

## NEWS RELEASE

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ARIMA ONSEN VOLUNTEERING INN OWNERS

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### FOR A CHEERFUL SELF-QUARANTINE!

“Arima hot-spring baths VR tour” broadcast starting from April 17th

~ Japan’s oldest hot-spring town, Arima Onsen,  
delivers its bath experience to your home ~



**Since the declaration of state of emergency, accommodations in Arima Onsen are temporarily closed or planning to do so soon.**

Since the declaration of state of emergency, local inns have temporarily closed or are planning a closure for a long period.

To help control the spread of infections by the new coronavirus, ARIMA ONSEN VOLUNTEERING INN OWNERS are encouraging guests to stay at home and self-quarantine. However, staying at home for a long period can lead to anxiety and further psychological burden that we believe needs to be taken in consideration.

## **“Arima hot-spring baths VR tour” broadcast starting from April 17th**

Arima Onsen is known as the most historic healing hot-spring resort town in Japan. It is also the place where the emperor Kohtoku healed fatigue after his famous Taika reform during the 6th century. In the mid of this restraining quarantine environment, we, the volunteering inn owners, wanted to somehow deliver the healing powers of Arima hot-springs to people around the world who are in self-quarantine. We then decided to broadcast a VR video to share with the world the hot-spring bath experience.

In the “Arima hot-spring VR tour” video, we have filmed several hot-spring bathing areas of different inns that we will upload on the “YouTube” site for everyone to watch. The first VR upload is scheduled for April 17th, with 5 participating inns: ARIMA SANSOH GOSHOBESSHO, TAKAYAMASOU HANANO, TAKETORITEI MARUYAMA, TOCEN GOSHOBH, and MOTOYU RYUSENKAKU . To enjoy this VR tour, one just needs to soak in his or her home bathtub, wear a pair of VR goggles suitable for 4K, type in YouTube search the key word “Arima hot-spring baths VR tour”, choose a favorite hot-spring bath scene from the participating 5 inns, and watch the selected video. This will simulate a virtual, but almost real Arima hot-spring bath experience at home.

### **Your home’s bathtub instantly turns into a relaxing Arima hot-spring bath**

The VR offers a full view of the selected bath and allows the viewer to experience the hot-spring visually and in sound. The user can vividly hear the thermal waters flowing and enjoy the soothing sound of the cherry blossoms gently fluttering in the wind. When watching the VR while soaking in a bathtub, the person can feel as if immersed in the inn’s hot-spring bath. A normal home bathtub, so to speak, transforms into one of Arima Onsen’s hot-spring pools.

### **Healing people who self-quarantine around the world**

“Arima hot-spring baths VR tour” will be launched starting with 5 videos from 5 participating inns. Next, we plan to increase the number of participating inns from Arima Onsen, and further invite other hot-spring areas to use the keyword “Hot-spring baths VR tour” to upload their bath scenery VR videos. This way, virtual guests who are at home can have a tour around most Japan’s hot-spring areas.

Japan's hot-springs can help healing people in quarantine around the world, as well as increase the efficacy of the quarantine. This way, we may, even if only slightly, help reduce infections and suffering from the new coronavirus.

- \* VR: abbreviation for "Virtual reality". By putting on suitable goggles, a full view picture is projected, enabling the viewer to immerse in the world of the projected picture.
- \* "Arima hot-spring baths VR tour" can be enjoyed without necessarily soaking in a hot bathtub. when used in bath however, caution is needed to prevent the VR goggles and other tools from getting wet and disabled. Please be aware that any trouble or accident while using the VR video is fully on the user's own responsibility. ARIMA ONSEN VOLUNTEERING INN OWNERS will not take any responsibility if an incident happens.
- \* This picture is for illustrative purposes only. Arima Onsen thermal water is not actually poured into the bathtub of the viewer's home.