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Discovery.



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

## 2025 FALL GOURMET ONSEN MEGURI (DISCOVERY)

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*Enjoy the best Japan has to offer!*

*Gourmet seasonal, multi-course Kaiseki Dinners  
at Japan's most famous onsen hot spring locales!*

11 Nights / 13 Days • 25 Meals (11 Breakfasts, 7 Lunches, 7 Dinners)  
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide  
October 08 – 20, 2025 • Tour Managers: Dean & Annette Mizumura

**VISIT:** Kobe • Himeji • Hiroshima • Miyajima  
Izumo • Tamatsukuri • Matsue • Tottori  
Kinosaki • Amanohashidate • Kyoto • Osaka

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- Upgraded Hotels & Meals
- Minimum 2 Nights at Each Hotel
- Sake, Beer & Soft Drinks with All Included Dinners
- "Green Car" Seats on the Shinkansen Bullet Train

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Guides and Motorcoach Drivers, All Taxes & Fees

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**HURRY! Only 6 Seats Available at this Price!**

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**\$12,888\***

**HURRY! Only 5 Seats Available at this Price!**

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Book by 05/30/25 & **SAVE \$100<sup>†</sup>**

Book by 06/30/25 & **SAVE \$50<sup>†</sup>**

# 2025 Fall Gourmet Onsen Meguri (Discovery)



**Day 1: Wed, Oct 08** — HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #791 at 11:35 am.

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**Day 2: Thur, Oct 09** — KANSAI — KOBE. Arrive at the Kansai International Airport at 3:40 pm. After entry formalities, transfer to Kobe. Enjoy dinner at the hotel. KOBE MERIKEN PARK ORIENTAL HOTEL (2 Nights) (D)

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**Day 3: Fri, Oct 10** — KOBE — HIMEJI — KOBE. After a sumptuous 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. This splendid example of traditional architecture was declared one of the first UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Japan. After lunch, visit **Kobe Nunobiki Herb Gardens**, Japan’s largest herb gardens with around 75,000 herbs and flowers of about 200 kinds blooming throughout the year. There are 12 extensive garden areas where visitors are welcomed by seasonal herbs and flowers arranged according to different themes. At the **Aroma Studio**, you will have the opportunity to **make your own scented item**. Choose between a room spray using essential oils, nail oil using essential oils, or potpourri using herbs and salt, that can be used as a room freshener. Return to the Kobe harbor area to take a leisurely stroll. Enjoy a wagyu teppanyaki dinner before returning to the hotel for the evening. (B, L, D)

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

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**Day 4: Sat, Oct 11** — KOBE — HIROSHIMA — MIYAJIMA. After breakfast, transfer to Shin-Kobe Train Station by chartered bus. Transfer to Hiroshima Station by **Shinkansen Bullet Train** with **reserved seating** in the **Green Car**. 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 (3 Nights) (B, L, D)



**Day 5: Sun, Oct 12** — 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). After lunch, take in the view from the **Miyajima Ropeway** — the cable car and gondola system linking Miyajima township to Mt. Misen. On a clear day the ropeway provides an excellent observation point, plus access to the Wild Monkey Park, temples, and shrines. Return to the hotel for dinner. Be sure to enjoy the **onsen hot spring baths** before and after your dinner. (B, D)

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**Day 6: Mon, Oct 13** — MIYAJIMA. Begin the day with some hands-on activities, including **dressing up in a kimono**, experiencing a **tea ceremony**, and learning how to **write in calligraphy**. The remainder of the day is at your leisure to explore more of Miyajima on your own. Don’t forget to try the plump steamed oysters that Miyajima is known for. And make friends with the wild deer that continue to roam freely around Miyajima. (B)

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**Day 7: Tue, Oct 14** — 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. Dinner will be accompanied by an **Iwami Kagura Show** — an unforgettable kind of masked traditional performance. The stories told in these performances are usually drawn from ancient history books dating from the eighth century, or from legends and stories of monsters made famous in Noh theater. The stories are



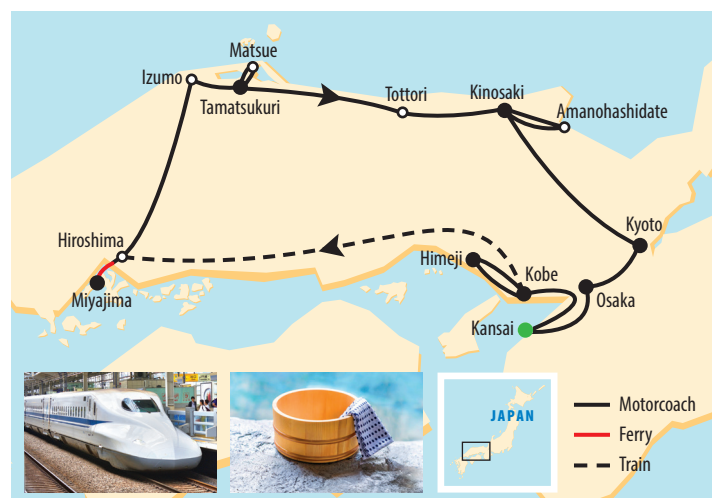


easy to follow as they often consist of heroes and villains, gods and demons, of good guys and bad guys. Many times, these dances involve intense choreographed sword fights. However, it's not all action and drama as there are comedic interludes with some dances that approach pantomime. These interludes are sure to have you laughing and cheering. After dinner, don't forget to try the **onsen hot springs** facilities. HOTEL GYOKUSEN (2 Nights) (B, D)

**Day 8: Wed, Oct 15** — TAMATSUKURI — MATSUE — TAMATSUKURI. Begin the day at the **Tatara Sword Factory**, where you will learn how traditional tatara swords are made. Tatara is the technique used in Japan to produce the pure steel needed to make Japanese swords. The traditional materials used are iron, sand, and coal — which are still used today. After lunch, take a **boat cruise on the Hori River**. Next, 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 9: Thur, Oct 16** — 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 Kinokuni. 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 10: Fri, Oct 17** — 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. The remainder of the evening is at your leisure. (B, L)

**Day 11: Sat, Oct 18** — KINOSAKI — KYOTO. After breakfast, depart for Kyoto. En route, stop at an **AEON MALL**. Upon arrival in Kyoto, the remainder of the day is at your leisure. Your hotel is surrounded by department stores, specialty stores, and restaurants. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. THE THOUSAND KYOTO (2 Nights) (B)

**Day 12: Sun, Oct 19** — KYOTO. 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*. Then take a **ride on a rickshaw** around Kyoto. Today's hands-on experience is **surikomi yuzen (brush dyed yuzen)**, which is one of Kyoto's traditional craft kyo-yuzen dyeing techniques. Since the patterns are dyed by placing a paper stencil over a piece of fabric, such as a table mat you can make an authentic piece, even if this is your first time. Your very own original work will be a perfect memento for yourself or a gift for someone. Return to the hotel for some leisure time before walking to a nearby restaurant for a buffet dinner. (B, L, D)

**Day 13: Mon, Oct 20** — KYOTO — OSAKA — KANSAI — HONOLULU. After breakfast, learn about sake and sake making at a **sake brewery**. After lunch, enjoy shopping at **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. Make a final shopping stop at an **AEON MALL**, before transferring to the Kansai International Airport for the return flight home. Depart Kansai Airport via Japan Airlines flight #792 at 10:10 pm and arrive in Honolulu at 10:45 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B, L)

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**TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:** Himeji Castle, Kobe Nunobiki Herb Gardens, Aroma Studio, Shinkansen Bullet Train Ride, A-Bomb Museum, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, Peace Memorial Museum, Peace Bell, Ferry Ride to Miyajima, Itsukushima Shrine, Miyajima Ropeway, Michi-no-Eki, Izumo Taisha, Tatara Sword Factory, Hori River Cruise, Matsue Castle, AEON MALL, Adachi Museum, Tottori Sand Dunes, Bay of Ine, Amanohashidate, Cable Car, Kasamatsu Park Observatory, Fushimi Inari Shrine, Rickshaw Ride, Sake Brewery, Dotonbori & Shinsaibashi Shopping Arcade

**HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES:** Make Your Own Scented Item, Momiji Manju Making, Kimono Dress-Up, Tea Ceremony, Learn to Write in Calligraphy & Yuzen Dyeing

## HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:



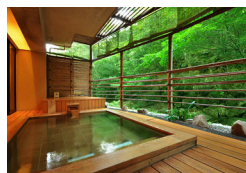
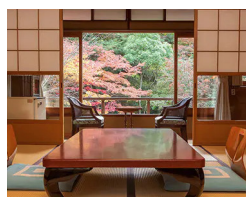
### KOBE — KOBE MERIKEN PARK ORIENTAL HOTEL (2 NIGHTS):

Overlooking the beautiful Kobe Port, the hotel offers 270 degree views of the sea — giving visitor stunning views of the ocean, the harbor and Kobe city. Receive access to the Executive Lounge, where complimentary coffee, soft drinks, sparkling wine, wine, and local Nadagogo sake are available all day, and beer, spirits and whiskey are complimentary during the evening.



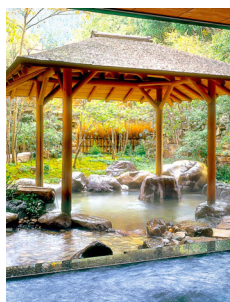
### MIYAJIMA — IWASO INN

**(3 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 onsen hot spring baths. 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 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 Hotel Gyokusen's lobby lounge, overlooking a traditional Japanese garden, bringing out the best in the natural beauty of the pine trees and rock garden.



### KINOSAKI — NISHIMURAYA SHOGETSUTEI

**(2 NIGHTS):** Kinohaki is the quintessential onsen town, with seven public baths and dozens of onsen ryokans (traditional Japanese inns), 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 the famous Tajima Beef (the stock cattle of the world famous Kobe Beef).



### KYOTO — THE THOUSAND KYOTO (2 NIGHTS):

The hotel is ideally located, just a two-minute walk from the JR Kyoto Station Central Gate — making it easily accessible to numerous shopping and dining opportunities. The rooms incorporate the Zen ideology and is designed with attention to high quality so that guests can truly relax. The soft light from the textured washi paper and calm colors are sure to sooth your travel fatigue.



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