

Japanese officials to tour Alaska

Alaska's Commerce and Economic Development commissioner, Tony Smith, recently announced the arrival of Japanese travel officials in Alaska this week, who will be focusing Alaska tourism opportunities for the months of September through March.

The trip is a cooperative effort

between the state's Division of Tourism, Japan Air Lines, Alaska Airlines, the Hotel Captain Cook, the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel and the Anchorage Hilton Hotel.

"The purpose of this trip is to showcase Alaska, particularly in areas that represent existing tourism opportunities familiar to the

Japanese, such as birdwatching and the Northern Lights," Smith said.

The seven people traveling to Alaska represent the largest travel agencies in Japan, including JTB Corp., JTB Tour Reservation Center, International Rotary Travel, Frontier International, Playguide Tour, Seibu Travel and Kinki Nippon Tourist Agency.