



**Off the Beaten Path: A Different Side of Japan**

# 2023 CHERRY BLOSSOMS GRAND NIIGATA, SADO ISLAND PLUS TOKYO SHOPPING

9 Nights / 11 Days • 22 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, 7 Dinners)  
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes English-Speaking Local Guide  
**April 11 – 21, 2023 • Tour Manager: Cora Kinney**

## HIDDEN GEMS OF JAPAN:

There's more to Japan than the well-known destinations of Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka. After all, with over 43 prefectures, there are surely TONS of other hidden gems out there that will be worth your while! In fact, there is one stunning place that's yet to be discovered by foreign tourists, and that's a visit to Niigata Prefecture facing the Sea of Japan.

## VISIT:

Omiya • Niigata • Sado Island • Tokyo

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

JR Super Express Train Ride • Takada Castle Sakura Festival • Knife Factory Tour  
Yahiko Park • Yahiko Shrine • Yahiko Ropeway • Shopping at Cave D'occi Winery • Michi-no-Eki  
Shirone Giant Kite Museum • Niigata Saito Villa • MinatoPia • Water Shuttle Ride  
Geiko Dinner • Northern Culture Museum • AEON Mall • Ferry Ride to Sado Island  
Shukunegi • Tarai-Bune Boat Ride • Oni-Daiko (Demon Drums) Performance  
Japanese Crested Ibis Conservation Centre • Sado Gold Mine • Senkakuwan Bay Ageshima Museum  
Asakusa Sensoji Temple • Nakamise Shopping • Ameyoko Shopping

## HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES:

Shirone Grape Garden for Fruit Picking • Kite Making Experience  
Imayo Tsukasa Sake Brewery Tour and Tasting • Senbei (Rice Cracker) Making  
Mochi Pounding • Obata Sake Brewery Tour and Tasting  
Soba Noodle Making • Sushi Making Class

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**ONI-DAIKO** — *Demon Drums  
Performance!*      **KAISEKI DINNER** — *With Geiko (Geisha)  
Performance!*



**Day 1: Tue, Apr 11** – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu.

**Day 2: Wed, Apr 12** – TOKYO. Arrive in Tokyo. After entry formalities, transfer by coach to your hotel in Omiya. The remainder of the evening is at your leisure. The hotel is conveniently located a 5 minute walk from the JR Omiya Station, which is one of the largest stations in the Saitama Prefecture. There will be various choices for shopping and dining at the train station. **PALACE HOTEL OMIYA** (1 Night)

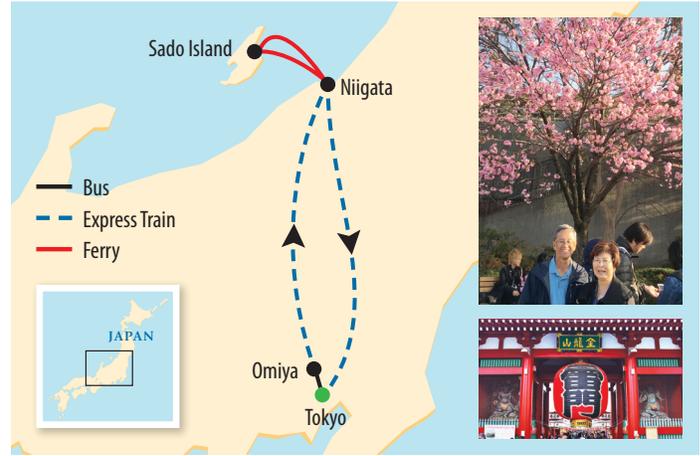
**Day 3: Thur, Apr 13** – OMIYA – NIIGATA. After a sumptuous breakfast buffet at hotel, walk to the Omiya Train Station. Take the **JR Super Express Train** to Niigata. Upon arrival in Niigata, travel to Takada Castle. With roughly 4,000 cherry trees, the **Takada Castle Sakura Festival** is one of the top five flower festivals in the world. Take a **tour of a knife factory**, before transferring to the hotel. Soak in the **hot spring onsen** before or after your multi-course **Kaiseki Dinner**. **HOTEL OYANAGI** (2 Nights) (B, D)

**Day 4: Fri, Apr 14** – NIIGATA. Now this is what you've been waiting for! **Yahiko Park** is ablaze with cherry blossoms! You've never seen anything like it! Also visit **Yahiko Shrine**. Take it all in from the amazing vantage point of the **Yahiko Ropeway**!! Enjoy lunch and some time to shop at **Cave D'occi Winery**. After lunch, visit **Shirone Grape Garden** to **pick some fruit**. Return to the hotel for dinner. (B, L, D)

**Day 5: Sat, Apr 15** – NIIGATA. Begin the day with a stop at roadside "**Michi-no-Eki**" stand. Not only do they provide a clean and convenient rest stop, local farmers and fisherman sell their products at rock-bottom prices. At the **Shirone Giant Kite Museum**, you'll have the opportunity to **make a kite**. After lunch, stop at the **Imayo Tsukasa Sake Brewery** for a **tour** of their facilities and **taste samples** of their products. Take a tour of **Niigata Saito Villa**. Built by a wealthy merchant, Saito Kijuro, in 1918, the villa was carefully constructed to provide the best view of the Japanese garden. Take a stroll through history at **MinatoPia**, the Niigata City History Museum. Transfer to the hotel by **water shuttle**. You're in for treat this evening!! Along with dinner, we are entertained by an authentic **Geiko**. Dancing, singing, and playing fun games! **HOTEL NIKKO NIIGATA** (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

**Day 6: Sun, Apr 16** – NIIGATA. Start the day learning how to **make senbei (rice cracker)**. Next, explore the **Northern Culture Museum**, where you'll have lunch and learn how to **pound mochi**. Originally serving as a mansion of Ito Bunkichi, who lived in the Edo Period (1603–1868) and was one of the greatest landowners in Japan, nowadays, the museum houses calligraphy and ceramics, lacquer ware and documents related to Ito's family history. You can also visit the garden; it is a "walking" garden with a big pond. Stop at an **AEON Mall** for some free time for shopping. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant before returning to the hotel. (B, L, D)

**Day 7: Mon, Apr 17** – NIIGATA – SADO ISLAND. Transfer to Niigata Port. Take a **ferry to Sado Island**. Upon arrival in Sado, visit the **Obata Sake Brewery** for a **tour and tasting**. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before exploring the charming fishing village of **Shukunegi**. The entire village is designated as a "National Historic Site." Take a stroll along the narrow streets of Shukunegi Village to feel the history and experience the living conditions of people living during the Edo period. As this area was previously a trading port for ships going to Edo (Tokyo) and Osaka, many who lived here were ship carpenters and sailors. Here, you will be able to find the popular sankaku-ya which is a triangle-shaped house, built to fit the shape of the land available at that period of time. Later, take a traditional "**Tarai-Bune**" boat ride. The tarai-bune tub boats floating along the Ogi coastline are considered the symbol of Ogi. These boats are constructed out of cedar wrapped with bamboo on



the outside, with a diameter of about 150 cm. Developed and used during Edo and Meiji periods, the tarai-bune tub boats, mainly operated by women, were ideal for tight turn and stability amidst the abundant reefs and coves along the Ogi Peninsula. These boats were originally used for collecting shellfish and seaweed from around the coast. Transfer to the hotel. A special **Kaiseki Dinner** will be served at your hotel accompanied by an authentic **Oni-Daiko (Demon Drums) Performance**. **HOTEL YAHATAKAN** (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

**Day 8: Tue, Apr 18** – SADO ISLAND. Take a tour of the **Japanese Crested Ibis Conservation Centre**. **Make your own soba noodles** and eat your delicious creation for lunch. After lunch, visit the **Sado Gold Mine**. Then visit **Senkakuwan Bay Agheshima Museum**. (B, L, D)

**Day 9: Wed, Apr 19** – SADO ISLAND – NIIGATA – TOKYO. Take a **jet foil** from Sado Island to Niigata. Then depart Niigata and travel to Tokyo via **JR Super Express Train**. Transfer from Tokyo Station to your hotel. You are now in the center of Shinjuku, the hub of shopping and restaurants in Tokyo. The remainder of the day is at your leisure. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel. **KEIO PLAZA HOTEL TOKYO** (2 Nights) (B, D)

**Day 10: Thur, Apr 20** – TOKYO. Day at Leisure. Enjoy shopping and dining in the bustling Shinjuku area. Perfect day to relax and/or visit with family and friends in Tokyo. Your local guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

**Day 11: Fri, Apr 21** – TOKYO – HONOLULU. Begin the day with a visit to **Asakusa**, the center of Tokyo's shitamachi (literally "low city"), one of Tokyo's districts, where an atmosphere of the Tokyo of past decades survives. Asakusa's main attraction is **Sensoji**, a very popular Buddhist temple built in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. The temple is approached via the **Nakamise**, a shopping street that has been providing temple visitors with a variety of traditional local snacks and tourist souvenirs for centuries. Today's highlight will be a hands-on **sushi making session**, which will yield your delicious lunch. After lunch, visit **Ameyoko**, a busy market street along the Yamanote Line tracks between Okachimachi and Ueno Stations. Transfer to the airport for your flight home. Depart Tokyo and arrive in Honolulu the same day. Aloha and Welcome Home! (B, L)

*Book Early & SAVE! Hurry, Call & Book Today!!*

\* 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](http://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: 12/02/22. 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

