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2025 FALL GRAND NIIGATA, SADO ISLAND PLUS TOKYO SHOPPING

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9 Nights / 11 Days • 18 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 6 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide
November 07 - 17, 2025 • Tour Manager: Kim McCumsey

HIDDEN GEMS OF JAPAN: There's more to Japan than the well-known destinations of Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka. After all, with over 43 prefectures, there are surely TONS of other hidden gems out there that will be worth your while! In fact, there is one stunning place that's yet to be discovered by foreign tourists, and that's a visit to Niigata Prefecture facing the Sea of Japan.

VISIT: Omiya • Niigata • Sado Island • Tokyo

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS: JR Super Express Train Ride • Niigata Furusato Village Shirone Grape Garden • Yahiko Park • Yahiko Shrine • Yahiko Ropeway • Knife Factory Tour Jet Foil Ride to Sado Island • Japanese Crested Ibis Conservation Centre • Obata Sake Brewery Oni Daiko Performance • Kirarium Sado • Sado Gold Mine • Tarai-Bune Boat Ride • Shukunegi Jet Foil Ride to Niigata • Pier Bandai • Imayo Tsukasa Sake Brewery • Geiko Dinner Niigata Saito Villa • Northern Culture Museum • AEON MALL • Tokyo Skytree Toyosu Senkyaku Banrai • Asakusa Sensoji Temple • Nakamise Shopping • Ameyoko Shopping

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES: Apple Picking • Sake Brewery Tour and Tasting Soba Noodle Making • Mochi Pounding • Senbei (Rice Cracker) Making Furin (Japanese Wind Chime) Painting

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KAISEKI DINNER — With Geiko (Geisha) Performance!

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Day 1: Fri, Nov 07 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 11:55 am.

Day 2: Sat, Nov 08 – TOKYO – OMIYA. Arrive Tokyo at 3:55 pm. After entry formalities board motorcoach 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)

Day 3: Sun, Nov 09 – OMIYA – NIIGATA. After breakfast, transfer to Omiya Station. Ride the **JR Super Express Train** to Niigata Station. Upon arrival in Niigata, spend some free time at the **Niigata Furusato Village**, where there are shops selling Niigata specialties, restaurants serving local cuisine, a Niigata sightseeing information area and a corner providing Niigata historical and cultural information to visitors. You'll have time to shop and enjoy lunch here (on your own). After lunch, visit **Shirone Grape Garden** and **pick some apples**. Continue to the hotel, where you will have some time before dinner to relax in the **onsen hot spring**. HOTEL OYANAGI (2 Nights) (B, D)

Day 4: Mon, Nov 10 – NIIGATA. Now this is what you've been waiting for! **Yahiko Park** is ablaze with fall foliage! You've never seen anything like it! Also visit **Yahiko Shrine**. Take it all in from the amazing vantage point of the **Yahiko Ropeway!** After enjoying lunch at a local restaurant, take a tour of a **knife factory**, before returning to the hotel for a different **Kaiseki Dinner**. (B, L, D)

*Baggage will be sent from Hotel Oyanagi to Hotel Nikko Niigata, skipping Sado Island. Prepare overnight bag for two nights.

Day 5: Tue, Nov 11 – NIIGATA – SADO ISLAND. Transfer to Niigata Port. **Take a jet foil to Sado Island**. Take a tour of **Japanese Crested Ibis Conservation Centre**. Visit the **Obata Sake Brewery** for a **tour and tasting**. A special **Kaiseki Dinner** will be served at your hotel accompanied by an authentic **Oni Daiko (Demon Drums) Performance**. HOTEL YAHATAKAN (2 Nights) (B, D)

Day 6: Wed, Nov 12 – SADO ISLAND. Full day sightseeing of Sado Island by coach, including **Kirarium Sado** and the **Sado Gold Mine**. Kirarium Sado is the Sado Gold Mine Welcome Center, where you will learn everything you need to know about the gold mine. At the Sado Gold Mine, learn about the 400+ year history of the largest gold mine in Japan. Full-size dolls and robots provide accurate representation of the historic workings of the mine in the Edo period. In the museum, you can try to lift a pure gold bar, with a value of over 100 million yen, out of a clear box. Many have tried, but few have succeeded. Next, learn to **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 centimeter. 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 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 local restaurant before returning to the hotel. (B, L, D)

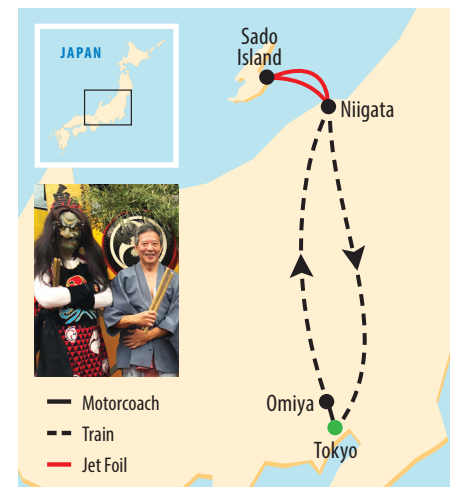
Day 7: Thur, Nov 13 – SADO ISLAND – NIIGATA. After breakfast, transfer to Ryotsu Port and via the **jet foil** to Niigata Port. Upon arrival back in Niigata, stop at **Pier Bandai**, a food market that offers multiple of food options, including fish caught in the Sea of Japan, to vegetables and fruit directly delivered from farms, Niigata-produced rice *koshihikari*, a variety of high-quality brand sake from across the prefecture, and all kinds of Niigata's specialties relating to food. Enjoy lunch on your own while here. After lunch, take a **tour of Imayo Tsukasa Sake Brewery** and **sample their tasty products**. You're in for treat this evening!! Along with dinner, we are entertained by an authentic **Geiko**. Dancing, singing, and playing fun games. HOTEL NIKKO NIIGATA (2 Nights) (B, D)

Day 8: Fri, Nov 14 – NIIGATA. This morning, tour the Niigata Saito Villa. Built by a wealthy merchant, Saito Kijuro, in 1918, the villa was carefully constructed to provide the best view of the Japanese garden. Then visit the **Northern Culture Museum**, where you'll have the chance to **pound mochi** and have lunch. Originally serving as a mansion of Ito Bunkichi, who lived in the Edo Period (1603–1868) and was one of the greatest landowners in Japan, nowadays, the museum houses calligraphy and ceramics, lacquer ware, and documents related to Ito's family history. You can also visit the garden; it is a "walking" garden with a big pond. After lunch, we **make our own senbei** (rice cracker). Stop at an **AEON MALL**, where you'll have time to shop and have dinner (on your own), before returning to the hotel for the night. (B, L)

Day 9: Sat, Nov 15 – NIIGATA – TOKYO. Return to Tokyo via **JR Super Express Train**. Upon arrival in Tokyo, take in the view of the surrounding city from the observation deck of the **Tokyo Skytree**. At just over 2,000 feet tall, it is the tallest tower in Tokyo. Rising 350 meters above the ground, the Tokyo Skytree Tembo Deck offers a 360-degree panoramic view of Tokyo. Next, **paint your own furin** (Japanese wind chime). A great souvenir of your trip! Transfer to hotel, where you will have time to relax before dinner. GRAND NIKKO TOKYO DAIBA (2 Nights) (B, D)

Day 10: Sun, Nov 16 – TOKYO. Full day at leisure. A perfect day to shop, dine, and explore Tokyo on your own. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

Day 11: Mon, Nov 17 – TOKYO – HONOLULU. Begin the day at **Toyosu Senkyaku Banrai**, a shopping complex that



recreates an Edo period neighborhood. Toyosu Senkyaku Banrai offers fresh food from the neighboring Toyosu Market and serves to showcase the best foods in Tokyo. Enjoy time for shopping and lunch (on your own), exploring the offerings at the numerous stalls. If you get tired, head up to the 8th floor and relax at the foot bath garden – which is free of charge to all visitors. Then head to **Asakusa**, the center of Tokyo's *shitamachi* (literally "low city") districts, where an atmosphere of the Tokyo of past decades survives. Asakusa's main attraction is **Sensoji**, a very popular Buddhist temple built in the 7th century. The temple is approached via the **Nakamise**, a shopping street that has been providing temple visitors with a variety of traditional local snacks and tourist souvenirs for centuries. Next visit **Ameyoko**, a busy market street along the Yamanote Line Tracks between Okachimachi and Ueno Stations. The name "Ameyoko" is a short form for "ameya yokocho" ("candy store alley"), as candies were traditionally sold there. Alternatively, "Ame" also stands for "America," because a lot of American products used to be available there when the streets was the site of a black market in the years following WWII. Today, various products such as clothes, bags, cosmetics, fresh fish, dried food and spices are sold along Ameyoko. Transfer to the Haneda International Airport for your flight home. Depart Haneda via Japan Airlines flt #74 at 9:00 pm and arrive in Honolulu at 9:00 am on the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B)

* 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-cruiseline" 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: 06/27/25. 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.** 021325

