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Escorted from Honolulu • Includes English-Speaking Local Guide

**March 14 – 25, 2023 • Tour Manager: Dave Umeda**

## VISIT:

Fukuoka • Sasebo • Nagasaki • Unzen • Shimabara • Kumamoto  
Ibusuki • Kagoshima • Sakurajima Island • Miyazaki • Beppu

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Dazaifu • Canal City Hakata • Ohori Park • Fukuoka Tower • Huis Ten Bosch Theme Park  
Kujukushima Cruising • Tenkaiho Park • Glover Garden • China Town • Dejima Island  
Nagasaki Peace Park • Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum • Unzen Jigoku • Unzen Ropeway  
Reclining Buddha • Samurai House • Ferry Ride to Kumamoto • Suizenji Park • Sakura no Baba  
Shinkansen Bullet Train Ride • The Chiran Peace Museum for Kamikaze Pilots  
Samurai Residence and Garden • Senganen Garden • Ferry to Sakurajima Island  
Stroll Around Sakurajima Island • Oni no Sentaku Ita • Michi-no-Eki  
Umi Jigoku • Chinoike Jigoku • AEON Mall

## HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES:

Kimono Dress Up • Ibusuki Hot Sand Bath • Asahi Beer Factory Tour and Tasting

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**Day 1: Tue, Mar 14** – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu.

**Day 2: Wed, Mar 15** – FUKUOKA. Arrive in Fukuoka. After entry formalities, transfer by coach to hotel in Fukuoka. THE ROYAL PARK HOTEL FUKUOKA (3 Nights)

**Day 3: Thur, Mar 16** – FUKUOKA. After a sumptuous breakfast buffet at your hotel, depart for a full day of sightseeing. **Dazaifu** was established in the late 7<sup>th</sup> century and served as the administrative center of the entire island of Kyushu for over 500 years. Nowadays, Dazaifu is a small, quiet city on the outskirts of the large city of Fukuoka. Enjoy lunch at Haneya. After lunch, stop at **Canal City Hakata**, a large shopping and entertainment complex, calling itself a “city within the city.” Attractions include about 250 shops, cafés and restaurants, a theater, game center, cinemas, two hotels, and a canal running through the complex. The fifth floor consists of the “Ramen Stadium”, which has eight ramen shops with noodle dishes from across Japan, including the local specialty Hakata Ramen. Then visit **Ohori Park** and its Japanese Gardens. Take a tour of **Fukuoka Tower**, before returning to the hotel. (B, L)

**Day 4: Fri, Mar 17** – FUKUOKA. Day at Leisure. Free time to explore Fukuoka on your own, shop at nearby stores, or relax at the hotel. Your local guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

\*Baggage will be sent from Fukuoka to Nagasaki, skipping Sasebo. Prepare overnight bag for 1 night.

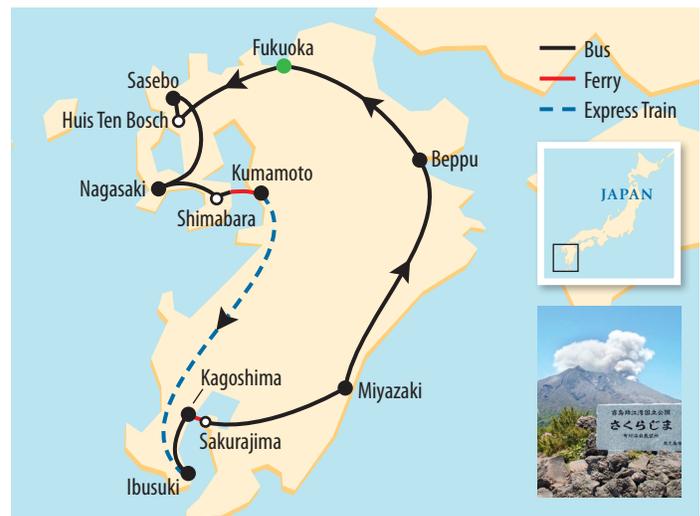
**Day 5: Sat, Mar 18** – FUKUOKA – HUIS TEN BOSCH – SASEBO. Start the day with a tour of **Huis Tens Bosch** (Haus Ten Bosu) a theme park in Nagasaki Prefecture which recreates a Dutch town. This spacious resort is suffused with a European atmosphere with its picturesque canals, iconic windmills, beautiful gardens, and architecture. Enjoy lunch here (on your own). Japan is a nation of many islands but most travelers never get beyond the main four. At **Kujukushima National Park** near Sasebo in Nagasaki Prefecture, however, you can up your island quotient by taking a scenic cruise of the region's waters. The word “kujuku” literally means “99” but has come to refer to a vast number or something uncountable. In truth, there are 208 islands off the coast of Sasebo, the largest concentration of islands anywhere in Japan. If these islands look familiar, chalk it up to the fact that they featured prominently in the opening scenes of the film *The Last Samurai*. **Tenkaiho Park** offers a great vantage point for overlooking the islands. Enjoy a **Kaiseki Dinner** at the hotel. YUMIHARINO OKA HOTEL (1 Night) (B, D)

**Day 6: Sun, Mar 19** – SASEBO – NAGASAKI. After breakfast, visit **Glover Garden**, an open-air museum, exhibiting mansions of former Western residents of Nagasaki. A nice panorama of the city can be enjoyed from the garden. After lunch, take a stroll through **China Town**. Visit **Dejima**, the artificial island built in the shape of a fan, that was used as the sole trading spot with foreign countries from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. For 200 years, until Japan reopened the country in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Dejima was its only window to the world. While at Dejima, experience first-hand what **wearing a kimono** is like. Then explore the **Nagasaki Peace Park**, which commemorates the atomic bombing of Nagasaki on August 09, 1945, that destroyed wide parts of the city and killed tens of thousands of inhabitants. Above the park stands the sobering **Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum**. HOTEL NEW NAGASAKI (1 Night) (B, L, D)

\*Baggage will be sent from Nagasaki to Ibusuki, skipping Kumamoto. Prepare overnight bag for 1 night.

**Day 7: Mon, Mar 20** – NAGASAKI – SHIMABARA – KUMAMOTO. First stop this morning is at **Unzen Jigoku** (“Unzen Hell”), where hot water and gases spout out of the earth. **Unzen Ropeway** leads part way up the mountain slope. The lower and upper ropeway stations have observation decks with views over the surrounding mountains and the Ariake Sea all the way to Kumamoto Prefecture on a clear day. Enjoy the spectacular views. After lunch, visit the **Reclining Buddha** statue in Shimabara. At 8.6 meters long, it's the longest reclining Buddha in Japan. Before departing Shimabara, explore the carefully preserved **Samurai House**. Take a short **ferry ride** from Shimabara to Kumamoto. The remainder of the day is at your leisure. Recommendations will be made by the local guide for dinner options. ANA CROWNE PLAZA KUMAMOTO NEW SKY (1 Night) (B, L)

**Day 8: Tue, Mar 21** – KUMAMOTO – IBUSUKI. Depart the hotel for **Suizenji Park**, a spacious, Japanese style landscape garden in Kumamoto, best enjoyed by scrolling along a circular path. It was built by the Hosokawa family in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The garden reproduces the 53 post stations of the Tokaido, the important road, which connected Edo with Kyoto during the Edo Period, in miniature form, including a small Mt. Fuji. Find a taste of the old days at **Sakura no Baba**, an Edo-themed complex just down the hill from Kumamoto Castle. Enjoy lunch here (on your own). We now make way to Kagoshima by **Shinkansen Bullet Train**. Arrive in Ibusuki. Ibusuki is an onsen town that is famous for its sand baths,



where bathers are buried in naturally heated sand. In sand baths, guests get provided with yukata robes and are then buried by staff members in hot sand that is heated by natural steam coming up from below. After staying buried for typically 10 to 20 minutes, guests wash off the sand and enter regular hot spring baths. Get your chance to **try a “hot sand bath”** at the hotel. Enjoy the **natural onsen hot springs** and a specially prepared dinner at your hotel this evening. IBUSUKI HAKUSUIKAN (1 Night) (B, D)

\*Baggage will be sent from Ibusuki to Miyazaki, skipping Kagoshima. Prepare overnight bag for 1 night.

**Day 9: Wed, Mar 22** – IBUSUKI – KAGOSHIMA. Visit **The Chiran Peace Museum for Kamikaze Pilots**. It is a thought provoking, and to many, a controversial museum dedicated to the lives and deaths of 1,036 suicide pilots or kamikaze, who sacrificed themselves in the name of the Japanese emperor in the latter stages of World War II. After lunch, explore the **Samurai Residences and Gardens**. Then visit **Senganen Garden**, also known as **Isoteien**, a Japanese style landscape garden along the coast north of downtown Kagoshima. One of the garden's most striking feature is its use of Sakurajima and Kagoshima Bay as borrowed scenery. Arrive at the hotel in Kagoshima, where the remaining of the evening is at your leisure. KAGOSHIMA SUN ROYAL HOTEL (1 Night) (B, L)

**Day 10: Thur, Mar 23** – KAGOSHIMA – SAKURAJIMA ISLAND – MIYAZAKI. After breakfast, take a **ferry to Sakurajima Island**, and **take a stroll** around the “symbol of Kagoshima.” One of Japan's most active volcanoes, Sakurajima smokes constantly, and minor eruptions often take place multiple times a day. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. View the unusual rock formations of the **Oni no Sentaku Ita** (“Devil's washboard”) before arriving at the hotel. ANA HOLIDAY INN RESORT MIYAZAKI (1 Night) (B, L, D)

\*Baggage will be sent from Miyazaki to Fukuoka Airport, skipping Beppu. Prepare overnight bag for 1 night.

**Day 11: Fri, Mar 24** – MIYAZAKI – BEPPU. On our way to Beppu, make a quick stop at a **Michi-no-Eki** where you will find an array of farmer-direct merchandise along with other “omiyage” items. Further north we arrive in the bather's paradise – the celebrated hot spring resort of Beppu. Beppu is famous for its “hells” of dramatic pools of bubbling water, mud and geysers. Visit two: **Umi Jigoku** or “Sea Hell” is a pond of boiling blue water and **Chinoike Jigoku** or “Blood Pond Hell” with its bubbling blood red waters. At night we will savor local flavors in a traditional Japanese **Kaiseki Banquet** prepared by your hotel. Be sure to enjoy a soak in the mineral waters of the **hot springs “onsen.”** HOTEL & RESORTS BEPPUWAN (1 Night) (B, D)

**Day 12: Sat, Mar 25** – BEPPU – FUKUOKA – HONOLULU. Start the day with a tour of the **Asahi Beer Factory** and sample some of their tasty products. Last-minute shopping at Fukuoka's spacious **AEON Mall** before making our way to Fukuoka Airport for our flight home to Honolulu. Depart Fukuoka and arrive Honolulu the same day. Aloha and Welcome Home! (B)

† 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.**

