

Sister City News



Our Sister City Search Narrows

The six month Sedona sister city search has reached a major milestone. After evaluating 45 recommended cities, Sedona Sister City Association volunteers have identified four potential sister city partners: **Banff, Canada; Lahinch, Ireland; Nakanojo, Japan and Valletta, Malta** (details on next page).

The four cities, although from across the globe, have many similarities to the greater Sedona area...population size, tourism challenges and opportunities, evidence of a sustainability commitment and unique natural histories and settings.

"The active involvement of our selection committee volunteers and seven content experts allowed us to 'dig deep' and understand the four communities. Each of these cities to varying degrees is

active with visual and performing arts, health and healing initiatives, public education and the involvement of indigenous peoples" said Carol Myers, Vice President Sedona Sister Cities Association.

"To this point our volunteers have researched information about each city without direct contact; now we will reach out to determine the community's interest in opening discussions with us about becoming Sedona's sister city" said Myers.

Sedona's Sister City Association is a volunteer organization with the Mission of Promoting Peace Through Mutual Respect, Understanding and Cooperation. For information about our potential sister cities and to volunteer to assist in our search contact: www.sedonasistercities.org

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Benefits:

Learn about other people & cultures

Free membership events

Join Sister City Exchange Visits

Promote Peace Through Mutual Understanding

sedonasistercities.org

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Potential Sister City Partners

Banff, Canada

Located within the breathtaking Banff National Park, Banff has many similarities to Sedona: over 4 million tourists yearly, a developed focus on sustainability (Master plans for environment, tourism, traffic, energy transition, trail maintenance). A diverse, younger population of 8,305, Banff's economy is tourism based with the stated goal of "living where the world visits". Unique features are Banff's hot springs, Banff International Film and Book Festival, Banff Centre for Arts & Creativity, Banff Summer Arts Festival plus the scenic beauty and winter sports of the surrounding mountains and lakes

Lahinch, Ireland

Lahinch is located on the West coast of Ireland. It is part of the UNESCO cited Burren National Park region which includes the Cliffs of Moher GeoPark. A coastal village of 638 it is part of a municipal district of 11,500. Home to one of the best surfing beaches in Ireland, it also is home to the internationally ranked 36 hole Lahinch Golf Club. The region's focus is on sustainability and ecotourism (1.4 million per year) with a goal of protecting the 5,000 year old history and structures of the Burren.

Nakanojō, Japan

With a population of 15,571, Nakanojō was voted "the most beautiful village in Japan". The Agatsuma River winds its way through the community which is surrounded by mountains. It is known for its hot springs, temples, festivals and skiing. Nakanojō is part of a "whole of society" approach to implementing eight sustainable development goals based on the themes of people, prosperity, planet, peace and partnership.

Valletta, Malta

As the southern most national capitol in the European Union, the harbor city of Valetta has a population of 6,315. Founded in 1566 as a vibrant trade center, the city is recognized by UNESCO for its historical and cultural value. Today it is a tourist destination with more than 2 million visitors per year. Like Sedona it has a commitment to sustainability. Its goal is to move toward cultural tourism.