

尾瀬沼畔  
長 蔵 小屋  
尾瀬ヶ原  
第二長蔵小屋  
尾瀬戸倉  
ロッジ長 蔵

**Mailing address**

Chozo Hut, 982 Tokura, Katashina-mura,  
Tone-gun, Gunma Pref. 378-0411

**Reservation for**

**Chozo Hut on Oze-numa Lake**  
(late April-Nov.)

**The Second Chozo Hut in Oze-ga-hara**  
(late April-Oct.)

**Lodge Chozo in Tokura**  
(all year)

**Call 0278-58-7100**  
**9:00-17:00**

**Fax 0278-58-7101**

**Home-page**

<http://chozogoya.com/>  
**E-mail chozo@guitar.ocn.ne.jp**

**Accommodation in Oze**

is all by reservation. Please call in advance, especially in high season (weekends and summer). Reservation is recommended to make one day prior or on the morning at the latest.

# CHOZO HUT



## OZE

**OZE and CHOZO HUT**

**Oze** : High moor, at junction of Gunma, Fukushima, and Niigata prefectures, central Honshu, part of Nikko National Park. It includes Ozenuma, a lake, and Ozegahara, a marshy moor. Ozegahara (elevation : about 1,400m [4,600 ft]; area:8sq. km [3sq. MI]) is the largest high moor in Japan. Ozenuma, surrounded by several towering peaks, is famous for its natural scenery. Wild-flowers and birds around at Oze. (Source:Kodansha "JAPAN, An Illustrated Encyclopedia").

Chozo Hut founded in 1910 is the oldest in Oze. The three generation of hut owners, Chozo, Choei and Chosei, played an important role for introducing Oze to mountain lovers and preserving it (especially Chosei, who stopped road construction very close to Oze).

Thanks to them, its natural beauty remains.

**ACCESS**

**By train and Bus**

Ueno-2hr. by train-Numata-1hr.50 min. by bus Oshimizu  
3hr. on foot-Chozo Hut  
Tokyo-1hr.10 min. by train-Jomokogen 2 hr. by bus-Hato-  
machi Pass-3 hr. on foot-#2 Chozo Hut

***"Come in the middle of Mother Nature  
and enjoy Her beauty"***

Chozo was born on August 10, 1870 in Hinoemata Village, Fukushima Prefecture. Because his father died when he was a third grader, he had to drop out of school. Luckily he had a desire to learn in spite of hard work and entered the religious life. He became a Shinto priest when he was 20 year old, built Mt. Hiuchi Shrine and staged the Hiuchi Festival on August 10, 1890. He fled from his native village and lived in Nikko, thinking of the mountains. Using donations, he built Chozo Hut on Oze-numa Lake in March, 1910 and was determined to live there for the rest of his life. He had several projects in mind when started living in Oze. One of them was a red salmon hatchery. He ordered millions of red salmon eggs from Lake Towada. For many years he tried, in vain, to make them hatch. His other business ventures failed as well. Then the Oze Dam Project came up: Oze-ga-hara would create a reservoir from the water that flowed from Oze-numa. He opposed the plan on the basis of infringement of his fishing rights and traveled around preaching that Oze should be a natural monument, natural park and reserve. Chozo died at the age of 60 on August 29, 1930. He is buried in his beloved Oze.

***"I am just a small creature living  
in the expanse of nature of that is Oze."***

Choei was a gentle person, while his father was a man of vehement character. In the early years of the Showa Period, Oze didn't face any big issues and Choei spent a peaceful but lonely youth, indulging himself in reading books and writing tanka, a 31-syllable Japanese poem. Above all he loved to read "Walden" by Henry David Thoreau. In 1932 he married Yasuko Takahashi. A common love of tanka brought the two together. The mountaineering boom kept them busy, resulting in days of administrative work. When Japan entered World

War II, Choei entered the military. Under the circumstances, the "hut" suffered from food and fuel shortages and the family faced the start of a hydroelectric plant construction project. The post-war days were difficult for Choei. He was a quiet person, but he also became involved in opposition movements. In 1949 the Oze Conservation Alliance was formed by dedicated and well informed scholars, mountaineers and journalists. In spite of the active opposition movement, the dam were the necessity for the time, and Oze-numa Dam was completed. The nucleus of the present Japan Nature Conservation Association. Choei passed away at the age of 84.

***" We shall preserve the green trails  
of the passes, birds' nesting places  
and Oze because they belong to all."***

Chosei was born in the "hut's" busiest month of August, 1935. After World War II the Hirano family moved to Katashina Village, Gunma Prefecture, where Chosei went to school. During the summer recess he helped at the "hut." After graduating from Numata High School he entered Kyoto University and majored in literature. After taking a B.A. he worked for Hokkaido Shimbun, the leading newspaper company on Hokkaido. Change came when his younger brother was killed at sea in 1967. In 1968 after much consideration and hesitation Chosei returned to the "hut" to assist his father. The next year he married Noriko Suzuki. In 1969 the young couple was confronted with a major road construction project. Chosei launched the Iwatsubame(Martin) Newsletter to stop the construction, saying in it, "It is painful to see mother Nature brutally destroyed in front of my eyes." He made a direct appeal to the Chief of the Environment Agency which started in the same year. He also organized the Oze Conservation Association, giving birth to the conservation movement. Tragically, exhaustion took his life in the blizzard at the age of 36 near Sampei Pass on December 1, 1971.

***Tanka***

***"Mizubasyo (Scunk Cabbage) began to bloom white  
along the lake on a sunny spring day"***

***Choei***

***"Went onto the Yanagiran ( fireweeds) Knoll.  
The marsh was silently covered red with  
autumn grasses "***

***Yasuko***