

**PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT
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**JCCCNC's 20th Anniversary Cultural Tour to Japan
October 31-November 10, 2017**

This year, the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) celebrates its 20th anniversary of cultural tours to Japan organized by volunteer tour guide Diane Matsuda. The goal of each tour is to provide travelers with an authentic and unique experience of the regions they visit by engaging with local residents, artisans and merchants. Tours include learning about regional foods, history, local traditions and handicrafts of the places visited.

The JCCCNC anniversary tour travels to Osaka in celebration of San Francisco's Sister City relationship with the City of Osaka.

To honor the occasion, the JCCCNC has created a special culinary tour to Osaka from October 31 - November 10 where participants will be treated to exceptionally created meals and demonstrations to appreciate the City's passion, expertise and pride for its culinary dishes. For centuries Osaka has been known as the "Kitchen of Japan" because of its proximity to the ocean and waterways, access to high quality ingredients and many trading merchants.



The tour includes a discussion on the foundation of *dashi*—the essential staple to any Japanese meal as well as learning about and tasting dishes that were originally created in Osaka such as *udonsuki* and *akashiyaki*. Demonstrations and tours to local companies around Osaka featuring confectionary and local crafts are also part of this culturally and culinary filled

10-day itinerary.

The trip will not end there. The last two days will be dedicated to visiting the neighboring prefecture of Wakayama, the *birthplace of shoyu* and the prefecture that boasts the oldest onsens in all of Japan. The tour will visit and learn about the production of shoyu while visiting the town of Yuasa, make its way to the Kumano Kodo to witness Japan's tallest waterfall, **Nachi Falls** and pay respect to the **Nachi Shrine**. A brief visit to the Yunomine Onsen will provide the opportunity for participants to learn, make and eat their own *onsen tamago!*



Past cultural tours include all the prefectures of the Tohoku region; Sapporo's Snow Festival; Furusato Tour to Japan, Fukuoka, Ishikawa, Nagoya, Matsuyama, tours across other parts of the country including the Japan Seaside, Hokuriku, Chugoku, Kyuushu and Okinawa regions.

The initial tour in 1997 was created under the guidance and support of Tomoye Takahashi of Takahashi Imports. As a successful businesswoman who imported a great array of local crafts, ceramics and antiques, Mrs. Takahashi made several trips to Japan per year starting from the 1950's visiting artisan towns and was introduced to many local traditions and regional specialties. She therefore wanted to find a way to share her knowledge with other Japanese Americans and fully supported JCCCNC's interest in a Cultural Tour.

This year's tour is made possible through the partnership of the Osaka International House Foundation, the Osaka-SF 100th Committee and with local government, business and individuals in Osaka in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the San Francisco-Osaka Sister City Relationship. Special thanks to the Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation for their support of the JCCCNC's Cultural Tours Program.

The tour will fly into and depart from Tokyo Haneda Airport on **Japan Airlines**, the JCCCNC's preferred airline to Japan. Tour logistics and activities have been arranged through Kintetsu International. A \$500 deposit for the tour and application are due by August 15. Applications can be found at www.jcccnc.org.

For more information on the cost and specific itinerary, please contact the JCCCNC at info@jcccnc.org or (415) 567-5505 or Charles Chua, Assistant General Manager of Kintetsu International at (408) 544-2445 or Naomichi Takehara, Sales manager of Kintetsu International at (408) 544-2451.

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About the JCCCNC

Envisioned by the Japanese American community, the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) will be an everlasting foundation of our Japanese American ancestry, cultural heritage, histories and traditions. The JCCCNC strives to meet the evolving needs of the Japanese American community through programs, affordable services and facility usage. The JCCCNC is a non-profit community center based in San Francisco.