

# MRS Gunma Vacations

*For a Fun, Wellness, Worry-Free Vacation in the Heart of Japan*

**~ Kiyomizu & Mitsuba House ~**

## The Ultimate Cultural Vacation

### Art, Hot Springs, Sacred Sites & Mountains

- Immerse yourself in nature and culture. Gunma, the central region of Japan known for hot spring spas, breathtaking mountains, and fresh fruits and vegetables, is the home to Kiyomizu and Mitsuba Houses.
- These historic properties were renovated with the needs of international travelers in mind, yet maintain the glory of their original architecture.
- Gunma is like a large artisans' village: Museums, ateliers, shrines and temples can be found throughout, and Kiyomizu and Mitsuba are in themselves embodiments of Japanese art.
- A MRS Gunma Vacation is ideal for a family or small group, and guests can enjoy all the best Japan has to offer in about a week's stay without a rail pass.

## Complete Care Vacation

### Lodging + Local Guide + Onsen + All Meals = Carefree Vacation

- While Kiyomizu & Mitsuba Houses are available for lodging-only guests, we also offer complete vacation care services so you can enjoy the best Japan has to offer, stress-free.
  - Your host & guide, Renée, communicates with you prior to your arrival to create a general activities and meal plan to suit your needs and wishes.
  - During your stay, our flexibility allows us to make necessary adjustments to our schedule and meals to suit how you are feeling during your travels.
- Who better to explore the culture and nature-rich region with than the owners? Motoyasu & Renée Sawazaki (aka MRS Gunma) welcome their guests as they would their own family, and lovingly escort them to

magnificent places while allowing quiet time so each can absorb their precious experience.

- Have your own private vacation home with the peace of mind knowing there is an interpreter and guide who will make sure you are well-fed and enjoy various activities at a pace that leaves you rejuvenated.
- This is the unique approach to vacationing that we at MRS Gunma take. We welcome you warmly to our homes in the heart of Japan.

## Kiyomizu House

### Castle-town Villa at the junction of the Nakasendo & Mikuni Kaido Trails

- This historical villa, at the main entry road to the castle, is surrounded by gardens, museums, mountains, spiritual and nature sites
- Castle-size home with timber sourced from all the mountains of Gunma. Massive interior with fun and food in mind: Everything from table tennis to wine coolers
- Learn about and experience the true meaning and life of samurai and ninja and silk history of this region

## Mitsuba House

### Onsen-town Villa

- Modern resort villa with the feel of traditional zen. Enjoy the spacious ryokan-like home with spectacular mountain views from inside and the covered terrace
- Stroll to a famous hot spring village in your yukata robe and feel like royalty
- Learn and experience how Japanese use mineral waters to promote vibrant health

## Private & Safe

### Completely private lodging - No sharing with other groups

- Impeccably clean, spacious and well-ventilated
- Eat in the privacy of your vacation home, enjoy a picnic in nature, private room of a restaurant or spacious eating area of a hot spring spa
- Social distancing sightseeing: Visit amazing sites with very little traffic

## Renée, Your Local Guide

- Available from check-in to check-out
- Meal planning
- Guide at local sites
- Coordinates and interprets for cultural experiences
- Renée's specialty is relaxation and enjoying nature and culture. Enjoy learning interesting facts, yet have time to absorb the experience

## Private Vacation vs. a Tour

- MRS Gunma Vacations focus on deep exploration at a non-rushed pace so you can really get to know the land & culture of one spectacular region
- Eat both homestyle and gourmet meals
- Interact with locals and engage in cultural experiences
- Enjoy your vacation with those you know well
- Avoid the common pitfalls of a tour
  - Spending too much time traveling from location to location
  - Feeling rushed
  - Little time focused on cultural content
  - Not eating enough or at proper times

## MRS Gunma Vacation Highlights

- Lodging in two distinctly unique historical villas, one in a Castle Town & the other in an Onsen Village
- Rejuvenate: Bathe in mineral waters and take nature walks with mountain backdrops
- Enjoy local cuisine with options to cook with your host or chef
- Experience both classic & modern culture
  - Gunma his home to both nationally acclaimed shrines and mountains, museums and sacred art, as well as has a digital festival experience, fashion centers, state-of-the-art theaters, massive IT stores and more
  - Museum and theme park visits with hands-on craft making
  - Adventure sports like rafting and canyoning, pedal boating, fishing, hiking, golf, skiing and more.

## Hosts & Guides

### Motoyasu & Renée Sawazaki (aka MRS Gunma), owners of Kiyomizu & Mitsuba Houses since 2016

Born in Gunma and educated in Tokyo, Motoyasu worked in the hot spring resort business as a truck driver and knows the mountains of Gunma like the back of his hand. He's an amazing cook and enjoys making homestyle meals for his guests. His passions are skiing and swimming with his family, but now he gets most of his exercise from taking care of the homes and gardens.

Born and raised in a health food and camping-loving family in northern California, Renée holds an MA in Teaching and studied abroad in historic regions of France. Since 1991, she has lived in some of the most sacred areas of Japan: Northern Kyushu, Koyasan and Gunma. For over 28 years she worked as an educator in language, culture and tourism, and now applies what she has learned when hosting guests.

## Vacation Budget & Reservation System

- No hidden fees vacation planning
- Gunma is known for high quality at low costs
- Lodging fee includes these services
  - Tea / Coffee / Filtered water
  - Welcome cookies, waffles, snacks, etc.
  - Fully stocked kitchen/dining/covered terrace for gas BBQ, electric nabe and other at-home meals
  - Towels and onsen bags for at home and day trip use. Bath amenities at the home and onsens
- Reserving lodging through an online travel agent (OTAs: Airbnb, Expedia, etc.)

- OTA fees are automatically set to a minimum of 4 guests per night. For guests who book a MRS Gunma Vacation, this changes to a minimum of 2 guests and 3 nights. For groups of less than 4, we recommend booking your stay directly with us.
- To ensure Renée's availability as your vacation planner and guide, please contact her prior to reserving your lodging.
- Confirm your vacation dates and make MRS Gunma Vacations payment within three days after making your online lodging reservation.
- Reserving directly with MRS Gunma
  - Contact Renée at MRS Gunma [mrs.gunma@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.gunma@gmail.com)
    - Call or message Renée:
      - Messenger ID renee.sawazaki
      - LINE ID reneesawazaki
      - WhatsApp number +81 70-3172-2110), or via their preferred OTA (Airbnb, Hotels, Booking, Expedia, Trip Advisor) and make payments accordingly. Fees and cancellation policies vary slightly.
- Prior to making your reservation, please read the following documents. By making a reservation, you automatically agree to the terms stated.
  - Mitsuba and/or Kiyomizu House Guides and Rules
  - Cancellation Policy
  - User Agreement

## MRS Gunma Vacation Fees

(Tax included. Subject to change, please confirm at reservation)

Category	Fee JPY Tax Incl	Details
Lodging	10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Per guest, per night for Kiyomizu &amp; Mitsuba Houses</li> <li>Min fee: 4 guests</li> <li>Reservations made directly, or via OTA (Airbnb, Hotels, Booking, Expedia, Rakuten Travel, VRBO, Trip Advisor)</li> </ul>
Meals & Onsen	10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Per guest, per day</li> <li>Check in &amp; Check out days combine to equal 1 day</li> <li>3 Meals/day, Snacks, Non-alcoholic beverages</li> <li>Hot Springs entrance fees</li> <li>Private hot springs room fee extra</li> </ul>
Meals & Onsen (Tattoos)	11,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incl taping, large towels, etc.</li> <li>Private hot springs room fee extra</li> </ul>
Meals & Onsen (Special Menu)	13,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special requests such as vegetarian, vegan, gluten free</li> </ul>
Guide & Cultural Experiences	24,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Per group, per day</li> <li>Check in &amp; Check out days combine to equal 1 day</li> <li>Cultural Experiences</li> <li>Guide for walking &amp; nearby sightseeing tours</li> <li>Guests responsible for transportation (own car, rental car or taxi)</li> <li>Renée drives her own car</li> </ul>

MRS Gunma Vacation: 2 guests | 3 nights

Service	Per person or group	Total
Lodging	10,000/person/night	60,000
Meals & Onsen	10,000/person/day	60,000
Guide & Cultural Experiences	24,000/group/day	72,000
<b>Total for the group</b>		<b>192,000</b>
<b>Total per guest</b>		<b>96,000</b>

**MRS Gunma Vacation: 4 guests | 7 nights**

Service	Per person or group	Total
Lodging	10,000/person/night	280,000
Meals & Onsen	10,000/person/day	280,000
Guide & Cultural Experiences	24,000/group	168,000
<b>Total for the group</b>		<b>728,000</b>
<b>Total per guest</b>		<b>182,000</b>

**Transportation & Misc Expenses**  
(Direct payment to service provider)

- Train
  - JR Annaka-Haruna Shinkansen Station
  - Local train stations
    - Kiyomizu House: JR Annaka Station ( JR Takasaki Station transfer)
    - Mitsuba House: JR Isobe Station (JR Takasaki Station transfer)
- Highway bus from Narita & Haneda Airports
  - JR Takasaki Station destination + transfer to local train station
- Transportation during the vacation stay
  - Requires the guests' own car, taxi or rental car

Category	Fee	Notes
Train from Airport	7,710	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One example. Other travel options</li> <li>• 40min Skyliner to Ueno Station</li> <li>• 1H Hokuriku Shinkansen to JR Annaka-Haruna Station</li> </ul>
Rental Car	Varies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We recommend Toyota Rent-a-Car at JR Takasaki Station or Hamagawa (near Kiyomizu House)</li> </ul>
Taxi ※	2~10,000 per excursion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good option for one destination, 1/2 day excursions</li> <li>• Fee depends on distance from Kiyomizu &amp; Mitsuba House</li> </ul>
Private Taxi ※ (Kiyomizu)	21,000 / 4H Half-Day 43,000 / 8H Full-Day 6,400 / + 1H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple destinations for Gunma sightseeing</li> </ul>
Private Taxi ※ (Mitsuba)	21,600 / 4H Half-Day 43,600 / 8H Full-Day 6,400 / + 1H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple destinations for Gunma &amp; Karuizawa sightseeing</li> <li>• For guests choosing to stay at both Kiyomizu &amp; Mitsuba House, can include pick up at one home &amp; drop off at the other with sightseeing in between.</li> </ul>
Tours & Experiences offered by other companies	Varies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rafting, canyoning, fishing, pedal boating, golf, skiing, cycling, electric bike tours, and more!</li> </ul>
Souvenirs	Varies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renée can offer advice about local products</li> </ul>
Cell Phone or Pocket WiFi	Varies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Options at airport. Sakura Mobile</li> </ul>

※ Taxi:

- Early morning ~ 9pm

- 1~4 guests + lap infant/toddler
- English-speaking driver generally available (Off work 2 days a month)

## Tour Itinerary

- Planned in advance and confirmed upon check-in
- Adaptable for various weather conditions, ages and physical abilities
- Designed for year-round enjoyment, but can also include seasonal and special events
- The Mitsuba and Kiyomizu House Guides provide detailed information about popular local sights and cultural activities

## Sample One Week MRS Gunma Vacation Tour Itinerary

### Kiyomizu House

- Day 1
  - Orientation and House Tour
  - Walking Tour
    - Kyoto-style Castle Gardens & Samurai House
    - Thatched-roof Water Mill
  - Hot Spring onsen spa & Dinner
- Day 2
  - Kokeshi Doll-Making & Museum Visit
  - Traditional Crafts Shop & Bakery Lunch
  - Temple Visit
  - Hot Spring Village Visit (Choose one)
    - Dolls & Cars Museum
    - Yumeji Takehisa Museum
    - Ikaho Onsen Walking Tour & Foot Bath
  - Udon & Tempura Dinner
- Day 3
  - Sacred Mountain, Lake and Shrine Visit
    - Shrine visit: 700m nature & sacred statues path walk

- Lunch at a traditional gift shop
  - Mountain and Lake Recreation
    - Gondola ride / Hiking to the top + mountain top shrine visit
    - Funny bicycle rental for kids
    - Horse drawn buggy ride
    - Walk along the lake
  - Hot spring onsen bath
- Ninja Museum Visit
- Kyoto-style Kaiseki Dinner
- Day 4
  - Kirie Art Museum visit & art-making
  - Kominka Street historic walk & traditional Japanese sweets at a kominka
  - 100 yen shop Daiso & supermarket or Aeon Mall souvenir shopping

## Mitsuba House

- Day 5
  - Mountain Shrines & Lucky Golden Statue visit
  - Lunch and Hot Spring Bath
  - Afternoon options
    - UNESCO World Heritage Site Tomioka Silk Mill tour & Indian dinner
    - Konnyaku Park tour & light dinner (free)
    - Museum of Natural History + Chinese dinner
- Day 6 (Ski & Sledding option in winter)
  - Lake with traditional bridges & Dam Walk
  - Resort-town Tour
    - Museums
    - Waterfalls
    - Mega Shopping Plaza

- Day 7
  - Walking Tour
    - Onsen Village & River Walk
    - Visit to cookie factory
    - Hot spring foot bath
  - Homestyle Japanese Dinner and Hot Spring Bath
    - Optional sand bath spa
  
- Day 8
  - Downtown city shopping
  - Lunch

### Last Step ....

## Is a MRS Gunma Vacation a good choice for you and yours?

Thanks for reading through this explanation! If this description of our offerings for a complete care cultural vacation sounds exactly like what you are looking for, I encourage you to go one step further and get to know me before making a final decision.

You'll have plenty of private and relaxation time during your stay, but we'll also be spending a substantial amount of time together.

Please subscribe to the MRS Gunma YouTube Channel to see the MRS Gunma Vacations videos as they come out, and feel free to give me an SNS call!

If you feel we have a personality match, and you have this feeling that a trip to Gunma is just what you are looking for, then we're good to go!

I look forward to hearing from you, and possibly meeting up soon.

All the best, and, as the Japanese say "Yoroshiku onegaishimasu" (Wow, that's a mouthful! I'll teach you simple Japanese and shorter phrases throughout your stay.)

Renée Sawazaki  
MRS Gunma Vacations Host & Guide