



Japan.
Endless
Discovery.

Off the Beaten Path: A Different Side of Japan

2023 CHERRY BLOSSOMS SADO ISLAND, SNOW MONKEYS, HAKONE & TOKYO

*Hot springs onsen experience with seasonal Kaiseki Dinners on Sado Island & Nagano!
Travel roundtrip from Tokyo!*

10 Nights / 12 Days • 20 Meals (10 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 7 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes English-Speaking Local Guide
April 05 – 16, 2023 • Tour Manager: Lee Ann LaFortune

OVERVIEW:

One of Japan's largest islands, Sado Island has an interesting history. Its culture can be seen in its unique traditional arts and entertainment. Jigokudani, home of the world famous "snow monkeys," is situated in the valley of the Yokoyu River. 200 or so Japanese Macaque monkeys inhabit the area. Hakone, famous for its hot springs, natural beauty, and the view of nearby Mt. Fuji, is one of the most popular destinations among Japanese and international tourists looking for a break from Tokyo. Tokyo is Japan's capital and the world's most populous metropolis and offers a seemingly unlimited choice of shopping, entertainment, culture, and dining to its visitors.

VISIT:

Omiya • Niigata • Sado Island • Nagano • Matsumoto • Nagoya
Iga • Koga • Shizuoka • Hakone • Mt. Fuji • Tokyo

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

JR Super Express Train Ride • Northern Culture Museum • Niigata Furusato Village
Jet Foil Ride to Sado Island • Kitazawa Flotation Field • Sado Gold Mine • Tarai-Bune Boat Ride • Shukunegi
Japanese Crested Ibis Conservation Centre • Jigokudani Monkey Park (for Nagano Snow Monkeys)
Zenkoji Temple • Matsumoto Castle • Daio Wasabi Nojo • Japan Ukiyoe Museum • Noritake Museum
Iga-ryu Ninja Museum • Hanagaki Shrine • Toyota Museum • Unagi Pie Factory • Owakudani
Hakone Ropeway • Mt. Fuji • Ameyoko Shopping • Asakusa Sensoji Temple • Nakamise Shopping

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES:

Imayo Tsukasa Sake Brewery Tour and Tasting • Soba Noodle Making • Oyaki Making
Fruit Picking • Hakone Yosegi-Zaiku Box Making • Sushi Making Class

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES:

Mt. Fuji

**COMPLETE
PACKAGE!**

\$4988*

INCLUDES ROUNDTRIP AIRFARE
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HOTEL, 20 MEALS, TIPS FOR
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**ONI-DAIKO —
Demon Drums Performance!**

* 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: 11/22/22. Cherry blossoms are subject to weather conditions. 090222

Day 1: Wed, Apr 05 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu.

Day 2: Thur, Apr 06 – TOKYO – OMIYA. 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)

*Baggage will be carried by truck from Omiya to Nagano, skipping Sado Island. Prepare an overnight bag for 2 nights.

Day 3: Fri, Apr 07 – OMIYA – NIIGATA – SADO ISLAND. After a sumptuous breakfast buffet at hotel, walk to the Omiya station. Transfer to Niigata by **JR Super Express Train**. Sightseeing in Niigata by coach, visiting the **Northern Culture Museum, Niigata Furusato Village, and Imaya Tsukasa Sake Brewery**. Transfer to Niigata Port. **Ride a jet foil to Sado Island**. Arrive in Sado Island and transfer to hotel in Sado. Enjoy a traditional, multi-course **Kaiseki Dinner**, featuring ingredients unique to Sado Island. During dinner, watch an **Oni-Daiko (Demon Drums) Performance**. **HOTEL YAHATAKAN** (2 Nights) (B, D)

Day 4: Sat, Apr 08 – SADO ISLAND. Full day sightseeing of Sado Island by coach, including the **Kitazawa Flotation Field** and **Sado Gold Mine**. **Make your own soba noodles** and eat your delicious creation for lunch. After lunch, 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. Then visit 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. Then, take a tour of the **Japanese Crested Ibis Conservation Centre**. Enjoy a special dinner tonight at La Plage restaurant. (B, L, D)

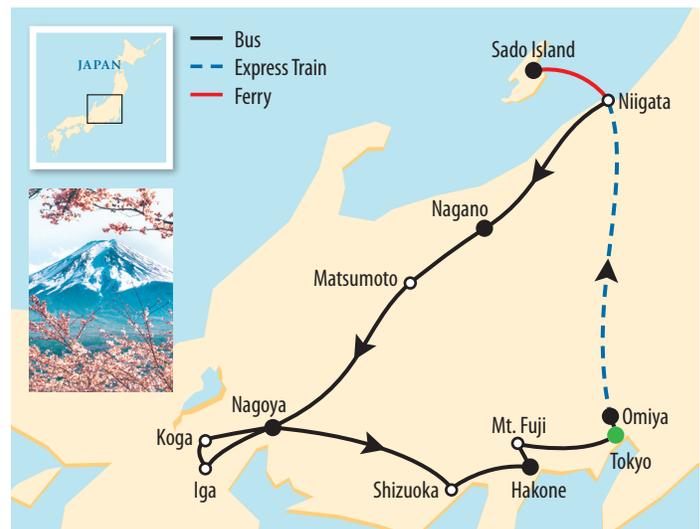
Day 5: Sun, Apr 09 – SADO ISLAND – NAGANO. Transfer to Ryotsu Port and **take the ferry** to Niigata Port. Transfer to hotel in Nagano by coach. Relax a little before enjoying dinner at the hotel. **RYOKAN BIYUNOYADO** (2 Nights) (B, D)

Day 6: Mon, Apr 10 – NAGANO. Full-day sightseeing in Nagano by coach, starting with a visit to the **Jigokudani Monkey Park** (for Snow Monkeys). Then **learn how to make oyaki**, a Japanese dumpling made from fermented buckwheat dough wrapped around a stuffing of vegetables, fruits, or anko bean paste before being roasted in an iron pan and then steamed or broiled before eating. Visit **Zenkoji Temple** before returning back to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

*Baggage will be carried by truck from Nagano to Hakone, skipping Nagoya. Prepare an overnight bag for 2 nights.

Day 7: Tue, Apr 11 – NAGANO – MATSUMOTO – NAGOYA. Full day of sightseeing of Nagano by coach, visiting **Matsumoto Castle, Daio Wasabi Nojo, and the Japan Ukiyoe Museum**. **NAGOYA TOKYU HOTEL** (2 Nights) (B, D)

Day 8: Wed, Apr 12 – NAGOYA – IGA – KOGA – NAGOYA. Depart Nagoya for Iga and Koga. First visiting the **Noritake Museum**. “Noritake” is in Japan, what Wedgewood is in England – the country’s most prestigious fine china and tableware producer. Nagoya is in fact the Headquarters of Noritake’s operations and attracts huge numbers of visitors each year. The Outlet shop stocks a wide range of reasonably priced ceramics, as well as seasonal and character inspired designs as well as a selection of other Noritake related souvenirs. After lunch there (on your own), visit the **Iga-ryu Ninja Museum**. The Iga-ryu Ninja Museum includes a ninja residence, two exhibition halls, and a staged ninja show. While the ninja residence looks ordinary from the outside, visitors are introduced to the revolving walls, trap doors and hidden compartments in the house on the guided tour. The exhibition halls display ninja tools, gadgets, costumes, and weaponry – along with a description of the way of life and techniques used by the ninja. View the cherry blossoms at **Hanagaki Shrine**, before returning to Nagoya for an evening of leisure. (B)



Day 9: Thur, Apr 13 – NAGOYA – SHIZUOKA – HAKONE. Transfer to Hakone by coach. Enroute, explore the **Toyota Museum**. Then enjoy **fruit picking at Hamamatsu Fruit Park**, before stopping at the famous **“Unagi-Pie” Factory**. This evening, continue to Hakone where much of the area is considered an active volcanic zone since its creation from eruption of Mount Hakone some 3,000 years ago. Soak your body in the **healing hot springs of Hakone**. The onsens – which are divided for men and women – allow you to enjoy the hot springs whether indoors or outdoors. The high-quality service and facilities are sure to become some of your fondest memories of your visit to Japan. **YUMOTO FUJIYA HOTEL** (1 Night) (B, D)

Day 10: Fri, Apr 14 – HAKONE – Mt. FUJI – TOKYO. After breakfast, visit **Owakudani** (“Great Boiling Valley”), and see the source of the hot spring waters of Hakone. Take the **Hakone Ropeway** and view the surrounding countryside. Learn how to make a **Hakone Yosegi-Zaiku Box**. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch, visit **Mt. Fuji** and **ascend to the 5th station** (weather permitting), at an elevation of 7,500 feet above sea level. Transfer to the hotel in Tokyo. Walk to a nearby restaurant for a special Izakaya dinner. **GRAND NIKKO TOKYO DAIBA** (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 11: Sat, Apr 15 – TOKYO. Full day at leisure. A perfect day to shop, dine, and explore Tokyo on your own. Your local guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

Day 12: Sun, Apr 16 – TOKYO – HONOLULU. After a sumptuous buffet breakfast embark on a full day of discovery! 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. The name “Ameyoko” is a short form for “Ameya Yokocho” (candy store alley), as candies were traditionally sold there. Alternatively, “Ame” also stands for “America”, because a lot of American products used to be available there when the street was the site of a black market in the years following World War II. Today, various products such as clothes, bags, cosmetics, fresh fish, dried food and spices are sold along Ameyoko. Lastly, visit **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 7th 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. Transfer to the airport for the flight home. Depart Tokyo and arrive Honolulu the same day. Aloha and Welcome Home! (B, L)

UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Mt. Fuji (2013).

† Early Booking Discount is per person. Purchase of Non-Stop Travel’s complete Air and Land Package is required.

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