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9 Nights / 11 Days • 15 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 4 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide
November 09 – 19, 2025 • Tour Manager: Brenda Fischer

OVERVIEW: Okinawa is home to a unique culture that differs considerably from that of mainland Japan. Until the islands were invaded by the Satsuma domain (present day Kagoshima Prefecture) in 1609, Okinawa existed as an entirely separate country from Japan, known as the Ryukyu Kingdom. After the invasion, the Ryukyu Kingdom served as a tributary state to Japan, but continued to be governed by the royal family from Shuri Castle. It was not until 1879, a few years after the Meiji Restoration, that the kingdom was abolished and incorporated into Japan as Okinawa Prefecture. The castles of Okinawa, known as "gusuku" in the Okinawan language, are among the most vivid monuments that testify to the unique cultural and historical heritage of the Ryukyu Kingdom. In the year 2000, five castles and four related sites were designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites under the collective title of "Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu."

VISIT: Haneda • Naha • Onna • Kitanakagusuku • Nago
Manza • Motobu • Nakijin • Itoman • Nanjo • Fukuoka

OKINAWA HIGHLIGHTS (5 NIGHTS): Shuri Castle • Ryusou Ryukyu Kimono Dress-Up
Coral Dyeing Experience • Ryukyu Mura Village • AEON MALL – RYCOM
Awamori (Rice Liquor) Factory Tour • Churaumi Aquarium • Nakijin Castle Site
Shisa Painting Experience • Himeyuri Peace Museum • Mabuni Hill
Okinawa Peace Memorial Park • Okinawa World • Gyokusendo Stalactite Cave
Habu (Snake) Museum • Glass Factory • Ryukyu Dance Performance

FUKUOKA HIGHLIGHTS (3 NIGHTS): Dazaifu • Fruit Picking • Kushida Shrine
Hakata Machiya Furusato Kan • Kobayashi Shuzo Tour • AEON MALL

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES: Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu

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Day 1: Sun, Nov 09 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 11:55 am.

Day 2: Mon, Nov 10 – HANEDA. Arrive at the Haneda International Airport at 3:55 pm. After entry formalities, walk to your hotel connected to the airport terminal. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel. HOTEL VILLA FONTAINE GRAND HANEDA AIRPORT (1 Night) (D)

Day 3: Tue, Nov 11 – HANEDA – NAHA. After a breakfast buffet at your hotel, transfer back to the Haneda airport terminal. Depart Haneda Domestic Airport via Japan Airlines flt #987 at 11:30 am and arrive at the Naha International Airport at 2:20 pm. Begin your exploration of Okinawa with a visit to **Shuri Castle (Shurijo)**, the most important castle of the Ryukyu Kingdom, serving both as the central government office and royal residence. Although the main buildings of Shuri Castle were destroyed in a fire in October 2019, reconstruction to bring back the castle to its former glory is expected to be completed in 2026. Shurijo is the only castle in Okinawa that has been reconstructed. Only ruins remain of all the other castles. **Dress up in Ryusou Ryukyu Kimonos** for a group photo! Coral is a fundamental part of the history and culture of the Okinawan Islands. Many areas of Okinawa's main island are made of Ryukyu limestone formed by ancient coral reefs several hundred thousand years ago. Today, coral fossils are often used to create various art pieces in Okinawa. Try your hand at bringing your own art to life when you learn how to **decorate a tote bag** using a **coral dyeing** technique done only in Okinawa, **"ryuzen zome."** Transfer to the hotel. Walk to a nearby restaurant for dinner. HOTEL COLLECTIVE (1 Night) (B, D)

*Baggage will be held at the hotel in Naha. Prepare an overnight bag for a one night stay in Manza.

Day 4: Wed, Nov 12 – NAHA – ONNA – Kitanakagusuku – NAGO – MANZA. After breakfast, we head north to Onna Village and spend the morning at **Ryukyu Mura**, a small theme park about Okinawan culture in the form of a recreated village from the times of the Ryukyu Kingdom. The highlight of the village is the eisa show. Eisa, a form of folk dance originating in the Okinawa Islands, that is performed by the young people of each community during the bon festival to honor the spirits of their ancestors. In the finale of the eisa show, visitors can join in on the dance known as kachashi. The term "kachashi" is a word from the Okinawan dialect and means "to mix." It implies the idea of sharing happiness, which fosters a sense of unity that transcends borders and language barriers. Then stop at **AEON MALL – RYCOM** for shopping and lunch (on your own). Next we visit an **awamori (rice liquor) factory**. Awamori is the signature alcoholic beverage of Okinawa and most of the Ryukyu Islands. Learn the unique process involved in making Awamori. Enjoy dinner at the hotel tonight. ANA INTERCONTINENTAL MANZA BEACH RESORT (1 Night) (B, D)

Day 5: Thur, Nov 13 – MANZA – MOTOBU – NAKIJIN – NAHA. After an incredible breakfast buffet, enjoy a visit to the **Churaumi Aquarium**, widely considered Japan's best aquarium. It is the main attraction of the Ocean Expo Park on the former grounds of the 1975 International Ocean Expo. The aquarium was completely redesigned and reopened in 2002. The highlight of a visit to the Churaumi Aquarium is the massive Kuroshio Tank, one of the largest in the world. The tank takes its name from the warm Kuroshio current which plays a large part in the variety of Okinawa's marine life. Next, visit the ruins of **Nakijin Castle**. Learn about the history of Okinawa. The castle – a former residence of the Ryukyu Kingdom governor during the 14th century – is a designated UNESCO World Heritage site. Let your creative side loose when you **paint a shisa**, a traditional Ryukyuan cultural artifact and decoration. Often seen in pairs and resemble a cross between a lion and a dog, shisa are from Okinawan mythology, and are believed to protect from some evils. People place pairs of shisa on their rooftops or flanking gates to their houses, with the left shisa traditionally has a closed mouth, the right one an open mouth. The open mouth shisa traditionally wards off evil spirits, while the

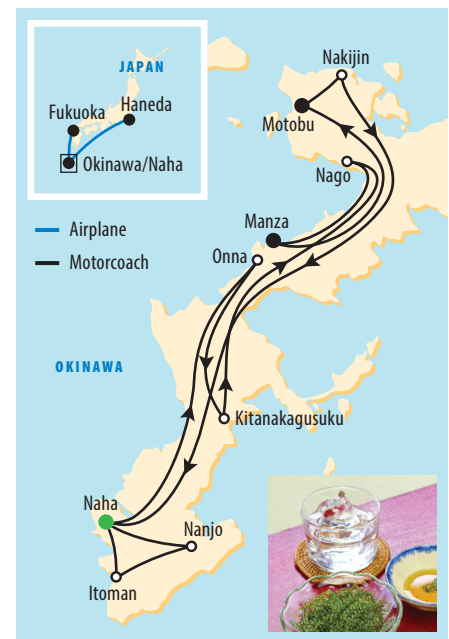
closed mouth shisa keeps good spirits in. Transfer to the hotel in Naha. HOTEL COLLECTIVE (3 Nights) (B, L)

Day 6: Fri, Nov 14 – NAHA. Full day at leisure. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. Perfect day to relax and/or visit with family and friends in Okinawa. Don't miss the out on the numerous shopping opportunities on Kokusai-dori – including the Heiwa-dori covered shopping arcade or the Don Quijote that is open until 3:00 am every day! (B)

Day 7: Sat, Nov 15 – NAHA – ITOMAN – NANJO – NAHA. After breakfast, we will visit two WWII memorial sites. Begin by exploring the **Himeyuri Peace Museum**, which details what the Okinawan people experienced – from the atrocities of war, to their struggles during American occupation, and the difficulties they faced with the switching of government powers in the post-war years. The museum also commemorates the fate of the female high school students that had worked in the army field hospitals under horrendous conditions – many of which did not survive the war. Testimonials of the few survivors of the Battle of Okinawa are exhibited here – offering detailed recollections of their painful experiences. Next is the **Okinawa Peace Memorial Park**, situated on **Mabuni Hill**, the site where the Battle of Okinawa ended, was created to mourn the loss of close to a quarter of a million people. One of the key features of the park is the Cornerstone of Peace inscribed with the names of some 200,000 individuals, including civilians and Japanese and foreign soldiers, who lost their lives in the Battle of Okinawa. The concept of the stone monuments is to remember those who died and to pray for them, to share lessons learned from war and to provide a place for meditation and learning. Spend the afternoon exploring **Okinawa World**, a theme park about Okinawan culture. The park's main attractions are a **massive natural cave**, a **craft village**, and a **habu (snake) museum**. With a total length of five kilometers, **Gyokusendo Cave** is the longest of the many caves in the south of Okinawa Island and the second longest cave in the entire country. 850 meters of the cave are open to the public and feature spectacular stalactites and stalagmites. The Kingdom Village is a nice replica of a traditional Ryukyu village with workshops introducing the various traditional Okinawan crafts, such as weaving, dyeing, paper making, pottery, sugar cane processing, the making of music instruments and the more recently introduced glass blowing. Colorful **Ryukyu glass** is one of those must have souvenirs when visiting Okinawa. Taking a tour of the work shop allows visitors to see how the craftsmen create their art. Hands-on experiences are offered at many of the workshops. This evening enjoy dinner at a local restaurant with a **Ryukyu Dance Performance** included. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Sun, Nov 16 – NAHA – FUKUOKA. Depart Naha Airport via Japan Transocean Air flt #54 at 1:15 pm. Arrive in the Fukuoka Airport at 3:00 pm. Transfer by motorcoach to your hotel in Fukuoka. The Local Guide will have suggestions for dinner and your evening of leisure. THE ROYAL PARK HOTEL FUKUOKA (3 Nights) (B)

Day 9: Mon, Nov 17 – FUKUOKA. After a sumptuous breakfast buffet at your hotel, depart for a full day of sightseeing. **Dazaifu** was established in the late 7th 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. Enjoy lunch (on your own) here. After lunch, go to a local farm and pick fruit at the peak of ripeness. **Kushida Shrine**, a Shinto shrine that was founded in 757. Affectionately referred to as "Okushi-san" by locals, this shrine is deeply loved by the citizens of Fukuoka and is the starting location of two of Fukuoka's famous summer festivals – Hakata Gion Yamasaka and Hakata Okunchi. Before leaving the shrine, look for the well surrounded by three cranes right by the shrine building. According to legend, the water from the well grants longevity and eternal youth. To do so, you must take three sips of water – praying for your own longevity with the



first sip, praying for the wellbeing of your family with the second sip, and finally praying for the health of friends with the third and final sip. Then spend some time exploring **Hakata Machiya Furusato Kan**, a folk museum that showcases the lifestyle and culture of life in Hakata (Fukuoka) in the Meiji and Taisho periods. Traditional crafts and local sweets are great souvenirs of your visit here. Return to the hotel for an evening of leisure. (B)

Day 10: Tue, Nov 18 – FUKUOKA. A free day at leisure. Explore Fukuoka on your own. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. Perfect day to relax and/or visit with family and friends in Fukuoka. Or perhaps do more shopping! (B)

Day 11: Wed, Nov 19 – FUKUOKA – HONOLULU. After a leisurely breakfast, visit **Kobayashi Shuzo** to learn about sake making. Then make a stop at an **AEON MALL** for some last minute shopping and lunch (on your own). Then transfer to the Fukuoka Airport for the flight home. Depart Fukuoka via Japan Airlines flt #322 at 5:00 pm. Arrive at the Haneda Domestic Airport at 6:35 pm. Depart the Haneda International Airport via Japan Airlines flt #74 at 9:00 pm and arrive Honolulu at 9:00 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B)

UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu (2000).

* 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: 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

