

NAF Atsugi residents attend Seto Pottery Festival

Mass Communication Specialist Vivian Blakely

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POTTERY

SETO, Japan – The city of Seto is well known throughout Japan and among tourists for its history with ceramic pottery. Even today one can walk around the city and observe its culture in this craft.

Once a year, a weekend in September, vendors and potters set up their stalls to display and sell their crafts during what is known as the Seto Pottery Festival.

Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) tour office can get you there.

Renee Drumheller, a tour participant and pottery hunter, enjoyed the many shopping opportunities provided at the festival.

“I liked that I got to buy everything that I had been wanting. I was able to complete my collection of serving platters and bowls.”

The tour began at 6 a.m. with a five hour bus ride from Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi to Seto. Along the way, the bus driver

stopped to allow a fifteen minute break for the passengers as well as trade places with another driver.

“[The commute time] doesn’t bother me that much,” said Nancy Young, a tour participant. “We leave early in the morning so it gives you a chance to fall asleep on the bus.”

After arriving in Seto, the pottery shoppers headed in different directions. But no matter what direction they went, there was never a lack of selection or design.

“The variety of designs was definitely overwhelming,” said Young. “I had a hard time trying to decide what I wanted to buy and unfortunately, some of the stuff that I really did like was out of my price range.”

After four hours of extensive shopping, the avid pottery shoppers made their way back to the bus for the long ride home.

Upon reflection, some decided that if given the opportunity, they would do things a little differently.

“I would say bring a suitcase,” said Yolanda Jones, a NAF Atsugi resident. “As silly as that sounds bring something with wheels. Bring more money than you think you’re going to need and really comfortable shoes.”

For more information, please contact the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Tour office at 264-3770.