



Off the Beaten Path: A Different Side of Japan

2023 CHERRY BLOSSOMS NORTHERN KYUSHU, IWAKUNI & OSAKA GOURMET TOUR

10 Nights / 12 Days • 24 Meals (10 Breakfasts, 7 Lunches, 7 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes English-Speaking Local Guide
March 18 – 29, 2023

VISIT:

Fukuoka • Sasebo • Nagasaki • Unzen • Shimabara • Kumamoto • Beppu
Oita • Shimonoseki • Iwakuni • Yamaguchi • Hiroshima • Osaka

GOURMET HIGHLIGHTS:

Seasonal Multi-Course Kaiseki Dinners • Sake Brewery Tour and Tasting • Horse Meat Teishoku Lunch
Jigoku-Mushi (Geothermal Steam Cooking) Lunch • Fugu (Puffer Fish) Special Dinner
Okonomiyaki (Savory Pancake) Lunch • Kobe Beef Shabu Shabu Dinner

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Uminonakamichi Seaside Park • Fukuoka Tower • Mentaiko Factory • Museum Haku Haku • Tochoji Temple
Kujukyu Shima National Park Scenic Cruise • Huis Ten Bosch Amusement Park • Glover Garden
China Town • Dejima Island • Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum • Nagasaki Peace Memorial Park
Unzen Jigoku • Unzen Ropeway • Shimeiso Garden • Shimabara Bukeyashiki • Ferry Ride to Kumamoto
Sakura no Baba • Kumamoto Castle • Suizenji Park • Umi and Chinoike Jigoku – The Hot Spring Hells
TOTO Museum • Akama Shrine • Museum of Japanese Emigration to Hawaii (Suo Oshima Island)
Kintaiyo Bridge • Orizuru Tower • Shinkansen Bullet Train Ride • Kuromon Ichiba Market
Dotonbori Shopping • Shinsaibashi Shopping • AEON Mall

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE:

Kimono Dress-up • Okonomiyaki (Savory Pancake) Making

ONSEN HOT SPRINGS:

HOTEL & RESORTS BEPPUWAN (BEPPU): Beppuwan is one of Japan's most famous hot spring towns. The open-air rock bath in Hotel & Resorts Beppuwan is sourced by the Nishshutsu Onsen. It is a sodium chloride hot spring with a fountain in the premises. You can enjoy the view of Beppu Bay while soaking yourself in the hot water. For the ladies' onsen, a special rose bath is also available.

IWAKUNI KOKUSAI KANKO HOTEL: Located right in front of Kintaiyo Bridge, enjoy Japanese-style rooms and public indoor/outdoor hot-spring baths.

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Day 1: Sat, Mar 18 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu.

Day 2: Sun, Mar 19 – FUKUOKA. Arrive in Fukuoka. After entry formalities, transfer by coach to the hotel in Fukuoka. THE ROYAL PARK HOTEL FUKUOKA. (2 Nights)

Day 3: Mon, Mar 20 – FUKUOKA. Begin the day with a visit to **Uminonakamichi Seaside Park**. Enjoy beautiful seasonal flowers all throughout the year, as well as various leisure activities such as “Animal Forest” where you can interact with animals, including squirrels, monkeys, capybaras, and outdoor leisure pools in the urban area. Next, we make a stop at **Fukuoka Tower**, followed by a stop at a **Mentaiko factory** (spicy cod roe) and **Museum Haku Haku** to learn about Fukuoka’s food and culture. After lunch, stop at **Tochoji Temple** which was dedicated to the Buddhist saint Kukai who built it in 806 and contains the largest seated wooden statue of Buddha in Japan. Return to the hotel. Walk to Hanamidori for a special Mizutaki dinner. (B, L, D)

*Baggage will be sent from Fukuoka to Kumamoto, skipping Sasebo and Nagasaki. Prepare overnight bag for 2 nights.

Day 4: Tue, Mar 21 – FUKUOKA – SASEBO. Japan is 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 “kujukju” 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*. Next tour **Huis Ten Bosch**, a theme park in Sasebo, Nagasaki, which recreates the Netherlands by displaying life-sized copies of old Dutch buildings. The name Huis Ten Bosch translates into English as “House at the Woods/bush.” It is named after Huis Ten Bosch in The Hague, one of the three official residences of the Dutch Royal Family. Spend time exploring the park and lunch (on your own). Tour **Umegae Sake Brewery** and **sample some of their products**. Enjoy a multi-course seasonal **Kaiseki Dinner** at your hotel. HOTEL NIKKO HUIS TEN BOSCH (1 Night) (B, D)

Day 5: Wed, Mar 22 – SASEBO – NAGASAKI. **Glover Garden** is a park in Nagasaki built for Thomas Blake Glover, a Scottish merchant who contributed to the modernization of Japan in shipbuilding, coal mining, and other fields. In it stands the Glover Residence, the oldest Western style house surviving in Japan and Nagasaki’s foremost tourist attraction. After a delicious lunch in **Nagasaki’s China Town**, visit **Dejima Island** where you will **dress-up in beautiful kimonos** for the ladies and **handsome samurai outfits** for the gentlemen. We end the day with a visit to the **Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum** and **Peace Park Memorial**. This evening enjoy a Western dinner at your hotel. HOTEL NEW NAGASAKI (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 6: Thur, Mar 23 – 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 **Shimeiso Garden** to view the spring water pond with the numerous carp swimming inside. Then explore Shimabara’s **Bukeyashiki**, samurai residences. Take a short ferry ride from Shimabara to Kumamoto. This evening, dinner suggestions will be made by the local guide. HOTEL NIKKO KUMAMOTO (1 Night) (B, L)

Day 7: Fri, Mar 24 – KUMAMOTO – BEPPU – OITA. After breakfast, find a taste of the old days at **Sakura no Baba**, an Edo-themed complex just down the hill from Kumamoto Castle. Enjoy a special **Horse Meat course lunch**. After lunch, explore **Suizenji Park** is 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 17th 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. This evening enjoy a buffet dinner at your hotel and enjoy a relaxing soak in one of the open-air or indoor hot spring onsens. HOTEL & RESORTS BEPPUWAN (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 8: Sat, Mar 25 – OITA – BEPPU – SHIMONOSEKI. 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. Lunch today is uniquely prepared using volcanic steam from natural vents, **Jigoku-Mushi**. End the day with a visit to the



TOTO Museum, famous for their Japanese and World toilet evolution. Enjoy a spectacular **Fugu (puffer fish) course dinner** at a 100 year old restaurant. SHIMONOSEKI GRAND HOTEL (1 Night) (B, L, D)

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

Day 9: Sun, Mar 26 – SHIMONOSEKI – IWAKUNI. Start the day with a visit to **Akama Shrine**, with the large white base that supports one of its many red roofs. This shrine was built to commemorate the spirit of the six-year-old Emperor Antoku, who died here during the decisive Battle of Dan-no-Ura between the Minamoto and Taira clans in 1185. After lunch, visit the **Museum of Japanese Emigration to Hawaii**, located on Suo Oshima Island. The former Fukumoto house was restored and converted into the Museum. Since 1995 the town of Suo-Oshima-Cho having sent a lot of emigrants to countries overseas began to put together a collection of various data and materials related to emigration to Hawai’i in order to inform present and future generations of their ancestors’ past. This evening enjoy a spectacular **Kaiseki Dinner** along with the natural **hot springs onsen**. IWAKUNI KOKUSAI KANKO HOTEL (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 10: Mon, Mar 27 – IWAKUNI – HIROSHIMA – OSAKA. Explore the **Kintaiyo Bridge**, which has been Iwakuni’s most distinguished landmark and a subject of admiration for hundreds of years. The elegant, wooden bridge makes five bold arches onto massive stone pillars as it crosses over the Nishiki River. For lunch, **learn how to make your very own Okonomiyaki (savory pancake)**. Then visit **Orizuru Tower** which offers sweeping views of the city of Hiroshima and the Atomic Dome. Board your **Shinkansen Bullet Train** from Hiroshima station to Shin-Osaka station. This evening savor an authentic **Kobe Beef Shabu Shabu Dinner**. HOTEL GRANVIA OSAKA (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 11: Tue, Mar 28 – OSAKA. Full day at leisure. Perfect to visit with family and friends or for POWER SHOPPING! Your local guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

Day 12: Wed, Mar 29 – OSAKA – HONOLULU. Full day of shopping! Start 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. **Shinsaibashi Shopping Arcade** and the surrounding area is 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. A final shopping stop will be made at an **AEON Mall** before transferring to Kansai International Airport for our return flight home. Depart Osaka and arrive Honolulu the same day. Aloha and Welcome Home! (B)

*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: 11/08/22. 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

