



UDDEVALLA'S TWINCITIES OUTSIDE NORDIC COUNTRIES

OKAZAKI • IRVINE AYRSHIRE • JÕHVI

More twincities for Uddevalla

OKAZAKI, JAPAN AND CUNNINGHAME (IRVINE), SCOTLAND

In 1968 the need was felt for increasing the number of twincities outside the Nordic countries. Uddevalla established a relationship with Okazaki in Japan. As a confirmation of the agreement Uddevalla was presented with a Buddhist lamp now placed in the grounds by the Town Hall. It is typical of the Okazaki region which has many quarries. In 1977 the turn had come to Cunninghame in Scotland, now Irvine, North Ayrshire. In the ensuing agreement for both cities the following points were stressed: Friendship and goodwill, increased exchanges in industrial, economical, cultural and social matters for mutual use and progress.

JÖHVI, ESTONIA

In 1977 Jõhvi in Estonia was added to the list. In the agreement this time nine different sections for cooperation are mentioned. Both politicians and officials are requested to cooperate in management and administration. Stimulation of cultural exchange is expected. Schools shall actively communicate. The Nordic Society is an important partner. Associations and different organisations shall try to visit each other. Media is to be informed about the friendship work. The achievement of good relations between the inhabitants are important. It is expected that commerce and business will prosper. Exchange of trainees is considered important.

THE FRIENDSHIP WORK OF TODAY

Between the twincities and Uddevalla several projects have been accomplished such as art exhibitions with drawings and paintings by children and junior students. Schools have decided to exchanges including education and culture. It is natural that this cooperation will take place more often between those cities closest to each other. Essay competitions and workshops with singing and music have taken place. Recently a symphonic orchestra was successfully made up with participants from different twincities. As a result a much appreciated concert was held at the end. Lately extensive efforts with regard to environment and equality involve several branches of the communities. Associations and organisations have also started continuous programmes for exchange. In connection with Uddevalla's 500 years' anniversary in 1998 Okazaki presented a granite statue of two embracing children in commemoration of the 30 years of friendship between the two cities. The statue is situated at the crossing between the two streets, Norra Hamngatan and Södra Drottninggatan in the centre of Uddevalla and has become very popular with the citizens.

Okazaki JAPAN



Photo Mr. Yoshiya Hiroyama.

Typical "Ishi-doro" (Stone Lantern). Okazaki.

HISTORY

Okazaki is located in the middle of the Japanese island of Honshu 300 km west of Tokyo and 150 km east of Kyoto. It is situated where the rivers Oto and Yahagi meet and surrounded by rolling hills.

The city is blessed with scenic beauty throughout the year, from the cherry blossoming and lush greenery in the Spring to the splendid foliage in the Autumn. In the north Okazaki shares its borders with Toyota, the home of Toyota cars. Okazaki is easily accessible by cars and rail service. The national highway route 1 makes it easy to reach Tokyo. It is also a short distance with train or car from an area with numerous hot springs and Pacific Ocean beaches. Okazaki is named after the Akashi Hills. It is most famous for the birthplace of the well known Shogun, Tokugawa Ieyasu (1542-1616), the most powerful of the Mikawa warrior families, who conquered the entire territory of Japan at that time.

COMMERCE AND EMPLOYMENT

Okazaki has for centuries been a major urban centre in the Mikawa-region. It is famous for agriculture, commerce and industry. Stone carvings and fireworks are some of the most widely known traditional products. More recent industries include car factories, manufacturing, chemical plants and textile factories.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Okazaki has a well developed school system. After nine years of compulsory school the pupils can, after graduation at the age of 15, choose different further education. All education is free but school lunch service is available with small charge. This applies also to immigrants who want to learn Japanese. Those Japanese who want to study abroad can apply for scholarships by the national government.

LEISURE AND ATTRACTIONS

Typical of the climate are high temperatures and high humidity with heavy rainfalls in the Summer. It is often moderately cold and dry in the Winter and a minimum of snow. Interesting places to visit is the castle where the Shogun Tokugawa was born. It is also very popular walking round in the city centre looking at the confluence of the rivers. In the Spring when approximately 800 cherry trees start to flower it is extraordinarily beautiful. There are a lot of interesting museums with exhibitions of the history of Okazaki. The temples and the unusual architecture are also interesting and picturesque. The stonemasons and their shops are another attraction.



OKAZAKI

Phone +81 564 23 6644
www.city.okazaki.aichi.jp

Irvine AYRSHIRE SCOTLAND



Photo Alistair G.Firth, North Ayrshire council.

Aerial photo Irvine.

HISTORY

North Ayrshire is situated in one of the most scenic parts of the Capital West Coast, just 30 minutes from Glasgow. The area is located over 340 square miles of mainland and island-communities. Irvine existed as a town as early as the 12th century. In the 16th century Irvine had a period of great prosperity. It was a very busy harbour well into the 19th century. Coal shipping, shipbuilding and industrial development increased. In the course of the 20th century the importance of the Irvine harbour started to decline, but a progressive town council was successful in attracting new industry. Irvine is rich with tradition. The Marymass is a festival held very highly. It is celebrated with horseracing and every year the Marymass Queen is crowned. It is celebrated in memory of Mary, Queen of Scots, who visited Seagate Castle 1563. Originally it was a religious celebration from the end of the 14th century.

COMMERCE AND EMPLOYMENT

Irvine shares in the diverse and balanced economy of North Ayrshire with particular strengths in manufacturing, engineering, electronics, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, professional and business services, tourism and leisure. Approximately 16,500 are employed in these different branches.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

North Ayrshire has the best quality of nurseries, primary schools, secondary schools, colleges and further education. They provide a wide range of courses including formal teaching, leisure, arts, culture and community based adult education.

LEISURE AND ATTRACTIONS

North Ayrshire is well known as one of Scotland's top tourist attractions. With its traditionally warm hospitality the area attracts visitors from around the world. Top tourist attractions include "The Big Idea", a new inventor centre near to the site where Alfred Nobel had an explosive factory. The Scottish Maritime Museum, featuring The Carrick, the famous clipper, The Burns Museum, The Eglinton Castle and Park. The Firth of Clyde offers picturesque settings of the coast which is an ideal location for sailing and fishing.



IRVINE AYRSHIRE

Phone +441294 322 4100
www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Jõhvi ESTONIA



Photo Jüri Boštrov, Jõhvi city council.

Town hall in Jõhvi.

HISTORY

The first inhabitants appeared in the Jõhvi district 8000 years ago. Jõhvi is mentioned for the first time in 1241. The church was built during the second part of the 13th century by the noble family Taube, whose coat of arms is placed on the outside wall at the entrance. Jõhvi is a town in the northeast of Estonia, 96 miles from Tallinn and 30 miles from Narva, a place very well known to all Swedes, as it is the place where the Swedish army led by King Charles 12th won an important victory over the Russians 1700. Only one third of the inhabitants are Estonians. The remaining part are people from 40 different nations. The first connections between Jõhvi and Uddevalla started in 1992.

COMMERCE AND EMPLOYMENT

In the beginning of the 19th century Jõhvi was an important commercial centre. The development of Jõhvi accelerated after the completion of the railway in 1870 and continued into the 1930-ies when the oil shale industry was established in the East Viru region. In 1938 Jõhvi got it's town charter. Today the town is a centre of the county for commerce and industry, education, administration and the most important junction in the country.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

The first local song festival took place in Jõhvi in 1865. This was the first step towards the present tradition with enormous choir festivals. During the 2nd World War most of the buildings of historical interest were destroyed but the Orthodox Church from 1895 is still there as well as the medieval Mihkli Church. The town was rebuilt after the war in the style favoured by Stalin. General education is offered in two gymnasiums and two big vocational schools as well as a music and art school. The inhabitants of Jõhvi are very proud of their cultural centre with 800 seats and a revolving stage.

LEISURE AND ATTRACTIONS

At the Gulf of Finland approximately 12 miles from Jõhvi is a big hotel and recreation ground, Toila. This is an attractive tourist spot and frequently visited especially in Summer.



JÕHVI

Phone + 372 33 70524
www.johvilv.ee

Uddevalla SWEDEN



Photo Bo Niklasson, Bohuslän's museum.

Båveån flows through Uddevalla into Byfjorden.

HISTORY

Uddevalla was founded where trade routes crossed. It was from the start a medieval place of commerce. The letter of privilege was given by the Danish King Hans in 1498. The town prospered mainly as a result of the expanding fisheries and of increasing export. The industrialization of the 19th century was the foundation of the varied economic life of today.

COMMERCE AND EMPLOYMENT

As the biggest town in Bohuslän, situated by the busy motorway, E6, in the middle of the county, it became a natural centre for trade and commerce, service, events and education. Graphic and mechanic industries have deep roots by tradition in Uddevalla. Companies of age like Uddevalla Matches, different textile companies like Schwartzman & Nordström (the Tiger factory) and above all the well-known Uddevalla Wharf have contributed to the expansion of the town. After the regression in the beginning of the 1990-ies commerce and trading have developed with partly new structures. Volvo Cars AB is one of the main factories but most of the existing 3000 companies are minor ones. Good com-

munications have always been of vital importance to Uddevalla. The newly built Uddevalla-bridge, the harbour, the railway and electronic technology (IT) are necessary for a future prosperity.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Uddevalla is a centre for education offering a variety to satisfy the most selected demands of both young people and adults. Cultural investments like music classes, music and art schools as well as advanced computer engineering education attract students from all over the country.

LEISURE AND ATTRACTIONS

The 10,000 year old shell banks at Uddevalla are considered a geological world attraction. The popular county museum, Bohuslän's museum, gives an introduction to the surrounding countryside and local history. Sweden's oldest bathing-resort and spa is Gustafsberg, where it is still possible to drink the beneficial waters. The 150-mile long coast offers many opportunities to go bathing, fishing and sailing. People of all ages participate in various associations and organisations. Sports and games and other attractive events are frequent and popular.

Vänortskommittén
S - 451 81 Uddevalla, Sweden • Phone + 46 522 69 60 00
www.uddevalla.se



UDDEVALLA MUNICIPALITY