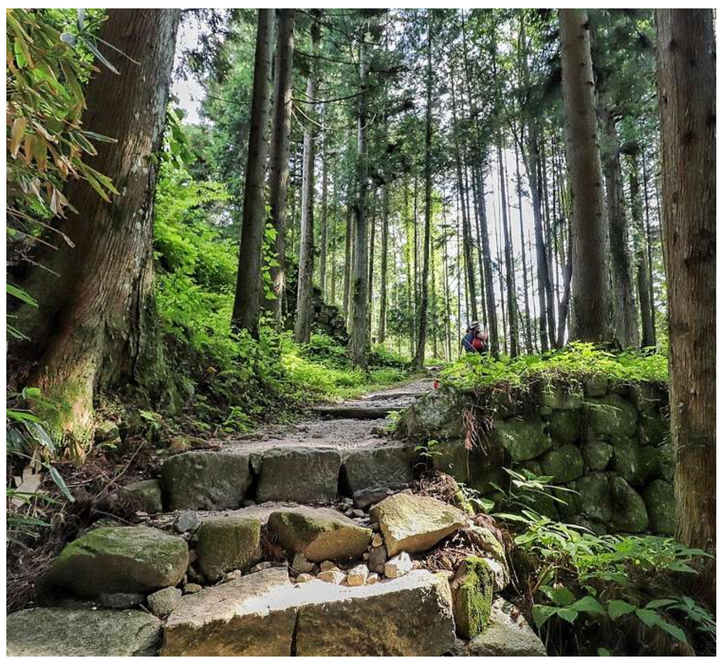
Transportation:
car with professional driver, ~8 consecutive hours.

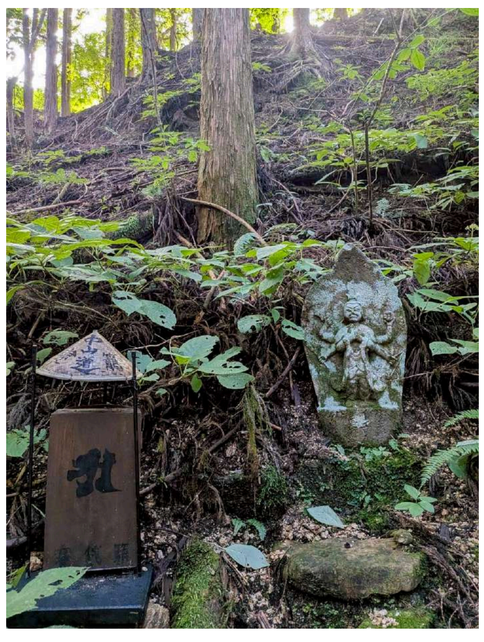
DAY 3
EXPLORE DEEP JAPAN IN COMFORT: NEAR OR FAR

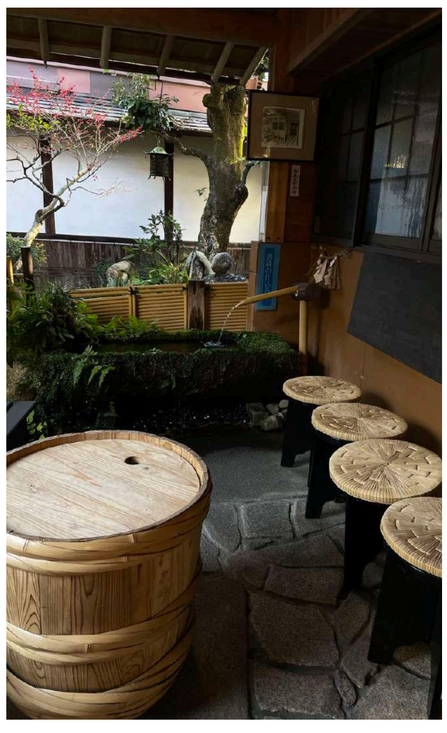
Included options (no extra cost):

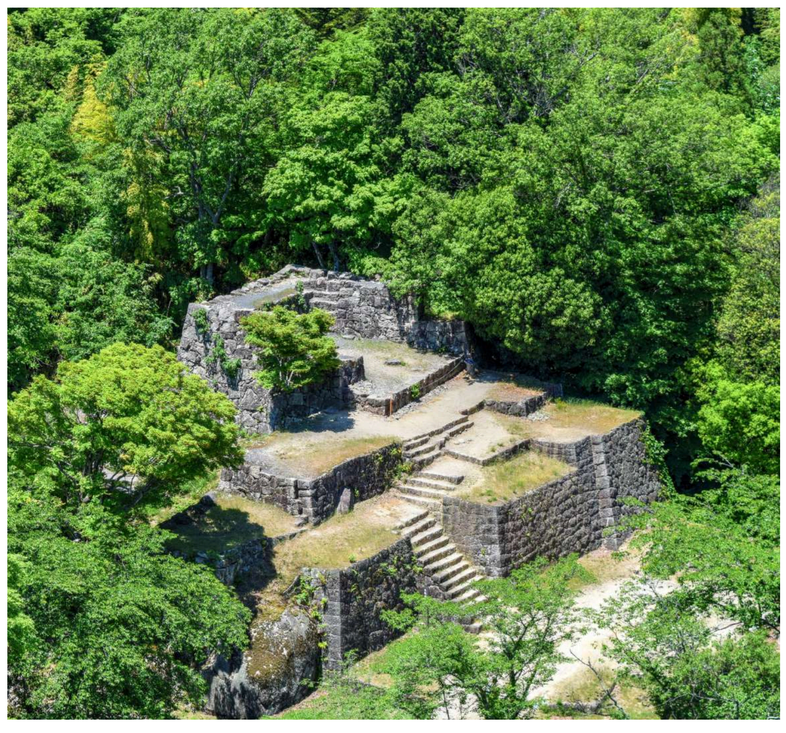
- Explore **Magome**, a beautifully preserved post town along the historic Nakasendo Road, lined with traditional houses and shops.

- **Hike to samurai castle ruins:**
  Naegi Castle – dramatic ruins with breathtaking panoramic views
  OR
  Iwamura Castle – gentler scenery, with access to samurai weapons and memorabilia, a reconstructed gate tower, and a charming cluster of cafés and shops.



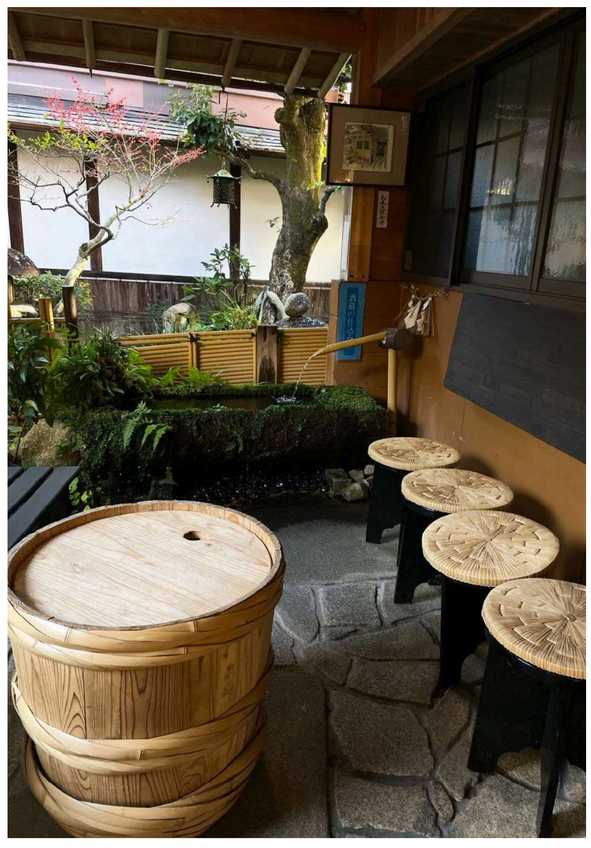






Curated Finale is Optional Delights

Why not deepen your connection to Gifu? Join us for a culinary workshop, where you'll learn the secret of an autumn dish with the true taste of Gifu in the fall. Alternatively, enjoy a private tour of a sake brewery with a tasting. For the spiritually curious, a pilgrimage to a sacred shrine with a Shugendō priest provides a rare window into Japan's mountain-worship traditions - especially when wearing his traditional mountain attire.



Conclude the journey and bid a fond sayonara to your guide.

Transportation:
car with professional driver from the agreed start time to final drop-off at JR Ena or JR Nakatsugawa Station, with onward connections by limited express or local trains to Nagoya or Nagano.

TERMS&CONDITIONS

Tour Dates & Pricing Core Itinerary:

2-Night / 3-Day Tour staying at at Kannagara Guesthouse Available Dates (2027):

May 14th/ 15th/16th
or
May 31st/ June 1st/2nd

Booking Deadline: March 31, 2027

Number of participants	Price per person (JPY)
6 participants	350,000
5 participants	400,000
4 participants	450,000
3 participants	520,000
2 participants	690,000
1 participant	1,380,000

The final price per guest is determined by the total number of confirmed participants, as outlined above. If the final group size differs from your initial booking, any overpayment will be refunded via bank transfer on Day 1. A smaller group size resulting from cancellations will not lead to a higher price for the remaining participants.

Payment schedule

To ensure the tour is prepared with the utmost care and attention to detail, a payment of 50% of the tour fee is required at the time of application, to be settled within one calendar week of the invoice date. This includes a non-refundable deposit of 100,000 JPY per person. The remaining 50% balance is due by Thursday, April 15, 2027.

Itinerary delivery

Once this initial payment is confirmed, your comprehensive, customised itinerary will be shared with you within two calendar weeks.

If you wish to book the entire tour exclusively for your party

For those who prefer an entirely intimate setting, this tour may be arranged for your exclusive use. A private arrangement is offered at a rate equivalent to four participants—a total of 1,800,000 JPY—with a non-refundable deposit of 550,000 JPY, due within 7 calendar days of the invoice date. Should a cancellation occur, this non-refundable deposit will be retained and applied toward any cancellation fees due.

Upon receipt of the non-refundable deposit, the tour will be closed to further bookings, and we will proceed with arrangements for a private group of up to four guests in total.
For guests who wish to book the entire tour exclusively for five or more guests, availability and pricing will be reviewed upon request. Early inquiries are warmly encouraged.

Cancellation policy

We offer highly customised experiences in rural Japan, involving individual arrangements with local hosts, experts, and artisans. As commitments to these partners are made immediately upon booking, the non-refundable deposit of 100,000 JPY is retained in all cases. Any advance payments beyond this non-refundable deposit will be applied toward the cancellation fees below, with any remaining balance refunded promptly. Optional experiences added to the core programme may be subject to distinct cancellation conditions. Cancellation fees are on the following timeline (calculated in Japan Standard Time):

- **Up to 31 days before the tour start date:** non-refundable deposit only
- **30 to 8 days before the tour start date:** 40% of total fee
- **7 to 5 days before the tour start date:** 60% of total fee
- **4 to 3 days before the tour start date:** 80% of total fee
- **2 days or fewer before the tour start date, or no-show:** 100% of total fee

Comprehensive travel insurance is highly recommended and assumed to have been taken out by all participants. Absence of comprehensive travel insurance or under-insurance shall under no circumstances lead to liability for the organising company.

Force Majeure

In the rare event that the tour must be cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control—including natural disasters, severe weather events, or other extraordinary occurrences recognised under Japanese law—all amounts paid will be returned to you in full. We will communicate any such situation with care and transparency, and where possible, explore alternative arrangements in your interest.

Children and family bookings

This tour is designed for adults. Children under 15 are welcome only when the tour is booked exclusively for your family. For any participating children, passport details and, where applicable, additional identification will be requested at an early stage, simply to ensure seamless arrangements and peace of mind for all involved.

Payment methods
All prices are quoted in Japanese Yen (JPY). Payments may be made by credit card or bank transfer (international or Japanese domestic). For bank transfers, associated banking charges are to be borne by the participant, ensuring the full amount in JPY is received in our account.

Itinerary & delivery
A detailed itinerary—including specific locations, venues, and timings—will be shared with all participants within two calendar weeks of formal confirmation that the initial deposit has been received. Until that time, the Itinerary Outline provided serves as the definitive reference for tour content, for all guests regardless of whether they book directly or via a travel concierge.

Inclusive of:
- two nights' accommodation at OMUSUBI Guesthouse
- simple self-service breakfasts and freshly prepared, elaborate dinners
- lunches and dinners as explicitly indicated in the itinerary outline (excluding beverages)
- an English-speaking guide or coordinator for up to 9 consecutive hours per day
- a private vehicle with a local driver for up to 8 consecutive hours per day
- all entrance fees, museum tickets, and participation fees as specified in the itinerary

Excluding:
- shinkansen or local express rail tickets to and from JR Ena or JR Nakatsugawa station
- travel and medical insurance
- meals or snacks not explicitly listed as included
- personal expenses such as souvenirs or incidentals
- luggage forwarding, storage fees, or porter's services

Changes and substitutions by the operator
Our journeys are individually curated and depend on the availability of specific local experts and master artisans. While we strive to operate the itinerary exactly as planned, unforeseen events such as a host's sudden illness or unexpected venue closure may require adjustments.

In these rare circumstances, we reserve the right to modify the itinerary or substitute a local expert with an alternative experience of equal standard and value. We will always communicate any changes transparently, ensuring the exceptional quality of your overall journey is fully maintained.

Luggage
As this is an authentic guesthouse experience rooted in local life rather than hotel-level service, guests are kindly asked to handle their own luggage at the guesthouse. The driver may assist on occasion, though this cannot be guaranteed. Up to two medium-to-large suitcases per person may be accommodated in the vehicle.

Weather
The rhythm of the programmeme is guided by local conditions, with thoughtful adjustments made as needed in response to weather reports and official guidance. In the event of heavy rain or thunderstorms, certain activities may need to be adapted or rescheduled.

Governing law
These Terms & Conditions are governed by the laws of Japan.

At-a-Glance: Payment and Booking Timeline

To make tracking your trip simple, keep these three key milestones in mind:

Step 1 **(at application)**: pay a **50% deposit** within 7 days of receiving your invoice to lock in your customised itinerary.

Step 2 **(March 31, 2027)**: the final **booking deadline** for all tour registrations.

Step 3 **(April 15, 2027)**: your remaining **50% balance payment** is due.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Below are the expanded details regarding our payment schedules, deadlines, and cancellation policies.

Q: When is the absolute last day I can book this tour?

A: The formal booking deadline for all autumn tour dates is March 31, 2027. Because these rural experiences require deep, advance coordination with local artisans and hosts, we cannot accept bookings after this date.

Q: How much do I need to pay upfront, and when is it due?

A: • **Standard bookings:** a payment of **50% of your total tour fee** is required at the time of application and must be settled within **one calendar week (7 days) of your invoice date**. This includes a built-in, non-refundable deposit of **100,000 JPY per person**.

• **Private tour bookings:** If you wish to book the entire tour exclusively for your party, a flat non-refundable deposit of 550,000 JPY is due within 7 calendar days of your invoice date.

Q: When is my final balance payment due?

A: The remaining **50% balance of your tour fee** must be paid in full by **Thursday, April 15, 2027.**

Q: What happens to my price if our group size changes?

A: • **If your group grows:** your final price per guest drops as more participants join the tour. If you initially paid a higher rate and the group grows, any overpayment will be calculated and **refunded directly to you via bank transfer on Day 1** of the tour.

• **If someone in your group cancels:** a smaller group size resulting from someone else's cancellation will **never** result in a higher price for the remaining participants.

Q: What is the exact cancellation fee schedule?

A: Because we instantly commit funds to our local rural partners upon booking, the **100,000 JPY per-person deposit is strictly non-refundable** in all cases. Any additional funds you have paid beyond this deposit will be refunded or applied to cancellation fees based on the following timeline (calculated in Japan Standard Time):

- **31 or more days before the tour start date:** charged the **non-refundable deposit only**.
- **30 to 8 days before the tour start date:** charged **40%** of the total tour fee.
- **7 to 5 days before the tour start date:** charged **60%** of the total tour fee.
- **4 to 3 days before the tour start date:** charged **80%** of the total tour fee.
- **2 days or fewer before the tour start date (or no-show):** charged **100%** of the total tour fee.

Please note: we highly recommend that all travellers purchase comprehensive travel insurance covering medical emergencies as well as cancellations.

To Book the Tour:

Option 1: Scan the QR code to complete the registration form.

Option 2: Email us at **info@ruraljapan.co.jp** regarding the "#DEEPJAPAN IN LATE SPRING TOUR".

Connect with RURAL JAPAN team
via WhatsApp or Telegram

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Produced by: Rural Japan Co., Ltd.
Gifu Prefecture Travel Agency Registration No.398

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Guesthouse Kannagara website