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2025 FALL GOURMET ONSEN MEGURI (DISCOVERY) TOUR

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Exciting tour! Enjoy the best Japan has to offer. Gourmet seasonal, multi-course Kaiseki Dinners at Japan's most famous onsen hot spring locales!

**9 Nights / 11 Days • 21 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 7 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide
November 27 – December 07, 2025 • Tour Managers: Steven & Naomi Lee**

VISIT: Kansai • Hiroshima • Miyajima • Izumo • Tamatsukuri
Matsue • Tottori • Kinosaki • Amanohashidate • Kyoto • Nara

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES: A-Bomb Dome • Itsukushima Shrine
Ryoanji Temple • Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion) • Toji Temple • Todaiji Temple

ONSEN HOT SPRINGS:

- **Miyajima — Iwaso Inn (2 Nights):** Located on the World Heritage Miyajima Island, Iwaso Inn features Japanese-style accommodations with beautiful surrounding views. Guests can relax in the indoor and outdoor onsens. Traditional multi-course Kaiseki Dinners featuring seafood and local ingredients are served at the dining room. A Japanese or Western breakfast is served at Momiji Restaurant. Iwaso Inn is a five-minute walk from Itsukushima Shrine and Momijidani Park.
- **Tamatsukuri — Hotel Gyokusen (2 Nights):** Tamatsukuri Onsen is one of the premier onsen resorts in Shimane, widely known for its beautifying effects on skin. Eighteen hotels and Japanese-style ryokans (traditional Japanese inns) are built along both sides of the Tamayu River. Some of them offer a day spa, and public foot spas can also be enjoyed free of charge. The area also has spiritual locations, high-quality souvenir shops, and cafés for visitors. Rejuvenate in the hotel lobby lounge, overlooking a traditional Japanese garden, bringing out the best in the natural beauty of the pine trees and the rock garden.
- **Kinosaki — Nishimuraya Shogetsutei (2 Nights):** Kinosaki is the quintessential onsen town, with seven public baths and dozens of onsen ryokans, this is the place to sample the onsen ryokan experience. Enjoy a stroll along the willow lined river. The cuisine of Shogetsutei features only the freshest, local ingredients, including crab (available early Nov – late March) from the Sea of Japan and the famous Tajima Beef (the stock cattle of the world famous Kobe Beef).

COMPLETE PACKAGE!

Includes Roundtrip Airfare from Honolulu, 9 Nights Hotel, 21 Meals, Tips for Local Tour Guides and Bus Drivers, All Taxes & Fees

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Day 1: Thur, Nov 27 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 11:55 am.

Day 2: Fri, Nov 28 – HANEDA – KANSAI. Arrive at the Haneda International Airport at 3:55 pm. After entry formalities, enjoy a bento box at the domestic departure gate. Depart the Haneda Domestic Airport via Japan Airlines flt #229 at 8:55 pm. Arrive at the Kansai International Airport at 10:15 pm. Walk to the hotel located within the airport. **HOTEL NIKKO KANSAI AIRPORT (1 Night) (D)**

*Baggage will be sent from Kansai to Tamatsukuri, skipping Miyajima. Prepare overnight bag for two nights.

Day 3: Sat, Nov 29 – KANSAI – HIROSHIMA – MIYAJIMA. After a sumptuous breakfast buffet at the hotel, transfer to Shin-Osaka Train Station by chartered bus. Transfer to Hiroshima Station by **Shinkansen Bullet Train**. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant upon arrival in Hiroshima. After lunch, start a full day of sightseeing by chartered bus. Visit the **A-Bomb Dome, Peace Memorial Park, Peace Memorial Museum, and the Peace Bell**. After a **short ferry ride** arrive on the island of Miyajima, considered sacred by many. This evening soak in the relaxing atmosphere of Iwaso Inn and the **onsen hot spring baths**. You can enjoy the beauty of the primeval forests and gentle sound of mountain streams while taking a bath. 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 (2 Nights) Onsen and Kaiseki Dinner (B, L, D)**

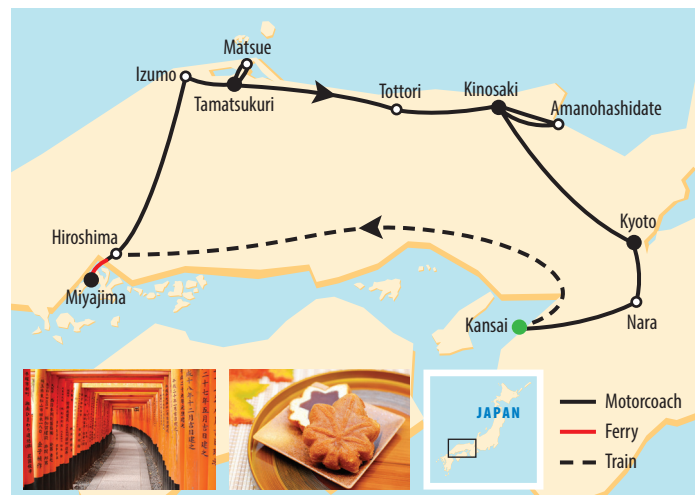
Day 4: Sun, Nov 30 – MIYAJIMA. After breakfast, walk to the nearby vermilion torii gate of **Itsukushima Shrine**, which at high tide, looks like it's floating in the middle of the sea. The shrine complex has been selected as one of Japan's three most scenic places (nihon sankei). **Learn how to make momiji manju**, a specialty of the area. Free time will be given to explore the excellent **shopping** opportunities available down the main street of Miyajima Island and enjoy lunch (on your own). Return to the hotel for dinner. Be sure to enjoy the **onsen hot spring baths** before and after your dinner. (B, D)

Day 5: Mon, Dec 01 – MIYAJIMA – IZUMO – TAMATSUKURI. After breakfast, we make our way back to Honshu via a **short ferry ride**. En route to Tamatsukuri, a stop will be made at a **michi-no-eki** (a roadside station) for lunch on your own. Then visit **Izumo-Taisha** located near the Sea of Japan. It is one of Japan's most important shrines. Izumo used to be ruled by a powerful clan in pre-historic times, and the region plays a central role in Japan's creation mythology. The main deity (kami) enshrined at Izumo Taisha is Okuninushi no Okami. According to the creation myths, Okuninushi was the creator of the land of Japan and the ruler of Izumo. He also became known as the deity of good relationships and marriage. Visitors consequently clap their hands four times instead of the usual two times during their prayers: twice for themselves and twice for their actual or desired partners. This evening enjoy a special **Kaiseki Dinner** at your hotel. Be sure to enjoy the **onsen hot springs** and perhaps a stroll along the Tamayu River. **HOTEL GYOKUSEN (2 Nights) (B, D)**

Day 6: Tue, Dec 02 – TAMATSUKURI – MATSUE – TAMATSUKURI. Begin the day with some hands-on activities, including **dressing up in a kimono** and experiencing a **tea ceremony**. Next, take a **boat cruise on the Hori River**. After lunch, visit the quaint **Matsue Castle**. Then enjoy some free time for shopping and dining (on your own) at an **AEON MALL** before returning to the hotel for an evening of leisure. (B, L)

Day 7: Wed, Dec 03 – TAMATSUKURI – TOTTORI – KINOSAKI. After breakfast, 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. After lunch, witness the awesome **Tottori sand dunes** on our way to Kinokasa. This evening enjoy a stroll along the willow lined river. Enjoy a rejuvenating soak in the **onsen hot springs** before or after your **Kaiseki Dinner** at the hotel. **NISHIMURAYA SHOGETSUTEI (2 Nights) (B, L, D)**

Day 8: Thur, Dec 04 – KINOSAKI – AMANOHASHIDATE – KINOSAKI. First stop today is at the **Bay of Ine**. The small village is unique, consisting of 230 funaya (over water houses). After lunch, visit **Amanohashidate**, one of the three most scenic places in Japan along with Matsushima Bay near Sendai and Miyajima Island. The coast line is a long sandbar. You'll get a chance to **ride the cable car** and visit the **Kasamatsu Park Observatory**. Transfer back to the hotel for dinner. (B, L, D)



Day 9: Fri, Dec 05 – KINOSAKI – KYOTO. After breakfast, depart for Kyoto. Upon arrival in Kyoto, the remainder of the day is at your leisure. Your hotel is surrounded by department stores, specialty stores, and restaurants. A perfect day to fulfill your shopping list. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. **MIYAKO HOTEL KYOTO HACHIJO (2 Nights) (B)**

Day 10: Sat, Dec 06 – KYOTO. First stop this morning is **Ryoanji Temple**, the site of Japan's most famous rock garden, which attracts hundreds of visitors every day. Originally an aristocrat's villa during Heian Period (710–1185), the site was converted into a Zen temple in 1450. The garden consists of a rectangular plot of pebbles surrounded by a low earthen wall, with 15 rocks laid out in small groups on patches of moss. An interesting feature of the garden's design is that from any vantage point at least one of the rocks is always hidden from the viewer. Next, visit to the famous **Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion)**, a Zen Temple whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. **Nishiki Market**, also known as "Kyoto's Kitchen" is a narrow, five block long shopping street lined by more than one hundred shops and restaurants. Specializes in all things food related, like fresh seafood, produce, knives and cookware, and is a great place to find seasonal foods and Kyoto specialties, such as Japanese sweets, pickles, dried seafood, and sushi. Spend your free time here exploring, shopping, and enjoy lunch (on your own). After lunch, **learn how to make wagashi** (traditional Japanese sweets). **Toji Temple** (literally "East Temple"), was founded at the beginning of the Heian Period, just after the capital was moved to Kyoto in the late 700s. Toji's five storied pagoda, which was originally erected in 826, stands 57 meters tall, making it the tallest wooden pagoda in Japan. Since the tall pagoda can be seen from many places across the city, it has become both a symbol of the temple and the city itself. View the temple grounds lit up, showcasing the contrast between the red and yellow tress and the five-story pagoda. Return to the hotel for a buffet dinner. (B, D)

Day 11: Sun, Dec 07 – KYOTO – NARA – KANSAI – HONOLULU. After breakfast, check out from hotel. Start the day at the stunning vermilion colored **Fushimi Inari Shrine**, whose four kilometer long tunnel of scarlet torii gates was featured on the film, *Memoirs of a Geisha*. After lunch, visit **Todaiji Temple** in Nara. Todaiji, the largest wooden building in Japan, houses the largest bronze statue of Buddha at 16.3 meters high. The surrounding **Nara Deer Park** is inhabited by **over 1,000 deer**. Transfer to the Kansai International Airport for our return flight home. Depart Kansai Airport via Japan Airlines flt #792 at 10:35 pm and arrive in Honolulu at 10:40 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B, L)

UNESCO World Heritage Sites: A-Bomb Dome (1996), Itsukushima Shrine (1996), Ryoanji Temple (1994), Kinkakuji Temple (1994), Toji Temple (1994), Todaiji Temple (1998).

*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/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" cruise or 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: 07/18/25. NST at its discretion, may use group and individual photos on its website, print, television, and various social media. † 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.** 031025

