

JAPAN Accessible Travel Organization Launches New Service for Foreign Travelers and Residents with Disabilities

“Accessible Travel JAPAN”, Newly-Established Contact Center with English-Speaking Staff

TOKYO—November 25,2015—JAPAN Accessible Travel Organization today announced new service aimed at providing the travel information for foreign visitors and residents with disabilities. The service will help to collect accessibility information tailored for personal needs and interest in Japan, which may also lead to eliminate travel anxiety.

JAPAN Accessible Travel Organization also announced that the Contact Center “Accessible Travel JAPAN” will start this service from December 1st, 2015. Consultation and Advice in English are available free of charge. Travel arrangements will be offered by associate travel company, JIC Travel Center Co., Ltd.

“Lately, foreign travelers visiting our country are increasing in number,” said Hajime Nakamura, President of JAPAN Accessible Travel Organization. “We expect this trend will continue steadily before and after 2020 Tokyo Olympic/Paralympic Games. Group tours and private tours including people with disabilities, elderlies, or who have travel concerns will growth in proportion to overall numbers. Communication in foreign languages is necessary to show our *OMOTENASHI*—Japanese style hospitality.”

“Many of the distinctive feature of traditional Japanese building contains stairs, bumps, and gaps those are not friendly to people with limited mobility,” said Miki Tamura, Director of Accessible Travel JAPAN. “What we can do is not to remove or change the structure but give an advice to overcome a problem by disclosing what might be a barrier.”

JAPAN Accessible Travel Organization consist of 18 Barrier-Free Tour Centers in various locations of Japan. Under the project of The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, five of them —Hokkaido, Iseshima, San-in, Saga-Ureshino, and Okinawa— have already released English website. Accessible Travel JAPAN provide the One-Stop Service in cooperate with all 18 Barrier-Free Tour Centers.

JAPAN Accessible Travel Organization continue to make an effort to expand its service area, improve service quality, and multilingualization in cooperate with The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

JAPAN Accessible Travel Organization

News & Announcement

List of current accessible city guide available in English as of 1 December, 2015.

| Title and URL of website | Operator of website | Service |
|--|--|---|
| Accessible Travel JAPAN (ATJ) http://accessible-japan.jp | JAPAN Accessible Travel Organization | Transmission of accessible information in Japan. Consultation by e-mail, phone, and fax. |
| Accessible Travel Kamui-Daisetsu Hokkaido http://www.kamui-daisetsu.org/?la=1 | Kamui Daisetsu Barrier-Free Tour Center | Transmission of accessible information in Hokkaido. |
| Accessible Travel IseShima & Ninja www.miebarifuri.com/inbound/ | Iseshima Barrier-Free Tour Center | Transmission of accessible information in Mie. |
| Accessible Travel San-in (Shimane Tottori) http://accessible-travel-san-in.com/ | San-in Barrier-Free Tour Center | Transmission of accessible information in San-in. |
| Accessible Travel Ureshino & Hot Springs http://www.uresino.net/english/ | Saga-Ureshino Barrier-Free Tour Center | Transmission of accessible information in Ureshino. |
| Accessible Travel Okinawa http://barifuri-okinawa.org/bfn/accessible_okinawa/index.html | Okinawa Barrier-Free Tour Center | Transmission of accessible information in Okinawa. Consultation by e-mail, and phone. |

Members and partners of JAPAN Accessible Travel Organization

Sendai BFTC (Miyagi-Pref.) , Fukushima BFTC, Izu BFTC (Shizuoka-Pref.) , Ishikawa BFTC,
Hiroshima BFTC / Kure BFTC (Hiroshima-Pref.) , Shikoku BFTC (Ehime-Pref.) , Fukuoka BFTC,
Kagoshima BFTC, Beppu BFTC (Oita-Pref.)

※BFTC=Barrier-Free Tour Center

Learn more about Accessible Travel JAPAN at <http://accessible-japan.jp/>

JAPAN Accessible Travel Organization is a non-profit organization provides accessibility information about sightseeing areas and tourist attractions in Japan. We provide services for people with disabilities and their companions, families or groups to make their travel safe and pleasant.

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