



The second day SAKIORI ～裂織～



The second day we spent in a fashion boutique with the fashion designer herself who is also the store's owner. We were introduced not only to her hand-made pieces, such as traditional kimonos and hats but to her paintings and children's wooden toys as well. She showed us different fabrics ("orimono"), and we learned a special technique of sewing a cloth from waste kimono pieces ("sakiori"). This Japanese word comes from "saki", which means to tear up, and "ori", which means weave. "Saki" relates to preparing the fabric by striping it into pieces and "ori" refers to weaving it together. It was an unique experience and a good example of upcycling that draw upon Japanese indispensable concept of "mottainai" or not wasting precious cloth when one can prolong the fabric's useful life through recycling and reuse.

We had a lot of fun in the boutique virtually "trying on" different clothes, hats, handbags, and other garments. Besides clothes there were wooden hand-made toys for kids available, such as a "meat climbing" pig, classic Japanese kokeshi dolls, or daruma (a Zen monk seated in mediation). It was difficult to say goodbye to this wonderful lady and her gorgeous store after an hour of such an eye-catching and fulfilling experience.



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UNIQUE TRADITIONAL JAPANESE EXPERIENCE WITH RANKO



RANKO

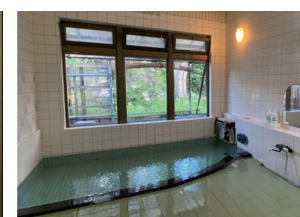
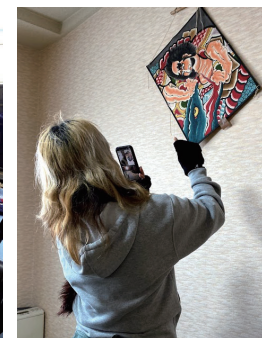
The on-line interactive activities with Ranko & her team were truly one-of-a-kind experience! These special entertainments draw on Japanese traditions and customs, entertaining and culinary activities, as well as the crafts.

The first day wooden toy "ZUGURI" ～ずぐり～



On the very first day we met Ranko, her colleagues, and+ even some members of her own family in a beautiful city of Kuroishi in Tohoku region, Aomori prefecture, Japan. It was a wonderful sunny winter day following a snow storm, and we were able to take a part in a traditional game that involved a wooden toy, which was a source of joy for both children and adults. The bright day and the joy of playing the game on the snow brought a sense of happiness to everyone involved. After that we were invited into one of the small hotels in the area. Ranko showed us its interior, including the traditional Japanese spa, and then we took part in an amazing culinary event: a typical Japanese meal served in porcelain bowls. We were able to learn about all the ingredients as well as the cooking techniques.

This had been done in a very welcoming and warm atmosphere of a private dining room. Moreover, the chef happened to be not only a talented cook but also a musician. He played an instrument for us to enjoy during the lunch. Simply awesome! It was an amazing ending to this highly interesting culinary adventure.



Monika



Mari

Thank you and for joining us ONLINE!

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