

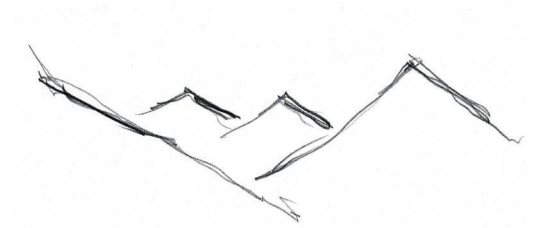


Tougenkyo-Iya Mountain Village

A Collection of
Thatched Roof Farmhouse Vacation Homes

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桃源郷祖谷 *Tougenkyo-Iya*

Be embraced by the soul of Japan.

Imagine a place hidden deep within a remote valley; where the early morning fog settles so that the mountain tops peek out like tranquil islands; where idyllic hamlets of terraced farm plots and thatched roofed homes climb up the hillsides; where the turquoise river below is criss-crossed by swaying vine bridges. A place where there are no strangers, where everyone is like family, and traditions have passed down through generations. Imagine if you can a mythic land of fascination, far removed from modern trappings, that still holds dear a lifestyle otherwise forgotten.

Such an ideal place, so far out of reach, is referred to in legends as a *tougenkyo*. But it isn't a fantasy, it's a reality.

Tucked away in the revered Iya Valley, *Tougenkyo-Iya* is a collection of thatched roof homes that offer you an unparalleled staying experience. Spread out across the rustic village of *Ochiai*, a place so cherished that it's been designated a Nationally Important Preservation District, take your

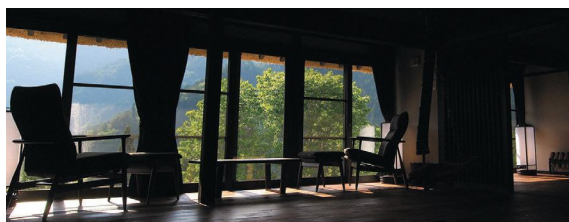
pick of one of the beautifully restored traditional farmhouses and immediately feel part the community. Each home not only has its own distinctive architectural characteristics, painstakingly reformed with time-honored carpentry methods, but the interiors have also been individually designed, offering either traditional or contemporary furnishings. And though all come with modern kitchens for your own culinary endeavors, meals featuring an array of local delicacies can also be delivered or can even be prepared in your house together with the guidance of a local resident.

Whether watching the sky swell with colors at dusk from your front porch as you sip a warm cup of *bancha* tea grown by one of the neighbors, or turning your hand on a well-worn grindstone to help crack the valley's renowned buckwheat that will be kneaded into your evening's *soba* noodles, your encounter at *Tougenkyo-Iya* will be like no other. For you don't merely visit *Tougenkyo-Iya*, you're welcomed home.

浮生 *Fushou* “Floating Life”

Spend the evening under the stars,
then awake above the clouds.

Reached by following the winding village road higher and higher again, *Fushou* sits about 390 meters above the Iya River. As this is the highest home in Ochiai village, here is where you can experience a limitless “floating life” that is hidden from modern society. During the day you are encircled by breathtaking views of the mountain ridge, while the silent evenings offer up a bounty of twinkling stars. And in the early morning, if conditions are just right, you can witness the mystifying *unkai*, where a “sea of clouds” is formed by the fog sinking into the valley making the surrounding mountain tops appear like islands.



悠居 *Yukyo* “Relaxation Retreat”

Nestled at the edge of the village,
a house where time slowly ticks by.

Entered from a village side road and tucked deep in the forest, the lone *Yukyo* is worthy to be called a true hideaway. Isolated from the rest of world, you will feel time has no meaning here. The location includes two aligned buildings, the main house and the retirement residence, with one now used for living and the other for sleeping. Offering a mix of both traditional and modern furnishings, there are also many unique architectural curiosities for you to discover that hark back to a lifestyle now forgotten.



雲外 *Ungai* “Beyond the Clouds”

Be inspired from a view formed by mountains and clouds.

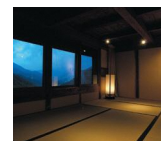
Like many old Iya homes, this location is composed of two buildings, a larger main house and a smaller retirement residence. Perched on the hillside of Ochiai village just down the path from the village shrine, *Ungai* is the main house of the two and offers a traditional floorplan (with *Souten* being the companion building, see below). Modern amenities have been added without altering the original structure, including a large bath in a connected building next door, and out from the front you can take in long, awe-inspiring views down through the valley.



蒼天 *Souten* “Cerulean Sky”

The mountain ridge and blue sky extends before your eyes.

Located down the path from the centrally located Sansho Shrine and the companion home to *Ungai* (see above), quaint *Souten* has a unique U-shaped layout that has been created by adjoining the original thatched roof house with a neighboring building. Nostalgic charm fills this former retirement residence set above a high stone wall, and from the broad wood terrace out front you can enjoy the fresh mountain air and magnificent view through the valley.



晴耕 *Seikou* “Cultivating Clearness”

Look out across the village as you unclutter your mind

In the traditional manner of many Iya homes, this location is made up of two adjacent buildings with a larger main house and a smaller retirement residence. Set upon the steep hillside of Ochiai and surrounded by the peaceful landscape, *Seikou* is the main building of the two (with neighboring *Udoku* being its slightly smaller companion, see below) and offers a classic-style farmhouse layout and traditional furnishings. Dangle your legs from the wide south-facing veranda as panoramic views of the valley extend before your eyes.



雨読 *Udoku* “Reading Rain”

Take a break as you enjoy a home away from home.

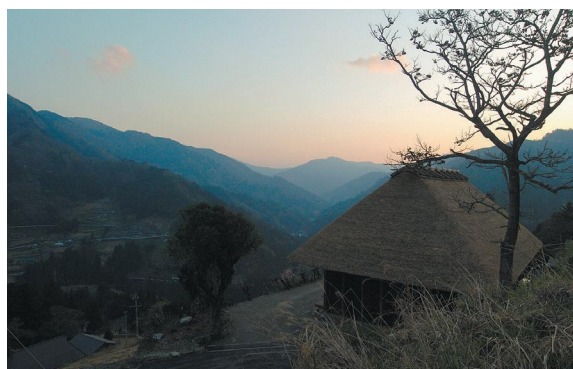
The smaller but no less impressive companion home to *Seikou* (see above), comfortably appointed *Udoku* is set up for you to hide out while also feeling at home. With views extending down into the valley, the interior is equip with modern furnishings, including a stylishly arranged kitchen that allows for a communal cooking experience. In a separate building next door is a large bath that you can enjoy alone or with your family.



談山 *Tanzan* “Talking Mountain”

A secluded exchange that continues without end.

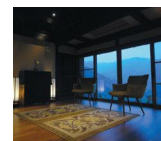
Named after an ancient Nara shrine where secret discussions were held that led to the unification of Japan, *Tanzan* offers you a similar chance to hide away from prying eyes. This large home has both traditional and modern furnishings, and includes a broad patio out front for experiencing the valley surroundings. But unlike the other homes here, climb up the stairs inside to the hidden loft, where an intimate space that is perfect for your own cozy conversations awaits. And while talking into the night, you can marvel up close at the intricate thatch-work above.



天一方 *Ten-ippou* “The Sky's Perspective”

A majestic and boundless landscape illuminated by the moon.

With its name taken from a classic poem that sings praises for the moon, *Ten-ippou* is located on an outcrop in the upper portion of Ochiai village and noted for its unobstructed panoramic view. Whether soaking up the mountain scenery laid out before you by day, or watching the moon traipse across the stars at night, you will feel like you are observing it all from the sky. Inside, the contemporary furnishings are a mix of East and West, and all are luxuriously accented with the venerable framework and boldly re-purposed antiques.



Ochiai Village Map

