

Japan Tour 2009

Shito-ryu Karate-do Kofukan International Japan



Information Bulletin

10/08

Kofukan members from all round the world have shown great interest in the trip to Japan next year. This notice is to give everybody more information, so that you can decide whether you will join the group and start to make your plans.

The 2009 Kofukan International Championships will take place on Sunday August 16 in Izushi (a popular mountain spa town in Hyogo prefecture) and the Shukokai 60th Anniversary World Championship will be in Kobe (also Hyogo prefecture) on the following weekend, the 23rd.

That means that participants should arrive in Osaka, Japan at least in time for the transfer from Osaka to Izushi by bus around mid-day on Friday August 14. People will be at liberty to leave Japan on or after Monday August 24 after participating in both Championships. We will only undertake to arrange accommodation and travel between August 14 - 24, although we may be able to help with additional dates for parties arriving earlier / leaving later.

Children (under 18 years) will need to travel with a parent or will need to have a written permission from a parent or guardian if travelling with any other responsible adult, regardless of nationality.

The Kofukan group in Izushi are trying to arrange the opportunity of home stays in the village for some participants. Places will be limited, and we envisage that preference will be given to children and/or families, as the hosts will be keen for their children to interact with international visitors. **If you wish to be considered for a home stay place please send details of age, gender, grade if karateka, as soon as possible. We cannot guarantee places but will do our best to accommodate people.** Principal accommodation should be at the Izushi Grand Hotel, which 1999 participants will remember for its comfortable rooms and public areas. They also have a small indoor swimming pool.

See page 3
for more
details.

Features of the 2009 Kofukan Japan Trip:

- Two Championships for both Junior and Senior competitors
- Junior grade categories for adults at the Shukokai World Championship
- Tournament parties
- Group sightseeing
- Group Transfers
- Good value accomodation



TOURNAMENT DETAILS

In 1999, the Shukokai Championship was on the first weekend of the trip. In 2009, the first tournament will be our own Kofukan Championship. This is the itinerary planned so far:

Friday August 14—All participants to meet at the bus pick-up point in Osaka by 12 noon

Transfer to Izushi, check in at hotel or transfer to home stay, evening meal

Saturday August 15—Team training opportunities; social meeting with local karate-ka and supporters

Sunday August 16—Kofukan International Championship 2009, followed by party

Monday August 17—Transfer to Osaka, hotel check-in, evening at leisure (possible group meal)

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday August 18 / 19 / 20 - Sightseeing, leisure, social gatherings

Friday August 21—Transfer to Kobe, hotel check-in, afternoon sightseeing, evening meal

Saturday August 22—Team training opportunities; social meeting with local karate-ka and supporters

Sunday August 23—Shukokai World Championship, group celebration party

Monday August 24—Transfer to Osaka, possible free evening / overnight in Osaka, or to airport for onward travel / journey home

Kofukan World Cup 2009

The categories for this championship have been slightly amended as agreed at the pre-tournament meeting in Lincoln. The Cadet and Junior sections are open to most grades and are not only for elite teams, with no restriction on the number of entrants per category. The Senior event, however, is only for each country's elite squad and entries are restricted to numbers shown on the entry form.

KATA

JUNIOR SECTION

Under 10 years (7+) GIRLS / BOYS

10 years GIRLS / BOYS

11 / 12 years GIRLS / BOYS

13 years GIRLS / BOYS

14 / 15 years GIRLS / BOYS

*Divided by grade at least from age 11

*Under 14 yrs Any kata

*14 yrs + : No Pinan katas

* (changed as per 2008 meeting)

TEAM KATA (MIXED SEX OR SINGLE SEX) Under 16 yrs (3 members per team)

CADET SECTION

16 & 17 years GIRLS / BOYS

TEAM KATA (MIXED SEX OR SINGLE SEX) 16 & 17 yrs (3 members per team)

SENIOR SECTION

Male (18 yrs and over)

Female

TEAM KATA (MIXED SEX OR SINGLE SEX)

KUMITE

JUNIOR

Groups to be sub-divided by height

*(changed as per 2008 meeting)

10 / 11 years GIRLS / BOYS

12 / 13 years GIRLS / BOYS

14 / 15 years GIRLS / BOYS

Team

Girls Team Kumite

Boys Team Kumite

1 competitor of 10/11 yrs, 1 of 12/13 yrs, 1 of 14/15 yrs in each team

CADET SECTION

Girls 16 & 17 yrs (Possibly Divided by weight)

Boys 16 & 17 yrs (Possibly Divided by weight)

Team (Open weight)

Girls Team Kumite (3 person team + 1 reserve)

Boys Team Kumite (3 person team + 1 reserve + 1 reserve)

SENIOR SECTION

FEMALE U60KG KUMITE 18 years +

FEMALE 60KG+ KUMITE 18 years +

MALE U68KG KUMITE 18 years +

MALE U78KG KUMITE 18 years +

MALE 78KG+ KUMITE 18 years +

Team

MALE TEAM KUMITE 18 years +
(5 + 2 reserves)

FEMALE TEAM KUMITE 18 years +
(3 + 1 reserve)

THE FOLLOWING ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE ACCORDING TO NUMBERS OF ENTRIES

Shukokai 60th Anniversary World Cup

All sections of the Shukokai World Cup are open to any number of entrants, not just selected national teams. However, each country must make its own decision who to enter into the tournament. We will only accept entries via the secretariat of each country.

Also, in addition to black belt categories, there are kyu grade sections for adults, as well as for Juniors and Cadets.

We will send you full details of categories and entry forms for this tournament as soon as we have them.

WHERE TO ARRIVE ?

The airport you should fly to for the Kofukan trip is "Osaka Kansai" International Airport, although you can fly to the old "Osaka" International Airport via Tokyo if you cannot fly direct to "Osaka Kansai" from your country. Or maybe you would like to fly in to Osaka, transfer to Tokyo after the tournaments to extend your holiday, and fly out of Tokyo. There are many opportunities to tailor your trip according to how much time and money you have! and what your travel provider will allow you to do.

We will soon contact some major airlines, like Japan Airlines, and try to negotiate a special deal for us flying from various countries. I will let you know the outcome as soon as possible. Meanwhile, please start your own enquiries in your country. Several major airlines fly to Japan, so you should have a choice.

You may want to arrive in Japan on Wednesday or Thursday August 12 / 13 to allow yourselves time to acclimatise and to get rid of jet-lag before the first tournament, and to leave on Tuesday after the Shukokai World Cup (Monday may be too soon, as you will need to go from Kobe to Osaka Airport). Of course, you are free to stay longer if you wish but no guarantee can be given that you will be looked after by Shihan Tomiyama or Omi or our Japanese hosts after Tuesday.

OTHER TRAVEL

For those who would like to extend their stay, a Japan Rail Pass for 7 days is approximately GB£200 / 250 Euros (1/2 price for children) and allows almost unlimited travel throughout Japan (JR network only). 14 and 21 day passes are also available. **They can only be purchased from outside Japan.** www.japanrailpass.net will tell you all about the prices and conditions, but you may want to check with your travel agent or with other web sites to see if you can buy at a better price. This ticket will not be appropriate for the main part of the trip, as we will be moving around as a group by different types of transport. There are also regional train passes.

HOTELS

The hotel accommodation in Kobe and Osaka is still being investigated. We will do our best to get reasonable quality at a price that is not too expensive, while being able to keep the group together. This will depend on numbers. In Kobe in 1999 we used 2 hotels. We are hoping to keep within £30-35 per night/per person including breakfast. When arranged, bookings should be made through us, but payment will probably be direct to the hotels.

Principal accommodation in Izushi will be at the Izushi Grand Hotel, for 3 nights, 14/15/16 August; Kobe and Osaka hotels will be as central as possible.

See page 4 for a guide to possible expenses.

SIGHTSEEING



Some of you have experienced the 'temple-speed' of our usual Japan trips, when senior grades visit Japan mainly for training opportunities. It could sometimes be likened to an army route-march and is not for the faint-hearted! On this trip things will be a little more leisurely. Some easy-going sightseeing trips will be arranged, for instance to Himeji castle, Kyoto and Nara, probably on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after the Kofukan World Cup before moving to Kobe on Thursday or Friday for the Shukokai Championship.

If you have any question or enquiry, please do not hesitate to contact us here at the International Secretariat.

TOUR BUDGET

We cannot give any exact figures yet, but this will give you an idea of what you need to include in your budget for your trip:-

Kofukan International Secretariat:
 Beck House
 Town Street
 Westborough
 Newark
 NG23 5HQ ENGLAND

Phone: 01400 281815
 Email: sally@tomiyama.freemail.co.uk

Flight The big one! Various prices

Transfers airport to city and return ... approx. 10 EUROS each way

Transfers to Izushi & return by bus and Local travel To be advised

Hotels, including breakfast To be advised

Tournament parties 2 of them. Probably more than usual ! As the cost of venues is quite expensive in Japan.

Daily meals : Lunch (for example curry and rice!) can be bought for 5—10 EUROS

Dinner—Japanese, Chinese, Italian, fast food—many choices available.

From about 10 EUROS. Average Chinese 20 EUROS Drinks extra, of course

Entry fees to tourist attractions Pretty cheap, from about 3—10 EUROS

(Entry fees to tournaments to be paid by each country in advance)

As a rough guide, the members of Kofukan trips to Japan normally require about £500 per week, apart from air fares.

Other useful information for your trip

- Please note : there will be no gradings performed in Japan, due to the busy schedule.
- People from some countries may need a visa, so check with your nearest Japanese Embassy or Consulate.
- Japan is largely a cash society. Credit cards are accepted in main stores and tourist areas, but can be refused in smaller stores, especially in remoter areas. Banks are normally only open from about 9 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Monday to Friday. Travellers cheques can be useful.
- You can go from Osaka to Tokyo by 'Bullet train' (Shinkansen), normal train, road or plane. The Japan Rail Pass covers travel by Bullet train (but not the fastest one, the Nozomi). [see page 3] The Bullet train to Tokyo takes 3 hours. One return journey Osaka / Tokyo / Osaka costs more than the 1-week Japan Rail Pass.
- It used to be that you could not use non-Japanese mobile phones in Japan (different system). However, now you can use 3G phones. It is best to use them for international calls, as calls within Japan would be expensive, and for sending texts, which is the most economical way of keeping in touch. If you feel you really need a mobile phone to keep contact with other people in Japan, foreigners cannot currently buy phones (for security reasons) but you can hire phones there. Japanese phones do not use text, they use e-mail. A Japanese mobile phone cannot be used in the rest of the world !
- There are many internet cafes, which are cheap.
- You'll find hot and cold drinks for sale from machines on the street wherever you go (almost!)