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Help preserve cultural properties during a stay at Shunyoso

Discover exquisitely preserved, 1940s Japanese architecture on Awaji Island

Shunyoso is a National Historic Landmark on the Island of Awaji. Officially an ongoing National Registered Tangible Cultural Property Revitalization Project, Shunyoso is an important monument built in 1941 and restored using sustainable methods. A former residence of the Iwaki shipbuilding family, Shunyoso comprises eight separate buildings, including a guest house, meditation area and guest hall. Shunyoso's owners have embarked on an ambitious preservation drive to prevent the buildings from falling into disrepair by encouraging tourists to visit the properties and help support their conservation efforts. These include natural and reusable energy sources, well water and rainwater usage, reducing waste and supporting initiatives to create and consume locally. During a stay at Shunyoso, take time to explore the buildings that make up the estate and learn about how Awaji Island once looked and operated. Experience traditional shows, and enjoy a photo session wearing a kimono or yukata.

Shunyoso

2-5-4 Uyama, Sumoto-shi, Hyogo

<https://shunyoso.jp/en/>

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Experience history in a 200-year-old renovated traditional inn

Stay and immerse yourself in the local community, an extension of the hotel

Iizuka-tei is an exceptionally beautiful, 200-year-old property constructed in the Meiji era. You'll find simple, modern design features that accentuate the character of the existing building alongside contemporary luxuries. Located in the town of Nakagawa-machi at the foot of the Yamizo mountains and near the Naka River, Iizuka-tei is also a Registered Tangible Cultural Property. The town's tight-knit community supports the functions of the hotel. You'll find simple, modern design features that accentuate the character of the existing building alongside contemporary luxuries. Nearby restaurants offer exquisite meals using local ingredients, with vegan options and catering services also available. In addition, unique activities are provided through local operators, including traditional dinners with community farmers, cycling tours through terraced fields and more. Rediscover rustic simplicity and support sustainability in rural Japan at Iizuka-tei.

Iizuka-tei

360 Bato, Nakagawa-machi, Nasu-gun, Tochigi

<https://iizukatei.ohawaragt.co.jp/en/>



Japan's AINU Indigenous People

Since time immemorial, the indigenous AINU people have inhabited the northern region of the Japanese archipelago, particularly Hokkaido. Their ancient culture includes a unique language, religious beliefs centered on deep respect for nature, traditional dances, and spell-binding rituals. The AINU are also skilled craftspeople, with exceptional skills in wood carving and embroidery.

Akanko AINU Kotan, an inhabited settlement located in Akan-Mashu National Park, is one of the most authentic places in Japan to experience AINU culture. In this lakeside village you'll discover traditional AINU theater, music, cuisine, oral history and more.

To learn about the history and wide-ranging cultural practices of the AINU, there's no better place to visit than Upopoy (National AINU Museum and Park). The facility includes hands-on workshops, performance spaces, interactive exhibitions and much more.

The Arashiyama Hiking and AINU Culture Tour offers you a chance to discover the natural wonders that have influenced AINU culture for millennia. Scour the slopes of Mount Arashiyama, and afterwards learn more about the AINU's story at the local museum.

The AINU have always lived harmoniously with the natural world. Today, we could learn a great deal from their culture about how to live sustainably, alongside and not against nature.

Upopoy (National AINU Museum and Park)

2-3 Wakakusa-cho, Shiraoi-machi, Shiraoi-gun, Hokkaido

<https://ainu-upopoy.jp/en/>

Akanko AINU Kotan

4-7-19 Akankonsen, Akan-cho, Kushiro-shi, Hokkaido

<https://www.akanainu.jp/en/>

Adventure Hokkaido

West 4, North 46, Higashikawa, Hokkaido

<https://best.visit-hokkaido.jp/atws2021/doa/timetravel-ainu/>



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