

[Day 3~6] Thu.~Sun. July 11~14:

Local Sessions in 8 areas

On your application, you'll mark your top three choices of local session. We can't guarantee that you'll land in one of them, but we'll do our best to match you, your choices, and the host families there.



The features of each area & its programs:

* Click on a city/town name to see details of each area.

① Wakayama City

Urban x Rural: the nourishing flavors of the mountains and the sea; marine sports; local beaches.

Visit Wakayama's industry (Kao home products, Nippon Steel, Shima Seiki textiles, and Surugaya confections)

Explore the city: Wakanoura-Jogasaki, Historic/senic areas, Wakayama Marina City, Local train ride

② Hashimoto City

A green, rural city blessed with historical and cultural resources

Sister City with Hashimoto: Rohnert Park, CA

Visit to: Pile Weaving Museum, Factory making fishing rods for Hera fish, Farmers Market, Koyasan-UNESCO-heritage mountain temple compound [Esoteric Buddhism], Sanada Samurai Museum

③ Tanabe City

Wakayama's second city with great natural and historical cultural resources, including beautiful oceans, mountains, rivers, and hot springs

*Aikido experience *Martial art originated in Tanabe City,*

*Visit: Tokei Shrine (1000 years ago, fortune tellers used fighting chickens to predict victory and defeat in war), Kumano Hongu Taisha Shrine, Tenjinzaki *National Trust movement in Japan, Hike the Kumano Kodo (ancient pilgrimage trails)*

④ Shirahama Town

Popular resort; one of Japan's three oldest hot springs; geopark; kayaking

Explore the town's National Geopark sites, Kumano Sansho Shrine, Shirara Beach (Sister beach with Waikiki Beach)

Experience: Tea ceremony, Indigo Dyeing

⑤ Kamitonda Town

Known as the heart of the Kumano pilgrimage trails

Life with feeling the history of the area

Visit to Plum Foods Co., Explore Kumano Kodo, Japanese Culture Experiences such as Calligraphy, Tea ceremony, Kimono Dressing

⑥ Kushimoto Town

Marine sports and fisheries thrive in coral reefs, marine sports, fisheries.

Also Japan's closest town to space!

Visit: Japan-US Diplomatic Relations Memorial Hall, Turkish Memorial Museum, Kushimoto Marine Park, High school (making PET-bottle rockets with students)

Experience: Tea Ceremony, Japanese archery

Explore: Geopark Center, Nachi areas

⑦ NachiKatsuura Town

Sea and mountains, World Heritage Site, hot springs, and one of the largest landings of fresh tuna in Japan

Stroll along the Kumano Historical Trail

Experience: Ancient kimono dressing, Zen meditation, hot spring bathing

Visit: Kumano-Nachi-taisha Shrine, Seigando-ji Temple, elementary and junior high schools

⑧ Shingu City

Rich nature of sea, mountains, and rivers interwoven with enterprising and hospitable people

Mandara [Buddhist Art] Pictorial Guide, School visit, Making Japanese sweets, Kumano River Trail Boat Ride, Visit Kumano Hayatama-taisha Shrine, Ancient Kamikura Shrine, Kendo experience (martial art with bamboo sticks)

WHAT IS THE JAPAN-AMERICA GRASSROOTS SUMMIT?

The Grassroots Summit is a large-scale annual exchange program for Japanese and American citizens, held alternately in Japan and the U.S. The Summit aims to strengthen the close, peaceful relationship between Japan and the U.S. by fostering friendship at the grassroots level.



All about Grassroots Summit

Experience Japanese culture through a unique program including a 3-night homestay. **Regardless of age or language ability**, you will discover an amazing experience through this person-to-person exchange program.

8 LOCAL SESSIONS

- 1 WAKAYAMA ▶
- 2 HASHIMOTO ▶
- 3 KAMITONDA ▶
- 4 SHIRAHAMA ▶
- 5 TANABE ▶
- 6 KUSHIMOTO ▶
- 7 NACHI KATSUURA ▶
- 8 SHINGU ▶

*The links for ②Hashimoto and ⑥Kushimoto will take you to Japanese-language pages. We suggest you use Google Translate and also click on the pictures to get a feel for these varied and beautiful locales.



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SCHEDULE

JULY 9 (TUE) Arrive in Wakayama City
JULY 10 (WED) Optional Local Tour, Opening Ceremony & Welcome Reception

JULY 11-13 (THU-SAT) Local Session & Homestay program
JULY 14 (SUN) Closing Ceremony & Farewell Party
JULY 15 (MON) Depart



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