

PROFILE



Official club name: The Friendship Force of Shizuoka

Cost of transportation between the airport and Shizuoka: There are two airports that Shizuoka can be accessed from. It takes 2 1/2 hours from Narita (Tokyo) International Airport to Shizuoka by train. The train fare is approximately US \$88 per person. To take a charter bus from Narita Airport takes about 3 1/2 hours, and the fare is approximately US \$100 per person. From Haneda Airport to Shizuoka Station is 1 1/2 hours by train, and the fare is approximately \$70 per person. Host families meet ambassadors at Shizuoka station and drive them to their home. Most of the members live within a 30-minute drive from the station.

The maximum number of ambassadors our club can host: 15

About the club: The Friendship Force of Shizuoka was founded in 1982. We have about 40 members. Most of us live in Shizuoka city. The population of Shizuoka is around 700,000. We have one outbound exchange and one inbound exchange each year. We also have many activities within our club, such as barbecue parties, hiking, English conversation classes and a bazaar.

President: Mitsuko Suzuki (E-mail: kazumitsu-suzu @za.tnc.ne.jp)

Executive Secretary: Sayumi Watanabe (E-mail: sayutaro-1049@ck.tnc.ne.jp)

Location: Shizuoka is situated in the middle of the mainland of Japan. Mt. Fuji, a symbol of Japan and a world cultural heritage site, is only 50 kilometers to the northeast of Shizuoka. You may be able to see it from your host's house. The south side of Shizuoka faces the Pacific. We seldom have snow in the city area.

Shizuoka was a retreat for the first Shogun, Ieyasu Tokugawa in 1607. That he chose this



place as his retreat is evidence of its attractiveness as a place to reside, thanks mainly to its mild climate, beautiful scenery and the hospitality of the people here.

The western part of Shizuoka Prefecture is famous for its industry. World renown automobile manufacturing companies such as HONDA and SUZUKI, and the piano manufacturers YAMAHA and KAWAI are located here. Tours of these factories can be arranged if there is interest by the ambassadors.

We are also home to some major ports, such as Shimizu Port. Our main products are mandarin oranges, green tea, small pink shrimp and lacquer ware.

About the exchanges: The best time for exchanges is either in spring or in fall. We have much rain with high humidity in June. You won't be able to enjoy the beautiful scenery of Mt. Fuji during the rainy season.

When we have ambassadors, we usually plan a one-day bus tour to the foot of Mt. Fuji. On the way there, we drop by an old village where one of the activities is to be able to try on a variety of kimonos. This experience can really help you feel the essence of traditional Japan. It costs approx. US\$ 100.

There are many historical places in Shizuoka that can be visited during the homestay experience. But we also prepare many activities to experience Japanese culture in a more hands-on way, such as:

***Calligraphy**

You can try your hand at Japanese calligraphy style writing, and write your own names in Japanese characters using ink and a traditional writing brush.

***Flower arrangement**

You can make your own flower arrangement in a traditional way, with some coaching from an instructor in the basics of 'kado'. Japanese flower arrangement "kado" is quite unique.

***Paper folding (origami)**

You will be taught how to make a crane or a samurai warrior's helmet with beautiful Japanese washi paper.

***Visiting Japanese sake cellar**

Nowadays, sake is very popular all over the world. The quality of Shizuoka-brand sake is famous all over Japan.

***Hot Springs**

You can enjoy taking in the beautiful mountain views while watching a steam locomotive go by, from the relaxing comfort of an outdoor hot springs

We can also arrange a short cruise from Shimizu Port.

If you have anything else you'd like to do in Shizuoka, we are ready to meet your request.