

# 2025 FALL NIKKO, KANAZAWA & OKAYAMA GARDENS

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9 Nights / 11 Days • 15 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 2 Dinners) Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide November 10 – 20, 2025

## VISIT:

Nikko • Tokyo • Kanazawa • Kyoto • Arashiyama • Okayama • Kurashiki • Osaka

#### **TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:**

Toshogu Shrine • Nikko Edo Wonderland • JR Super Express Train Ride Higashi Chaya District • Kenrokuen Garden • Nomura-ke • Omicho Market Arashiyama Bamboo Forest • Tofukuji Temple • Eikando Temple • Sanjusangen-do Toji Temple • Shinkansen Bullet Train Ride • AEON Mall Okayama • Korakuen Garden Kurashiki Bikan Chiku • Kuromon Ichiba Market • Dontonbori Shopping Shinsaibashi Shopping

#### **HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES:**

Gold Leaf Application • Games with Geiko Entertainer Japanese Sweets Making • Yuzen Dyeing

## **UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES:**

Toshogu Shrine • Toji Temple

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Day 2: Tue, Nov 11 – TOKYO. Arrive at the Haneda International Airport at 3:55 pm. After entry formalities, transfer to the hotel. GRAND NIKKO TOKYO DAIBA (3 Nights)

Day 3: Wed, Nov 12 - TOKYO - NIKKO - TOKYO. After a sumptuous buffet breakfast, we head north of Tokyo to Nikko. Nikko is a town at the entrance to Nikko National Park, most famous for Toshogu Shrine, Japan's most lavishly decorated shrine and the mausoleum of Tokugawa leyasu, the founder of the Tokugawa shogunate. Explore the historic theme park, Nikko Edo Wonderland, that recreates a 17<sup>th</sup> century Edo period Japanese village. Explore the beauty, culture and interesting characters of the Edo period with fun activities and a variety of entertaining performances. Enjoy a BBQ lunch while there. Return to Tokyo. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 4: Thur, Nov 13 – TOKYO. Full day at leisure. Perfect day to relax and / or visit with family and friends in Tokyo. (B)

\*Baggage will be sent from Tokyo to Kyoto, skipping Kanazawa. Prepare overnight bag for two nights.

Day 5: Fri, Nov 14 – TOKYO – KANAZAWA. After a leisurely morning, transfer to Tokyo Train Station to board our JR Super Express Train to Kanazawa on the Sea of Japan. You can purchase lunch (on your own) at the train station. In Kanazawa, learn the process of gold leaf application and try it yourself on chopsticks that you'll get to take home as a souvenir of this trip. Transfer to the hotel for the chance to freshen up before dinner. Depart the hotel for a tour of the Higashi Chaya District. Chaya (teahouse) is an exclusive type of restaurant where guests were entertained by geisha, who performed song and dance. This evening we are **entertained by** an authentic Geiko. Dancing, singing, and playing fun games. Kanazawa cuisine uses the great water brought from Hakusan Mountain, Kaga vegetables, and fresh seafood from the Sea of Japan. HYATT CENTRIC KANAZAWA (2 Nights) (B, D)

Day 6: Sat, Nov 15 – KANAZAWA. After your bountiful breakfast buffet, explore Kenrokuen Garden. The spacious grounds used to be the outer garden of Kanazawa Castle and were constructed by the ruling Maeda Family over a period of nearly two centuries. Opened to the public in 1871, Kenrokuen features a variety of flowering trees including cherry blossoms, which provide the garden with a different look for each season. Visit Nagamachi, a samurai district at the foot of Kanazawa Castle. Nomura-ke is a restored samural residence displaying the lifestyle and artifacts of the era when samurai were prosperous. Omicho Market is Kanazawa's local market. Kanazawa's people call them "Kanazawa's kitchen." They sell everything you can find in your kitchen. Not only fish but also vegetables and meats are sold. Ample free time for shopping and lunch on your own. Take a Japanese sweets making class before returning to the hotel for an evening of leisure a great opportunity to explore the shopping and dining opportunities available around the hotel. (B)

Day 7: Sun, Nov 16 - KANAZAWA - KYOTO - ARASHIYAMA - KYOTO. Depart for Kyoto aboard the JR Limited Express Train. After lunch, take a stroll around the Arashiyama area and shop for world-famous Arashiyama bamboo products. Explore the famous Arashiyama Bamboo Forests. Today's hands-on experience is surikomi yuzen (brush dyed yuzen). Since the patterns are dyed by placing a paper stencil over a piece of fabric, you can make an authentic piece, even if this is your first time. A great souvenir of this trip! Return to Kyoto for an evening of leisure. The Local Guide will have suggestions for dinner. MIYAKO HOTEL KYOTO HACHIJO (2 Nights) (B, L)

Day 8: Mon, Nov 17 – KYOTO. Enjoy the view from Tofukuji Temple, a large Zen temple that is famous for its specular autumn colors. Founded in 1236 by the powerful Fujiwara Clan, its name is combination of the names of two other temples that are also associated with the Fujiwara Clan - Todaiji Temple and Kofukuji Temple. Next, take in the view of the fall colors at one of Kyoto's most famous autumn color spots, Eikando Temple. A Japanese Buddhist Temple belonging to the Jodo Sect, Eikando Temple was originally named Zenrinji Temple, but was later renamed after a popular head priest, Eikan. After lunch, visit **Sanjusangen-do**, the Buddhist temple famous for its 1,001 statues of Kannon, the goddess of compassion. Return to the hotel for a little leisure time.



Later, walk from the hotel to Toji Temple, literally "East Temple," for some fall foliage. Founded at the beginning of the Heian Period, just after the capital was moved to Kyoto in the late 700s. This temple houses a five-story pagoda - which at 57 meters tall is the tallest wooden pagoda in Japan. Walk back to the hotel for an evening of leisure. (B, L)

Day 9: Tue, Nov 18 - KYOTO - OKAYAMA. Enjoy a morning of leisure. In the mid-afternoon, walk to the nearby Kyoto Train Station to board the Shinkansen Bullet Train to Okayama. Upon arrival in Okayama, walk to the hotel. After checking-in, walk to the nearby AEON MALL Okayama, where hundreds of shops and restaurants await you to dine (on your own) and shop. HOTEL GRANVIA OKAYAMA (1 Night) (B)

Day 10: Wed, Nov 19 – OKAYAMA – KURASHIKI – OSAKA. Begin the day, exploring Korakuen Garden. It is located just beside Okayama Castle, which can be seen from the garden as "borrowed scenery." After lunch, explore Kurashiki Bikan Chiku. The beautiful streetscape of storehouses and merchant homes was selected as an Important Traditional Structures Conservation Area by the Agency for Cultural Affairs. Transfer to Osaka for an evening of leisure. HOTEL INTERGATE OSAKA UMEDA (1 Night) (B, L)

Day 11: Thur, Nov 20 - OSAKA - HONOLULU. After breakfast, begin the day shopping at 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. Later, transfer to the Kansai International Airport for the return flight home. Depart Kansai via Japan Airlines flt #792 at 10:10 pm and arrives in Honolulu at 10:25 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B)

UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Toshogu Shrine (1999), Toji Temple (1994).

\* 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 guarantees 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. + Early 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 **FRIEND** REWARDS will provide all the assistance you require. Wheelchair and electric scooter access outside of the USA is severely restricted. 021325

