



Off the Beaten Path: A Different Side of Japan

2023 CHERRY BLOSSOMS GRAND CIRCLE SHIKOKU PLUS SHOPPING

Authentic onsen hot springs experiences and gourmet Kaiseki Dinners!

9 Nights / 11 Days • 20 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, 5 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes English-Speaking Local Guide
March 27 – April 06, 2023

VISIT:

Awajishima • Naruto • Takamatsu • Kochi • Ashizuri • Dogo
Matsuyama • Ehime • Okayama • Kurashiki • Osaka

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Uzu no Michi • Naruto Whirlpool Cruise • Awa Jurobe Puppet Theater and Museum
Kotohira Shrine • Ritsurin Garden • Kazurabashi Bridge • Boat Cruise in Oboke Gorge
Kochi Yosakoi Joho Koryukan • Kochi Castle • Katsurahama • Shimanto River Cruise
John Mung Museum • Matsuyama Ropeway • Matsuyama Castle • Ishiteji Temple
Stroll Dogo Onsen Area • Imabari Towel Museum • Michi-no-Eki • Shimanami Kaido
AEON Mall • Kurashiki Bikan Area • Shinkansen Bullet Train Ride
Kuromon Ichiba Market • Dotonbori Shopping • Shinsaibashi Shopping

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES:

Indigo Dyeing Experience • Udon Making Class • Washi Paper Making Class
Seared Bonito Making Class • Fruit Picking

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PACKAGE!**

\$4688*

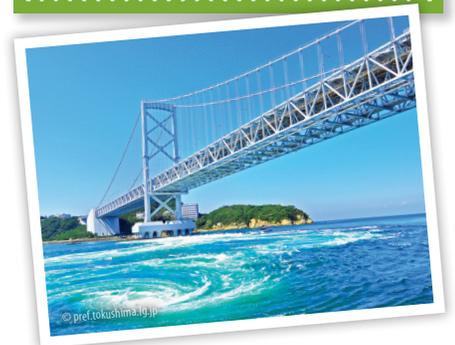
INCLUDES ROUNDTRIP AIRFARE
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LOCAL TOUR GUIDES AND BUS
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*Fares are per person, USD based on double occupancy and INCLUDE ALL AIRLINE TAXES AND FEES. Airline fuel supplements, taxes and fees are subject 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-cruiseline" 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: 11/17/22. Cherry blossoms are subject to weather conditions. 090222

Day 1: Mon, Mar 27 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu.

Day 2: Tue, Mar 28 – OSAKA. Arrive 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 sent from Osaka to Takamatsu, skipping Naruto. Prepare overnight bag for 1 night.

Day 3: Wed, Mar 29 – OSAKA – AWAJISHIMA – NARUTO. After a sumptuous Japanese/Western buffet breakfast at the hotel, embark on a full day of sightseeing. Begin with a tour of the **Uzu no Michi**, an enclosed walkway that extends under the Onaruto Bridge and overlooks the Naruto Whirlpool. The whirlpool, which occur along the Shikoku coast of the Naruto Strait, are created by the large volumes of water moving between the Seto Inland Sea and the Pacific Ocean between high and low tide, combined with the unique underwater geography of the narrow strait. Then view the whirlpool from water level with a **cruise**. After lunch, visit the **Awa Jurobe Puppet Theater and Museum** and learn about Awa Ningyo Joruri, a traditional performance art of Tokushima using puppets made of cypress wood. The lifelike movement of the dolls combined with traditional music is a unique entertainment experience. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel tonight. AOAWO NARUTO RESORT (1 Night) (B, L, D)

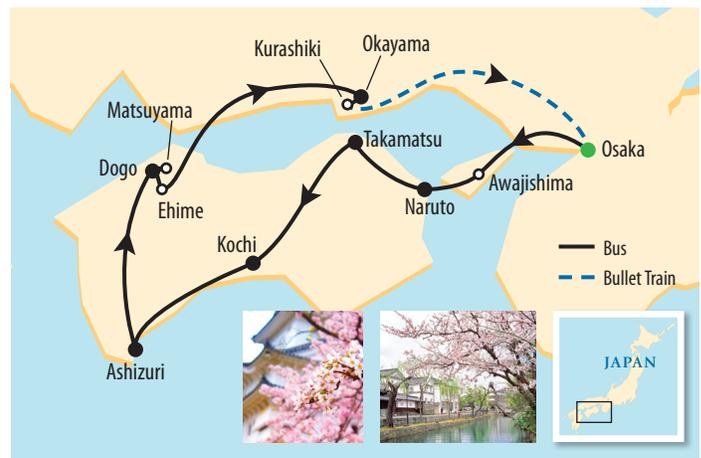
Day 4: Thur, Mar 30 – NARUTO – TAKAMATSU. **Indigo dyeing** is very well known in Tokushima. To ensure that the cloth had been dyed thoroughly it was soaked in a tray for about two minutes then rinsed with water, repeat many times. Next we learn how to **make udon noodles** at Nakano Udon School. Enjoy your hand-made creation for lunch. After lunch, visit the **Kotohira Shrine. Ritsurin Garden** is a landscape garden in Takamatsu City, built by the local feudal lords during the early Edo Period. Considered one of the best gardens in Japan, it is often suggested that Ritsurin Koen deserves a spot on the list of the “three most beautiful gardens of Japan” alongside Kanazawa’s Kenrokuen, Mito’s Kairakuen, and Okayama’s Korakuen. This evening enjoy shopping in the arcade surrounding your hotel. JR HOTEL CLEMENT TAKAMATSU (1 Night) (B, L)

*Baggage will be sent from Takamatsu to Dogo, skipping Kochi and Ashizuri. Prepare overnight bag for 2 nights.

Day 5: Fri, Mar 31 – TAKAMATSU – KOCHI. Start the day with a walk across **Kazurabashi Bridge**, a suspension bridge made of mountain vines, was built as a way to move people and goods across the river and as a deterrent to outsiders, which could easily be cut down if enemies approached. Then take a **boat cruise in Oboke Gorge**. On this gentle 30 minute boat ride down the Yoshino River, guides point out interesting rocks, many of which resemble different animals, along the way. After lunch, learn how to **make washi paper**. A great souvenir of your trip! The **Kochi Yosakoi Joho Koryukan** is a museum that showcases the history and appeal of the Yosakoi Festival, which was founded in 1954. There is a “Yosakoi Theatre” with a 150-inch large-screen display showing how the Yosakoi Festival has developed over time, which really makes visitors feel as though they are watching the Festival in real life, along with a “Yosakoi Experience Corner” where visitors can try on the costumes worn by Yosakoi Festival dancers. Check into the hotel in Kochi. The remainder of the evening is at your leisure. THE CROWN PALAIS NEW HANKYU KOCHI (1 Night) (B, L)

Day 6: Sat, Apr 01 – KOCHI – ASHIZURI. First stop this morning is **Kochi Castle**, one of just twelve Japanese castles to have survived the fires, wars and other catastrophes of the post feudal age. Then it’s on to **Katsurahama**, where you will find a statue of the famous historical hero, Sakamoto Ryoma (1835–1867). He played an important role in opening up modern Japan at the end of the Edo era. Learn how to make seared bonito. Enjoy your creation for lunch. After lunch, take a **cruise on the Shimanto River**, then make way to your hotel to enjoy a traditional Japanese multi-course **Kaiseki Dinner**. ASHIZURI KOKUSAI HOTEL (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 7: Sun, Apr 02 – ASHIZURI – DOGO. Visit the **John Mung Museum** and learn how he was instrumental in the opening of Japan to foreigners. After lunch, transfer to Dogo and relax your body at the world-famous Dogo Onsen (hot springs), one of the oldest **onsen hot springs** in Japan, with a history stretching back over 1,000 years. The area around Dogo retains the feeling of a resort town, with guests from all over the country wandering the streets in yukata robes after their bath. Don’t forget to check out the nearby **shopping arcade** full of shops selling local products of the area. If you time your visit right, you can watch the **Botchan Karakuri Clock**, located at the entrance of the shopping arcade, come to life like a cuckoo clock (every hour between 8:00 am and 10:00 pm). There is also a **free foot bath** at the base of the clock. DOGO KAN (2 Nights) (B, L, D)



Day 8: Mon, Apr 03 – DOGO – MATSUYAMA – DOGO. Take the **Matsuyama Ropeway**, a single-chair chairlift, a pleasant and popular way to ascend Mount Katsuyama and visit the **Matsuyama Castle. Ishiteji Temple** located near Dogo Onsen to the northeast of Matsuyama’s city center, is the city’s most famous temple. It is number 51 of the 88 temples on the Shikoku Pilgrimage. Pilgrims dressed in white are a frequent sight at this large temple. This evening savor your second, seasonal, traditional, multi-course **Kaiseki Dinner**. (B, L, D)

*Baggage will be sent from Dogo to Osaka, skipping Okayama. Prepare overnight bag for 1 night.

Day 9: Tue, Apr 04 – DOGO – EHIME – OKAYAMA. On our way back to Honshu today, stop and explore **Imabari Towel Museum**. Located in Japan’s largest towel producing town, this unique museum is dedicated to showing off the wonders of the towel. Later, stop at a roadside “**Michi-no-Eki**” stand for lunch (on your own). Not only do they provide a clean and convenient rest stop, local farmers and fisherman sell their products at rock-bottom prices. Next we cross the **Shimanami Kaido**, the 60km long toll road that connects the island of Shikoku to the main island of Honshu. Transfer to Okayama where you will enjoy shopping and dining (on your own) at **one of the largest AEON Malls**. HOTEL GRANVIA OKAYAMA (1 Night) (B)

Day 10: Wed, Apr 05 – OKAYAMA – KURASHIKI – OSAKA. After breakfast visit **Kurashiki** and it’s beautiful **Bikan Area**. In merchant days, this scenic town thrived as a port for rice shipments. Several old rice granaries and examples of historic architecture still remain, in addition to the stone lined canal. Enjoy lunch on your own. Then enjoy **fruit picking**. Transfer by **Shinkansen Bullet Train** to Osaka Station. The remainder of the day is free to explore department stores, specialty shops and an expansive underground shopping oasis. HOTEL GRANVIA OSAKA (1 Night) (B)

Day 11: Thur, Apr 06 – OSAKA – HONOLULU. After hotel checkout, start the day with a visit to **Kuromon Ichiba Market**, a lively covered market which stretches for 580 meters in Osaka’s Chuo Ward. The market is famous for its fresh seafood, fruits and vegetables, meats, dried fish, pickles, and confectionery. Many stalls will prepare, cook and serve their food to you right on the spot! An excellent place to stroll, sample, and snack on a delicious variety of fresh market foods. Next, visit **Dotonbori**, one of Osaka’s most popular tourist destinations, this street runs parallel to the Dotonbori canal. It is a popular shopping and entertainment district and is also known as a food destination. Next stop is **Shinsaibashi Shopping Arcade**, Osaka’s premier shopping center. Approximately 600 meters long, this area is unique as it combines chain retail stores and trendy boutiques with expensive department stores and top designer fashion labels. One last shopping stop at an **AEON Mall**. Return to Kansai International Airport for our return flight home. Depart Osaka and arrive Honolulu the same day. Aloha and Welcome Home! (B)

Hurry, Don't Miss Out! Call & Book Today!!

† 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.**



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