

S&P/TSX  
21,942.28  
-41.80 (-0.19%)



S&P 500  
5,218.19  
-15.99 (-0.31%)



DOW  
39,313.64  
-162.26 (-0.41%)



CAD/USD  
0.7363  
+0.0002 (+0.03%)



Canada markets open in 4 hours 56 minutes

CRUDE OIL  
81.87  
-0.08 (-0.10%)



Bitcoin CAD  
95,782.24  
+4,793.27 (+5.27%)

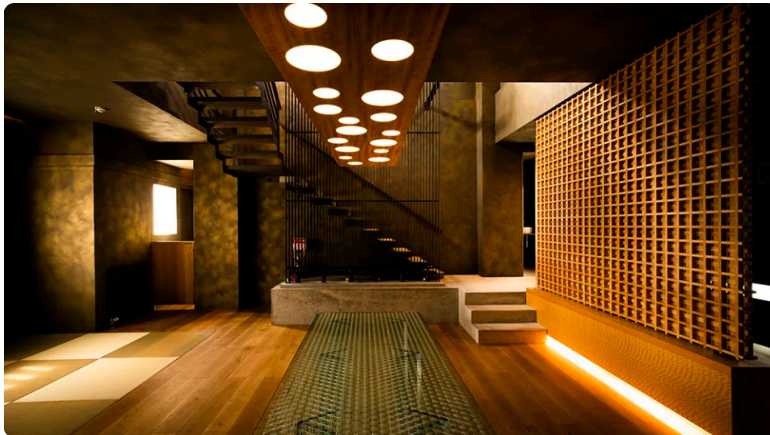
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# Two Historic Japanese Castles Are Opening Their Doors to Overnight Guests



**Christopher Cameron**

August 13, 2023 · 3 min read



In 1853, following two centuries of near complete isolation, a fleet of U.S. Navy ships forced Japan to open to trade at the point of a cannon. Yet certain aspects of the country have always remained off-limits, especially to outsiders and those who don't speak the language. Now, as a result of the economic strain imposed by the country's aggressive Covid-19 border closures, that's finally beginning to change.

"The pandemic was tremendously impactful on tourism in Japan, especially in rural areas that relied heavily on it and had few other streams of income," says Naomi Mano, founder and CEO of Japan-based hospitality and events-management agency [Luxurique](#). "It

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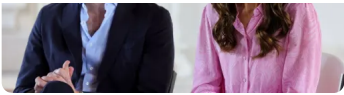
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Which means that a pair of stunning, historic stacked-roof castles, previously closed to overnight guests, are now ready for check-ins. The older of the two, [Ozu Castle](#), is located in the Ehime Prefecture of Shikoku, in southern Japan. Lacking a steady cash flow from day visits, it reopened as a single-booking buyout hotel almost as soon as the pandemic restrictions began—not that tourists could get there, as Japan reopened its borders only late last year.

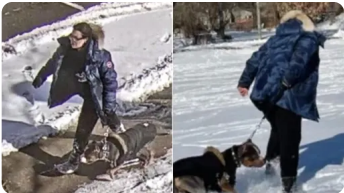
Dating back to the 14th century but mostly built during the storied Edo period (1603–1868), the castle rises 63 feet and was home to many of Japan’s most famous warlords. By the late 19th century, its keep had severely deteriorated and the ailing structure was demolished. But all was not lost. The discovery of historic maps and models allowed for a hyper-accurate \$11 million reconstruction using only traditional building and craftsmanship techniques. Today, the four-story Hirayama-style time capsule offers authentic Shogun-era

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