

## Living with nature

### Initiation of long-lived folk house

After the Warring State, folk house became bigger and longer-lived because great house-framing skills have permeated among into common people. Uniquely, folk houses of Japan have no walls, and only posts and beams support a large roof. Instead, a number of sliding paper-doors partition a room. This structure allows Japanese folk houses to make one large room just by removing these doors.

### Variation in structure and room fitting

Although the folk houses may look like each other, structures and room fittings vary not only with local climate and geography but also with profession and social status in feudal system. A sunken fire place in the middle of



Castle Combe, UK



Miyama, Kyoto

Thatched roofs are observed everywhere in the world. The thatched roof became a symbol of old folk houses in Japan.

the room is indispensable in cold mountain village to get warm in winter. Earthen floor for kitchen was also used for maintenance of occupational instruments. As ceramic tiles were often prohibited in use on folk houses in feudal society of Edo era, thatched roof became a symbol of old folk house. As like London, some villages were allowed roofs with ceramic tiles for fire prevention.

### C Rest hall

Small shelters were often built on main roads outside of a town. They were used for public rest, meeting place and refuge.

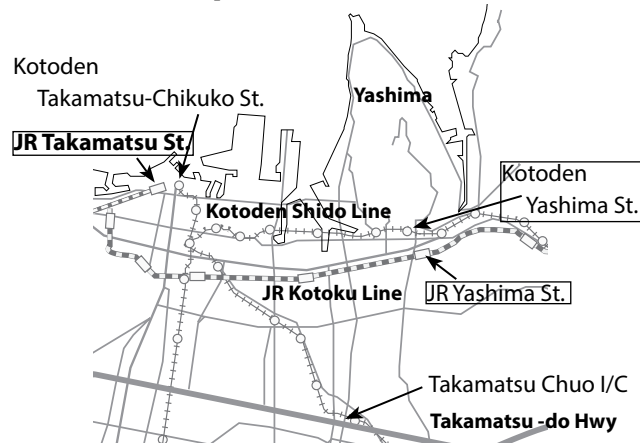


B Shodosima Farmer's Kabuki theater

## Features of folk house

Japanese old folk house features thatched roof (C in cover), kitchen in earthen floor (B) and a sunken fire place (A) which is often found in cold districts. The thatched roof is quite common throughout the world because it is easy to make, for materials are cheap and ubiquitous, and it also serves as a thermal insulation. The number of the old houses have rapidly declined due to the shortage of natural materials and the increase of labor cost for keeping the architecture.

## Access map



Shikoku-mura is at the entry of Yashima Driveway.  
From JR Yashima Station - North 10 min. by a walk  
From Kotoden Yashima St. - North 5 min. by a walk  
From Takamatsu Chuo Highway I/C - 20 min. by car



**Shikoku Gakuin University,**  
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1-2-3 Bunkyo-cho, Zentsuji, Kagawa 760-8505

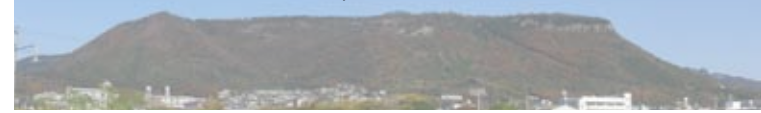
<http://shigakuweb.jimdo.com>

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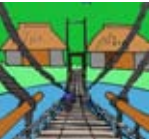
Enjoy Setouchi Outing No.12



# 四国村

Folk House Open-air Museum and Gallery

## Shikoku Folk Village Day Out



### 12. Explore Japanese folk houses



D Bark steaming hut in spring



A



B



C



**2** House of the Kōno family



**A** Vine bridge of Iya



**6** Sugar mill

## Discover Old Japanese Country

### Varieties of folk house



**1** House of the Yamashitas

This type of house was once quite common in this area. The interior consisted of only living-sleeping space, and earthen floor for work or storage.

**2** House of the Kōnos

This elongated house used to be deep mountains as there was little flatland (see above). A sunken fireplace was in each of two rooms.



**3** House of the Shimokis

This house used to be in the mountain village located more than 1000m above sea level. Two huge crossbeams were used to stand heavy snow.

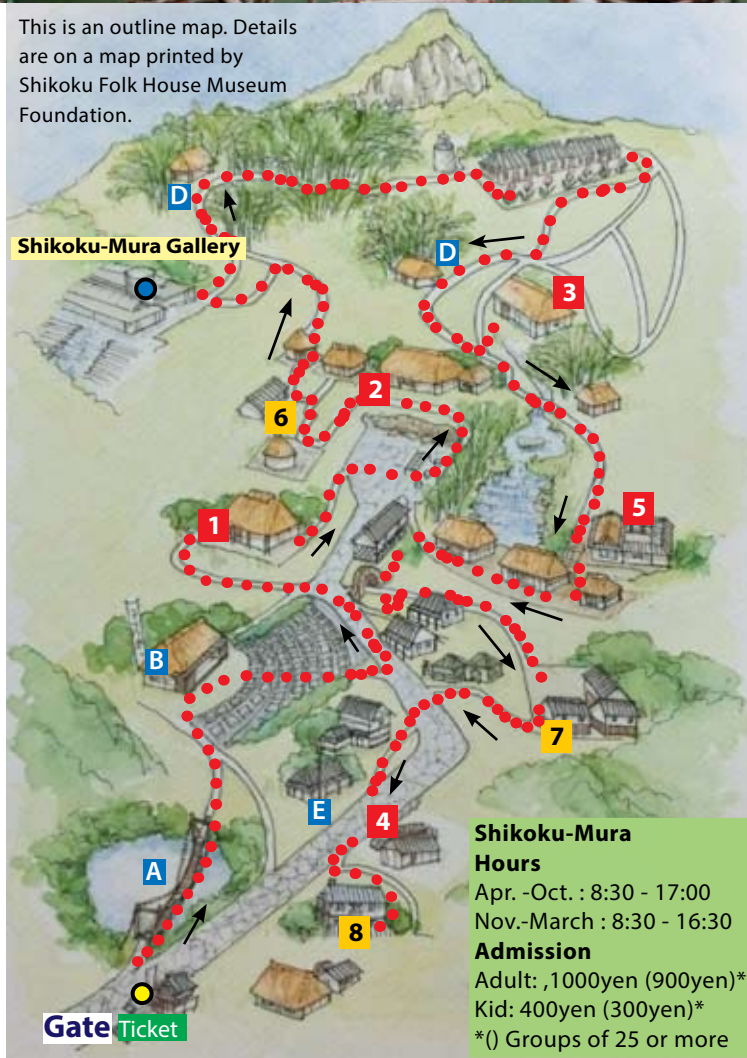
**4** Fisherman's house

This house was on the cliff facing the Pacific. A stone fence with narrow entry way served as a windbreak.



**E** Border guard house of Marugame domain

This is an outline map. Details are on a map printed by Shikoku Folk House Museum Foundation.



**Shikoku-Mura Hours**  
 Apr. -Oct. : 8:30 - 17:00  
 Nov.-March : 8:30 - 16:30  
**Admission**  
 Adult: ,1000yen (900yen)\*  
 Kid: 400yen (300yen)\*  
 \*() Groups of 25 or more

In the middle of Edo era, local rulers promoted industrial products, salt, sugar, soy sauce and so on. They encouraged their people to produce crops supplying raw materials and helped them build industrial facilities.

### Industrial houses



**6** Sugar mill

Sugarmaking was encouraged as speciality in this region. Many sugar mills for extracting the syrup were built (see photo at the top). This photo shows stone mortars driven by oxen pulling. Sugar cane was crushed with three stones.



**7** Soy sauce warehouse

This region had been proud of a large amount of production in soy sauce. The warehouse consisted of three rooms for fermenting, pressing and storing. The photo above shows a tool to filter raw and unrefined soy sauce to remove the lees.

### Have a coffee break!



**8** Western house

You will find a western house at the end of strolling course. Imagine how it amazed Japanese folks in those days.



**5** Residence of Master Kume

This is an example of warrior's house. Compared to folk house, it is large with three Tatami-mat rooms and small courtyard.

This house open now as a coffee shop at attractive prices! Enjoy your coffee break surrounded by traditional Western furniture that surprised Japanese of old times.

