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2025 FALL GRAND MIYAJIMA, HIROSHIMA, KYOTO, NARA & OSAKA TOUR #1

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*Featuring two nights at the incomparable Iwaso Inn on Miyajima Island.
Authentic onsen hot springs experience with included gourmet Kaiseki Dinners!*

9 Nights / 11 Days • 18 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 4 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide
Tour #1: October 03 – 13, 2025 • Tour Manager: Anona Gabriel

VISIT:

Kansai • Nara • Kyoto • Kameoka • Arashiyama • Himeji
Kurashiki • Okayama • Hiroshima • Miyajima • Osaka

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Todayji Temple • Nara Deer Park • Fushimi Inari Shrine • Sagano Torokko Ressha (Sagano Romantic Train)
Arashiyama Bamboo Forest • Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion) • Nijo Castle • Sanjusangen-do
Himeji Castle • Kurashiki Bikan Area • AEON MALL • Peace Memorial Park • A-Bomb Museum
A-Bomb Dome • Children's Memorial • Peace Bell • Ferry Ride to Miyajima Island • Miyajima Ropeway
Itsukushima Shrine • Omotesando Street • JR Super Express Train Ride • Kuromon Ichiba Market
Dotonbori Shopping • Shinsaibashi Shopping • AEON MALL

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES:

Traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony • Wagashi (Japanese Sweets) Making
Yuzen Dyeing • Momiji Manju Making

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES:

Todayji Temple • Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion)
Himeji Castle • A-Bomb Dome • Itsukushima Shrine

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Day 1: Fri, Oct 03 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #791 at 11:40 am.

Day 2: Sat, Oct 04 – KANSAI. Arrive at Kansai International Airport at 3:50 pm. After entry formalities, walk to the hotel located within the airport. Dinner will be served at the hotel. HOTEL NIKKO KANSAI AIRPORT (1 Night) (D)

Day 3: Sun, Oct 05 – KANSAI – NARA – KYOTO. After breakfast, check out from hotel. A full day of sightseeing is ahead. On our way to Kyoto, visit the **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**. After lunch, stop to view 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 experience a **traditional Japanese tea ceremony**. Arrive at the hotel in Kyoto. Evening is at your leisure. Your Tour Guide will have suggestions for dinner. MIYAKO HOTEL KYOTO HACHIJO (3 Nights) (B, L)

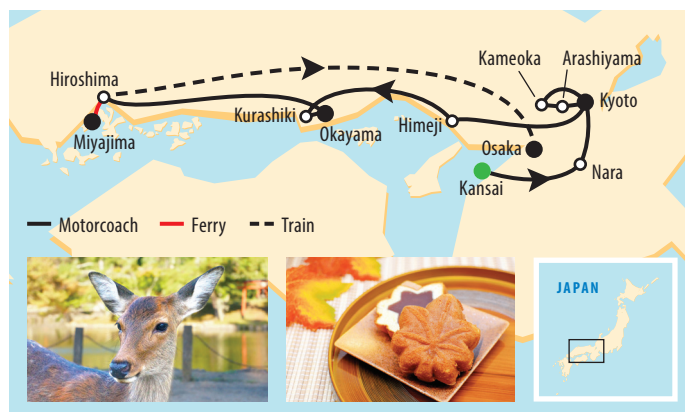
Day 4: Mon, Oct 06 – KYOTO – KAMEOKA – ARASHIYAMA – KYOTO. After breakfast, travel to Kameoka and board the **Sagano Torokko Ressha (Sagano Romantic Train)** to Arashiyama. In Arashiyama, you'll have the choice of several activities. Explore the famous **Arashiyama Bamboo Forests**. Or shop for world-famous Arashiyama bamboo products. Enjoy a very special lunch, a local Arashiyama specialty – **yudofu (boiled tofu)** set menu. **Learn how to make wagashi** (traditional Japanese sweets). Return to Kyoto for another evening of leisure. (B, L)

Day 5: Tue, Oct 07 – KYOTO. After a sumptuous Japanese/Western buffet breakfast at the hotel, embark on a full day of sightseeing beginning with a visit to the famous **Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion)**, a Zen Temple whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. Formally known as Rokuonji, the temple was the retirement villa of the shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu. 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 tote bag, 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. After lunch, visit **Nijo Castle**. After the Tokugawa Shogunate fell in 1867, Nijo Castle was used as an imperial palace for a while before being donated to the city and opened up to the public as a historic site. Its palace buildings are arguably the best surviving examples of castle palace architecture of Japan's feudal era. Next, visit **Sanjusangen-do**, the Buddhist temple famous for its 1,001 statues of Kannon, the goddess of compassion. Return to the hotel for dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Wed, Oct 08 – KYOTO – HIMEJI – KURASHIKI – OKAYAMA. 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. This splendid example of traditional architecture was declared one of the first UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Japan. After lunch, visit **Kurashiki** and the **Bikan Area**. In merchant days, this scenic town thrived as a port for rice shipments. Several old rice granaries and examples of historic architecture still remain, in addition to the stone lined canal. Transfer to Okayama where you will enjoy shopping and dining (on your own) at one of the largest **AEON Shopping Malls**. HOTEL GRANVIA OKAYAMA (1 Night) (B, L)

*Baggage will be sent from Okayama to Osaka, skipping Miyajima. Prepare an overnight bag for two nights.

Day 7: Thur, Oct 09 – OKAYAMA – HIROSHIMA – MIYAJIMA. In Hiroshima visit the **Peace Memorial Park, A-Bomb Museum, A-Bomb Dome, Children's Memorial**, 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 8: Fri, Oct 10 – MIYAJIMA. After a special breakfast, this morning 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. Then visit the **Itsukushima Shrine**. At high tide, the vermilion torii gate of Itsukushima Shrine 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). Enjoy excellent shopping and numerous choices for lunch (on your own) down **Omotesando Street**, the main street of Miyajima Island. **Learn how to make momiji manju**, a specialty of the area. The remainder of the afternoon is at your leisure. This evening enjoy a different variety of **Kaiseki Dinner**. Be sure to enjoy the **onsen hot spring baths** before and after your dinner. (B, D)

Day 9: Sat, Oct 11 – MIYAJIMA – HIROSHIMA – OSAKA. After breakfast, we make our way back to Hiroshima via a **short ferry ride**. We then take a ride on the **JR Super Express Train** to Osaka. The evening is at your leisure. Your Tour Guide will have many suggestions for dinner and shopping. HOTEL INTERGATE OSAKA UMEDA (2 Nights) (B)

Day 10: Sun, Oct 12 – OSAKA. Full day at leisure. A perfect day to fulfill the remainder of your omiyage shopping list. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

Day 11: Mon, Oct 13 – OSAKA – HONOLULU. After hotel checkout, start 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 explore **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. A final shopping stop will be made at an **AEON MALL** before transferring to Kansai International Airport for our return flight home. Depart Kansai 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: Todaiji Temple (1998), Kinkakuji Temple (1994), Himeji Castle (1993), A-Bomb Dome (1996), Itsukushima Shrine (1996).

* 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" 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: 05/23/25. 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.** 040925

