



SUSTAINABLE  
LEARNING  
CENTER  
MORIUMIUS

# FOREST, OCEAN & TOMORROW

The town of Ogatsu located within Ishinomaki is a place steeped in tradition. Blessed with rich forests and a beautiful ocean despite the destruction of the Great East Japan Earthquake which effected 80% of the original environment. In this area a ninety three year old abandoned school has been reborn as a place to revitalize the community through education. This was the beginning of MORIUMIUS.

MORIUMIUS is a multi faceted experience complex, designed to stimulate the curiosity of children and develop their impulse for exploration. Learning in an environment where people co-exist with nature through various activities and working with skilled locals helps children to feel their natural spirit emerge. Encountering nature and communicating with the people of Ogatsu provides a good opportunity for growth in both children and the town, MORIUMIUS is helping to create a new tomorrow for everyone.





# MORIUMIUS



Ogatsu is a place surrounded by forest and ocean. In this location a 93 year old school building with the same slate roof as Tokyo Station remains from a time when there were more children in the town, but sadly the Kuwahama primary school was closed in 2002. MORIUMIUS was envisaged to revitalize this building as a place where children can begin to learn again. The Educational material we use for MORIUMIUS is Ogatsu itself. Communicating with local people who live in this natural environment is a wonderful experience for children spending time in MORIUMIUS. Our goal is to give children more encounters to develop their future and share new methods of education with the world. Our passion is to contribute to building a rich and varied society in this area, rebuilding Ogatsu and working together with the community.



## SUSTAINABILITY OFFERS GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN AND OGATSU

The MORIUMIUS experience puts emphasis on the concept of sustainability. We live by receiving energy from air, water, food and trees created by nature. We collect food and prepare it to eat, any waste is given as food to farm animals, returning back into the earth and the water is recycled to help plants prosper. We hope that by living this lifestyle of natural circulation it teaches the importance of sustainability to children who visit MORIUMIUS and that Ogatsu has a special place in their heart. We believe that a bright future will open up for Ogatsu and the children that visit here.

## A NEW FORM OF EDUCATION WITH DIVERSE STAFF FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS

MORIUMIUS has been filled with the joyous sounds and smiles of children since it's opening on July 18th 2015. Many of the staff working with children here are local people, either ex pupils of Kuwahama primary school or originally from Ogatsu Town. Others have moved here from Tokyo, one young man traveled through eight countries in Asia before joining. There are also \*JET English teachers who teach in Japanese schools, bringing in an international element. Each staff member uses their unique backgrounds to develop learning programs which support the children's growth.

\*The Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme, is aimed at promoting grass-roots international exchange between Japan and other nations.





# OGATSU ISHINOMAKI



North of Tohoku's largest river, the Kitakami runs through Miyagi and Iwate prefectures, on through the Kamadani tunnel towards Ishinomaki where you will find Ogatsu town.

In this *ria* coastal town, the deep green mountains and rich blue sea lie very close to each other. With a population which was once 4,300 until the Great East Japan Earthquake where over 1,000 people were lost, yet there still remains a strong Japanese heritage of nature, culture and local activities in this town. You can experience the nature of Ogatsu and enjoy meeting its resilient local people.



## RICH SEASONAL SEAFOOD

Throughout the year Ogatsu is a rich fishing town, its bay has a deeply indented *ria* coastline which provides a suitable habitat for diverse species such as sea urchin, scallops, sea squirts and silver salmon. Abalone, oysters, sea cucumbers and seaweed are also harvested in these waters where it's possible to enjoy delicious fresh seafood throughout the year.



## PASSION OF FISHERMEN

You would not be able to enjoy such a great variety of seafood in Ogatsu without the work of local fisherman who know more about the sea than anyone in the area. Through speaking with the fishermen you can experience a completely different perspective on the amazing dishes you're enjoying.



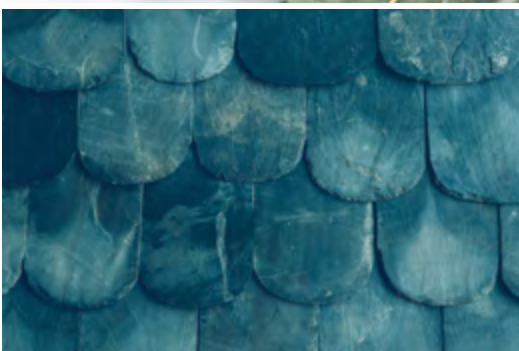
## ENCOUNTERING THE NATURAL WORLD

There are many types creatures living in the natural environment of Ogatsu. In streams running through MORIUMIUS you can find salamanders and around Ogatsu encounter many different birds and insects, together with wild deer who live in the woodlands.



## PRIDE OF JAPAN: OGATSU STONE

Since the Muromachi era of the 16th century the stone from Ogatsu has been used to make premium ink stones, essential for Japanese calligraphy. For more than 600 years this stone has been part of Japan's traditional craft heritage. Nowadays they are also used as roof slates on buildings such as the famous Tokyo Station in Marunouchi.





# FACILITIES

MORIUMIUS has been restored by many hands. Together with co-operative volunteers the number of people involved reached 5,000 over a period of two and a half years. Beginning with sweeping the mud caused by flooding from inside the school building, carpenters and other specialists lifted the building to straighten its twisted structure. Together, we have been working on the rebirth of the school every weekend.

The design was created to take advantage of the original wooden building structure by Japanese architects Kengo Kuma, Takaharu Tezuka and the design workshops of architecture students from Stanford University. This is how Kuwagama elementary school was reborn as MORIUMIUS.

## BEDROOM



BEDROOM

## BATH



BATH



## SLEEP SURROUNDED BY NATURE

Boys and girls bedrooms are all separated and made up of bunk beds. You can have a good night's sleep under huge skies filled with beautiful stars as you listen to the humming of insects outside.

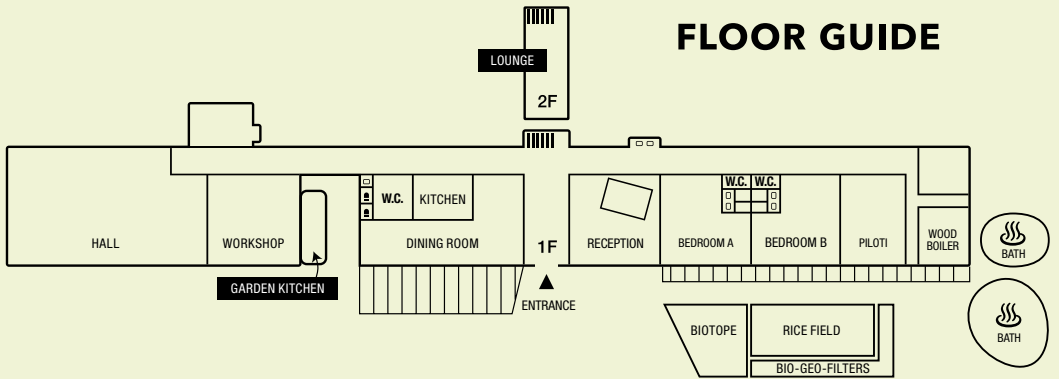


WOOD BOILER

## A GOOD DAY'S WORK

Separated open air baths for boys and girls will relieve the tiredness of a hard days work. You're not only enjoying the pleasure of bathing, but also learning how to heat the water using a wood fire.

## FLOOR GUIDE





## DINING ROOM & GARDEN KITCHEN



DINING ROOM



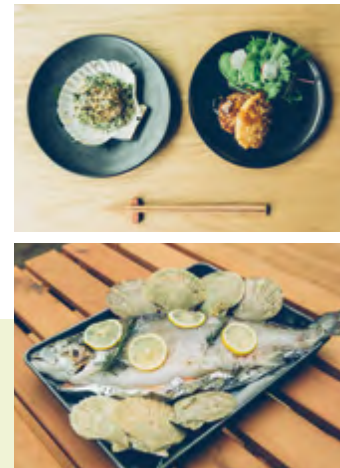
GARDEN KITCHEN

### DISCOVERING OGATSU THROUGH FOOD

The dining room where the children eat everyday is filled with natural sunlight. Kitchen staff prepare a different menu each day from local ingredients.

### COOKING TOGETHER

We built superb garden kitchen facilities in our school grounds where you can bake pizza in the oven or cook rice in the furnace. Cooking is one of the learning points here. There's also a tap with natural spring water flowing from the mountain behind the school.



## BIO GEO FILTER & MORE



BIO GEO FILTER



RICE FIELD

### LEARNING ABOUT NATURAL CIRCULATION IN THE SCHOOL

One of the unique learning resources here is our biotope (pond) and rice field located in front of the center. Bio Geo Filters clean the sewage from MORIUMIUS and help plants and other living creatures thrive.



FRONT

PILOTI

### FEEL NATURE WITHIN THE WOODEN SCHOOL BUILDING

The design of MORIUMIUS is created to be in harmony with nature and has been renovated using the original slate roof and wooden structure as its foundation.





# LEARN

Living in the cycle of nature. Through stories about the town of Ogatsu and its people, children will encounter a variety of locals through MORIUMIUS. Individual learning experiences that strengthen a child's development.

## FIELD



### GET MUDDY IN THE RICE FIELDS

You can experience rice planting within the school grounds, just take your shoes off and go barefoot! Step into a muddy field and plant rice seedlings, by the time you're finished you'll be covered in mud. The rice grown in the fields here is planted by everyone.

## SEA



### DISCOVERING OGATSU THROUGH THE OCEAN

Join local fishermen in their boats where we'll catch scallops and sea cucumbers, learning from stories of fishermen about food we would only usually see at the dining table. This will be an extraordinarily experience in tasting fresh seafood.

## FOREST



### CUTTING WOOD AND PLANTING TREES

We will hike up a mountain located behind the school to cut wood and plant trees. Cutting trees helps the forest to flourish and learning about the living trees and mountains is an important resource.

## BREAKING THE ICE

This helps to create a more relaxing atmosphere with new people. In order to help children learn actively we play games and break the ice by creating a relaxing and welcoming atmosphere.



## MOUNTAIN STREAM



### DISCOVERING THE SOURCE OF WATER

Where does water come from? We'll climb a mountain to discover the head-spring. Walking in pure river water to clear obstacles and head upstream. This program will be certain to give you a great experience.

## CHOPPING WOOD



### BECOME AN EXPERT AT WOOD-CHOPPING

We'll use an axe to cut firewood. It is not as easy as it looks though, you will learn how to balance your posture to gain maximum strength. This wood will be used later for heating the bath.

## WORKSHOPS



### CREATING ORIGINAL WOODCRAFT

By making your own chopsticks or bowls through whittling and sanding wood you can create something unique to use at home afterwards as a memory of MORIUMIUS.





# FOOD

Our feelings toward food change when we learn how passionately the ingredients were created. A superficial thankyou or "itadakimasu" soon becomes a heartfelt emotion.

## IRON POT RICE



### LET'S COOK DELICIOUS RICE

We cook rice in our garden kitchen stove using a wood burning fire and wait until it's just perfect. When the lid is removed the most delicious rice will be revealed through a cloud of steam.

## PIZZA MAKING



### LET'S MAKE REAL PIZZA

We start by kneading dough by hand. After adding toppings that have been selected from the ocean and mountains of Ogatsu the pizza is put into the wood fired oven to create something just as delicious as the stove cooked rice.

## COOKING



### PREPARING SCALLOPS

Revising how to prepare scallops in the kitchen. Do you remember what the fishermen taught you on the sea about how to scrape scallops from their shells? Let's do it again.

# LODGING

Beginning an ordered life at MORIUMIUS and learning together with new friends. To enjoy life in the community here it's important to accept each other's differences.

## WAKE UP



### START WITH A GOOD MORNING!

At MORIUMIUS we get up every morning at 6:30am to enjoy the sunshine and on some days the sound of rain. We listen to the birds singing combined with importance of learning and begin each day with a lively "Good Morning!"

## FOLDING BEDDING



### PREPARING FOR THE DAY

Washing your face, brushing your teeth, getting changed and folding the futon bedding. Once you've put away your bed, cleaned the room and prepared for learning it's time for breakfast.

## WOOD FIRE BATH



### HEATING THE BATH WITH A WOOD FIRE

Chopped wood is an important part of heating your bath. Putting enough wood into the boiler so that the fire will burn strongly to heat the temperature of the water.



## Supporting The Lives Of Children MORIUMIUS STAFF



Learning Team Leader  
Kenji Yasuda

### AN ENVIRONMENT FOR DISCOVERY

We think that it's very important to see how children actually change their attitude and actions. We try not to stay complacent, but we need to give children real opportunities for them to realize how they need to change. We don't simply teach but aim to communicate with children and to provide an environment for their discovery so that they progress at each stage of the program. To witness children beginning to actually think on their own makes me very happy.



Food and Lodging Team Leader  
Yasuhiro Honma

### THE PLACE THAT I WANTED

I'm in charge of administration and staff development. In order to create a safe environment for children it's imperative we pay attention to the safety of food and hygiene. It's also important for us to provide an environment where children can learn a wide variety of things throughout the day. I used to work for a resort company but knew I had to be involved with what was happening here. We were so busy in the beginning, there was no time to look back though. I've enjoyed being part of MORIUMIUS finding its way, there was a great sense of joy when the work was finally completed. I'd like other people to enjoy what we've achieved and understand that this really is the place that I wanted.



Ruri Konno

#### LEARNING TEAM

I'm grateful to be able to work here and so happy that what was once my school has been reborn to become a learning center for children. Being able to live and work locally, MORIUMIUS is very important for me. I'm working hard so that Ogatsu can thrive once more.



Jun Nakasato

#### FOOD & LODGING

I'd like you to taste and feel the abundance of nature in Ogatsu. There is a place here where you can go high up through the forests to look down upon the beautiful ocean. The people from Ogatsu are very warm and unique, if you spend enough time speaking with them you might even pick up some of the local dialect.



Urara Shimizu

#### LEARNING TEAM

There's a joy in handing over this beautiful environment to the next generation, creating a place where you can merge with nature which makes children patient and strong, both physically and mentally. I would like MORIUMIUS to be a place where you can feel yourself grow without restraint.



Takanori Yamaguchi

#### FOOD TEAM

I'm responsible for the cooking at MORIUMIUS and would like everyone to enjoy the fresh ingredients we use from local farmers and fishermen. We cook together with the children so that they can understand the reality of preparing food and be grateful for the work that's involved.







# MESSAGE FROM MORIUMIUS

MORIUMIUS  
PRESIDENT / FIELD DIRECTOR

GENTARO YUI

Public Interest Corporation  
Sweet Treat 311 Board Member

## FOR CHILDREN CREATING THE FUTURE

There are many places where you can experience a taste of nature, but not many where you can live with nature and reflect deeply upon it. For example, cooking something you catch or harvest and ensuring it returns back into the earth. MORIUMIUS puts great value on learning about food and how we work together within the cycle of nature.

When I see children who have spent time at MORIUMIUS they have gained patience through the various activities they would never have experienced in everyday life,

growing in confidence each day.

In the same way they harvest food, cook and eat it, tidy up and add any food waste into the compost. They need new challenges from their ordinary life so that parents can see how they've changed, returning stronger than when they left home. I think this spontaneous growth and these opportunities will give children a much better future. I believe that children who put into practice what they have learned at MORIUMIUS will live much stronger lives.

## MEMBERS OF MORIUMIUS



Takashi Tachibana

Public Interest Corporation  
Sweet Treat 311 Representative

### TO BE A CHILD'S SECOND HOME TOWN

In establishing MORIUMIUS I've traveled between Tokyo and Ogatsu more than 430 times and taken more than 1,300 people around, but people ask me "Why do you work so hard for MORIUMIUS?", my answer is simply because I want people to understand this project and to discover Ogatsu. Since the earthquake, the passion for my hometown has changed. The landscape here reminds people of what Japan originally looked like, in the modern age of globalization I think it's important for children to spend some time in MORIUMIUS so that they can be proud of Japan and develop their sensitivity. I would love to see Ogatsu become a child's second hometown.



Hidemitsu Kitamoto

MORIUMIUS Communication Director  
Public Interest Corporation  
Sweet Treat 311 Board Member

### A DIVERSE LEARNING CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

More than 5,000 people, including co-operation volunteers, have been involved in building MORIUMIUS. It would have been easier to rebuild this place, but we valued the original structure because this school remained standing despite the earthquake. We saw potential in this wooden building as a new center of learning.

MORIUMIUS is diverse, not only in its children but also the adults, foreigners, student interns and many others from co-operative companies who've been involved - we're constantly meeting new people. Beyond age, regional or national differences there are many interactions between unique characters which develop new values. We will continue our progression in learning at MORIUMIUS.



MORIUMIUS  
PERMACULTURE DESIGNER  
SHINJI YOTSUI  
Soil Design Laboratory

## MORIUMIUS TAKES ROOT IN SUSTAINABILITY AND PERMACULTURE

Permaculture is a system for sustainability. We can live rich lives by coexisting with nature with a lifestyle in balance with the cycle of nature. I design a unique Japanese permaculture by studying culture and climate objectively. We installed a natural sewage purification system using the school ground and a garden kitchen that uses wood burners. MORIUMIUS has many examples of learning about the cycle of nature. Through various experiences here

children learn how to live at home so that they can practice what they have learnt here. This has become a model case and could hopefully change the structure of society, I'm looking forward to seeing MORIUMIUS change our social structure.



Daily waste from the kitchen and bath are recycled through a natural structure here. The center of the system is the biotope and rice field which are surrounded by small slate tiles. Sewage is filtered through the tiles then microorganisms begin its breakdown so that plants can begin to obtain nutrition from the water and further the purification where it finally becomes a habitat for living creatures. This natural filter system using living material is called a Bio Geo Filter.

Children learn about the circulation of food through eating and cooking in the garden kitchen by composting leftovers. The dining room has a floor made from Ogatsu Stone which works as thermal storage flooring, also based on permaculture. In the daytime the room is heated by sunlight and by evening it releases the heat, working as natural air conditioning. MORIUMIUS has created a naturally sustainable system without putting any burden upon nature.



CHAIRMAN OF OGATSU TOWN  
KUWAHAMA/HASAKA DISTRICT

TADAO KONNO

Specialist for the ocean program  
at MORIUMIUS

I'M GRATEFUL FOR ENCOUNTERS  
BEYOND MY IMAGINATION

When I heard about the plan to create a children's learning center I couldn't have imagined that it would become such a big project. I've seen MORIUMIUS grow from the beginning, the amount of volunteers from all over Japan was much more than I expected. They positively joined in the cleaning of the area and I enjoyed meeting a hundred times more people than I'd imagined - when I see people help like that I want to treat everyone to sea urchin.

Both children and adults become excited when we start catching scallops and sea

urchin. These kinds of experiences will remain with them for their whole lives. I can still remember the first time I went diving in the sea here 60 years ago. It's difficult for Ogatsu to go back to what it was before the earthquake, but I would like to connect somehow with visitors and continue to build a new Ogatsu.

## SUPPORTERS OF MORIUMIUS



Noriko Kirishima  
Yoga Instructor

### DEEPER FAMILY DISCUSSIONS

When I first joined the tour with my son and daughter to discover more about the learning center I held a Yoga class with other visitors. It really felt like MORIUMIUS was creating a new way of seeing things. I also give my support by donating the admission fee from my charity Yoga classes. You will certainly have deeper family discussions after talking to children who have spent time at MORIUMIUS. I'm so happy to see children talk about this place with real joy, it's as if Ogatsu became their second home.



Takayuki Tsujii  
Patagonia Japan General Manager

### FOR THOSE WHO'VE BECOME DISCONNECTED FROM NATURE

Most of us have lost our true relationship with nature, like catching fish and preparing the food we grow - in today's society MORIUMIUS is very significant. Ogatsu has rich forests and a beautiful 'ria' coastline, it's a wonderful place that can teach you how to live with nature and about the diversity of living in a natural ecological cycle. By talking to local people you can also learn about the place itself. In rebuilding from the devastation of the earthquake MORIUMIUS has a big mission waiting for those of us who've lost our relationship with nature.



# ACCESS & LODGING PLAN

## ACCESS FOR MORIUMIUS

### A SHUTTLE BUS IS AVAILABLE FROM & TO SENDAI STATION & AIRPORT

#### TIME TABLE FOR THE SHUTTLE BUS

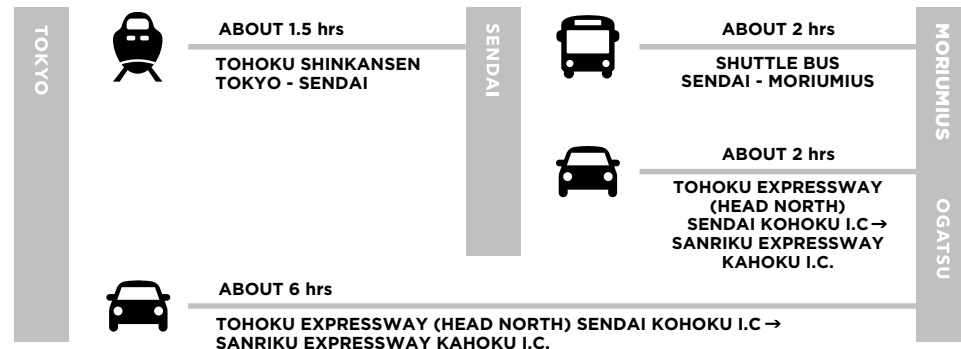
[OUTBOUND] Every Saturday JR Sendai Station 09:30  
[RETURN] Every Saturday from MORIUMIUS 13:00  
[RETURN] Every Sunday from MORIUMIUS 13:00  
[RETURN FEE] ¥4,000 (+tax) per person

- ※ You need to book in advance : Reservation only
- ※ We will let you know where to meet by email a week before your arrival.

#### HOW TO GET TO WHERE THE SHUTTLE BUS WILL BE

**TRAIN**  
JR TOHOKU Bullet Train:  
Tokyo to Sendai Station (approx. 1.5hrs)

**FLIGHT**  
Please fly to Sendai Airport



## LODGING PLAN FOR MORIUMIUS

### 8 DAY PLAN

#### LIVE IN MORIUMIUS

##### DETAILS

#### A DEEP EXPERIENCE OF FOREST & SEA

Surrounded by mountains and sea, we experience forest, sea, vegetation, cooking, communicating with local people, English and other activities. A one week program for a deep experience of nature and people.

※ Only people aged 6-15 years old can join

### 2 - 3 DAY PLAN

#### MEET MORIUMIUS

##### DETAILS

#### DISCOVER THE FOREST & SEA

Harvesting ancient rice, joining the sports day of Kuwahama primary school graduates, catching sea urchins and scallops. There are many different seasonal programs.

※ Adults can join but they can only participate in lodging and food

### LONG STAY PLAN

#### STAY IN MORIUMIUS

##### DETAILS

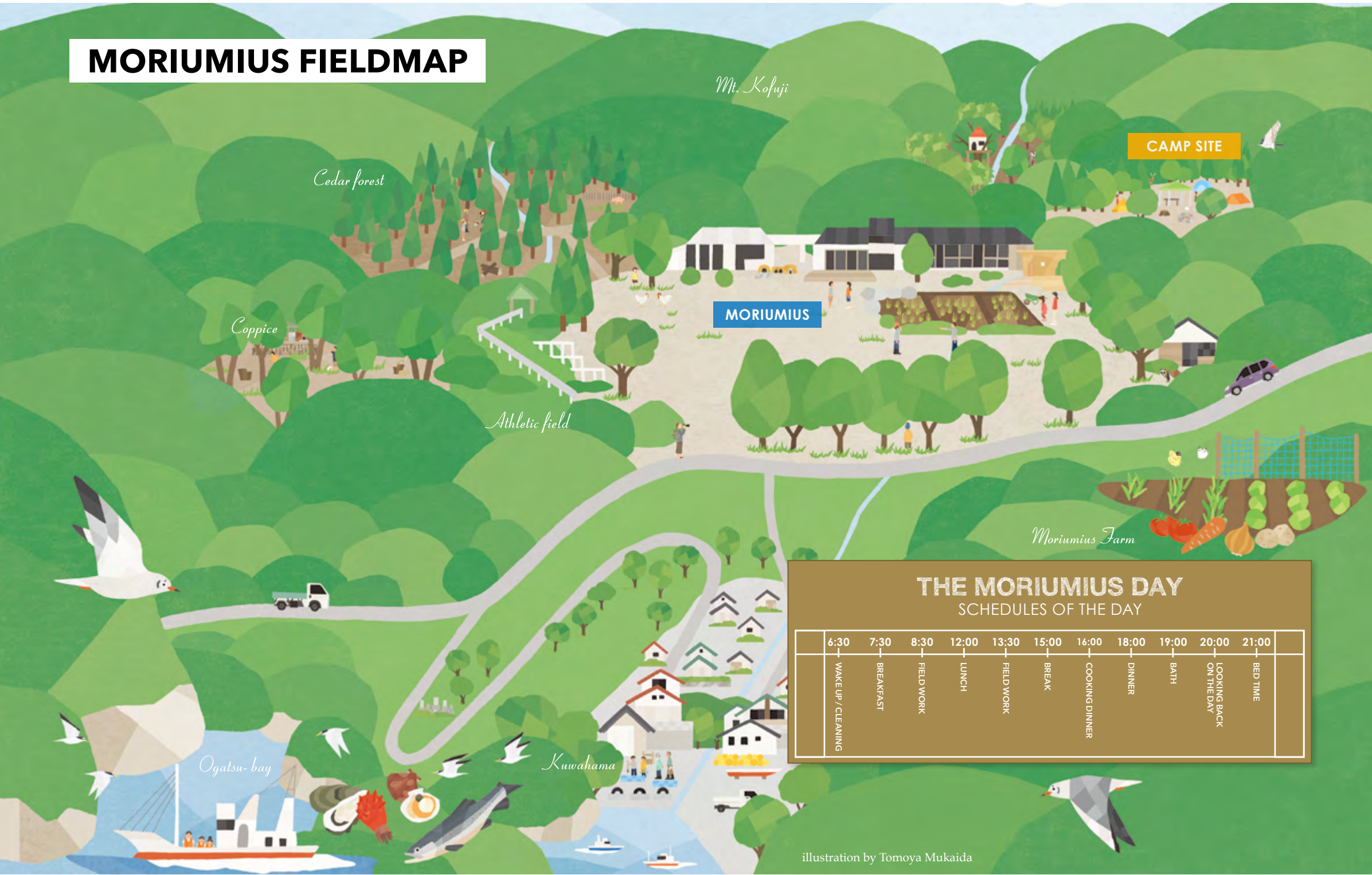
#### LIVE WITH THE FOREST & SEA

You can enjoy life in MORIUMIUS by staying for more than one week.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE DETAILS OF PLANS, FEES OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN AS A GROUP OR MAKE A CO-OPERATIVE INVOLVEMENT, PLEASE EMAIL: [RESERVE@MORIUMIUS.JP](mailto:RESERVE@MORIUMIUS.JP)



# MORIUMIUS FIELDMAP



THE MORIUMIUS DAY												
SCHEDULES OF THE DAY												
	6:30	7:30	8:30	12:00	13:30	15:00	16:00	18:00	19:00	20:00	21:00	
	WAKE UP / CLEANING	BREAKFAST	FIELD WORK	LUNCH	FIELD WORK	BREAK	COOKING DINNER	DINNER	BATH	LOOKING BACK ON THE DAY	BED TIME	
















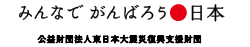
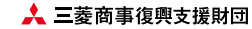
# Q&A

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM PARENTS

- What age can children participate?  Anyone aged 6 to 15 from Japan or overseas, including children from Ishinomaki city.
- Can parents come along with children?  
Why can't adults participate the program?  We attempt to create the best learning opportunities for children so that we only let children come to the school to participate in the program. Staff are there to give support when needed, but we value an environment where children can make their own decisions and choice of activities.
- What kind of people make up the staff?  Outdoor camp instructors, outdoor first aid paramedics, nursery teachers, JET (English teachers through the Japan exchange & teaching program) together with regular teachers.
- What is the ratio between children and staff?  2 - 3 staff will be looking after 10 children.
- Where are the nearest hospitals?  There is a Temporary clinic in Ogatsu town. 10 min drive from MORIUMIUS: 9-16 Kodakihama, Oohama, Ogatsu Town.  
There is a general hospital in Ishinomaki City which is 60 mins drive from MORIUMIUS: *Ishinomaki Red Cross medical emergency center* (24 hrs) Nishimichishita-71 Hebita, Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture.
- Can you cater for children with food allergies?  
Do you have a medicine cabinet?  We can provide special meals for children who have allergies, although sometimes we cannot meet very sensitive children's needs and requests, please make an inquiry when you book. We do not give medicine from staff. If you have a medicine which you are familiar with, we can look after it and give it to your child. If we have to take children to the hospital and the doctor prescribes any medicines we will contact the parents.
- Can we wash laundry?  You can wash laundry by hand, we provide laundry soap.
- What is provided in the bathroom?  Body shampoo, shampoo, conditioner and hair dryers.
- How do we evacuate in case of an emergency?  MORIUMIUS is located on a hill and is a registered place for evacuation.

※ About Radiation: We have our own self-imposed tests and those from Miyagi Prefecture.  
The radiation of air, soil, sea, vegetables and seafood are all below the safety levels set by national regulations.

supported by



### Sustainable Learning Centre Moriumius

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Please visit: **WWW.MORIUMIUS.JP**

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