



Off the Beaten Path: A Different Side of Japanⁿ

2023 CHERRY BLOSSOMS GOURMET ONSEN MEGURI (DISCOVERY)

Exciting Tour! Enjoy the best Japan has to offer. Gourmet seasonal multi-course Kaiseki Dinners at Japan's most famous Hot Springs locales.

9 Nights / 11 Days • 22 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, 7 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes English-Speaking Local Guide
April 01 – 11, 2023

VISIT:

Kansai • Ine • Amanohashidate • Kinosaki • Tottori • Tamatsukuri
Sakaiminato • Matsue • Izumo • Hiroshima • Miyajima • Kyoto • Nara

KINOSAKI — NISHIMURAYA HOTEL SHOGETSUTEI (1 NIGHT): Kinosaki is the quintessential onsen town, with seven public baths and dozens of onsen ryokan, this is the place to sample the onsen ryokan experience. Enjoy a stroll along the willow lined river. The cuisine of Shogetsutei features only the freshest, local ingredients, including crab (available early Nov – late March) from the Sea of Japan and the famous Tajima Beef (the stock cattle of the world famous Kobe Beef).

TAMATSUKURI — HOTEL GYOKUSEN (2 NIGHTS): Tamatsukuri Onsen is one of the premier onsen resorts in Shimane, widely known for its beautifying effects on skin. Eighteen hotels and Japanese-style ryokan inns are built along both sides of the Tamayu River. Some of them offer a day spa; and public foot spas can also be enjoyed free of charge. The area also has spiritual locations, high-quality souvenir shops, and cafes for visitors. Rejuvenate in Hotel Gyokusen's lobby lounge, overlooking a traditional Japanese garden, bringing out the best in the natural beauty of the pine trees and the rock garden.

MIYAJIMAGUCHI — GRANDVRIO HOTEL MIYAJIMA WAKURA (2 NIGHTS): Overlooking Hiroshima Bay and Miyajima Island, this upscale hot springs hotel is a 13 minute walk from Miyajimaguchi train station. Guests can relax in the indoor and outdoor hot-spring baths.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES:

A-Bomb Dome • Itsukushima Shrine • Ninnaji Temple • Todaiji Temple

COMPLETE PACKAGE!

\$4988*

INCLUDES ROUNDTRIP AIRFARE FROM HONOLULU, 9 NIGHTS HOTEL, 22 MEALS, TIPS FOR LOCAL TOUR GUIDES AND BUS DRIVERS, ALL TAXES & FEES

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Day 1: Sat, Apr 01 — HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu.

Day 2: Sun, Apr 02 — OSAKA. Arrive in Kansai International Airport. After entry formalities, walk to the hotel located within the airport. A deluxe Welcome buffet dinner has been arranged at the hotel. HOTEL NIKKO KANSAI AIRPORT (1 Night) (D)

*Baggage will be carried by truck from Kansai to Tamatsukuri, skipping Kinokasa. Prepare an overnight bag for 1 night.

Day 3: Mon, Apr 03 — OSAKA — INE — AMANOHASHIDATE — KINOSAKI. First stop today is **Amanohashidate**, one of the three most scenic places in Japan along with Matsushima Bay near Sendai and Miyajima Island. The coast line is a long sandbar. After lunch, visit the **Bay of Ine**. Take a walk around this small and unique village, consisting of 230 Funaya (over water houses), before taking a cruise around the bay. Continue to Kinokasa. After dinner, enjoy **yozaкура**, cherry blossoms at night, as you stroll along the willow lined river. Don't forget to take a rejuvenating soak in the **onsen hot springs**. NISHIMURAYA HOTEL SHOGETSUTEI (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 4: Tue, Apr 04 — KINOSAKI — TOTTORI — TAMATSUKURI. Witness the awesome **Tottori Sand Dunes** on our way from Kinokasa. After lunch, explore the **Adachi Museum of Art**. Founded by Adachi Zenko in 1980 as a way of combining his passions for Japanese art and garden design. He hoped that viewing the gardens and artwork together would expand peoples' appreciation and interest in Japanese art. The Adachi Museum of Art is best known for its award winning garden. It has been named the best garden in Japan annually since 2003 by the "Journal of Japanese Gardening." The garden can be enjoyed at any time of the year and shows a different character depending on the season. It can only be viewed from the museum building. In addition to the gardens, the Adachi Museum of Art also houses a collection of nearly 1,300 twentieth century paintings and artworks which are rotated seasonally. There is also a permanent exhibit of paintings by Yokoyama Taikan, as well as a ceramics exhibit. This evening enjoy dinner at your hotel. Be sure to enjoy the onsen hot springs (before or after dinner) and perhaps a stroll along the Tamaya River. HOTEL GYOKUSEN (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 5: Wed, Apr 05 — TAMATSUKURI — SAKAIMINATO — MATSUE — TAMATSUKURI. Start the day crossing the **Eshima Ohashi Bridge** into Sakaiminato. When viewed from the right angle, the "betabumi-zaka" ("pedal to the metal") ramp for the bridge looks like it's shooting straight up into the sky — and take you on a roller coaster of a ride — in reality, the 1.4 kilometer long bridge only has a 6.1% sloping angle. After exploring the **Sakaiminato Fish Market**, take a stroll along the **Mizuki Shigeru Road**. Named after the Japanese Manga artist, whose popular ghost series *GeGeGe no Kitaro* brought many of the "yokai" — monsters and spirits of the supernatural world — of Japanese folklore, to life as beloved, cutesified characters. The artist's hometown has embraced his work by created a local yokai treasure hunt on the road named for him — filled with over 150 small bronze statues of the ghost-like characters (each with a handy QR code to learn more about them). Visit the **Yokai Shrine**, built with the aim of "protecting the natural environment where yokai can easily live." It is said that you can receive energy from the yokai if you touch the deities of the shrine (a 3 meter black granite boulder and 300 year old Keyaki tree) after two bows and two claps. After lunch, take a **Hori River boat cruise**, before visiting the quaint **Matsue Castle**. Spend time at an **AEON Mall** before returning to the hotel for dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Thur, Apr 06 — TAMATSUKURI — IZUMO — HIROSHIMA — MIYAJIMAGUCHI. Depart Tamatsukuri for Hiroshima. Enroute, stop in Izumo to visit the **Izumo Taisha** located near the Sea of Japan. It is one of Japan's most important shrines. Izumo used to be ruled by a powerful clan in pre-historic times, and the region plays a central role in Japan's creation mythology. The main deity (kami) enshrined at Izumo Taisha is Okuninushi no Okami. According to the creation myths, Okuninushi was the creator of the land of Japan and the ruler of Izumo. He also became known as the deity of good relationships and marriage. Visitors consequently clap their hands four times instead of the usual two times during their prayers: twice for themselves and twice for their actual or desired partners. After lunch, continue to Hiroshima. In Hiroshima visit the **Peace Memorial Park**, **A-Bomb Dome**, and the **Peace Bell**. Enjoy dinner at the hotel in Miyajimaguchi. GRANDVIRIO HOTEL MIYAJIMA WAKURA (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 7: Fri, Apr 07 — MIYAJIMAGUCHI — MIYAJIMA — MIYAJIMAGUCHI. After breakfast, transfer by **ferry to Miyajima Island**. Upon arrival, visit the vermilion torii gate of **Itsukushima Shrine**, which at high tide, looks like it's floating in the middle of the sea. Free time will be given to explore the excellent shopping and numerous choices for lunch (on your own) down the main street of Miyajima Island. After lunch, take part in some hands-on activities, including **kimono dress-up** and **learning how to write calligraphy**. Later, visit the **Miyajima Ropeway**, a cable car and gondola system linking Miyajima township to Mount Misen. On a clear day the ropeway provides an excellent observation point, plus access



to the Wild Monkey Park, temples, and shrines. Return via ferry to Miyajimaguchi. Dinner will be at the hotel tonight. (B, D)

Day 8: Sat, Apr 08 — MIYAJIMAGUCHI — HIROSHIMA — KYOTO. After a sumptuous breakfast buffet at hotel depart Miyajima for the Hiroshima train station. Transfer to Kyoto by **Shinkansen Bullet Train**. Upon arrival in Kyoto, visit **Nishiki Market**, also known as "Kyoto's Kitchen" is a narrow, five block long shopping street lined by more than one hundred shops and restaurants. Specializes in all things food related, like fresh seafood, produce, knives and cookware, and is a great place to find seasonal foods and Kyoto specialties, such as Japanese sweets, pickles, dried seafood, and sushi. Today's highlight is a visit to **Uzumasa Movie Village**, the only theme park in Japan where you can observe the filming of period dramas (Jidaigeki films). Here you can walk freely around the Toei Kyoto Studio film set. This set depicts a street from the Edo period, and is used to shoot more than 200 films per year. Enjoy the atmosphere of ancient Japan by taking in a ninja show maybe even dressing up as a geisha or samurai (additional cost). After checking into the hotel, the remainder of the evening is at your leisure. Many choices for dinner await you as your hotel is surrounded by shops and restaurants. MIYAKO HOTEL KYOTO HACHUJO (3 Nights) (B)

Day 9: Sun, Apr 09 — KYOTO. Begin the day strolling around **Miyama's Kayabuki no Sato Village**, which is just 30 km north of Kyoto. The scenery is like stepping back in time, as you are surrounded by some of the oldest houses in Japan, all with Kayabuki thatched roof. After lunch, visit **Ryoanji Temple**, the site of Japan's most famous rock garden — which attracts hundreds of visitors every day. Lastly, visit **Ninnaji Temple** — one of the most popular cherry blossoms viewing spots in Kyoto — attracting over 10,000 people a season. Enjoy dinner at an Izakaya restaurant tonight. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Mon, Apr 10 — KYOTO. Full Day at Leisure. Your hotel is surrounded by department stores, specialty stores, and restaurants. A perfect day to fulfill your shopping list. Your local guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

Day 11: Tue, Apr 11 — KYOTO — NARA — OSAKA — HONOLULU. After breakfast, check out from hotel. A full day of sightseeing is ahead. Start the day with a **traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony**. Next visit the stunning vermilion colored **Fushimi Inari Shrine**, whose 4km long tunnel of scarlet torii gates was featured on the film, *Memoirs of a Geisha*. Then visit **Todayji Temple** in Nara. Todayji, the largest wooden building in Japan, houses the largest bronze statue of Buddha at 16.3 meters high. The surrounding **Nara Park** is inhabited by **over 1,000 deer**. Transfer to the Kansai International Airport for our return flight home. Depart Osaka and arrive Honolulu the same day. Aloha and Welcome Home! (B, L)

UNESCO World Heritage Sites: A Bomb Dome (1996), Itsukushima Shrine (1996), Ninnaji Temple (1994), Todayji Temple (1998).

* Fares are per person, USD based on double occupancy and INCLUDE ALL AIRLINE TAXES AND FEES. Airline fuel supplements, taxes and fees are subject to change and tour member is responsible for any increases. Some airline-imposed personal charges, including but not limited to baggage, priority boarding and special seating, may apply. For details visit www.tripadvisor.com/AirlineFees. After initial deposit, a \$75 per person Non-Stop Travel (NST) Cancellation Fee will apply. Group departures may be cancelled, if there are less than 24 tour members. Final Payment to NST for "non-cruise-line" Air and Land Package must be made by Money Order or Personal Check. NST does not guarantee that all tour members will fly together with Tour Manager. Tour Manager assignments, number of meals offered on tour, tour price, discount, and the "final" tour itinerary are subject to change with/without notice. **NST reserves the right to correct errors or omissions including but not limited to, fares, fees and surcharges at any time.** Deposit: \$500 per person. Final Payment Due: 11/22/22. Cherry blossoms are subject to weather conditions. † Early Booking Discount is per person. Purchase of Non-Stop Travel's complete Air and Land Package is required. †† Earn Rewards Every Time You Refer a Friend. For each "New-to-NonStop Travel" customer you refer, both you and your referral can receive a \$25 discount off your next NST escorted group. **Special Assistance:** You must notify NST, at time of reservation, of any disability requiring special attention. NST reserves the right to cancel your booking or terminate your vacation if your special needs or disabilities are not suitable for the vacation or if you are not traveling with a companion who will provide all the assistance you require. **Wheelchair and Electric Scooter access outside of the USA is severely restricted.** 090222

