



Off the Beaten Path: A Different Side of Japan

2023 SPRING BREAK GRAND OKINAWA PLUS SNOW MONKEYS & TOKYO SHOPPING

Very unique tour itinerary! Let's explore two diverse climates and cultures in one exciting trip!

9 Nights / 11 Days • 18 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 4 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes English-Speaking Local Guide
March 10 – 20, 2023 • Tour Manager: Wally Mau

OVERVIEW:

Okinawa is home to a unique culture that differs considerably from that of mainland Japan. Until the islands were invaded by the Satsuma domain (present day Kagoshima Prefecture) in 1609, Okinawa existed as an entirely separate country from Japan, known as the Ryukyu Kingdom. After the invasion, the Ryukyu Kingdom served as a tributary state to Japan, but continued to be governed by the royal family from Shuri Castle. It was not until 1879, a few years after the Meiji Restoration, that the kingdom was abolished and incorporated into Japan as Okinawa Prefecture. The castles of Okinawa, known as "gusuku" in the Okinawan language, are among the most vivid monuments that testify to the unique cultural and historical heritage of the Ryukyu Kingdom. In the year 2000, five castles and four related sites were designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites under the collective title of "Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu."

VISIT:

Naha • Itoman • Onna • Nago • Motobu • Nakijin • Kitanakagusuku • Nanjo • Tokyo • Nagano

OKINAWA HIGHLIGHTS (6 NIGHTS):

Himeyuri Peace Memorial Park • Mabuni Hill • Shuri Castle • Naha Main Place • Ryukyu Mura Village
Ryukyu Dance Performance • Michi-no-Eki • Awamori Factory Tour • Orion Beer Factory Tour
Churaumi Aquarium • Nakijin Castle Site • Okinawa Fruits Land • AEON Mall
Gyokusendo Stalactite Cave • Habu (Snake) Museum • Glass Factory

NAGANO & TOKYO HIGHLIGHTS (3 NIGHTS):

LaLaport Toyosu • JR Super Express Train Ride • Jigokudani Monkey Park • Zenkoji Temple
Sushi Making Class • Asakusa Sensoji Temple • Nakamise Shopping • Ameyoko Shopping

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES:

Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu

COMPLETE PACKAGE!
\$4288*

INCLUDES ROUNDTRIP AIRFARE FROM HONOLULU, 9 NIGHTS HOTEL, 18 MEALS, TIPS FOR LOCAL TOUR GUIDES AND BUS DRIVERS, ALL TAXES & FEES

EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT PER PERSON

SAVE \$100
BOOK BY JUNE 30, 2022†

SAVE \$75
BOOK BY AUGUST 31, 2022†

SAVE \$50
BOOK BY OCTOBER 31, 2022†



Locally Owned & Operated Since 1985 — Mahalo Hawai'i!

**615 Piikoi Street, Suite 102
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814**

**593-0700
or Toll-Free
1-800-551-1226**

www.nonstop.travel

* 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: 10/31/22. 041322

**Non-Stop Travel
Exclusive!**

**DON'T MISS A THING!!
WHISPER — Wireless Tour Guide System!
English narration directly to your ear!**

Day 1: Fri, Mar 10 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu.

Day 2: Sat, Mar 11 – NAHA. Arrive in Naha. After entry formalities, transfer by coach to the hotel. HOTEL JAL CITY NAHA (2 Nights)

Day 3: Sun, Mar 12 – NAHA – ITOMAN – NAHA. After a sumptuous buffet breakfast at your hotel, we embark on a full day of discovery! This morning we visit the **Peace Memorial Museum** and **Mabuni Hill**, which is an open space in the Okinawa Senseki Quasi-National Park. It is the place where U.S. forces and Japanese forces battled against each other during World War II and has a tragic history. It has been established as an open space of peace, which includes a monument entitled "Heiwa no Oka (Hill of Peace)." After lunch, visit **Shuri Castle** (Shurijo), the most important castle of the Ryukyu Kingdom, serving both as the central government office and royal residence. Although the main buildings of Shuri Castle were destroyed in a fire in October 2019, reconstruction to bring back the castle to its former glory is expected to be completed in 2026. Shurijo is the only castle in Okinawa that has been reconstructed. Only ruins remain of all the other castles. Before returning to the hotel, a stop will be made at **Naha Main Place**, the largest shopping mall in Naha. After returning to the hotel, walk to a nearby restaurant for dinner. (B, L, D)

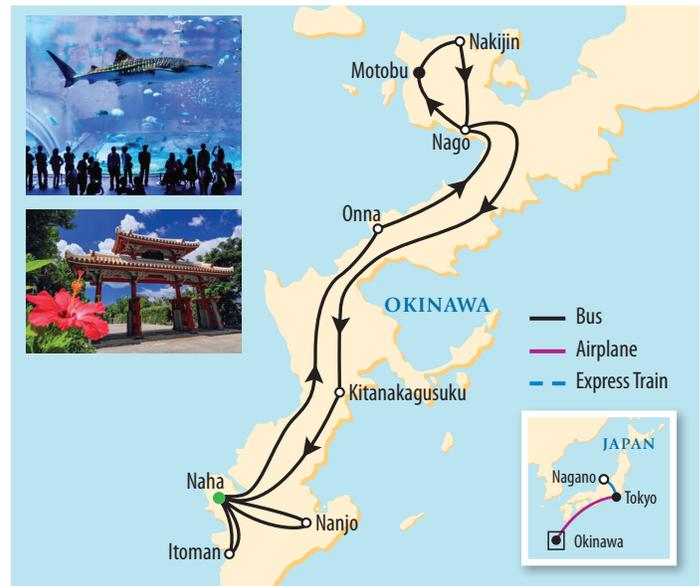
*1 Bag will be kept at the Hotel JAL Naha until your return. Prepare an overnight bag for 1 night in Motobu.

Day 4: Mon, Mar 13 – NAHA – ONNA – NAGO – MOTOBU. After breakfast, we head north to Onna and spend the morning at **Ryukyu Mura Village**. It's basically a traditional Okinawan village with exhibits showcasing various festivals, crafts and foods. Enjoy the Parade that condenses a year's worth of festivals into one parade: Usudeku, Karate, Miruku, Kajimayah, Lion Dance, Juri, Mamidoma, and Eisa. Don't miss the Habu (Snake) Show. Watch the snake handler play with the Habu which was in a glass box next to its nemesis – the mongoose. Enjoy a **Ryukyu Dance Performance** while there. Stop at a road side "**Michi-no-Eki**" stand for lunch (on own). Not only do they provide a clean and convenient rest stop, but you will find an array of farmer-direct merchandise along with other "omiyage" items. Next we visit an **Awamori (Rice Liquor) Factory**. Awamori is the signature alcoholic beverage of Okinawa and most of the Ryukyu Islands. Learn the unique process involved in making Awamori. Then visit the **Orion Beer Factory** for a tour. Return to the hotel for dinner. ANA INTERCONTINENTAL MANZA BEACH RESORT (1 Night) (B, D)

Day 5: Tue, Mar 14 – MOTOBU – NAKIJIN – NAGO – KITANAKAGUSUKU – NAHA. After an incredible breakfast buffet, enjoy a visit to the **Churaumi Aquarium**, widely considered Japan's best aquarium. It is the main attraction of the Ocean Expo Park on the former grounds of the 1975 International Ocean Expo. The aquarium was completely redesigned and reopened in 2002. The highlight of a visit to the Churaumi Aquarium is the massive Kuroshio Tank, one of the largest in the world. The tank takes its name from the warm Kuroshio current which plays a large part in the variety of Okinawa's of marine life. Next, visit the **Nakijin Castle Ruins** in the city of Nago. Learn about the history of Okinawa. The castle – a former residence of the Ryukyu Kingdom governor during the 14th century – is a designated UNESCO World Heritage site. Then stop at **Okinawa Fruits Land** for lunch and shopping. Another exciting shopping stop at **AEON MALL – RYCOM** on our way back to Naha City. HOTEL JAL CITY NAHA (3 Nights) (B, L)

Day 6: Wed, Mar 15 – NAHA. Full Day at Leisure. Opportunity to visit with family and friends or enjoy shopping. Your local guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

Day 7: Thur, Mar 16 – NAHA – NANJO – NAHA. Another full day of exploring is ahead! Start the day with a visit to **Okinawa World** a theme park about Okinawan culture. The park's main attractions are a massive natural cave, a craft village and a snake museum. With a total length of five kilometers, **Gyokusendo Cave** is the longest of the many caves in the south of Okinawa Island and the second longest cave in the entire country. 850 meters of the cave are open to the public and feature spectacular stalactites and stalagmites. The **Kingdom Village** is a nice replica of a traditional Ryukyu village with workshops introducing the various traditional Okinawan crafts, such as weaving, dyeing, paper making, pottery, sugar cane processing, the making of music instruments and the more recently introduced glass blowing. Colorful **Ryukyu glass** is one of those **must have souvenirs** when visiting Okinawa. Taking a tour of the work shop allows



visitors to see how the craftsmen create their art. Hands-on experiences are offered at many of the workshops. This evening enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Fri, Mar 17 – NAHA – TOKYO. This morning we fly from Naha to Tokyo. Enroute to the hotel, a stop will be made at **LaLaport Toyosu**, a mall located on Tokyo Bay that has 180 shops, including UNIQLO, 100 yen shop, and THE DAISO and more. Remainder of the afternoon is at your leisure. Enjoy shopping and dining in the bustling Shinjuku area. This evening enjoy dinner at a nearby Izakaya restaurant. KEIO PLAZA HOTEL TOKYO (3 Nights) (B, D)

Day 9: Sat, Mar 18 – TOKYO – NAGANO – TOKYO. After breakfast, motorcoach transfer to Tokyo Train Station and board the **JR Super Express Train** to Nagano. First stop today is the **Jigokudani Monkey Park** for the unique experience of seeing wild monkeys bathing in a natural hot spring. The park is inhabited by Japanese Macaques, which are also known as Snow Monkeys. The park has one man-made pool around which the monkeys gather. A bento lunch will be served on the motorcoach as you travel to **Zenkoji Temple**, one of the most important and popular temples in Japan. Now return to Tokyo via **JR Super Express Train**. The remainder of the evening is at your leisure. (B, L)

Day 10: Sun, Mar 19 – TOKYO. Full Day at Leisure. Your local guide will be available to assist as needed. Perfect day to relax and/or visit with family and friends in Tokyo. (B)

Day 11: Mon, Mar 20 – TOKYO – HONOLULU. After 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. **Asakusa** is next – 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. Finally spend some time in **Ameyoko**, a busy market street along the Yamanote Line tracks between Okachimachi and Ueno Stations before heading to the airport. Depart Tokyo and arrive Honolulu the same day. Aloha and Welcome Home! (B, L)

UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu (2000).

† 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.** 041322

