



Japan 2021 Tour

At the recent AGM on May 13, 2019 it was decided to proceed with planning for an Ebb Tide tour to Japan in April 2021. The Osaka Gentlemen attended the Ebb Tide's 40th Celebration in 2012 and this date is the Gentlemen's 40th Anniversary.

The current suggested plan is to play 3 games over 10 days against the following clubs:

Gentlemen (Osaka); Old Bears (Tenri); Another (TBD)

The cost is anticipated to be no more than \$3,200 all in. If you (or anyone you know) would like to join this tour please send an email to daveknox@shaw.ca and see details on the ET website at:

<http://www.ebbtiderugby.com/index.php/club-events/club-tours/2021-japan-tour>

This web site will maintain a list of signed up members and their payment status, this flyer and any other relevant tour information.

We are not going to repeat the embarrassment of announcing a tour and contacting the Japanese clubs, only having to cancel later due to poor response and participation, so we are adopting a different approach to this tour.

Approach:

1. Sign-up and pay a deposit of \$300 by September 30, 2019
2. Arrange 17 recurring monthly payments of \$170 to jacapron@shaw.ca for the first day of each month, starting with October 1, 2019 and ending on April 1, 2020. A recurring automatic eFunds Transfer can be setup with most eBanking these days.
This will ensure commitment and the tour cost being paid in full by the time of travel.
3. By December 15, 2019 a Go/No-Go Decision will be made based on participation and 3 monthly payments received.
4. If a Go, the Japanese clubs will be contacted, requesting formal tour invites, and tour planning will progress. 15 months to tour.
5. If a No-Go decision due to poor response, the tour will be cancelled without embarrassment to the club and all monies paid will be refunded.

It is useful to know that the Burnaby Twits are planning a tour to Japan and to attend the Gentlemen's 40th at the same time.

Only 20 months to go



"From the Tour Chair"

The Ebb Tide has a long standing tradition of games with Japanese clubs. It was the visit by the Wak Wak club of Osaka and the game on October 5, 1972 which heralded the formation of our club in 1972. Since that first visit from the Wak Wak, the Ebb Tide have hosted Japanese clubs in Victoria more than 27 times and have toured Japan 6 times, the last being March 2006.



On October 6, 2012 at our club's 40th Anniversary Celebration, the Ebb Tide hosted the Gentlemen from Osaka and the Old Bears from Tenri in games at Royal Athletic Park. At the dinner banquet at the Four Points by Sheraton hotel in Langford following these games, the Gentlemen presented the Ebb Tide with a Japanese samurai helmet, as part of a full samurai suit, with the challenge that the Ebb Tide would have to travel to Japan to collect the balance of the suit.



The Gentlemen of Osaka also toured Canada to play the Ebb Tide in 2009 and our last game against the Gentlemen was on May 7, 2015 at Windsor Park,. This was followed by a Banquet at the White Eagle Polish Hall in James Bay, which was attended by almost 100 Ebb Tide members and partners and 52 Japanese players and tourists. For our newer members it was their first taste of Japanese hosting.

The Ebb Tide would like to continue the tradition and friendship with Japanese rugby clubs with our 7th tour to Japan in April 2021. It will be 15 years since our last visit and none too soon.

As was mentioned and agreed at the last AGM, I have accepted the position of Tour Chair. I will also take on the role of Japan liaison. Once we have a reasonable level of commitment after September 30, 2019, I will arrange a meeting to form a tour committee to address all aspects of arranging this tour. Specifically I will need assistance with the following roles: Travel arrangement, Club gifts, Player gifts, Treasurer, Equipment, Player cards, Newsletter and Tour program. If anyone wishes to step forward and assist with one of these roles please let me know.

This tour is an important step for older players to maintain the Ebb Tide's relationships with Japanese clubs and players and for newer players to carry the torch in future years and continue those connections. The only fixed commitment with the tour schedule is the Gentlemen's 40th Anniversary on April 11, 2021. Do we travel and play other games prior to April 11th and end with the Gentlemen or do we start with the Gentlemen and continue with games after April 11th? This will be decided in due course. The tour guidelines are:

- Short duration 10-12 days including 2 week-ends, limiting vacation days; and
- 3 Games — 1 with Gentlemen on April 11th.

Ideally it would be great to take a tour party of ~50 comprising ~40 players and ~10 partners on a first pay, first reserved basis. The approach and required payments is detailed on the other page.

I would like to encourage all members to "talk up the tour" and garner as much interest as possible to meet our goal numbers. While we may be able to join the Twits in fielding a 40 and 50 team, and an Over 60 team it would be exceptional if we could field entirely Ebb Tide teams.

I welcome your feedback and comments as we progress towards April 2021.

Dave "Knoxie"

2021 Japan Tour Chair

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