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For Fukui's Sake: Two years in rural Japan

Sam Baldwin

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For Fukui's Sake: Two years in rural Japan Sam Baldwin
'Witty and highly entertaining; a fascinating insight into the lives of ordinary Japanese people' – Helen Arnold, **1001 Escapes**

'Jocular and candid; essential reading for backpackers and Japanophiles' – Ginny Light, former online editor, **The Times**

'Really evokes that excitement of 'discovering' Japan for the first time. I thoroughly enjoyed it'– Jan Dodd, **Rough Guide To Japan**

'A fascinating journey and call to action' – Mark Hodson, writer, **Sunday Times**

Far from the high-tech, high-rise of the super-cities, there lies another Japan.

A Japan where snakes slither down school corridors, where bears prowl dark forests and where Westerners are still regarded as curious creatures. Welcome to the world of the inaka – the Japanese countryside.

Unhappily employed in the UK, Sam Baldwin decides to make a big change. Saying sayonara to laboratory life, he takes a job as an English teacher on the JET Programme in a small, rural Japanese town that no one – the Japanese included – has ever heard of.

Arriving in Fukui, where there's 'little reason to linger' according to the guidebook, at first he wonders why he left England. But as he slowly settles in to his unfamiliar new home, Sam befriends a colourful cast of locals and begins to discover the secrets of this little known region.

Helped by headmasters, housewives and Himalayan mountain climbers, he immerses himself in a Japan still clutching its pastoral past and uncovers a landscape of lonely lakes, rice fields and lush mountain forests. Joining a master drummer's taiko class, skiing over paddies and learning how to sharpen samurai swords, along the way Sam encounters farmers, fishermen and foreigners behaving badly.

Exploring Japan's culture and cuisine, as well as its wild places and wildlife, For Fukui's Sake is an adventurous, humorous and sometimes poignant insight into the frustrations and fascinations that face an outsider living in small town, backcountry Japan.

For more info see: **ForFukuisSake.com**

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