

UNESCO World Heritage Site/
Officially designated national historic site

Etchu-Gokayama

Ainokura, the village of Gassho-zukuri Houses



The Museum of Sericulture,
Folk handicrafts and Photographs

YUSUKE



UNESCO World Heritage Site Ainokura, the village of Gassho-zukuri Houses



Entrance fee Adult 300 yen/person
Child 100 yen/person (6-18 years old)
*Children under 12 must be accompanied by adults

Open 10:00am - 3:00pm
Closed Tuesdays, During New Year's Holidays,
Bon (about a week in the middle of August)
*We may be closed irregularly.

Ainokura 591, Nanto, Toyama, Japan 939-1915

Phone 0763-66-2555

<https://yusuke-gokayama.com/>

Gassho-zukuri Houses

It was an ancient wisdom of those who lived in heavily snowfall area in the mountain. "Gassho-zukuri Houses" have pin-connected structure. No nails, but only ropes are used to build a house. The first floor of this farmhouse was built by carpenters specializing in temples and shrines. The second and third floors were made under the cooperation of villagers. Pins receive the weights of the heavy "Gassho" roof.

YUSUKE, this "Gassho-zukuri House" was originally built in 1868 (Meiji period 1868-1912) and moved here in the middle of Meiji period. This is a regional typical farmhouse with a large building. It is not difficult to imagine the sophisticated construction techniques, materials and manpower used for this house at the time it was built.

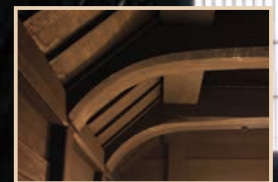
Almost every daily life scenes including cooking, eating, spending time with family and welcoming customers, takes place in the Oe, a big hall with Irori fireplace. The warm air goes up to the attic, making it possible to cultivate silkworms on the Ama, the second floor. People made saltpeter (gunpowder) under the floor, while paper-making and silk reeling were done at the Niwa, on the ground floor.

Ainokura Village and the "Gassho-zukuri Houses"

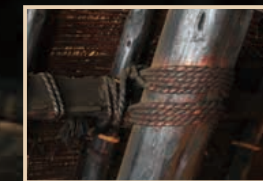
You can look up the internal structure of this unique traditional farmhouse from the first floor.



Hanegai



Chonahari



A rope smoked by Irori fireplace.



Gassho and a pin



The reproduction of silk farming can be seen as it was practiced on the second floor of "Gassho-zukuri Houses."



You can learn about the history and customs of Ainokura Village through photographs and description panels.



We exhibit photographs and folk handicrafts such as daily utensils and carpenters' tools that remind us of the old times.



Please take time to look at our Butsuma room where the family Buddhist altar is placed, as well as our Zashiki, a Japanese-style room. Gokayama has been a very religious region since ancient times.



North Side Elevation View



West Side Elevation View



You are always welcome to stop by at the Irori fireplace to have some tea.