

Naha: Ms. Uchino & Mr. Matsuura

Today we would like to tell you about a famous and fascinating city in southern Japan. This city is more than 1000 kilometers away from Kobe. However, you can easily reach the city by plane. It has a population of about 300,000 people and an area of 40 square kilometers. There are many fun and exciting things to do in this city. The people in this city have a different culture than the people in the mainland of Japan, and the atmosphere is different, too. This city is Naha!

There are many power spots in Okinawa, and Okinawa is called "the Island of God". You can feel the energy and sacred atmosphere overflowing from the magnificent nature. Many people think of Shuri Castle and Kouri Island as the symbols of Okinawa. They are places where the scenery is beautiful, and there is a lot of history, and many tourists go there.

Shuri Castle was the residence of the king and the center of the Ryukyu Kingdom, which prospered for about 450 years. The building is a perfect fusion of Chinese, Japanese, and Ryukyu architectural styles, with beautiful bright red roof tiles. However, on October 31, 2019, Shuri Castle burned down, and six major buildings and many arts and crafts were destroyed by fire. Still, Shuri Castle has many charms. First of all, we recommend visiting Shureimon Gate. When you look at the Shureimon, you will realize that you have come to Okinawa. After passing by the Shureimon, you will see the Sonohyan-utaki Stone Gate, which is registered as a World Heritage Site. In addition, there is a restaurant in the castle that sells taco rice and soki soba. We really want you to visit Shuri Castle.

Wait a minute. What about Kouri Island?! Let us tell you about that. Kouri Island is an island next to Yagaji Island at the north part of Okinawa Island. There two reasons why this island is fascinating. First, here is a beach called Tokeihama. We recommend this spot because it has a very beautiful landscape. Second, there are two rocks called Heart Rock. Let me explain about this. There is a beach called Chine Beach opposite Kouri Ohashi Bridge. From there if you look at the rocks from a certain angle, they look like a heart. This is Heart Rock. We really recommend this spot because it's romantic.

In Naha, you should also visit International Street. It is the most popular shopping street in Okinawa. It is a lively downtown area. The main boulevard is the center of commerce and entertainment, lined with Western and Okinawan boutiques. There are various food shops on International Street. We recommend buying the "Red Potato Tart Okinawa Kirari". It's a very delicious dessert, so please try it once. We also recommend making a "Shisa". The "Shisa" is a legendary beast statue and is very famous in Okinawa. You can experience various things such as painting Shisa and making Shisa. Girls can also make accessories using natural stones.

Today, we talked about a beautiful and fascinating city in southern Japan, In Naha, we really recommend that you go to International Street. It is a shopping street loved and cherished by the people of Okinawa. Please visit there when you go to Naha. If you are tired of COVID-19, please visit Naha once. There are many beautiful beaches, and you can easily visit them. You will be able to experience the atmosphere different from Kobe. Please go to Naha. You will have a great time!

Nagoya: Ms. Hu & Mr. Ikeda

Today we would like to tell you about a beautiful and historic city and a city where the food is really delicious. This city is only about sixty minutes by bullet train from Kobe, but it has a very different atmosphere. Kobe is busy and stressful. By contrast, this city is more lively and exciting and has a famous castle and a big aquarium. This city is Nagoya.

There are many things to see and do in Nagoya. First, you should visit the central area. For example, you should visit the Port of Nagoya Public Aquarium. There is a very famous orca in the aquarium. What's more, you can experience what it is like to work at the aquarium there. Next, you can visit the Oasis 21 Shopping Center. This shopping center has a very beautiful night view. If you have a date in Nagoya at night, this is the place to go. Then go up the Nagoya Television Tower to get a nice view of the city. This TV tower was recently refurbished. There is also a fashionable restaurant, which is very beautiful. Osu Shotengai Shopping Street is nearby and is also a great place to go shopping. Many local foods of Nagoya are sold there. Second, you should visit Maizuru Park and Nagoya Castle, which is in the park. You will be able to enjoy the nature in the park. At Nagoya Castle, you can see the beautiful castle and the famous golden "Shachihoko" creatures on the roof. It was made 400 years ago. In addition, you can feel the traditional atmosphere of Japan. Next, make sure to visit Kinshachi Yokocho Town. It is a busy and exciting place with many food stands. It also has many great Nagoya restaurants. Nagoya is famous for "akamiso" soup, "misokatsu" pork cutlets, and "unagi" eel. These foods have a long history. We really recommend that you try them. There may be only a few people who have been to Nagoya, but it is not so far, so why not go there on a vacation with your family?

Today we have talked about Nagoya, a historic city in the center of Japan. There are many things to do there. If you like to eat delicious food, go shopping, go to aquariums, and see beautiful views, you can enjoy these things there. We really recommend that you go to Nagoya Castle because you can feel a very Japanese atmosphere there. Please go to Nagoya. You will have a great time!

Sapporo: Ms. Okamoto & Mr. Abe

Today we would like to tell you about a beautiful and attractive city in northern Japan. This city is only about one hour and forty-five minutes by airplane from Kobe. This city is far from central Honshu. There are many fun and exciting things to do in this city. About 1.97 million people live there, and the average winter temperature in this city is between minus three degrees Celsius and one degree Celsius. This city is Sapporo!

There are many things to see and do in Sapporo. First, you should eat Genghis Khan and soup curry. When speaking of local food in Sapporo, the first thing that comes to mind is "Genghis Khan". It has a special pot with a mountain in the center, and it is a dish that grills vegetables and lamb together. It's a soul food that Sapporo citizens love. There is another dish loved by the people of Sapporo. It is "soup curry". According to one theory, this dish was inspired by the curry with a lot of spices from Indonesia and Sri Lanka, and Chinese medicinal soup. Second, you should visit the Sapporo Clock Tower. The clock tower is a historic building built 140 years ago. This is the oldest clock tower in Japan and is designated as an important cultural property. At the beginning of construction, it was built to be an acting hall, not a clock tower. Next, you should visit two festivals. They are the Sapporo Summer Festival and the Sapporo Snow Festival. The Sapporo Summer Festival is held from July to August. Recently, it has been held online. On the other hand, the Sapporo Snow Festival is an ice and snow festival and is held in February every year. It is one of the three major snow festivals in the world and is visited by two million tourists every year.

Today we have talked about Sapporo, an attractive and fun city in northern Japan. There are many things to do there. If you like festivals, historic buildings, and snow, you can enjoy these things there. In Sapporo, you can go to the Sapporo TV Tower, Sapporo Clock Tower, and enjoy delicious food. We really recommend that you go to the Chuo-ku area because it has a unique northern atmosphere, and you can enjoy eating really good local Sapporo food. Please go to Sapporo. You will have a great time!