



2023 CHERRY BLOSSOMS TOHOKU & HOKKAIDO

Let's Support Tohoku! "Ganbatte Tohoku!" Explore the less traveled Tohoku region then enjoy a visit to Hokkaido. Enjoy the onsen (hot springs) of Tsunagi, Kazuno, Hakodate, and Noboribetsu...a once in a lifetime experience!

10 Nights / 12 Days • 25 Meals (10 Breakfasts, 8 Lunches, 7 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes English-Speaking Local Guide
April 12 – 23, 2023 • Tour Manager: Wally Mau

VISIT:

Omiya • Sendai • Matsushima • Rikuzentakata • Hiraizumi • Tsunagi
Kakunodate • Tazawa • Morioka • Oirase • Kazuno • Hirosaki • Aomori
Hakodate • Toya • Date • Noboribetsu • Shiraoi • Sapporo

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Shinkansen Bullet Train Ride • Zuihoden • Sendai Shopping Area
Matsushima Scenic Cruise • Matsushima Fish Market • Zuiganji Temple
Matsushima Museum • Kanran-tei • Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum • Michi-no-Eki
Chusonji Temple • Kakunodate • Aoyagi Samurai Manor Museum • Lake Tazawa
Tatsuko Statue • Asabiraki • Oirase Gorge • Hakkoda Snow Corridor • Hirosaki Castle
Nebuta House Warasse • Hakodate Night View Tour • Hakodate Morning Market
Hakodate Botanical Garden (with Onsen Monkeys) • Museum of Northern Peoples
Red Brick Warehouses • Goryokaku Tower and Park • Shikabe Geysers Park
Date History and Culture Museum • Jigokudani "Hell Valley" • Shiraoi Ainu Museum
Okurayama Observatory Chair Lift • TV Tower • Clock Tower • Odori Park
AEON Mall • Chitose Domestic Terminal Shopping

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES:

Sasakama Kan (Hand-grilled Fish Cake) Making Experience
Tezukuri Mura Senbei Making Experience • Cooking Lesson
Indigo Dyeing Experience

COMPLETE PACKAGE!

\$5188*

INCLUDES ROUNDTRIP AIRFARE FROM HONOLULU, 10 NIGHTS HOTEL, 25 MEALS, TIPS FOR LOCAL TOUR GUIDES AND BUS DRIVERS, ALL TAXES & FEES

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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-cruise" 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. 090222



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DON'T MISS A THING!!
WHISPER — Wireless Tour Guide System!
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Day 1: Wed, Apr 12 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu.

Day 2: Thur, Apr 13 – 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 sent from Omiya to Sendai, skipping 1 night in Sendai. Prepare an overnight bag for 1 night.

Day 3: Fri, Apr 14 – OMIYA – SENDAI. After breakfast, depart for Sendai via **Shinkansen Bullet Train**. Upon arrival in Sendai, enjoy a special treat for lunch: **Gyutan**, a dish consisting of pieces of **thinly sliced beef tongue**, cooked over a charcoal grill. After lunch, visit **Zuihoden**, the mausoleum of Date Masamune, one of the most powerful feudal lords of the Edo period. Then, **learn how Sasakama Kan (hand-grilled fish cake)** is made. Spend some time in the **Sendai shopping area** before transferring to the hotel for dinner. HOTEL METROPOLITAN SENDAI (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 4: Sat, Apr 15 – SENDAI – MATSUSHIMA – SENDAI. After a sumptuous breakfast buffet at hotel depart for a full day of sightseeing to Matsushima. For hundreds of years, Matsushima Bay has been celebrated as one of Japan's three most scenic views alongside Miyajima and Amanohashidate. The bay is dotted by over 200 small islands covered by pine trees. Embark on an unforgettable **sightseeing cruise** before exploring the **Matsushima Fish Market**. Today's lunch includes a special steamed oyster tabehodai. Next, visit **Zuiganji Temple**, one of Tohoku region's most famous and prominent Zen temples. Zuiganji is well known for its beautifully gilded and painted sliding doors. Lastly, visit the **Matsushima Museum**, which houses armor, weapons, tools, and other relics from the feudal times, and the nearby **Kanran-tei**, a Momoyama-style tea house for some tea. After returning to the hotel, the remainder of the evening is at your leisure. (B, L)

*Baggage will be sent from Sendai to Morioka, skipping Tsunagi. Prepare an overnight bag for 1 night.

Day 5: Sun, Apr 16 – SENDAI – RIKUZENTAKATA – HIRAIZUMI – TSUNAGI. We start the day with a stop at **Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum** to learn about the 2011 tsunami that devastated this area. A stop will be made at **"Michi-no-Eki"** (a roadside station) Takata Matsubara for a brief break and lunch (on your own). Hiraizumi's most famous attraction, **Chusonji Temple** was established in 850 as a temple of the Tendai sect of Buddhism. The temple came to prominence when the northern branch of the Fujiwara clan moved their base to Hiraizumi. At peak, the temple consisted of a large network of dozens of buildings. Enjoy a **soak in the luxurious onsen (hot springs)** and a gourmet **Kaiseki Dinner**. HOTEL SHION (1 Night) (B, D)

Day 6: Mon, Apr 17 – TSUNAGI – KAKUNODATE – TAZAWA – MORIOKA. Start the day with a visit to Kakunodate – a former castle town and samurai stronghold. Once housing about 80 families, Kakunodate is one of the best examples of samurai architecture and housing in the country. Visit **Aoyagi Samurai Manor Museum**, one of the best examples of how middle class and wealthy samurai families might have lived. After lunch, visit **Lake Tazawa (Tazawako)**. A scenic caldera lake that has not been overly developed and retains a natural and rustic atmosphere. At the western end of the lake there is a famous **golden statue of a woman named Tatsuko** that has become a local symbol. According to legend, Tatsuko was a beautiful girl who prayed to retain her beauty forever but was instead cursed and turned into a dragon and eventually sunk to the bottom of Lake Tazawa. Enjoy a fun hands-on activity and **learn to make Tezukuri Mura Senbei** before transferring to the hotel in Morioka, where the remainder of the day is at your leisure. HOTEL METROPOLITAN MORIOKA NEW WING (1 Night) (B, L)

*Baggage will be sent from Morioka to Hakodate, skipping 1 night in Kazuno. Prepare an overnight bag for 1 night.

Day 7: Tue, Apr 18 – MORIOKA – OIRASE – KAZUNO. Begin the day learning about sake at **Asabiraki**. Oirase Stream is a picturesque mountain stream in Aomori Prefecture that is one of Japan's most famous and popular destinations.

The stream flows along the floor of the Oirase Gorge, winding among trees which, while a lush green in spring and summer, turn brilliant shades of red, yellow and orange from late October through early November. Over a dozen waterfalls cascade down into the stream all along its length from the walls of the gorge. After a **walk around Oirase Gorge**, take a drive through the **Hakkoda Snow Corridor**. It takes two private companies a month to remove the snow from the 8 kilometer road between Aomori and Towada – creating the corridor. With some parts of the snow wall reach 10 meters in height. This evening enjoy dinner at your hotel. 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. OYU ONSEN HOTEL KAZUNO (1 Night) (B, L, D)

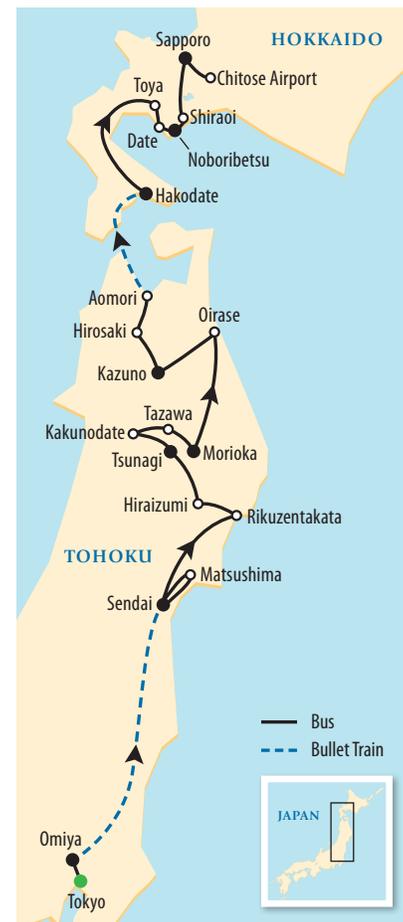
Day 8: Wed, Apr 19 – KAZUNO – HIROSAKI – AOMORI – HAKODATE. This morning we make way to Hakodate. Enroute, stop at **Hirosaki Castle**, which was built in 1611 by the Tsugaru Clan. A three-story castle tower, fortified moats, castle gates, and some corner turrets (yagura) survive or were reconstructed. Next visit the **Nebuta House Warasse**, an interesting museum dedicated to the city's famous Nebuta Matsuri which is held annually in early August. The museum attempts to capture the spirit of the festival and gives visitors a taste of its lively atmosphere, history and traditions. After lunch at a local restaurant, transfer to Hakodate by **Shinkansen Bullet Train**. To travel between the islands of Honshu and Hokkaido, trains pass through the Seikan Tunnel, the longest seabed tunnel in the world. After arriving in Hakodate, a brief stop will be made at a **Michi-no-Eki**, for the opportunity to rest and shop for souvenirs, before heading to the hotel for the evening. After a special dinner that includes a crab course, enjoy a spectacular, **"night-view tour"** of Hakodate. Try the various **onsens** available at the hotel. CENTURY MARINA HAKODATE (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 9: Thur, Apr 20 – HAKODATE. After breakfast, visit the world famous **Hakodate Morning Sea Market**. View the variety of freshly caught seafood on display. Then visit the **Botanical Gardens**, where you will find rare plants that can only be found in Japan's Southern Islands. There are approximately 300 different species and 3,000 individual specimens on display – including ice cream trees, chewing gum trees, bread trees, and sausage trees! There is also a foot bath available at the entrance of the gardens if you need to rest your tired feet. Don't forget to check out the **onsen bathing macaque monkeys** living next door. After lunch, explore the **Museum of Northern Peoples**. The collection here examines the history and culture of the Ainu, Hokkaido's indigenous people. The clothing and lifestyle artifacts of Ainu and other northern peoples at this museum are some of the oldest samples in Hokkaido. Next spend some free time at the **Red Brick Warehouses**. Renovated in 1909, these buildings now house trendy souvenir and fashion shops, sweet shops, restaurants, and a beer hall. Enjoy an izakaya dinner at a local restaurant before returning to the hotel. (B, L, D)

*Baggage will be sent from Hakodate to Sapporo, skipping Noboribetsu. Prepare an overnight bag for 1 night.

Day 10: Fri, Apr 21 – HAKODATE – TOYA – DATE – NOBORIBETSU. Start the day by exploring the 107 meter high **Goryokaku Tower**, located in **Goryokaku Park**. Next, visit **Shikabe Geyser Park**, where at approximately 10 minute intervals, the geyser shoots up 500 liters of 100 degree boiling water 15 meters in the air. Take a **cooking lesson at a local restaurant**, and enjoy the "fruits of your labor" for lunch. After lunch, learn to **dye using indigo** at the **Date History and Culture Center**, and create yourself a memorable souvenir of your trip. 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. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel tonight. DAIICHI TAKIMOTO KAN SOUTH BUILDING (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 11: Sat, Apr 22 – NOBORIBETSU – SHIRAOI – SAPPORO. Before departing Noboribetsu, visit **Jigokudani** or **"Hell Valley,"** a spectacular, appropriately named valley just above the town, which displays hot steam vents, sulfurous streams and other volcanic activity. It is a main source of Noboribetsu's hot spring waters. Then explore the **Shiraoi Ainu Museum**, an outdoor reproduction of an Ainu Village, where you will see a traditional Ainu song and dance performance.



After lunch, take in the view of the city from the top of Mount Okura. The 90 meter ski jump competitions of the Winter Olympics 1972 were held in the Okurayama Ski Jump Stadium. Nowadays, when the stadium is not being used for World Cup or other ski jump events, the **Okurayama Observatory** at the top of the hill is accessed via a **chair lift** for spectacular views of Sapporo. View the Sapporo city landmarks of the **TV Tower, Clock Tower**, and **Odori Park**. This evening let's celebrate new friendships and discoveries at our Farewell BBQ Dinner! KEIO PLAZA HOTEL SAPPORO (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 12: Sun, Apr 23 – SAPPORO – HONOLULU. Enjoy a morning at leisure. After lunch (on your own), one last shopping stop at **Sapporo AEON Mall** before checking in for our flight home. Arrive early at the Chitose Airport and begin exploring the **shopping mall located within the Domestic Terminal**. Consisting of 4 floors of restaurants, shops, and activities, there's something for everyone. Those with a sweet tooth will enjoy the Sweets Zone, where you can enjoy Hokkaido sweets in a spacious and relaxing setting, and the Royce Chocolate World (factory, museum, shop, and bakery) and LeTAO Chocolatier. The kids (and those young at heart) will enjoy the Doraemon Sky Park and Hello Kitty Happy Flight, which have an activity area, shop, and café (fees may apply) or the Pokémon store. UNIQLO aims to provide customers with "ultimate casual clothes." And there are more than two dozen shops at the airport that specialize in various fresh, frozen, or dried seafood that can be eaten there or packed for you to bring home. Depart Sapporo and arrive Honolulu the same day. Aloha and Welcome Home! (B)

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