

2014 JASSC Trip Through Tohoku

Visiting people and projects supported by the JASSC 2011 Japan Relief Fund

September 8 – September 14, 2014

Optional: September 5–7, 9th International Conference of America-Japan Societies and Japan America Societies in Sapporo, Hokkaido (Please contact JAS office for more information at 310-965-9050, ext. 104)

Tour includes –

1. **7-night accommodations, including one night in a traditional Japanese inn and three nights at the Imperial Hotel Tokyo** (6 nights for those attending the conference in Sapporo*)
2. **Breakfast daily (7)** (6 for those attending the conference in Sapporo*)
3. **Lunches in Ofunato and Ishinomaki**
4. **Traditional Japanese dinner in Ofunato**
5. **Visit to Hiraizumi, Tohoku's first UNESCO World Heritage Site**
6. **Ofunato elementary and junior high school music performances**
7. **Visit to Rikuzentakata's "Tree of Hope"**
8. **Meetings and discussions with tsunami survivors**
9. **Expert, bilingual guides from JAS partnering disaster recovery organizations at main visits (Ofunato, Sendai/Ishinomaki and Fukushima)**
10. **English speaking guide and motor coach for 4 days (Sept. 8-11)**
11. **East Japan Railway Company (JR East) arrangements from Sendai to Hanamaki, Ichinoseki to Sendai, Sendai to Fukushima and Fukushima to Tokyo** (not JR pass)
12. **"JAS Friendship Reception" at Imperial Hotel Tokyo**
13. **Takkyubin/luggage service from Sendai to Tokyo**
14. **Airport limousine transfer from Imperial Hotel to Narita**

* In lieu of an overnight stay and breakfast in Sendai on September 7th, tour participants attending the conference in Sapporo will take Japan Airlines flight #2833 from Sapporo to Hanamaki Airport on September 8th

Support for the JAS Trip Through Tohoku generously provided by



IMPERIAL HOTEL
TOKYO



Yamato Travel Bureau®

Tour Itinerary

Day 1, Sat., September 6 – Los Angeles International Airport

Overnight flight, crossing the International Date Line to Tokyo, arriving at Narita Airport at 5:00pm, Sunday, September 7.

Change planes for one hour flight to Sendai. Overnight stay at Hotel Metropolitan Sendai, or similar hotel.

Day 2, Mon., September 8 – Hanamaki - Hiraizumi - Ofunato



After breakfast, we will take East Japan Railway Company (JR East) *shinkansen* “bullet train” at 11:30am, arriving in Hanamaki City at 12:40pm.

An English speaking guide will meet members and transfer to the airport to join other tour members (arriving from Sapporo by plane).

We will go by motor coach to Hiraizumi City to visit Chusonji Temple, Tohoku’s first UNESCO recognized World Heritage Site. Founded in 850, Chusonji is home to *Konjiki-do* (Golden Hall), which recreates an “ideal Buddhist world” in this world, and Motsuji Temple, famous for its *Jodo* (Pure Land) garden, one of Japan’s most beautiful gardens.



We will then go to Ofunato City for dinner and overnight stay at Ryokan Koyokan, a traditional Japanese inn and *onsen* (Japanese bath) rebuilt after the tsunami.

During dinner at Ryokan Koyokan, we will be joined by Satoshi Kitahama, a long-term and dedicated volunteer to the recovery of the region. He is also founder and representative director of Kizuna Foundation. Dr. Unoura, father of JAS Governor, Masako Unoura Tanaka, and two influential city council members of Ofunato will join us and provide an update on the region’s recovery process.

Day 3, Tue., September 9 – Ofunato - Rikuzentakata - Sendai

After a traditional breakfast at Ryokan Koyokan, we will go by motor coach to nearby Ryori Fishery.

Thanks to Satoshi Kitahama and Kizuna Foundation, the JASSC 2011 Japan Relief Fund was able to make a \$70,000 donation to help rebuild Ryori Fishery, its pier and supporting buildings.

The donation was matched 8:1, resulting in total donation of \$560,000. Today, Ryori Fishery supports more than 500 fishing boats, thus, more than 500 families. We will witness fishing operations and meet with leaders from Ryori Fishery Cooperative.



Day 3 (continued)

We will then visit the Ofunato Fire Department, which worked with the LA County Fire Department's Search & Rescue Team immediately after the disaster.

Lunch will be included at one of the *kasetsu* (temporary building) restaurants in Ofunato. Following lunch we will visit Sakari Elementary and Ofunato Junior High schools. A combined \$50,000 donation from JASSC and the Asia America Symphony Association replaced music instruments lost in the tsunami. The students will perform for us!

We will then travel through Rikuzentakata City, one of the most severely devastated cities. 1,700 citizens perished and many more are still missing. Over 3,300 buildings were either



completely or partially destroyed. Included in the buildings washed away or ruined are the city hall, library, museum, gymnasium, civic center, hospital, pre-schools, day care centers, elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, parks, fire department, and more.

Once home to 70,000 beautiful, 300 year-old cedar trees, Rikuzentakata lost all but one. We will visit the remaining "Tree of Hope", a poignant symbol for Tohoku's recovery.

We will then pass through Kesenuma, where JAS Governor, Masako Unoura Tanaka, miraculously survived the tsunami. Then on to Ichinoseki.

From Ichinoseki, we will take JR East *shinkansen* to Sendai City and check into the Hotel Metropolitan Sendai, or similar hotel.

Day 4, Wed., September 10 – Sendai - Ishinomaki

After breakfast, we will visit Arahama Elementary School, where 300 citizens and students escaped the tsunami on its rooftop. Every other surrounding building was swept away. We will also visit a nearby memorial on the beach of Arahama.

Ms. Momoyo Kaijima, founding member of ArchiAid, will join us as a second guide. ArchiAid is an international network of architects and universities that is working to help the recovery of Tohoku. Kaijima was instrumental in the development of the "Core House", a permanent, sound and comfortable living structure for those who lost their homes in the tsunami. The award-winning Core House was supported by a \$50,000 donation from the JASSC 2011 Japan Relief Fund.

With Kaijima as our guide, we will visit Hamaguri Hama fishing village, once home to nine fishing families. Only two families remain. We will meet with Takakazu Kameyama, a young man who lost his wife and child to the tsunami. He decided to move back to his home village, and his vision and plans both are an inspiration and a template for other struggling small fishing villages. We will enjoy lunch at his new café and learn more about recovery among smaller fishing villages. After lunch, we will visit and enjoy traditional Japanese tea at the very first Core House in Momonoura Hama fishing village.



Core House in Momonoura Hama

Day 4 (continued)



Then we will visit a “Taylor Anderson Book Corner” or *Taylor Bunko*, at Mangokuura Elementary School. Taylor was an assistant English Teacher at Mangokuura Elementary School. After the earthquake, she helped comfort the students and stayed with them until they were picked up by parents. She was last seen riding her bicycle to her apartment. JAS made a \$50,000 donation to support the Taylor Anderson

Memorial Fund. We will be joined by Shinichi Endo, father to three children lost in the tsunami. Endo is a master carpenter who builds the shelves for the *Taylor Bunko*. Two of his children were students of Taylor Anderson. Afterwards, we will visit Endo’s “Memorial” to his children, a large wood bridge for children to play on and enjoy.

Day 5, Thu., September 11 – Sendai - Tokyo



After breakfast, we will visit Rinnoji Temple, founded in 1441. It includes a beautiful Japanese garden and pagoda well worth visiting. Enjoy the inner gardens, walk along the various paths, admire the *koi* fish, the three-storied pagoda and the well-tended trees, flowers and plants. There are also areas sit and relax as you take in the scenery.



Lunch on your own, then travel to Fukushima City by JR East *shinkansen*. We will be joined by Patrick Newell, Tokyo-based entrepreneur and founder of Living Dreams. Living Dreams is the nonprofit, all volunteer organization JAS has worked with to support two children’s homes (“orphanages”) in Fukushima – Aoba Gakuen, home to 55 children, and Fukushima Aikuen, home to 92 children, ages 2 to 18.

We will visit Fukushima Aikuen (FA) children’s home, meet with leaders and staff, and tour the home. While the grounds are safe today, for two years after 3.11, children had to stay indoors due to the contamination from the crippled nuclear power plant. Thanks to a grant from TOMODACHI, in July 2013 and again in July 2014, JAS was able to provide a life-changing exchange experience for eight FA children. The children were “pioneers” as the first to travel overseas in FA’s 121 year history. We will meet with some of the children.



We will then take JR East *shinkansen* to Tokyo. On arrival, we will enjoy transfer to the Imperial Hotel Tokyo.

Day 6, Fri, September 12 – Tokyo



For our early risers, we will provide a visit to Tsukiji Fish Market, one of the largest wholesale food markets of any kind.



Other meetings we are working to confirm include -

- Briefing at the Embassy of the United State of America, and courtesy meeting with U.S. Ambassador Caroline Kennedy (to be confirmed)
- Visit and tour of Japan External Trade Organization headquarters
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs meeting with Director-General Junichi Ihara, past Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles. Ihara is now in charge of Japan's relationship with North Korea, South Korea and China (meeting pending world events).
- We will also do our best to accommodate requests for other meetings or visits to areas of interest in Tokyo.

Day 7, Sat. September 13 – Tokyo



Imperial Hotel Tokyo Lobby

In the evening, you will enjoy a special JAS Friendship Reception at the Imperial Hotel Tokyo. All of JAS's past members who have returned to Japan will be invited to join, include past Consuls General to LA, business leaders and friends.

Saturday during the day, we can arrange visits and activities on a case-by-case basis, once we know the make-up of our tour participants.



Day 8, Sun. September 14 – Narita International Airport

Board your flight to Los Angeles, crossing back over the International Date Line, arriving in Los Angeles on September 14; gaining back the day we lost on the flight to Tokyo.

LAND ONLY COST

For a minimum of 10 people –

\$2,695.00 per person, based on two people sharing a twin-bedded room. For single occupancy, there is a \$525 single supplement.

For a minimum of 15 people –

\$2,435.00 per person, based on two people sharing a twin-bedded room. For single occupancy, there is a \$525 single supplement

AIRFARE

Airfare will be provided separately based on the lowest economy class fare at the time of booking. Yamato Travel Bureau will be pleased to assist you with your flight reservations.

LOCAL TOUR GUIDES

Mr. Satoshi Kitahama, *Founder and Representative Director*, [Kizuna Foundation](#)

Ms. Momoyo Kaijima, *Founding Member*, [ArchiAid](#)

Mr. Patrick Newell, *Founder*, [Living Dreams](#)

ENGLISH SPEAKING TOUR GUIDE (Sept. 8 – 11)

To be announced.

TOUR ESCORT

Mr. Douglas Erber, President, Japan America Society of Southern California

NOTE

Itinerary is subject to change without notice.

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

For flight arrangements, please contact Yamato Travel Bureau® –

YAMATO TRAVEL BUREAU®

(California Seller of Travel Registration No. 1019309-10)

250 East First Street, Suite 1112

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone (213) 680-0333 / toll free (800) 334-4982

Email groups@yamatotravel.com

2014 JASSC Trip Through Tohoku

Visiting people and projects supported by the JASSC 2011 Japan Relief Fund

September 8 – September 14, 2014

Reservation Form

Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____ Birth Date _____

Please use legal name as it appears on your passport (A valid passport is required)

Passport Number _____

Date of Issue _____ Expiration Date _____

City, State, Country of Issuance _____

Citizenship _____

Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____ Birth Date _____

Please use legal name as it appears on your passport (A valid passport is required)

Passport Number _____

Date of Issue _____ Expiration Date _____

City, State, Country of Issuance _____

Citizenship _____

Preferred Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(Final documents may be sent by UPS, please advise most convenient delivery address for this purpose.)

Phone number (_____) _____

Home Cell (_____) _____

Business (_____) _____

E-mail address: _____

Reservation Form (continued)

Airline Mileage Program Membership Numbers:

Airline _____ Account Number _____

Airline _____ Account Number _____

Airline _____ Account Number _____

If you are not a member of any airline programs, would you be interested in enrolling?
___ Yes ___ No

Airline seat preference – aisle / window (request only) _____

Please advise if you are celebrating a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, etc. and specify date and event.

Please advise if there are any special dietary, medical or physical problems of which we should be aware.

Contact information in case of emergency:

Name _____

Relationship _____ Phone (_____) _____

Name _____

Relationship _____ Phone (_____) _____

PLEASE SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION AND NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT OF \$200.00 PER PERSON, ALONG WITH A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR VALID PASSPORT TO:

JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Attention: JAS Trip Through Tohoku
1411 West 190th Street, Suite 380
Gardena, CA 90248-4361
Phone (310) 965-9050, ext. 104
Email amano@jas-socal.org

Final payment is due on July 7, 2014

2014 JASSC Trip Through Tohoku

Visiting people and projects supported by the JASSC 2011 Japan Relief Fund

September 8 – September 14, 2014

Terms and Conditions

AIR FARE

Air will be quoted separately.

HOTELS

First-class or comparable hotels with twin-bedded rooms with bath. There is an additional charge for single occupancy. Non-smoking rooms are always requested, but cannot be guaranteed. Every hotel is carefully selected for quality, comfort and location. Advise your tour escort or guide immediately should you have any problems with your room.

MEALS

Breakfast daily (7) (6 breakfasts for those attending the conference in Sapporo)

Lunches (2) in Ofunato (Sept. 9) and Ishinomaki (Sept. 10)

Dinner (2) in Ofunato (Sept. 8) and Imperial Hotel Tokyo (JAS Reception on Sept.13)

SIGHTSEEING & TRANSFERS

By chartered coach micro-bus, van or taxi with handling of baggage not exceeding one normal sized suitcase per person.

BAGGAGE

You are requested to limit yourself to one check-in suitcase (not to exceed 62 linear inches in dimension) per person during the tour. In addition, one carry-on bag (not exceeding 45 linear inches) of a size to fit under the airplane seat may be taken. Airline baggage information will be provided separately.

GUIDE

An English-speaking guide-escort will be with us from September 8 – 11.

Bilingual, expert guides from JAS partnering disaster recovery organizations will join us at each major stop (Ofunato, Sendai / Ishinomaki and Fukushima).

TAXES

On hotel accommodations, meals and other services included in the tour. Charges for planning and operation are included. All rates are based upon tariffs and exchange rates in effect as of January 2014, and are subject to change without notice.

Terms and Conditions (continued)

CANCELLATION

After confirmation, the following cancellation penalties will apply: Deposit of \$200.00 is nonrefundable. Up to 59-30 days prior to departure, 25% of the tour cost will be collected; less than 30 days prior, no refund will be made. Travel protection is highly recommended. Please call Yamato Travel Bureau office for a travel insurance brochure. Final payment is generally due 60 days prior to departure, unless noted otherwise.

TOUR FARE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

Transportation of heavy baggage and baggage in excess of the above limit; conveyances used for individual purposes; room service charges; airport taxes and or/passenger facilities fees at airports; wine, mineral water, tea and coffee outside table d'hote menu; laundry; service obtaining passports, visas or other documents required for entry; other items of a purely personal nature.

TERMS OF LIABILITY

Japan America Society of Southern California and Yamato Travel Bureau® and/or travel agents act only as agents for the owners or contractors providing means of transportation or other services. All terms and conditions under which such means of transportation or other services are offered or provided and the issuance and acceptance of such tickets and coupons shall be deemed consent to further conditions that we shall not be or become liable or responsible in any way in connection with such means of transportation or other person or property howsoever caused or arising. We also reserve the right to change the routings or hotels of the tour outlined should conditions warrant. Should we deem it advisable for any reason to withdraw or cancel the tour, we shall be absolved of all liability upon return to tour members of all monies paid. Right is reserved to decline or accept or retain any persons as a member at any time. The airlines or other carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event when passengers are not on board their planes or conveyances. The passage contract in use by the airlines or other carriers concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the passenger. Rate and/or schedules are subject to change without notice.