



interest around the city, including 17 must-see factories. Since it is a night tour for adults, original cocktails are also served on-board.

出航するのは、赤レンガ倉庫近くの棧橋。1時間半かけてまわるこのクルーズは大好評で、いつも数カ月先まで予約はいっぱいだ。30人乗りの木製クルーザー「おおとり」のデッキでは、船長と機関長が見どころの多い17カ所の工場のほか、市内の名所なども交えて解説する。大人向けの夜間ツアーとあって、オリジナルカクテルもふるまわれる。

The tour is conducted by the KMC CORPORATION, a company involved in operating both regular and chartered passenger liners as well as other marina-related businesses including the storage of private boats. IWATA Hideo, the company's general manager, says: "MARUMARU Motoo, the famous night view critic, proposed and produced this tour, which made it all possible. We spent a lot of time on preparing for the tour, including choosing the route and instructing the guides."

ツアーは株式会社ケーエムシーコーポレーションが運営している。定期便やチャーター便などの旅客船事業と、個人用の船の保管などを行うマリナー事業を手がける会社だ。同社の統括部長、岩田秀夫さんは「夜景評論家として有名な丸々もとおさんからの提案とプロデュースで実現しました。コース選びやガイドの指導など、準備に時間をかけました」と説明する。

"The echoing sound of metal and the way the boat passes through a narrow canal reminds you of a jungle expedition.



The Adventure Cruise / アドベンチャークルーズの様子

Centered around both the ports of Tokyo and of Yokohama, the Keihin Industrial Zone has developed into Japan's largest industrial area. With metal, mechanical and chemical plants standing side-by-side and intricately entangled in pipes, smoke and rising steam, with their lights illuminating the night's darkness, the scene resembles those of science fiction movies. "The Jungle Cruise for Night Views of Factories," a boat tour of the industrial zone surrounding the Port of Yokohama, started in June 2008, and costs 4,500 yen per person.

東京港から横浜港を中心に発展した、国内最大の京浜工業地帯。金属や機械、化学などの工場が建ち並び、複雑に張りめぐらされたパイプ、立ち上る煙や蒸気、夜の闇を照らす照明など、SF映画のような光景が広がる。2008年6月、横浜港周辺の工業地帯をクルーザーでめぐる「工場夜景ジャングルクルーズ」(料金4,500円)が運航を開始した。

The cruise, which starts near the Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse and lasts one-and-a-half hours, is so popular that it's usually fully booked several months in advance. On the deck of the Ootori, a wooden boat that holds up to 30 passengers, the captain and the chief engineer describe places of

Cruising for Night Views of Factories

クルーザーで探検する工場夜景見学ツアー

But, since the boat sails on the canal, where there are few waves, you hardly need to worry about getting seasick. With permission from the Transport Ministry, you can look at the enormous factories from as close as 30 meters away, which is the real appeal of this tour. The boat departs at dusk and returns after sunset, so you can enjoy a different version of the same views on the way back,” says Iwata.

「鳴りひびく金属音や細い運河を進む様子が、ジャングル探検を思わせます。しかし、運河を進むので波もおだやかで、船酔いの心配はほとんどありません。運輸省から許可をえているので、30メートルほどの距離から巨大な工場を眺められるのが魅力です。夕暮れに出て、帰りは日没後なので行きと帰りで同じ景色が違って見えます」と岩田さん。

In recent years, Japanese history, and trains, have both captured the attention of many young women. Now it's similar with factories, where young participants have also included young women. The tour is popular among men and women of all ages, with many repeat customers. And aside from the factory-fanatics, those who work, or who used to work at factories, also take their families on these cruises. Some participants even come all the way from Hokkaido or Kyushu for this cruise.

近年は日本史や鉄道が若い女性たちの間で注目されているが、工場もまた同じで若い女性客が目立つという。老若男女を問わず人気を集め、リピーターも多いそうだ。

マニアだけではなく、工場で働く人や以前に働いていた人が家族連れで乗船する。クルーズ目当てで北海道や九州から訪れたりする人もいるという。

Last October “The Adventure Cruise” started. This tour uses the largest boat the company owns, which accommodates up to 50 passengers. Passing under the Yokohama Bay Bridge, the boat heads for the famous “Castle of Light” oil refinery. Chartered, group cruises (for 10 to 50 passengers) with hotel catering services are available for parties and other special occasions.



The Adventure Cruise
アドベンチャークルーズの雄姿

昨年10月には「アドベンチャークルーズ」をスタート。同社の一番大きな船（乗船は50人まで）に乗り込み、横浜ベイブリッジをくぐって、有名企業の製油所、通称「光の城」を目指す。グループ向けにホテルのケータリングサービス付きの「チャータークルーズ」（10～50人乗り）も用意され、パーティーなど

に利用されている。

These night cruises of factories, which were Japan's first, have prompted some other local administrations to develop their own original tours as new tourist attractions. “I don't want this to be just a temporary fad. So in order to keep providing this service, I'd like to further improve the content of the tours, rather than merely increasing the number of cruises that are currently provided only on Saturdays and Sundays. Taking our customers' comments to heart, we're striving for continuous improvement,” Iwata says.

日本初のこの工場夜景クルーズがきっかけになり、地元行政も新たな観光の目玉にしようと独自サービスを開始中だ。「一時期のブームで終わってほしくないですね。未長く続けていくためにも、土日しかない便数を増やすのではなく、中身をより充実させたい。お客様の声を大切に、改善に努めています」と、岩田さんは結ぶ。



Ootori / おおとり