



Autumn Gathering in Australia House 2014

Experience the beautiful sights and wonderful flavours of Echigo Tsumari,
in this late Autumn home stay and sports festival weekend gathering



Autumn has arrived in the Echigo Tsumari/Urada region, where Australia House is located. Here, autumn is a time for people to recover from the physical energy expended on the rice harvest, and to spend some time enjoying the flavours of the season as they prepare for the winter. It's the most relaxing season of the year. Australia House will hold its 'Autumn Gathering' as an opportunity for people to interact with local Urada residents, while enjoying the essence of autumn in the countryside.

Another characteristic autumn event in Japan is the school sports festival. The Autumn Gathering will include a sports festival with classic games like tug-of-war, for participants to have fun together through physical activity. Other activities include workshops to create objects out of straw or to make Japanese *tsukemono* (pickled vegetables). Guests will also be treated to new crop soba and rice. A visit to view the permanent exhibits of the upcoming 2015 Echigo Tsumari Art Triennale has also been added to the program.

We hope to make this autumn weekend an opportunity for many people in the Urada area to enjoy each other's company at Australia House. Please invite your friends to join in.

■ **Dates: Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 November, 2014**

■ **Locations: Australia House (7577 Urata, Tokamachi)
Urada Sogo Centre (2809-5 Urada, Tokamachi), the old Urada Primary School, etc**

■ **Itinerary:**

<Day 1> Meet at Matsudai Station at 11:40 (or at the Urada Sogo Centre at 12:00)

- ① Opening ceremony (welcome ceremony, introduced to host families)
- ② New crop soba lunch

③ Autumn activities



Course A: "Country flavours" (making pickles, etc)

Course B: "Country creations" (making straw sandals, etc)

Course C: "Country farming" (harvesting soba, caring for wagyu cows, etc)

④ Visit Australia House to look at the architecture, exhibitions on display, and have afternoon tea (tea and snacks)

⑤ Dinner at host families' houses/other accommodation, and stay the night there

<Day 2>

① Breakfast at host families' houses/other accommodation

② 10:00 "Autumn sports festival" (at the Old Urada Primary School ground, gymnasium will be used in the event of rain)

Participants divided into teams for tug-of-war, ball toss, and other games with local residents

③ New crop rice lunch (new crop rice balls, mushroom soup, pickled vegetables...)

④ View artwork for Echigo Tsumari Art Triennale (travel by bus to Matsunoyama)

Works include "Dream House" "The Last Classroom" "Elixir" and "Matsudai Nohbuta"

*Program concludes at Matsudai station at 3:30pm

■ **Participation fee: Adults 7,000 yen** (4,000 yen for children up to junior high school age)

Includes one night's accommodation, four meals, workshops, transport during the program

*Additional fees: New crop soba lunch 1,000 yen; afternoon tea 500 yen; autumn activities 500 yen; sports festival/lunch 500 yen

*Participants are responsible for making their own way to and from Matsudai station (or Urada community)

*Instead of the entire two-day course, participants may join for either of the two days or certain programs only

■ **To sign up contact: Echigo Tsumari Art Field Office *Applications close 24 October**

TEL:025-761-7767 FAX:025-761-7911 info@tsumari-artfield.com

*Fill in the form and submit by email or fax, or apply over the phone. *Host families will be decided after

applications are received. If you wish to stay together with your family or as a group, please mention this on the application form.



Shuttle bus times (Cost is included in the participation fee)

<Outbound> **Sat 1 Nov Depart Matsudai 11:40**, arrive Urada 12:10

*Example itinerary from Tokyo: Depart Tokyo 8:52 by Joetsu Shinkansen, arrive Echigo Yuzawa 10:22

Depart Echigo Yuzawa 10:39 by Hoku Hoku line, arrive Matsudai 11:30

<Return> **Sun 2 Nov Tour concludes at Matsudai station at 15:30**

* Example itinerary to Tokyo: Depart Matsudai 15:52 by Hoku Hoku line, arrive Echigo Yuzawa 16:48

Depart Echigo Yuzawa 17:04 by Joetsu Shinkansen, arrive Tokyo 18:20