

Tentative Itinerary of JASSA "Wings of Friendship" Tour of Japan
October 9, 2010 (Sat) to October 17, 2010 (Sun) - 9 days

Group Tour - Tokyo, Kyoto and Kumamoto (including stop-over in Hiroshima)

Oct 9, 2010 (Sat)

8:00 a.m. Leave San Antonio for Narita Tokyo via Dallas/Ft. Worth AA Flight

Oct 10, 2010 (Sun) - Japan is 15 hours ahead of U.S. time in October.

1:40 p.m.? Arrive in Tokyo Narita Airport (AA flight)
After port of entry process, take Airport Bus to downtown Tokyo (1 1/2 hour ride)

4:00 p.m.? Arrive in downtown Tokyo.
Lodging: Mitsui Garden Ginza Premier Hotel (business hotel)
After check-in, free time including supper. Hotel is located one block from Ginza Street (like 5th Avenue in New York) and it is safe to walk around by yourself. You can get many Tokyo Guide brochures in English at hotel. Tokyo Bay is near and you may want to try Dinner Cruises.

Oct 11, 2010 (Mon) Japanese Holiday and U.S. "Columbus Day" Holiday

9:00 a.m. Meet in hotel lobby and board a chartered bus for sightseeing of Tokyo Imperial Palace, Tokyo Tower, Meiji Shrine, Asakusa and Shinjuku areas, etc.
Detained sightseeing places can be discussed and set after JASSA members sign up.

2:00 p.m.? Return to hotel.
Free time including supper or group dinner can be arranged.
* Tokyo is an international city and most of the signs are in Japanese and English so it will be easy for English speaking visitors to go to most of the places without any escorts.
Lodging: Mitsui Garden Ginza Premier Hotel

Oct 12, 2010 (Tues) - Inland travel by one-week JR Pass (1st class - Green)

9:00 a.m. Check-out and walk to JR Yurakucho train station or take a chartered bus to Tokyo Central Station (JR Line).

9:30 a.m. Leave Tokyo for Kyoto by Super Express train "Hikari"(approx. 3 hrs. 15 min.)

12:45 p.m. Arrive at Kyoto JR Station.
Lodging: Hotel Granvia Kyoto (tourist hotel) located in JR Kyoto Station
After check-in, free time including evening or go to Gion Corner Show (samples of Japanese classic arts and entertainment - tea ceremony, Ikebana, Japanese classic dance, Shamisen music, Kabuki, etc. in 1 1/2 hours).

Oct 13, 2010 (Wed)

All day Meet in lobby and board a chartered bus for sightseeing of Kyoto (Kinkaku-ji Golden Palace, Heian Shrine, Kiyomizu Temple, etc.) and visit Nishijin Textile Center and Kyoto Handicraft Center (both have many traditional Kyoto products for souvenirs).
Lunch can be scheduled the time to visit Kyoto Handicraft Center when their cafeteria is opened.

4:00 p.m.? Return to hotel.
Evening - free time.
Lodging: Hotel Granvia Kyoto

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Oct 14, 2010 (Thur)

- 9:00 a.m. Check-out and walk to train platform.
9:15 a.m. Leave Kyoto for Hiroshima by Super Express train "Hikari" (approx. 2 1/2 hrs.)
11:45 a.m.? Arrive Hiroshima. Take a chartered bus to Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Museum and tour of the museum and walk to the Dome Center and Sadako Monument.
2:00 p.m.? Return to the bus and go to Hiroshima JR train station.
2:30 p.m.? Leave Hiroshima for Hakata by Super Express train "Kodama" (approx. 1 hr. 15 min.)
3:45 p.m.? Arrive Hakata.
Change train for JR Kagoshima Line.
4:00 p.m.? Leave Hakata for Kumamoto by Kagoshima Line Express train (approx. 1 hr. 20 min.)
5:20 p.m.? Arrive Kumamoto.
Lodging: Ark Hotel Kumamoto (business hotel located in front of Kumamoto Castle; 2 blocks from shopping arcade and also 2 blocks from Kumamoto City Hall).

Oct 15, 2010 (Fri) Kumamoto City - Sister City of San Antonio since 1987

- 11:00 a.m. * Courtesy visit to Mayor Seishi Ko-yama (confirmed)
11:30 a.m. * Courtesy visit to Chairman of Kumamoto City Council (confirmed).
12:00 noon * Lunch
Afternoon Lecture / discussions / get-together with Kumamoto citizens group over lunch or dinner (Confirmed)
* Sightseeing of Kumamoto City
* Free time.
Lodging: Ark Hotel Kumamoto

Oct 16, 2010 (Sat) Day trip to Outside of Kumamoto City by Chartered Bus

Kumamoto City officials and citizens to join.

- * Mt. Aso - Active Volcano
or * Amakusa Islands known as Hidden Christian islands
or * Trip to Nagasaki by ferry
Lodging: Ark Hotel Kumamoto

Oct 17, 2010 (Sun) for JASSA delegation members who want to return to San Antonio from Kumamoto

- 10:00 a.m.? Check-out hotel and go to Kumamoto Airport by chartered bus.
11:00 a.m.? Arrive at Kumamoto Airport.
1:00 a.m.? Leave Kumamoto Airport for Haneda domestic airport.
2:30 a.m.? Arrive at Haneda Airport.
Get baggage and take airport bus to Narita Tokyo International Airport.
4:00 p.m.? Arrive at Narita Airport. Check-in for return flight.
6:00 p.m.? Leave Narita for DFW
You arrive in San Antonio about the same time you left Japan because of 15-hour time difference between U.S. and Japan.

If anyone who wishes to stay in Japan longer or shorten the stay on Tokyo or Kyoto or Kumamoto or any other cities, we will be happy to make arrangements. However, we want to ask all delegation members to try their best to stay in a group until we visit Kumamoto so our trip to Kumamoto City will be considered official JASSA delegation and San Antonio citizen's visit to our Sister City.