Nelson Izu-shi Friendship Society

Celebrating our 40th Anniversary as Sister Cities in 2027

2027 Exchange Visits

September 28, 2026

The **Nelson Izu-shi Friendship Society** promotes the sister city relationship between Nelson and Izu-shi and encourages friendships between the people of our communities through exchange visits.

We are planning for mutual sister city exchanges to celebrate our 40th anniversary next year. The **Nelson Exchange Visit to Izu-shi** is scheduled for mid-March 2027. It will be followed by the **Izu-shi Exchange Visit to Nelson** in August 2027. We welcome community involvement, so please let us know if you would like to participate.

Members of the spring exchange visit will travel to Izu-shi as part of a supportive multigenerational community group representing Nelson. We plan to include a mix of about 18-20 people, from teenagers to retirees.

Nelson families with children are especially welcome so we can help to nurture friendships with young people in Izu-shi. The two-week program corresponds with the school spring break (March 13-29).

Participants must be members of the Friendship Society and committed to helping to host guests and organize activities for the return visit in August 2027. They must also be willing to share their sister city experiences at Society events. Please see the attached application form and feel free to contact us if you have questions.

Proposed Itinerary

Saturday March 13 - Sunday March 14
Participants will need to make their own travel arrangements from Nelson to Tokyo, though we encourage people to travel together. Flights leaving Vancouver on Sunday March 14 will arrive in Tokyo on Monday March 15.
Japan is 16 hours ahead of Pacific Daylight Time.

Monday March 15 - Thursday March 18 Tokyo
The exchange itinerary begins at Narita Airport with three days of group and individual city sightseeing in Tokyo. The Society will arrange our Tokyo hotel for three nights. We will then travel by Shinkansen train to the central Japan city of Nagoya on the afternoon of March 18.

Thursday March 18 - Sunday March 21 Nagoya
We will stay two days and three nights in Nagoya, visiting local destinations, including one free day, which could include a day trip to Kyoto. On Sunday March 21 we will take the Shinkansen back to Mishima, a small city at the head of the Izu Peninsula. From Mishima, we will travel by local train to Izu-shi to begin our sister city visit.

Sunday March 21 - Saturday March 27 Izu-shi
We will spend five full days/six nights in our sister city, staying with host families and new friends while we explore Izu-shi and experience Japanese culture, almost as family members. The exchange itinerary ends with a group lunch in Mishima after we leave Izu-shi on March 27.

Saturday March 27 - Sunday March 28 - Monday March 29
Individual Travel: Members will be free to travel on their own to new destinations or return to Tokyo.

Those who are returning to Canada for school or work on Tuesday March 30 will need to travel back to Tokyo and leave from Narita on either Sunday March 28 or Monday March 29. Flights leaving Japan in the afternoon arrive in Vancouver in the morning of the same day.

We strongly encourage those who do not have to get back for school or work right away to consider extending their stay and enjoying more of Japan in the spring. We can assist with travel planning.

A Rough Idea of Costs

Participants are responsible for all expenses associated with the spring exchange. Unfortunately, the Friendship Society cannot provide any financial assistance. Following are rough estimates. Costs will be discussed in more detail with applicants later and during our fall orientation sessions.

Travel to Japan
Participants are responsible for arranging their own travel between Nelson and Tokyo. Current Air Canada and Japan Air Lines return fares from Vancouver are about $2000. West Jet also has daily flights to Tokyo from Calgary. ZIP AIR, a subsidiary of Japan Air Lines, is a discount airline flying out of Vancouver. It offers lower fares but charges extra for meals, baggage, seat reservations, etc.

Travel in Japan
The Society will arrange train tickets from Narita Airport to Tokyo upon arrival, from Tokyo to Nagoya, and from Nagoya to Izu-shi. The cost should be about **$300** and you will be invoiced for this in advance. When we arrive in Tokyo, we will help you purchase a city train pass for about $**30.** This card will make it easy to travel on trains or subways in Tokyo.

Hotels
In 2024, exchange members paid about **$800** for 3 nights in Tokyo. These prices included breakfast and varied depending on single or double occupancy. We will make the reservations for the group in Tokyo and invoice you in advance. Hotels in Nagoya and other cities are generally not as expensive. We will provide a list of hotels close to the station in Nagoya and ask you to book your own accommodation there.

Sightseeing
We will arrange some group sightseeing in Tokyo and invoice you accordingly. Many places are free, but expect a total of about **$100** for admissions. We will also help you get to the individual sites you wish to visit on your own or in small groups.

Izu-shi
In Izu-shi, our accommodation, meals, and activities will be provided by our sister city hosts, so there will be no charges for our stay in Izu-shi. If our group requests a special outing, however, we may need to pay for that. Please understand that our agreement is that we will provide the same hospitality at no charge to our visitors from Izu-shi the following August.

Exploring Japan
After the exchange officially ends in Mishima on March 27, participants will need to make their own travel plans and arrangements, including returning to Narita Airport.

Additional Fees
The Friendship Society charges each participant a service fee and there may be additional charges for any unexpected group expenses during the exchange.

Joining the Sister City Exchange

If you are interested in participating in the spring exchange, please complete an application form and return it to us by Wednesday September 30.

Please note that you must be or become a member of the Friendship Society to apply for the exchange. Contact us for a membership application form. Annual fees are $5 per person or $10 per couple or family.

We intend to meet with applicants and confirm participants by mid-October, when we will request a deposit.

The Society will host a series of language, culture, and travel orientation sessions during the late fall and winter leading up to our departure for Japan in mid-March. Participation in these sessions is expected.

This will be our fourth multigenerational exchange since 2017. Please let us know if you are interested in joining us for this special 40th anniversary exchange!

For more information, please contact us at nelsonizushi@gmail.com