

武徳殿道場

BUTOKUDEN DOJO

September 24, 2024

Dear Kendo Friends and Senseis:

I hope everyone is doing well. It was nice to see many of you at the WKC in Milan.

This is the invitation to our 12th Annual Butokuden International Kendo Gasshuku. This Gasshuku was originally designed as part of the training for the Portuguese Kendo leaders. I have set the objective of this Gasshuku to “Teach the correct Kendo and introduce the leaders with the correct method of teaching.” Since 2014, we have extended our invitation to not only Portuguese Kenshis, but to other countries as well. We have hosted Kenshis from various countries, such as Mexico, Colombia, Aruba, Ecuador, Venezuela, Trinidad & Tobago, Serbia, UK, Brazil and Portugal.

In 2025, we will be holding the Gasshuku from March 17 to 22, 2025. The official start date of the Gasshuku is Monday March 17, but we will soft start on Saturday March 15, so you can adjust your body. On Sunday March 16, there will be SCKO Godogeiko, so that will be a great chance to practice with different people. March 22, last day, will be Asageiko only, then we will clean up the Dojo and departure.

I would like to extend our invitation to Kenshis across the world interested in participating in this annual Ko-Ken-Chi-Ai event. This will be beneficial to all participants, by giving each other a chance to practice and grow their friendship with Kenshis around the world.

Gasshuku information:

Location: BUTOKUDEN Dojo, 1581 Browning, Irvine, CA 92606 USA

Dates/Schedule (See “2025 Butokuden Gasshuku Schedule” for details):

Arrival Date: Saturday, March 15, 2025

Official Gasshuku days: Monday March 17 to Saturday, March 22, 2025 (March 22 is AM only)

Instructors:

Taro Ariga (Kyoshi 7 Dan)

Haruka Ohshiro (4 Dan) Butokuden Intern Sensei Nittaidai Graduate

Butokuden Dojo Senseis

Language: Portuguese, Spanish, English, and Japanese

Participation Fee: Free

Application deadline: **March 1, 2025**

url: www.butokuden.com

Phone: +1.949.756.8880

Registration:

Participation requirements:

- 1) Member of an accredited Kendo Organization in your country.
- 2) Authorization from your Country’s Kendo Organization leader (new participants only).
- 3) Participants must participate for the entire Gasshuku (Monday to Saturday). If for some reason you cannot attend the entire Gasshuku, please let me know, and we may be able to make some exceptions.
- 4) The Gasshuku is focused to Kendo leaders or future leaders in your country.
- 5) The training is very rigorous. Participants must be in good health condition to participate.
- 6) Participants must have medical insurance valid in the USA.

武徳殿道場

BUTOKUDEN DOJO

- 7) Due to logistics, a maximum of 3 people from each country (please inquire if more people want to participate. We do make exceptions!).
- 8) The participating Kenshis must be 2 Dan or above from accredited FIK organization

Important information:

- 1) Have health insurance valid in the USA. Medical bills in the USA are very expensive, so purchase travel insurance that can be used in the USA prior to entering the USA.
- 2) Gasshuku participation fee is FREE
- 3) Breakfast and lunch: E-BOGU will provide basic food (Bread, Jam, butter, milk, coffee, etc.). In the past, participants made a pool to buy food and cooked at the Dojo. There is a Walmart within walking distance. The approximate budget for one week is about \$200/person.
- 4) Some nights, we will go out for dinner. Dinner is to be paid by each participant (Approximately \$20 - 25/meal). You can also cook at the Dojo. Participants in the past took turn to cook dinner.
- 5) Transportation to the Gasshuku is to be arranged by the participants. If arriving at SNA (Orange County John Wayne Airport), pickup can be arranged. If arriving in LAX, please let us know as we will try to arrange a ride. If we cannot arrange a ride, you will have to find your own way to the Dojo. See additional information below. You can share a ride with other Gasshuku participants.
- 6) You can stay a few days longer at the Dojo after the Gasshuku, as well as you can arrive a few days earlier before the Gasshuku to adjust your body condition.
- 7) Lodging: Participants will have the choice of sleeping in the Dojo or staying at a hotel nearby.
 - a. Dojo: FREE (bring a sleeping bag, or you can purchase at a nearby Walmart for approximately \$25). There are also some extra sleeping bags in the Dojo.
 - b. Hotel: there are hotels near the Dojo starting at approximately \$40 to \$75/night per person (double occupancy). About 10 minutes walking distance from the Dojo.

I lived in Brazil for many years, and I understand that travelling to the USA may be challenging especially for Kenshis from countries in Central and South America, both financially and acquiring travel documents. To have as many participants from various countries, my goal is to make this Gasshuku as affordable as possible.

Please let me know if someone from your country is interested in participating at this Gasshuku. Please reply to me with the application form to ariga@e-bogu.com by March 1, 2025. I am looking forward to having many countries participating.

Sincerely yours,

Taro Ariga
Kendo Kyoshi 7 Dan
Butokuden Dojo Head Instructor
E-BOGU.COM, Inc. CEO

武徳殿道場

BUTOKUDEN DOJO

Additional Information:

- Dojo Address: BUTOKUDEN Dojo, 1581 Browning, Irvine, CA 92606 USA
- Nearby airports:
 - John Wayne (Orange County, Santa Ana) Airport (Airport code SNA): 5 min by car
 - Los Angeles International (Airport Code LAX): 1 hour by car (Approximate cost, shuttle bus \$50, UBER \$80)
 - Long Beach Airport (Airport Code LGB): 30 minutes by car
- Accommodation near the Dojo:
 - Motel 6: 1717 E Dyer Rd, Santa Ana, CA 92705 (0.8 Miles from Dojo) (\$35/person double occupancy)
 - Candlewood Suites: 2600 South Red Hill Avenue, Santa Ana, CA (\$102 + Tax per room, for 2 people in a room) (0.4 Miles from Dojo)
 - Staybridge Suites: 1660 Barranca Parkway, Irvine, CA (5 minutes form Dojo) 2023 Butokuden Special Price was \$145 + Tax (4 can sleep)
- Places to see:
 - Disneyland (15 minutes by car)
 - Knot's Berry Farm Park (20 minutes by car)
 - Newport Beach (15 minutes by car)
 - Universal Studios (1 hour by car)
 - Hollywood, Santa Monica (1 hour by car)
 - California Science Center – Space Shuttle Endeavour (1 hour by car)
 - Sea World (1.5 hours by car)
 - San Diego Zoo (1.5 hours by car)