

GKR KARATE'S OKINAWA EXPERIENCE 2020



YOU'RE INVITED TO GKR KARATE'S 2020 OKINAWA TRIP COMMENCES MONDAY 17 AUGUST 2020

GKR has been organising trips to Karate's homeland every two years since 2001. These trips were originally exclusive to our Senior Instructors, and later included some tournament competitors. Since our last trip in 2018 however, interest in travelling to Okinawa has grown and we have now extended the invitation for the 2020 trip to all GKR Karate students.

One of the reasons our last visits were kept smaller in numbers was because most dojo's in Japan and Okinawa are very small. During our last couple of trips, we were instead able to hire out a large Martial Arts facility and invite masters to come and teach us.

IN 2018 WE HAD 3 HOUR SEMINARS FROM:

- Jesse Enkamp Sensei (the 'Karate nerd')
- Sunagawa Sensei (9th Dan Goju Ryu)
- Higa Sensei (9th Dan Shorin Ryu and 5th dan Judo)
- Hokama Sensei (10th dan Goju Ryu and founder of the Okinawa Karate Museum)

OKINAWA 2020 ITINERARY

Our 2020 training venue is looking to be Naha's Budokan, an enormous three story martial arts facility, found close to Naha Airport and Naha City in Okinawa.

Monday the 17th August

Masters Seminar 1: 9am - 12pm

Masters Seminar 2: 1.30 - 4.30pm

Tuesday the 18th August

This is a rest day where you are free to do as you wish. You may choose to join us for a drive to Northern Okinawa to visit a couple of waterfalls.

Wednesday 19th August

Masters Seminar 3: 9am - 12pm

Masters Seminar 4: 1.30 - 4.30pm

Thursday 20th August

Many people choose to take a Ferry out to Zamami and Aka islands where you can swim with sea turtles and snorkel in one of the World's best known snorkelling spots (both right off the beach).





WHY WE CONDUCT THESE TRIPS

- i. To expose GKR students to different ideas, principles and training practices, broadening their overall knowledge and experience.
- ii. As Okinawa is the true birthplace of karate, it gives you a deeper connection to karate's history. Okinawa houses countless karate-related historic sites, memorials of karate's forefathers and the World's only Karate Museum.
- iii. To provide the contacts and opportunity to train at numerous dojo's in the evenings (in your own time).
- iv. An opportunity to mix and train with fellow GKR students from other cities, states and countries.



NOTES OF INTEREST

It's too early to lock down specific instructors for August 2020, but we have a number of exciting masters in mind. Our Okinawa contacts will inform which ones will be available closer to the date (most should be available).

These trips currently have two 'official' training days (12hours of training). There are however, ample opportunities to do extra training if you wish. Each evening we meet at the 'Dojo Bar', where the owner (Sensei James) is able to recommend various dojos for students seeking extra training to visit. In 2018, of the 70 students who attended the four 'organised' Masters Seminars, many stayed on in Okinawa for days/weeks to train multiple times across various dojos.

The majority of the GKR Karate senior instructors will be in Okinawa until the following weekend at least (22nd/23rd August).

We have intentionally held our 2020 event one week after the Tokyo Olympics finish. This is to avoid the high costs associated with travel during the Olympic period. However being only one week after, anyone who wishes to be in Tokyo during the Olympics can be.

For most people visiting Japan/Okinawa for the first time, Tokyo is generally on their list of places to visit. If you wish to visit Tokyo, doing so after Okinawa will result in cheaper accommodation prices than beforehand (as more time has past post the Olympic price hikes).

Okinawa is a series of tiny Islands and each is its own version of Tropical Paradise. While a number of these islands can be reached by Ferry (or even car, across a bridge), most domestic airlines offer very cheap airfares to the islands further away.

For anyone who is interested in this trip, please join GKR Karate's Okinawa 2020 Facebook page for more information and regular updates.