

Hoshino Resorts Oirase Keiryu Hotel  
**Immerse Yourself in the Fascinating World of Moss**  
**in "Moss Girls' Stay"**

Hoshino Resorts Oirase Keiryu Hotel, the only resort hotel along the Oirase Gorge, is holding "Moss Girls' Stay," a lodging plan with moss-centered experiences, from May 7th to July 31st, 2020. This plan invites guests to the world of moss and offers experiences that allow them to feel the charm of moss directly, such as with moss-themed rooms and meals or moss-observing activities. This program is aimed at guests who want to discover a new appeal of Japanese nature.



**Oirase Gorge - the holy ground of moss**

The Oirase Gorge, with its stable water volume and rare flooding, is the ideal habitat for moss, since moss prefers a moist environment. The Oirase Gorge is home to about 300 species of moss out of about 1800 species that can be found in Japan. It was designated as a "Precious Moss-covered Forest", of which there are 28 in the country, by the Bryological Society of Japan in 2013. Because of that, the Oirase Gorge is attracting attention as a moss observation spot.

**A lodging plan that provides an entrance to the world of moss**

A "Moss Girl" signifies a female moss fan fascinated by the beautiful and deep world of moss. The best therapy for a Moss Girl is going to a forest with a magnifying glass and enjoying the different species of moss. Hoshino Resorts Oirase Keiryu Hotel has been providing the "Moss Girls' Stay" lodging plan from 2013 in order to enable more people to become interested in moss, just like Moss Girls. Four experiences are offered as an entrance to the world of moss through which guests can feel the charm of moss directly.

### Experience 1 - The Moss Trail, an activity which makes the guests aware of the charm of moss

The Oirase Gorge is a perfect spot to observe moss because the promenade is placed in the immediate vicinity of the gorge. During the Moss Trail, the participants will walk about 1km along the middle basin of the Oirase Gorge for about two and a half hours together with a nature guide and carefully observe the moss. In addition to observing and touching the moss, the participants will be able to notice the further appeal of moss by using a spray bottle and a magnifying glass to look into the microscopic world of moss. Furthermore, a nature guide with expertise in moss will explain its structure, ecology, and its link with the forest.

Participants will also receive a moss observation set as a present so that they can observe moss anytime, anywhere, not only during their stay but also after they return home.

This set includes equipment such as a magnifying glass for observing moss, a spray bottle that supplies the moss with water, and a moss handbook that describes the species and characteristics of moss. Using these, the participants can observe their favorite moss without haste.



Plagiomnium acutum seen through a magnifying glass

### Experience 2 - A plan-limited moss-themed room: the Moss Room

After check-in, the guest will be guided to the plan-limited Moss Room, with a full moss-themed interior. Besides the interior elements that express the shape and texture of the moss, such as cushions representing "the great scented liverwort (*Conocephalum conicum*)", a glossy moss species, or bedspreads that mimic the soft feel of "racomitrium moss (*Racomitrium canescens*)", books on moss are also available. In a room surrounded by moss, guests can relax while reading a book or looking at the Mossballs.



### Experience 3 - A moss-themed menu

One of the enjoyments of the Moss Girls' Stay is the "Moss Plate Lunch," a lunch set representing the mossy rocks scattered in the Oirase Gorge. Before eating, guests can use the magnifying glass and feel as if they are observing moss. "Mossball ice cream" is served for dessert. This is a hotel-original sweet made by sprinkling spinach powder over matcha ice cream and making it look like an actual mossball.

At the Bar Lounge at night, guests can also enjoy the Moss Cocktail, a matcha liqueur that represents the moss inhabiting fallen trees in the forest.



### Experience 4 - Mossball Workshop, a workshop where guests reproduce the mossy rocks of the gorge

During this plan, the guests can also try their hand at making mossballs. Using moss, fern, and maple as materials, they can try to recreate the mossy rocks scattered in the Oirase Gorge. After the workshop, guests can take the completed mossball home.



### After the experience, guests receive the "Moss Girl Certificate"

After completing the four Moss Girls' Stay experiences, guests will be awarded a "Moss Girl Certificate" as a proof that they are now a true Moss Girl. In addition, they will also receive a nationwide moss spot map which shows the 28 National bryophyte heritage sites in Japan, such as the Northern Yatsugatake Mountains and Yakushima, called the holy ground of moss. Even after returning from the Oirase Gorge, guests can use the map to explore moss spots throughout Japan.



### "Moss Girls' Stay" at a glance

**Dates:** May 7th to July 31st, 2020

**Fee:** ¥35,907~ (per person when 2 people per room, tax and service charges not included, dinner and breakfast included)

**Capacity:** 1 room per day (up to 2 people per group)

**Booking:** At least 1 week in advance through the website (<https://www.oirase-keiryuu.jp/en/>)

**Location:** The Oirase Gorge area, hotel

**Included:** Dinner, breakfast, Moss Trail, a stay in the Moss Room, Moss Plate Lunch, Mossball ice cream, Moss Cocktail, Mossball Workshop, moss observation set, nationwide moss spot map, the Moss Girl Certificate

**Notes:** Depending on the weather, the activities may be canceled.

### Why the Oirase Gorge was designated as a "Precious Moss-covered Forest" (\*)

1 - The landscape of various bryophytes growing on the stones in the gorge is one of the landscapes representative of the Oirase Gorge

2 - Moss covers the rocks scattered along the promenade, the fallen trees, and bridge handrails. In addition, bryophyte communities in the Oirase Gorge can be seen everywhere, not only on the rotten trees, trunks, and rocks on the forest floor, but even on the rocks in the running water. Because of that, the presence of bryophytes is an important element of the landscape.

\*Reference: Bryological Society of Japan website

## Moss inhabiting the Oirase Gorge



Racomitrium  
barbulooides



Conocephalum  
conicum



Dicranum  
nipponense



Diphyscium  
fulvifolium



Myuroclada  
maximowiczii



Plagiomnium  
acutum

## Video: Introducing "Moss Girls' Stay," a lodging plan with plenty of moss



URL: <https://youtu.be/mcauHTI0y8k>

You can also access the video with this QR code. Please take a look.