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10 Nights / 12 Days • 22 Meals (10 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, 6 Dinners)  
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide  
March 31 – April 11, 2025 • Tour Manager: Lisa McKee

## VISIT:

Kansai • Himeji • Miyajima • Hiroshima • Fukuoka • Nagasaki  
Arita • Beppu • Matsuyama • Dogo • Takamatsu • Naruto • Osaka

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Himeji Castle • JR Super Express Train Ride • Ferry Ride to Miyajima Island • Itsukushima Shrine  
Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park • A-Bomb Museum • Ohori Park Japanese Garden • Fukuoka Tower  
Sake Brewery • Dazaifu • Kawabata-dori Shopping Arcade • Kujukushima Island Cruise  
Glover Garden • Nagasaki Peace Park • Aritayaki Ceramics Kiln • Beppu "Hell" Pools  
Ferry Ride to Matsuyama • Michi-no-Eki Yahata Hama Agora Marche • Ishiteji Temple  
Matsuyama Castle • Ritsurin Park • AEON MALL Takamatsu • Naruto Whirlpool Cruise  
Uzo no Michi • Naruto Ohashi Bridge • Awaji Island • Kuromon Ichiba Market  
Dotonbori Shopping • Shinsaibashi Shopping • AEON MALL

## HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES:

Persimmon Picking • Udon Noodle Making • Aizome (Indigo) Handkerchief Dyeing

## UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES:

Himeji Castle • Itsukushima Shrine

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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](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" 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: 11/21/24. 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 travelling with a companion who will provide all the assistance you require. **Wheelchair and electric scooter access outside of the USA is severely restricted.**

**Day 1: Mon, Mar 31** – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 12:15 pm.

**Day 2: Tue, Apr 01** – TOKYO – KANSAI. Arrive at the Haneda International Airport at 3:55 pm. After entry formalities, depart Haneda Domestic Airport via Japan Airlines flt #229 at 8:55 pm and arrive at the Kansai International Airport at 10:10 pm. Walk to your hotel which is a short covered walk from the airport. A bento box will be distributed at the hotel. HOTEL NIKKO KANSAI AIRPORT (1 Night) (D)

\*Baggage will be sent from Kansai to Hiroshima, skipping Miyajima. Prepare an overnight bag for one night.

**Day 3: Wed, Apr 02** – KANSAI – HIMEJI – HIROSHIMA – MIYAJIMA. After a sumptuous buffet breakfast we drive to Himeji to visit **Himeji Castle**. It is known as “White Egret Castle” and “White Heron Castle” because of its brilliant white exterior, resembling a bird taking flight. Himeji Castle is the largest and most visited castle in Japan. It is a splendid example of traditional Japanese architecture. Depart Himeji via **JR Super Express Train**. Enjoy a bento onboard. Upon arrival at Hiroshima Station, take a **short ferry ride to the island of Miyajima**, considered sacred by many. Miyajima has been selected as one of Japan’s three most scenic places (nihon sankei). At high tide, the vermilion torii gate of **Itsukushima Shrine** looks like it’s floating in the middle of the sea. This evening soak in the relaxing atmosphere of the **onsen hot spring baths**. This evening enjoy a traditional, multi-course **Kaiseki Dinner** featuring Hiroshima’s local and seasonal ingredients including fresh seafood from the Seto Inland Sea. IWASO INN (1 Night) Onsen and Kaiseki Dinner (B, L, D)

**Day 4: Thur, Apr 03** – MIYAJIMA – HIROSHIMA. After breakfast, enjoy a morning at leisure. After lunch (on your own), board the **ferry back to Hiroshima**. In Hiroshima, visit the **Peace Memorial Park** and **A-Bomb Museum**. After arriving at the hotel, the remainder of the day is at leisure. Our local Tour Guide will have many suggestions for dinner tonight. HOTEL GRANVIA HIROSHIMA (1 Night) (B)

**Day 5: Fri, Apr 04** – HIROSHIMA – FUKUOKA. After breakfast, depart the hotel for the Hiroshima train station and take a ride on the **JR Super Express Train**. Upon arrival in Fukuoka, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch, stop at the **Ohori Park Japanese Garden** and take in the view of a typical Japanese garden with its dry landscapes and tea houses. Visit **Fukuoka Tower**, before transferring to the hotel. Our local Tour Guide will have many suggestions for shopping and dinner tonight. THE ROYAL PARK HOTEL FUKUOKA (2 Nights) (B, L)

**Day 6: Sat, Apr 05** – FUKUOKA. After a sumptuous breakfast buffet at your hotel, depart for a full day of sightseeing. Begin the day at a **sake brewery**, where you will tour their facilities, learn how sake is made, and sample some of their tasty products. **Dazaifu** was established in the late 7<sup>th</sup> century and served as the administrative center of the entire island of Kyushu for over 500 years. Nowadays, Dazaifu is a small, quiet city on the outskirts of the large city of Fukuoka. Go to a local farm and **pick persimmons** at the peak of ripeness. Then go to **Kawabata-dori Shopping Arcade**, Fukuoka’s oldest shopping street with 130 shops lining the 400 meter long street. Return to the hotel for an evening of leisure. (B)

**Day 7: Sun, Apr 06** – FUKUOKA – NAGASAKI. Japan is a nation of many islands but most travelers never get beyond the main four. In **Kujukushima National Park** near Sasebo in Nagasaki Prefecture, however, you can up your island quotient by taking a **scenic cruise of the region’s waters**. The word “kujukju” literally means “99” but has come to refer to a vast number or something uncountable. In truth, there are 208 islands off the coast of Sasebo, the largest concentration of islands anywhere in Japan. Next, visit **Glover Garden**, an open-air museum, exhibiting mansions of former Western residents of Nagasaki and the **Nagasaki Peace Park**, which commemorates the atomic bombing of Nagasaki on August 9, 1945 which destroyed wide parts of the city and killed ten thousands of inhabitants. Enjoy a special Shippoku Ryori Dinner at the hotel tonight. INASAYAMA KANKO HOTEL (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 8: Mon, Apr 07** – NAGASAKI – ARITA – BEPPU. We visit Arita, where one of the most famous styles of **yakimono (Japanese pottery)** called **Aritayaki** originates. Visit a **kiln** while in Arita. We now drive east to a bather’s paradise – the celebrated onsen hot spring resort of Beppu. **Beppu** is famous for its dramatic pools of bubbling water, mud, and geysers “of hell.” View **four of the nine hells** of Beppu, hot springs ideal for viewing rather than bathing. Tonight, enjoy dinner at the hotel. SUGINOI HOTEL (1 Night) (B, L, D)

\*Baggage will be sent from Beppu to Osaka, skipping Dogo and Takamatsu. Prepare an overnight bag for two nights.



**Day 9: Tue, Apr 08** – BEPPU – MATSUYAMA – DOGO. After breakfast at the hotel, we will board a **ferry to Shikoku Island**. Upon arrival on Shikoku, a brief stop will be made at **Michi-no-Eki Yahata Hama Agora Marche**, for the opportunity to rest and shop for souvenirs, before heading towards Matsuyama to explore the **Ishiteji Temple**. This impressive temple is number 51 on the “88 Temple Pilgrimage,” the most famous religious pilgrimage route in Japan. Tonight, relax in the **onsen hot springs** of the world-famous Dogo Kan Onsen Area. Don’t forget to check out the nearby **shopping arcade** full of shops selling local products of the area. If you time your visit right, you can watch the **Botchan Karakuri Clock**, located at the entrance of the shopping arcade, come to life like a cuckoo clock (every hour between 8:00 am and 10:00 pm). There is also a **free foot bath** at the base of the clock. Enjoy a **Kaiseki Dinner** at the hotel. DOGO KAN (1 Night) (B, D)

**Day 10: Wed, Apr 09** – DOGO – MATSUYAMA – TAKAMATSU. Begin the day with a visit to **Matsuyama Castle**, one of the 12 original wooden castles in Japan that survived wars, fires, and the Meiji Restoration. Take a **udon noodle making lesson** and enjoy your delicious creation for lunch. Next, visit **Ritsurin Park**, a masterpiece of Japanese landscape 100 years in the making. This sprawling park features beautiful ponds and pavilions with a backdrop of the majestic Mt. Shiun. Enjoy some time shopping at the **AEON MALL** in Takamatsu before arriving at the hotel for an evening of leisure. JR HOTEL CLEMENT TAKAMATSU (1 Night) (B, L)

**Day 11: Thur, Apr 10** – TAKAMATSU – NARUTO – OSAKA. In the morning, visit **Aizome Kogeikan** and learn how to **aizome (indigo) dye a handkerchief**. A great memento of your trip to Japan! Next, view the Naruto whirlpool from the **Naruto Whirlpool Cruise**. The whirlpool, which occur along the Shikoku coast of the Naruto Strait, are created by the large volumes of water moving between the Seto Inland Sea and the Pacific Ocean between high and low tide, combined with the unique underwater geography of the narrow strait. After lunch, view the whirlpool from a different perspective via the **Uzu no Michi**, an enclosed walkway that extends under the Onaruto Bridge and overlooks the Naruto whirlpool. En route to Osaka, pass through the **Naruto Ohashi Bridge** and **Awaji Island**. This evening, savor the taste of Wagyu Beef at a local restaurant. HILTON OSAKA (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 12: Fri, Apr 11** – OSAKA – HONOLULU. Begin the day with a visit to **Kuromon Ichiba Market**, a lively covered market which stretches for 580 meters in Osaka’s Chuo Ward. The market is famous for its fresh seafood, fruits and vegetables, meats, dried fish, pickles, and confectionery. Many stalls will prepare, cook and serve their food to you right on the spot! An excellent place to stroll, sample, and snack on a delicious variety of fresh market foods. Next, visit **Dotonbori**, one of Osaka’s most popular tourist destinations, this street runs parallel to the Dotonbori canal. It is a popular shopping and entertainment district and is also known as a food destination. **Shinsaibashi Shopping Arcade** and the surrounding area is Osaka’s premier shopping center. Approximately 600 meters long, this area is unique as it combines chain retail stores and trendy boutiques with expensive department stores and top designer fashion labels. We then make a final shopping stop at an **AEON MALL**, before returning to Kansai International Airport for our return flight home. Depart Osaka via Japan Airlines flt #792 at 10:05 pm and arrive Honolulu at 10:50 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B)

**UNESCO World Heritage Sites:** Himeji Castle (1993), Itsukushima Shrine (1996).