



2023 SPRING BREAK 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 Lake Toya...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
March 18 – 29, 2023 • Tour Manager: Michael Lindo

VISIT:

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

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Shinkansen Bullet Train Ride • Zuihoden • Sendai Shopping Area • Matsushima Scenic Cruise
Matsushima Fish Market • Zuiganji Temple • Matsushima Museum • Karan-tei
Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum • Takata Matsubara • Chusonji Temple
Stoll Around Kakunodate • Aoyagi Samurai Manor Museum • Lake Tazawa • Tatsuko Statue
Asabiraki • Oirase Gorge • Lake Towada • Hirosaki Castle • Nebuta House Warasse
Danshaku Lounge • Hakodate Night View Tour • Hakodate Morning Market • Fort Goryokaku
Goryokaku Tower • Date History and Culture Center • Silo Observatory • Lake Hill Farm
Otaru Canal • Otaru City Sightseeing • TV Tower • Clock Tower • Odori Park
Shiraoi Ainu Museum • AEON Mall

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES:

Sasakama Kan (Hand-grilled Fish Cake) Making • Tezukuri Mura Senbei Making
Indigo Dyeing • Ice Cream Making • Nikka Whisky Factory Tour and Tasting

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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-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: 11/08/22. 041322

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

Day 2: Sun, Mar 19 – 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 Sendai, skipping 1 night in Sendai. Prepare an overnight bag for 1 night.

Day 3: Mon, Mar 20 – 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: Tue, Mar 21 – 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 **Kanranitei**, a Momoyama-style tea house for some tea. After returning to the hotel, the remainder of the evening is at your leisure. (B, L)

Day 5: Wed, Mar 22 – 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: Thur, Mar 23 – TSUNAGI – KAKUNODATE – TAZAWA – MORIOKA. Start the day taking a **stroll around 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 Kazuno. Prepare an overnight bag for 1 night.

Day 7: Fri, Mar 24 – MORIOKA – OIRASE – TOWADA – 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**, visit **Lake Towada**. The largest caldera lake on Honshu, Japan's main island. It is characterized by two large peninsulas, which extend nearly a third way across the lake. 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)

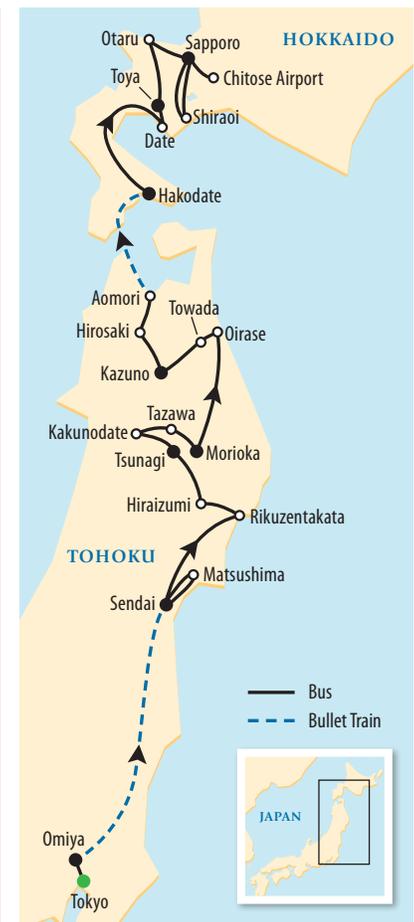
Day 8: Sat, Mar 25 – KAZUNO – HIROSAKI – AOMORI – HAKODATE. This morning we make our way to Hakodate. Enroute, stop at **Hirosaki Castle**, which was built in 1611 by the Tsugaru Clan. A three-story castle tower, fortified moats, castle gates and some corner turrets (yagura) survive or were reconstructed. 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. Upon arrival, stop at **Danshaku Lounge**, a roadside "Michi-no-Eki." 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. After a special dinner that includes **Live crab***, enjoy a spectacular, "**night-view tour**" of Hakodate. **Try the various onsens** available at the hotel. CENTURY MARINA HAKODATE (1 Night) (B, L, D)

*1 Live crab for every 6th tour member.

Day 9: Sun, Mar 26 – HAKODATE – DATE – TOYA. After breakfast, visit the world famous Hakodate Morning Market, where a variety of freshly caught seafood will be on display. Visit the **Fort Goryokaku**, a massive, star shaped, Western style citadel, which was built in the last years of the Edo Period for the defense of Hakodate against the imperialist threat posed by the Western powers. After the fort had lost its military importance, it was turned into a public park. Visit the 107 meter high **Goryokaku Tower**, located within the park grounds. After lunch, learn to dye using indigo at the **Date History and Culture Center**, and create yourself a memorable souvenir of your trip. Transfer to Toya. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel. Tonight is the last night to **spend time relaxing in the hotel onsen**. Don't miss your chance! THE LAKE VIEW TOYA NONOKAZE RESORT SPA RESORT BUILDING (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 10: Mon, Mar 27 – TOYA – OTARU – SAPPORO. Start the day by taking in the view from the **Silo Observatory** – where you can see panoramic views of Lake Toya, Nakajima Island, Mt. Usu, and Mt. Showa Shinzan. It is one of Japan's leading photography spots. Next, visit **Lake Hill Farm** and **learn how to make ice cream**. After lunch, stop at **Nikka Whisky Factory** for a **tour and tasting**. Otaru served as a major trade and fishing port in the 1800s. Take a stroll along the **Otaru Canal** as your guide points out points of interest. Enjoy a BBQ dinner upon arrival in Sapporo. KEIO PLAZA HOTEL SAPPORO (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 11: Tue, Mar 28 – SAPPORO – SHIRAOI – SAPPORO. Begin the day with a sightseeing tour of the city landmarks, like the **TV Tower, Clock Tower, and Odori Park**. Depart Sapporo for Shiraoi. After a special Shiraoi beef lunch, explore the **Shiraoi Ainu Museum**, an outdoor reproduction of



an Ainu Village, where you will see a traditional Ainu song and dance performance. Return to Sapporo, for a farewell dinner to celebrate new friendships and discoveries! (B, L, D)

Day 12: Wed, Mar 29 – 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 has 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 in Honolulu the same day. Aloha and Welcome Home! (B)

† 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

