



Japan.
Endless
Discovery.

Off the Beaten Path: A Different Side of Japan

2023 SUMMER NORTHERN JAPAN ALPS

Featuring the Spectacular Snow Walls of Mt. Norikura
with Takayama, Sado Island & Niigata

New & unique itinerary! Hot springs onsen experience with seasonal Kaiseki Dinners!

9 Nights / 11 Days • 20 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 6 Dinners)

Escorted from Honolulu • Includes English-Speaking Local Guide

June 07 – 17, 2023 • Tour Manager: Lauren Chu

OVERVIEW:

Experience the Spectacular Snow Walls of Mt. Norikura in the middle of summer. Explore one of Japan's largest islands, Sado Island. It's culture can be seen in its unique traditional arts and entertainment. The Takayama Festival is rated as one of Japan's three most beautiful festivals alongside Kyoto's Gion Matsuri and the Chichibu Yomatsuri. It is held twice a year in spring and autumn in the old town of Takayama, and attracts large numbers of spectators. From delightful hot springs (onsen) to specially prepared Kaiseki Dinners, this tour has something for everyone! Join us!

VISIT:

Tokyo • Minakami • Matsumoto • Mt. Norikura • Takayama
Shirakawago • Toyama • Sado Island • Niigata

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Takumi no Sato • Tsukiyono Vidro Park • Tanigawadake Ropeway • Tanigawadake Lift
Kawaba Denen Plaza • Matsumoto Castle • Daio Wasabi Nojo • Matsumoto City Museum of Art
Nawate Shopping Street • Snow Walls of Mt. Norikura • Local Cuisine Tasting • Takayama Morning Market
Takayama Jinya • Shirakawago • Wada House • Kittokito Fish Market • Oyashirazu Pier Park
Jet Foil Ride to Sado Island • Oni-Daiko Performance • Tarai-Bune Boat Ride • Shukunegi • Sado Gold Mine
Northern Culture Museum • Imayotsukasa Sake Brewery Tour and Tasting • Dinner with Geiko
Niigata Furusato Village • Shinkansen Bullet Train Ride

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES:

Soba Making Class • Sand Blasting Experience • Chinkin (Gold Inlaid Lacquerware) Experience
Mochi Pounding • Senbei Making Class

**COMPLETE
PACKAGE!**

\$4988*

INCLUDES ROUNDTRIP AIRFARE
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HOTEL, 20 MEALS, TIPS FOR
LOCAL TOUR GUIDES AND BUS
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— Demon Drums
Performance!**

**KAISEKI DINNER
— With Geiko (Geisha)
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-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: 01/27/23. 090222



Day 1: Wed, June 07 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu.

Day 2: Thur, June 08 – TOKYO. Arrive in Tokyo. After entry formalities, transfer by coach to the hotel in Tokyo. Enjoy a Welcome Dinner. ANA CROWNE PLAZA NARITA (1 Night) (D)

Day 3: Fri, June 09 – TOKYO – MINAKAMI. After a sumptuous breakfast buffet at hotel, start the day with a **soba making class** at Fureai no Ie, located within the arts and craft village **Takumi no Sato**. After your soba making class, you will have free time to explore more of Takumi no sato on your own. Then take a **sand blast class** at **Tsukiyono Vidro Park**. You can create a lasting moment of your trip to Japan! Enjoy a **Kaiseki Dinner** at the hotel in Minakami. GENSEN YU-NO-YADO MATSUNOI (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 4: Sat, June 10 – MINAKAMI – MATSUMOTO. Enjoy the view of the Minakami from above when you take the **Tanigawadake Ropeway** and **Tanigawadake Lift**. Enjoy time for lunch (on your own) and shopping at the **Kawaba Denen Plaza**. This roadside station sells many regional specialties and locally made food products. After lunch, transfer to the hotel in Matsumoto. The remainder of the day is at your leisure. HOTEL BUENA VISTA (2 Nights) (B)

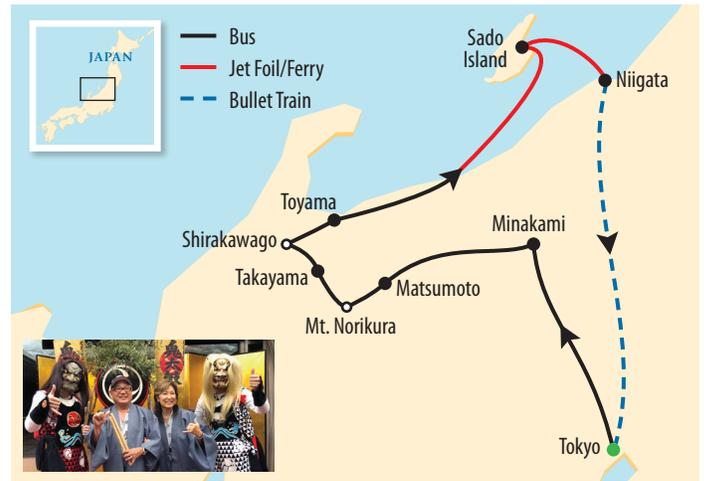
Day 5: Sun, June 11 – MATSUMOTO. Start the day with a visit to **Matsumoto Castle**, one of Japan's premier historic castles. Also known as "Crow Castle" due to its black exterior, Matsumoto Castle is unique for having both a secondary donjon and a turret adjoined to its main keep. Next, visit **Daio Wasabi Nojo**, the country's largest wasabi farm, for lunch (on your own). After lunch, explore the **Matsumoto City Museum of Art**. Before returning to the hotel for the evening, stop at **Nawate Shopping Street**, a frog-themed shopping street. The 200 meter long street is lined with around 50 shops that vary from antique dealers, "dagashi" candy stores and stylish bakeries, to designer boutiques. Enjoy another evening of leisure. (B)

Day 6: Mon, June 12 – MATSUMOTO – MT. NORIKURA – TAKAYAMA. Travel to **Mt. Norikura**. At 3026 meters in height, it's the third highest peak in the Northern Japan Alps. Feel dwarfed by the spectacular 10 meter tall **Snow Walls** near the top of Mt. Norikura. Although it's June, the temperature will still be cold enough to keep the walls frozen – make sure to bring some warm clothes if you plan on getting off the bus to take pictures. After a local cooking demonstration, enjoy a **taste of local cuisine** for lunch. Travel to Takayama, located amongst the Japan Alps, it is known as "Little Kyoto" for its preserved historical structures. It was cut off from the rest of Japan for most of its history and thus has maintained a very unique and traditional atmosphere. Enjoy dinner at the hotel. TOKYU STAY HOTEL HIDA TAKAYAMA MUSUBI NO YU (1 Night) (B, L, D)

*Baggage will be sent from Takayama to Niigata, skipping Toyama and Sado Island. Prepare an overnight bag for 2 nights.

Day 7: Tue, June 13 – TAKAYAMA – SHIRAKAWAGO – TOYAMA. After breakfast, explore **Takayama's Morning Market**, where can browse the market stalls for local crafts and fresh farm products. Then visit the **Takayama Jinya**, a former government outpost. After lunch, visit **Shirakawago**, a World UNESCO World Heritage Site, home to several dozen well preserved gassho-zukuri farmhouses, some of which are more than 250 years old. Take a tour of **Wada House**, the largest farmhouse in town. Depart Shirakawago for Toyama. ANA CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL TOYAMA (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 8: Wed, June 14 – TOYAMA – SADO ISLAND. After breakfast, explore the **Kittokito Fish Market**. The giant crab adorning its façade leaves no doubt as to the main produce sold in this huge seafood market. Toyama Bay is known for its abundant supply of fish and seafood, in particular crab, white shrimp, squid and flounder. You can pick our fish and seafood, have it cooked on the spot and eat it right in the market. Enjoy lunch (on your own) at **Oyashirazu Pier Park**. See the world's largest bronze statue of a sea turtle while there. Transfer to Naoetsu Port. Take a **Jet Foil to Sado Island**.



Arrive in Sado Island and transfer to the hotel. A special **Kaiseki Dinner** will be served at your hotel accompanied by an authentic **Oni-Daiko (Demon Drums) Performance**. Don't forget to **try out the onsens** (before or after dinner). 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. HOTEL YAHATAKAN (1 Night) (B, D)

Day 9: Thur, June 15 – SADO ISLAND – NIIGATA. Start the day with 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. Next, 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. After lunch, take a tour of the **Sado Gold Mine**. Transfer to Ryotsu port and take a **ferry back to Niigata**. Transfer to the Niigata hotel. The evening is free to explore Niigata on your own. The local guide will have suggestions for dinner. HOTEL NIKKO NIIGATA (2 Nights) (B, L)

Day 10: Fri, June 16 – NIIGATA. Start the day with a tour the **Northern Culture Museum**, which originally serving as a mansion of Ito Bunkichi, who lived in the Edo Period (1603–1868) and was one of the greatest landowners in Japan. Nowadays, the museum houses calligraphy and ceramics, lacquer ware and documents related to Ito's family history. Don't forget to view the beautiful garden with its large pond. While there, learn how to **chinkin (gold inlaid lacquerware)** and **pound mochi**. After lunch, tour the **Imayotsukasa Sake Brewery** and sample some of their tasty products. In the afternoon, learn how to **make your own senbei (rice cracker)**. This evening, you're in for another special treat!! Along with dinner, we are entertained by an authentic **Geiko**. Dancing, singing, and playing fun games. (B, L, D)

Day 11: Sat, June 17 – NIIGATA – TOKYO – HONOLULU. After a morning of leisure, take a tour of the **Niigata Furusato Village**, where there are shops selling Niigata specialties, restaurants serving local cuisine, a Niigata sightseeing information area, and a corner providing Niigata historical and cultural information to visitors. Transfer to the Niigata Station. Take a **Shinkansen Bullet Train** to Tokyo. Transfer to the Tokyo airport. Depart Tokyo and arrive Honolulu on the same day. Aloha and Welcome Home! (B)

UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Shirakawago (1995).

† 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

