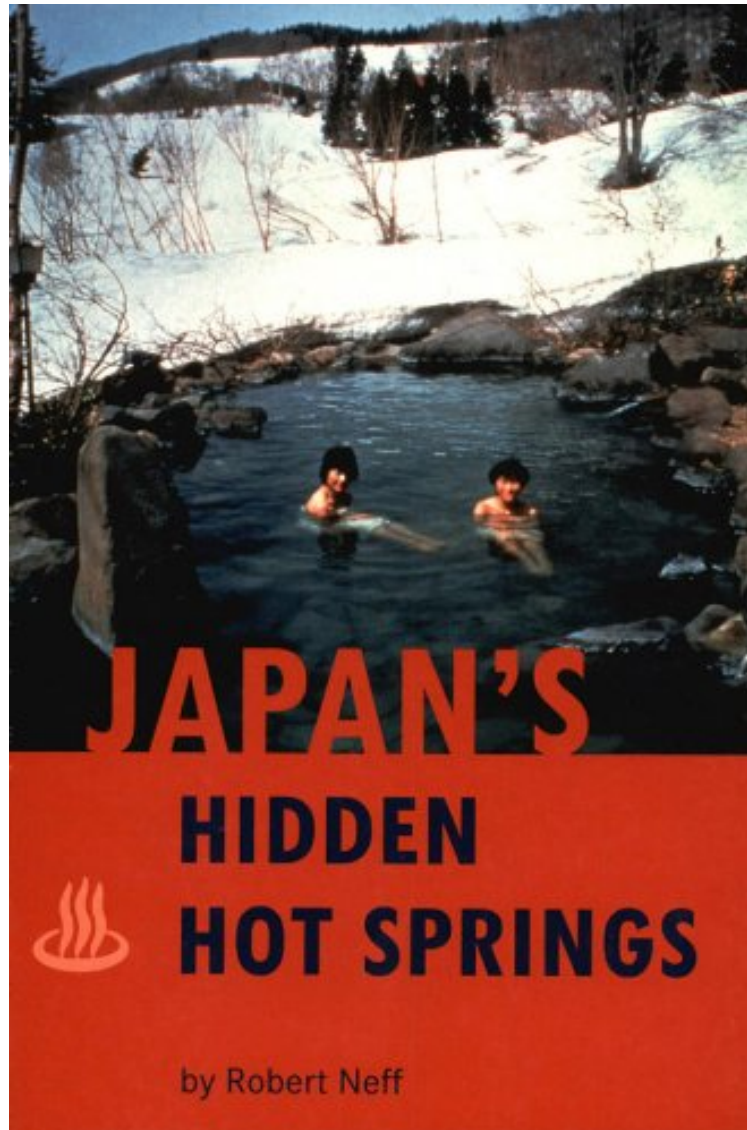


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## Japan's Hidden Hot Springs

*Robert Neff*

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**Robert Neff : Japan's Hidden Hot Springs** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Japan's Hidden Hot Springs:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Outdated book of not-so-secret onsenBy CustomerThis book promises remote and hidden hot springs, but in fact many of the onsen in this book are well known, even famous. I have personally visited several of them and I am by no means an onsen aficionado, having visited only a handful of onsens in Japan.The book is also extremely opinionated, and he dismisses many fine locations in favor of the obscure and run down. For example, he dismisses Shibu onsen as "horrific" (we stayed there and really enjoyed it. Chances are

you will, too) in favor of Jigokudani - a place many reviewers describe as run down, cold and rustic, and which offers the dubious pleasure of bathing in a rotenburo filled with monkey feaces. The problem with being so critical and holding such strong opinions is that many people, maybe most people, may not agree with you. And once you do find that you disagree, his other reviews become untrustworthy. The book is also very outdated, published 20 years ago and never updated. How much of what he writes is still true today? 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. My favorite guide to Japan By Stephan Stuecklin Japan has a lot to offer its visitors: exquisite food, masterful handicrafts, beautiful landscapes and throbbing metropolises, to name but a few. For those who like me enjoy the Japanese traditional hot springs - this epitome of sensual relaxation - Neff's guide leads you to treasures off the beaten path. The few that I've tested have absolutely lived up to expectation and I hope to visit a few more once travels to Japan are in the cards again. If you're headed to Japan, and have the time for real relaxation, plan with this book. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. For the purist By Tim Wu This book is somewhat like the dead sea scrolls of onsen -- it is cryptic, out of date, idiosyncratic -- yet nonetheless powerful. In this book are a unbelievable gems that you would otherwise never, ever, find by yourself. Japanese people are often shocked that you found such a place. But they can be hard to find; and sometimes disappointing or abandoned. The date of this book has had its effects. I place that was "slow" 15 years ago can now be a spooky crumbling ruin (especially in Hokaido). Other places have sometimes gotten better. Bottom line: a manual for the onsen purist. You really don't know what kind of place you'll reach using this book, but I can guarantee it will be a real adventure.

Complete with maps and extensive advice, this guide to Japan's hot springs is an invaluable resource for anyone travelling to Japan. Easier to get to than many might imagine, Japan's hidden hot springs are among the few remaining repositories of ancient Japanese ambiance and sensibility. Bucolic and charming, they bear little resemblance to the sterile, clinic-like spas of the West or to the concrete jungles of Japan's best-known onsen towns. The hot springs introduced here belong to another time but they are disappearing fast. Discover them before it's too late through this selective, personalized, and authoritative guide. In this spa guide are unbelievable gems that you would otherwise never, ever, find by yourself. Japanese people are often shocked that you found such a place. It's a very concise collection of the "true and traditional" Japanese onsen ryokan. It is for anyone who seeks a traditional experience of what onsen used to be before modernization set in.