



Japan.  
Endless  
Discovery.



**JAPAN  
AIRLINES**

**Off the Beaten Path: A Different Side of Japan**

# 2025 CHERRY BLOSSOMS SEA OF JAPAN, SADO ISLAND, TAKAYAMA FESTIVAL & HIROSHIMA

Enjoy your choice of Japan Airlines' "Economy," "Premium Economy," or the affordable luxury of "Business" class service. Premium Economy class customers will begin their journey with a relaxing visit to JAL's "Sakura Lounge" and the brand new "Sakura Lounge - Hale" for Business class.

*Onsen hot springs experience with seasonal Kaiseki Dinners! New and improved itinerary!*

**12 Nights / 14 Days • 28 Meals (12 Breakfasts, 8 Lunches, 8 Dinners)  
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide  
April 08 – 21, 2025 • Tour Manager: Jackie Wehrfritz**

**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. 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 onsen hot springs to specially prepared Kaiseki Dinners, this tour has something for everyone! Join us!

**VISIT:** Omiya • Niigata • Sado Island • Nagano • Matsumoto • Takayama • Shirakawago  
Kanazawa • Tojinbo • Awara • Amanohashidate • Miyazu • Tottori • Tamatsukuri  
Izumo • Matsue • Iwakuni • Suo Oshima • Hiroshima

**TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:** JR Super Express Train Ride • Minato Marche Pier Bandai  
Jet Foil Ride to Sado Island • Oni Daiko (Demon Drums) Performance • Sado Gold Mine  
Kitazawa Flotation Field • Japanese Crested Ibis Conservation Centre • Tarai-bune (Bathtub) Boat Ride  
Shukunegi • Northern Culture Museum • Tsubame Sanjo Knife Factory  
Jigokudani Monkey Park (for Snow Monkeys) • Zenko-Ji Temple • Daio Wasabi Nojo  
Takayama Morning Market • Takayama Festival • Old Town and Sannomachi Street  
Shirakawago • Kenrokuen Garden • Eiheiji Temple • Tojinbo Cliff • Amanohashidate Ropeway  
Tottori Sand Dune • AEON MALL • Izumo Taisha • Goen Yokocho • Matsue Castle  
Adachi Museum • Kintaikyo Bridge • Museum of Japan Emigration to Hawaii • AEON MALL

**HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES:** Imayo Tsukasa Sake Brewery Tour with Tasting  
Soba Noodle Making • Gold Leaf Application

**UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES:** Shirakawago

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

**Non-Stop Travel  
Sado Island Exclusive!**  
**ONI DAIKO** — Demon Drums Performance!

## COMPLETE PACKAGE!

Includes Roundtrip Airfare from Honolulu,  
12 Nights Hotel, 28 Meals, Tips for Local Tour  
Guides and Bus Drivers, All Taxes & Fees

**JAPAN AIRLINES:  
CHOICE OF CABINS**  
*Treat yourself to a better vacation!*

**JAL ECONOMY CLASS**

**\$6,288\***

**JAL PREMIUM ECONOMY CLASS**

**\$7,288\***

**HURRY! Only 8 Seats Available at this Price!!**

\*Premium Economy seating is for flights between Honolulu and Japan only. Domestic Japan flights do not offer Premium Economy seating.

**JAL BUSINESS CLASS**

**\$8,888\***

**HURRY! Only 8 Seats Available at this Price!!**

**EARLY BOOKING  
DISCOUNT PER PERSON**

**Book by 12/20/24 & SAVE \$50<sup>†</sup>**



**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](http://www.nonstop.travel)

**Day 1: Tue, Apr 08** – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 12:15 pm.

**Day 2: Wed, Apr 09** – TOKYO – OMIYA. Arrive at the Haneda International Airport at 3:55 pm. 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 five 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 two nights.

**Day 3: Thur, Apr 10** – OMIYA – NIIGATA – SADO ISLAND. After a sumptuous breakfast buffet at hotel, walk to the Omiya Train Station. Take the **JR Super Express Train** to Niigata. Begin sightseeing in Niigata with a visit to the **Imayo Tsukasa Sake Brewery** and learn about sake, how it is made, and taste a few of their products. Next, explore **Minato Marche Pier Bandai**, a food market that offers a multiple of food options, including fish caught in Japan Sea, to vegetables and fruit directly delivered from farms, to Niigata-produced Koshihikari rice, to a variety of high-quality brand sake from across the prefecture, all kinds of Niigata's specialties relating to food are here. Enjoy lunch (on your own) here. Transfer to Niigata Port. Ride a **jet foil** to Sado Island. Arrive in Sado Island and transfer to hotel. Enjoy a traditional multi-course **Kaiseki Dinner**, featuring ingredients unique to Sado Island. Enjoy an **Oni Daiko (Demon Drums) Performance** during dinner. Don't forget to try out the **onsen hot springs** – which are divided for men and women – allow you to enjoy the onsen 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 (2 Nights) (B, D)

**Day 4: Fri, Apr 11** – SADO ISLAND. Full day sightseeing of Sado Island by coach, including the **Sado Gold Mine**, take a drive by the **Kitazawa Flotation Field**, and take a tour of the **Japanese Crested Ibis Conservation Centre**. **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 centimeters. 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. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

**Day 5: Sat, Apr 12** – SADO ISLAND – NIIGATA – NAGANO. Take the **jet foil** from Sado Island to Niigata. Visit the **Northern Culture Museum**. After lunch, visit the **Tsubame Sanjo Knife Factory** and shop for some Japan made knives. Transfer to the hotel in Nagano. Relax in the **onsen hot springs** tonight. RYOKAN BIYUNOYADO (1 Night) (B, L, D)

\*Baggage will be carried by truck from Nagano to Kanazawa, skipping Takayama. Prepare an overnight bag for two nights.

**Day 6: Sun, Apr 13** – NAGANO – MATSUMOTO – TAKAYAMA. Start the day with a visit to the **Jigokudani Money Park** (for Snow Monkeys). Then explore the grounds of **Zenko-ji Temple**. One of the most important and popular temples in Japan, Zenko-ji Temple was founded in the 7<sup>th</sup> century and stores the first Buddhist statue ever to be brought into Japan when Buddhism was first introduced in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. Stop at **Daio Wasabi Nojo**, the country's largest wasabi farm. Then, we continue on 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 the seasonal bounty of your specially prepared dinner. TAKAYAMA GREEN HOTEL (2 Nights) (B, D)

**Day 7: Mon, Apr 14** – TAKAYAMA. After breakfast, explore Takayama's **Morning Market**, where you can browse the market stalls for local crafts and fresh farm products. The **Takayama Festival**, which dates to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, is held on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of April to pray for a good harvest. The highlight of the festival is when the colorful dashi (floats) are led through the streets amid cheers and drums. These ornate floats are decorated with intricate wood



carvings and beautiful metal work, and are decorated with mechanical dolls that can move and dance. After lunch, explore the streets of Takayama's **Old Town**. On some streets, like **Sannomachi Street**, you can find many old homes, shops, coffee houses and sake breweries, some of which have been in business for centuries. This evening, return to the streets of Takayama to **experience the floats at night**. Dinner this evening will be at the hotel. (B, L, D)

**Day 8: Tue, Apr 15** – TAKAYAMA – SHIRAKAWAGO – KANAZAWA. After breakfast, visit **Shirakawago**, a World UNESCO World Heritage Site, home to several dozen well preserved gasho-zukuri farmhouses, some of which are more than 250 years old. After lunch, Transfer to the hotel in Kanazawa. Our local Tour Guide will have many suggestions for dinner tonight. HYATT CENTRIC KANAZAWA (1 Night) (B, L)

**Day 9: Wed, Apr 16** – KANAZAWA – TOJINBO – AWARA. After breakfast, learn the process of **gold leaf application** and try it yourself on chopsticks that you'll get to take home as a souvenir of this trip. Next, explore **Kenrokuen Garden**, one of Japan's "three most beautiful landscaped gardens." After lunch, visit **Eiheiji**, "The Temple of Eternal Peace," one of the two head temples of Soto Zen. Founded by Zen Master Dogen in 1244, where he devoted himself to training his followers in the perfection of Zen practice in every action of daily life. Dogen Zenji's authentic Zen has been scrupulously observed and passed down by his successors. There are still over one hundred monks devote themselves wholeheartedly to his practice of shikantaza ("single-minded sitting"). Lastly, visit **Tojinbo Cliff** before transferring to the hotel in Awara for dinner. Relax in the hotel's **onsen hot springs** after dinner. HOTEL GRANDIA HOUSEN (1 Night) (B, L, D)

\*Baggage will be carried by truck from Awara to Tamatsukuri, skipping Miyazu. Prepare an overnight bag for one night.

**Day 10: Thur, Apr 17** – AWARA – AMANOHASHIDATE – MIYAZU. After breakfast, depart on a leisurely motor coach ride to **Amanohashidate**. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch, visit Amanohashidate, one of the three most scenic places in Japan along with Matsushima Bay near Sendai and Miyajima Island. The coastline is a long sandbar. You'll get a chance to ride the **Amanohashidate Ropeway (cable car)** to view the surrounding countryside and visit the **Kasamatsu Park Observatory**. Transfer to the hotel in Miyazu, where you'll enjoy a **Kaiseki Dinner** tonight. Don't miss the chance to relax in the **onsen hot springs** after dinner. NISHIMURAYA HOTEL SHOGETSUTEI (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 11: Fri, Apr 18** – MIYAZU – TOTTORI – TAMATSUKURI. Start the day with a stop at the **Tottori Sand Dunes**, the largest sand dunes in Japan. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Stop at an **AEON MALL** before arriving at the hotel in Tamatsukuri for an evening of leisure. HOTEL GYOKUSEN (2 Nights) (B, L)

**Day 12: Sat, Apr 19** – TAMATSUKURI – IZUMO – MATSUE – TAMATSUKURI. This morning, you will visit **Izumo Taisha**, one of Japan's most important shrines. There are no records of exactly when Izumo Taisha was built, but it is often considered the oldest shrine in Japan, being already in existence in the early 700s as revealed by the nation's oldest chronicles. Located within the Shrine is **Goen Yokocho**, a small shopping district consisting of nine eateries and souvenir shops, where

you will enjoy lunch (on your own). After lunch, visit the quaint **Matsue Castle**. Next, explore the **Adachi Museum of Art**. Founded by Adachi Zenko in 1980 as a way of combining his passions for Japanese art and garden design. He hoped that viewing the gardens and artwork together would expand peoples' appreciation and interest in Japanese art. The Adachi Museum of Art is best known for its award winning garden. It has been named the best garden in Japan annually since 2003 by the *Journal of Japanese Gardening*. The garden can be enjoyed at any time of the year and shows a different character depending on the season. It can only be viewed from the museum building. In addition to the gardens, the Adachi Museum of Art also houses a collection of nearly 1,300 twentieth century paintings and artworks which are rotated seasonally. There is also a permanent exhibit of paintings by Yokoyama Taikan, as well as a ceramics exhibit. Return to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

**Day 13: Sun, Apr 20** – TAMATSUKURI – IWAKUNI – SUO OSHIMA – HIROSHIMA. Depart Tamatsukuri for Iwakuni. Visit the **Kintaiyoku Bridge**, Iwakuni's most distinguished landmark and a subject of admiration for hundreds of years. The elegant wooden bridge makes five bold arches onto massive stone pillars as it crosses over the Nishiki River. Explore the **Museum of Japanese Emigration to Hawaii**, located on Suo Oshima Island. The former Fukumoto house was restored and converted into the Museum. Since 1995 the town of Suooshima-cho having sent a lot of emigrants to countries overseas began to put together a collection of various data and materials related to emigration to Hawai'i in order to inform present and future generations of their ancestors' past. Transfer to the hotel in Hiroshima. Our local Tour Guide will have many suggestions for dinner tonight. RIHGA ROYAL HOTEL HIROSHIMA (1 Night) (B, L)

**Day 14: Mon, Apr 21** – HIROSHIMA – TOKYO – HONOLULU. Last minute shopping opportunity at Hiroshima **AEON MALL**. Then transfer to the Hiroshima airport. Depart Hiroshima via Japan Airlines flt #262 at 4:45 pm and arrive at the Haneda Domestic Airport at 6:15 pm. Depart the Haneda International Airport via Japan Airlines flt #74 at 9:05 pm and arrive Honolulu at 9:35 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B)

UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Shirakawago (1995).

\*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 our 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](http://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/line" 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: 11/27/24. NST at its discretion, may use group and individual photos on its website, print, television, and various social media. Cherry blossoms are subject to weather conditions and are NOT guaranteed. † Early booking discount is per person. Purchase of NST's complete air and land package is required. †† Earn rewards every time you refer a friend. For each "new-to-NST" 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.**