

～ Welcome to Mitsuba House ～

Luxury Vacation Home @ Isobe Hot Spring Village

Information at [MRS Gunma.com](http://MRS.Gunma.com)

Registered as a “[Gunma Excellence](#)” lodging facility

Listed on [Airbnb](#), [Hotels.com](#), [Booking.com](#), [Expedia](#) & [Vrbo](#)

[Google Maps](#)



Address

群馬県安中市松井田町人見631-1

631-1 Matsuidamachi Hitomi, Annaka-shi, Gunma-ken

Mapcode: 247 760 371*85

Google Map Plus Code:

7RXM+87 Annaka, Gunma Prefecture

Owners

Renée Sawazaki +81 (0)70-3172-2110 (English, Japanese & French)

Motoyasu Sawazaki +81 (0)90-8490-4669 (Japanese, a little English & Spanish)

Dear Guests,

Thank you for choosing to stay at Mitsuba House! We hope you enjoy your stay in Gunma. Don't hesitate to contact us if there is anything you need!

Kind regards,

Motoyasu and Renée Sawazaki



PS If you decide to come to Gunma again, we also have another luxury, historical vacation home called Kiyomizu House. This castle-sized home is next to Japanese gardens, nature and hot springs & on the way to Ikaho Hot Springs. Check it out! <https://en.mrsgunma.com/kiyomizu-house>

Places Near Mitsuba House

Expressway Interchange

- Matsuida Miyogi Interchange on the Kanetsu Expressway (6.7)

Stations

- JR Isobe Station for local trains to Takasaki & Yokokawa (1.6km)
- JR Annaka-Haruna Shinkansen Station (10.8km)

Taxi

- Kounai Taxi in front of JR Isobe Station. 027-385-6850 (1.6km)

Shopping

- Two 7-Elevens (2.5km & 2.7km)
- **Kusuri no Aoki** (3km): Small grocery & meats for BBQ
- **Michi no Eki** Gunma Annaka-ten (食の駅ぐんま安中店, 3.3km): Produce & local products
- **Yaoko** Supermarket: (3.9km)

Restaurants

- **Imai** Shokudo at Isobe Station (1.6km) Free delivery. Huge portions!
- **Megumi no Yu** Hot Springs: All the basics for Japanese food
- **Kappo Daikichi** (割烹大吉, 2.2km) Traditional Japanese, sake, private tatami rooms
- **Koufukujun** Taiwanese 興福順(こうふくじゅん, 3.1km)
- **Star Sanji** Indian 本場インド料理スターサンジ 安中店, 5.7km- Best Indian food ever!!

Hot springs

- Isobe Hot Springs Foot Bath (1.6km)
- Megumi no Yu Hot Springs, Sand Bath Spa & Restaurant (1.8km)
- Miyogi Fureai Plaza Momiji no Yu Hot Springs 妙義ふれあいプラザ もみじの湯 (Just past Miyogi Shrine, 8.6km)
- Toge-no-Yu Hot Springs (Near Lake Usui & Megane Bridge. Beginning of Apt Road walking course. On the way to Karuizawa, 14.4km)

Sightseeing & Cultural Experiences

by Mitsuba House

～ Our favorite day trips ～

Hi! Over several decades I've been hosting guests to this historic region with unprecedented nature and sites. Everyone agrees that Gunma tops their trips to the crowded Kyoto, Nara, Nikko and Mt. Fuji. We have everything guests could want in a Japanese vacation: The arts and crafts, modern, historic and ancient culture, and more offerings than you can fit into a single trip, with beauty filling every space. Enjoy all while rejuvenating in hot springs and our elegant homes, and eating excellent quality food at the lowest prices you will find in Japan. Year-round beauty and engaging activities.

Gunma, the crane-shaped prefecture right in the center of Honshu Island, is in more ways than geography at the center of Japanese political, economic and social history. Make your vacation one that you come home from healthier and richer in knowledge and life experience.

We love Gunma, and hope you will too!

Your hosts,

Renee and Motoyasu

- **Isobe Hot Springs**

- 大手製菓 Ōteseika: Make & eat the famous **Isobe Sembei**! 700 yen. 30 minutes. Next to the foot baths. 1.5km (Beautiful walk from Mitsuba) 027-385-6224 isobesenbei@oteseika.good.sc for reservations.
- Isobe **foot baths**. Free, beautiful, parking & amazing quality!
- **Megumi-no-Yu** Hot Springs: Spacious. Restaurant, souvenirs, exhibits. Indoor/outdoor/sauna. Healing waters that are cooler than Kusatsu's.
- Megumi-no-Yu **Sand Spa** detox treatment & teas: 2 hours of pure luxury!! Co-ed. Up to 4 at a time. Hot spring + spa: 3,000 yen. Reservations required:

- **Stroll around:** River walk, bamboo grove, view from the bridge, gift shops....
- **Seasonal:** Summer fish grilling, fireworks, winter illumination
- **Miyogi Shrine & Mt Miyogi area (Visit Gunma)**
 - Mt. Miyogi, made from 4 volcanos, is one of 3 of its kind in Japan. Even though you have an unobstructed view from Mitsuba House, a 10-min drive there and leisure time in the area is a must!
 - **Miyogi Shrine:** Imperial sister shrine to Nikko Tōshō-gū. Vast, stunningly beautiful, and no crowds! Rare bronze torii. I recommend: ① Walk full circle: Go up the stairs and down the creek-lined path. ② Explore the tortoise-shell stone wall & founders' graves on the right. ③ Go in the museum in the first building on the right. ④ Praying at the far back of the top building where the Tengu-guarded main goddess is enshrined. I love going up early in the morning and enjoying breakfast and the view on the stone bench at the top. Heaven!
 - Rest area in front of Miyogi Shrine: Large parking lot & nice produce market, gift shop and restaurant
 - Miyogi Fureai Plaza: Small **museum** with lovely paintings of Mt. Miyogi. **Momiji no Yu Hot Springs:** Gorgeous view, restaurant (Enjoy the famous "Kamameshi" if there are still some left!), good free coffee if you show your JAF card at check-in.
 - **Nakanodake Shrine** & Golden statue of **Daikokusama**. 7km scenic drive from the hot springs will take you to a parking lot on the left mainly used by motorcyclists. The view of Mt. Miyogi is stunning! Cross under the street and enter a fairytale land. Largest statue of Daikokusama, the god of fortune, greets you. Climb up to the mystic Nakanodake Shrine, founded by Kūkai, the man who brought Buddhism to Japan over 1200 years ago. Ceiling artwork by the famous Seikan Kobayashi (小林生観)
 - **No hiking?** When we checked in July 2021 the trails were closed due to landslides. Please check with the visitors' center if you plan to hike.
 - **Seasonal:** Stunningly beautiful fall foliage and huge sakura/cherry tree park.
- **Usui Area & Karuizawa (Great [blog entry](#) from The Gate)**

- If you have kids, or are a railroad buff, you'll want to start the day with some fun at the [Usui Pass Railway Heritage Park](#) (碓氷峠鉄道文化村), known affectionately by the locals as "Popo Town".
- Picnic at [Lake Usui](#), a picturesque dam with a walking trail easy enough for small children. Views of the two iconic red bridges sooth the heart and makes for a great Insta spot.
- Scenic view of [Megane-bashi Bridge](#), the largest arched brick bridge in Japan and the symbol of the bond between Gunma and France as they initiated the use of brick for the silk factory in Tomioka.
- You can visit Lake Usui and Megane Bridge as separate stops in your car, or take a scenic walk along Abt Road, a 6km paved strip of the former historic railway from Yokokawa to Karuizawa with plenty of sites to see along the way. I love to have abath and buffet lunch at Touge-no-Yu Hot Springs before heading on the trail. I've even taken my daughter in her sports stroller when she was little.
- Kyudo pass right to the back end of the Prince Ski Resort & Outlet Mall. Drive slowly around the bendy mountain pass to Karuizawa (Anyone who gets car sick should take their meds first!). Always amazing views, sometimes a traffic jam caused by sunbathing monkeys. I prefer this road to the Route 18 straight pass into Karuizawa as it leads you right to the back end of the very popular Prince Ski Resort and huge outlet mall. Park easily in the first lot on the left and enjoy the few hours that you might have spent in the car waiting to park had you come in from the main route.
- [Karuizawa Prince Shopping Plaza](#). I'm not a shopping enthusiast, but make an exception for this sprawling shopping spot - Even with crowds you can enjoy the peaceful pond in the middle surrounded by Nagano mountains. Best outdoor sports shops around, fun hands-on Lego play, lots and lots of show dogs prancing around with their proud owners. I love to grab a panini and soup in the food court and go outside by Gucci and people & pet watch.
- A 15-min drive takes you to the [Senju Hiroshi Art Museum](#). Even if you are not an art enthusiast, this unique museum blends the nature of Karuizawa and the exquisite skills of Senju in such a way that you will feel like you are walking though modern forest slopes as you soak in the waterfalls in the works. Not to be missed!
- If you still have time, load up on some convenience store onigiris or my favorite, Tsuruya supermarket breads (4 minutes away) and head up 30

minutes to [**Shiraito Waterfall**](#) (白糸の滝, Shiraito no Taki), that, as its name means, is like a cascade of white strings in a panoramic grove at the end of a walk up a hill. The air is simply different here thanks to the minus ion created as the water that had traveled for over 7 years in the mountains makes its powerful appearance.

- **Haruna-jinja Shrine, Lake Haruna and our very own Fuji-san...[Mt. Haruna-fuji!!](#)**

- This area is absolutely breathtaking. I love to start my day here parking in the lot next to the gift shop just below the entrance to the shrine and enjoying a bowl of hot soba from the friendly “obaachan” ladies.
- Stroll up the 700m path with ancient rock formations to the left and greenery, streams and waterfalls to the right, saying hi to the statues of goddesses or rubbing the belly of a god for good luck. This 1,400 year old mountain shrine makes you feel as if time were standing still.
- Drive a few kilometers further to Lake Haruna. Turn left to get an ice cream and the most majestic view of the lake and Mt. Haruna-Fuji. Go back to the right and turn left on the road that takes you to the gondola and visitor’s center. If you would like a hike that is a LOT easier than the main Mt. Fuji, start at the visitor’s center and hike up through sasa bamboo trails to the shrine at the top. Estimate an hour and enjoy the views of the lake along the way. If you want to go easy on your knees, you can take the gondola down.
- This area is one of the more touristy areas of Gunma, but a lot of fun. You can watch or take a horse-drawn buggy, go out on a swan boat or pedal boat or kids can be silly on funny bicycles.

There are so many other things to do in this area:

Make kokeshi or daruma dolls, eat a healthy konnyaku buffet, visit a silk museum or mill, walk up the inside of a giant statue of Kannon-sama, and more.

Relax & enjoy!

The purpose of us offering Mitsuba House to the public is the hope that people can get much needed R&R and have a lovely environment to connect with those they care about. So, no worries if you choose to stay at your home away from home the entire stay. Whatever you choose....Enjoy!