



Taste Of The Wild

Whether you love gathering outdoors over a fire or eating delicious grilled exotic meats, Yamana House has both. The Minamiboso BBQ Association (MBBQA) flips a local environmental situation into a fun educational social gathering.

Founder Oki Koji is using MBBQA as an opportunity to educate visitors on the condition of their satoyama. A massive spike in wild boar, deer and other animal populations around Japan and here in Minamiboso have forced people to step in and regulate. The local government sanctioned hunting and even offers rewards.

Instead of wasting this abundance, they bring members of the community together to cook locally gathered foods. Nothing compares to wild flavors. Experience sharing a hearty mix of eats with these innovative locals.



Get out and discover the fantastic countryside of Japan. This month we showcase the importance of incorporating tradition with the present-day circumstances. Many visitors go directly to Tokyo, however, on Japan's Honshu Island just a hop from Narita airport is the opportunity to inhale a refreshing breath of Japanese culture. A new generation has grabbed the reins, steering a fresh take on cultural traditions in Chiba, Japan.



An Oft Overlooked Gem MINAMIBOSO CHIBA

The location of Minamiboso Chiba holds the charm of old culture, rich with traditional ways of living and history. Visitors to Japan often scurry right through Chiba without ever coming in contact with this beautiful countryside. A vital buffer to central Honshu, each season brings a fresh vista. Just east of Japan's largest city, leaning into the Pacific Ocean are fields of colorful flowers, rice paddies, ancient forest, magnificent views and houses hundreds of years old. Known as Awa in ancient times, the Boso Peninsula projects into the "Kuroshio Current" also referred to as the Japan Current. This current is perhaps the source of the spread of Japanese culture northwards.

Agriculture and fisheries have thrived in Chiba's mild climate that experiences warm winters and cool summers. Recent international coverage about the typhoons is nothing new to the people of this region. They have lived with earthquakes, tsunami and typhoons since the current began to flow. We arrived as typhoon number 21 was clearing out. Embracing the movements of nature is part of what makes their connection with this land that much more genuine. Japan faces complicated social issues brought on by an aging and shrinking population. During Japan's economic development, like most modern industrial societies, rural people moved to metropolitan areas seeking better jobs and education. Long practiced specialty industries and smaller rural communities suffered a major drain. Today the aging specialists of various traditional Japanese arts are threatened or have already begun to disappear. Fortunately, there are some younger generations picking up the torch, efforts like those of Yamana House, and are championing community renewal.



Join The Revival YAMANA HOUSE

Recovering The Balance

Experienced travelers have realized the typical destinations are tame experiences. Putting yourself out there matters. In Minamiboso, a growing group of friends is polishing a latent treasure. Roughly a two-hour drive from Tokyo is an old home said to be an Edo period relic. Beginning in the spring of 2015, Masashi Nagamori launched Yamana House. Combining a workshare with the traditional concept of satoyama, he designated Yamana House's theme as "Share Satoyama."

Over the last five years, their growing numbers have been reenergizing this traditional Edo period house into a hub. Visitors to this estimated 300-year home are treated to potent rays of sunshine, the sweet tunes of songbirds, traditional tatami mats and sliding doors in this countryside community center plus workshare space. On weekends, they gather to refresh the satoyama maintaining the back mountain, DIY projects, cooking, barbecues, and bonfires. Here you recharge yourself and the environment by living the culture, connecting with the vitality of the satoyama mingling with Minamiboso. Join them for a weekend of impassioned people from around the globe gathered to the cultivation of a Japanese traditionally inspired sustainable ecosystem amidst one of the world's most modernized countries.

A 'satoyama' is a space that has people who have cultivated a practice of coexistence with nature. These spaces consist of communities managing both forests and farmlands. They live on the border of the 'sato,' space where people live, and 'yama,' which means mountain. These have long been an indispensable part of rural Japan.

As Japan developed, trees that grow on the mountain were used for fuel, pines were used as construction material, straight bamboo framed earthen walls, and fallen leaves were fertilizer to the fields. Through the act of living in the 'satoyama,' Japanese play an active role in maintaining the ecosystem. Today this is called 'a sustainable lifestyle.'

Sato is made by the people, like a village. Yama is a mountain. So, 'Satoyama' is where people and nature merge into one.

Masashi Nagamori, Yamana House Founder



"I meditated in a pleasant old house and Satoyama. Nature rich and slow."

Quotes from Google Maps Reviews : (translated from Japanese)

Groups that are active participants in Yamana House:

- ▶ Minamiboso BBQ Association (MBBQA)
- ▶ Boso Table Game Association (BTGA)
- ▶ WonderVege (a practical study group for natural farming)

