

Yusuhara a Home from Home: 1. Uncertainty to Delight

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Mid March 2019 I received the news that my life was about to drastically change, a change that I had been working towards for over a year. I was moving to Japan. A country that could not be further away from my home in the United Kingdom, to a town that I had never heard of. Yusuhara.

Reading the words *Yusuhara-cho, Kochi-ken* on my acceptance letter, my initial excitement evolved into intrigue. Where is this town, what was it like I needed to know. Despite my best efforts, my attempts at using Google yielded few results with much of the most recent information being from over 5 years ago. I was conflicted, this town was nowhere near where I asked to be placed. The weather regularly exceeds temperatures and conditions that I was used to and access to other towns and cities through public transport was virtually non-existent. I began to become uncertain at my decision.

I decided the best option was to just experience the town first hand and form my own opinions. Leaving the airport and driving to the town I encountered countless mountain ranges that seemingly never ended. Which mountain area would I be living in? I didn't know how to feel. A few hours after departure I arrived.

I was wrong.

I was wrong to be so apprehensive, wrong to fear the worst. From the moment I laid eyes on this town my fears lifted from me, a view and environment so beautiful it was impossible to feel anything other than pure joy and excitement once again. From the streets, buildings, greenery and rivers everything was perfect. Modern and traditional aesthetics combined effortlessly to create a true representation of what I believe to be the ideal image of Japan.

I have only been in Yusuhara for a few weeks now and my transition to this town has been a delight mostly in thanks to all the people I have encountered who have gone above and beyond in helping me to feel welcomed. I want to thank you all for your effort, your kindness makes me want to try harder and give as much back as I can. Being here has already made me a better person.

Yusuhara, a home from home.



I'm lucky to see this breathtaking view every morning!