

Off the Beaten Path: A Different Side of Japan

2025 FALL NORTHERN KYUSHU, IWAKUNI & OSAKA GOURMET TOUR

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**10 Nights / 12 Days • 22 Meals (10 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, 6 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide
November 18 – 29, 2025**

VISIT: Haneda • Fukuoka • Sasebo • Nagasaki • Unzen • Shimabara • Kumamoto
Beppu • Shimonoseki • Suo Oshima • Iwakuni • Yamaguchi • Hiroshima • Osaka

GOURMET HIGHLIGHTS: Umegae Sake Brewery Tour and Tasting
Jigoku-Mushi (Geothermal Steam Cooking) Lunch • Fugu (Puffer Fish) Special Dinner
Okonomiyaki (Savory Pancake) Lunch

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS: Dazaifu Tenmangu • Kushida Shrine • Hakata Machiya Furusato Kan
Kujukushima National Park • Kujukushima Island Cruise • Huis Ten Bosch Amusement Park
Glover Garden • Stroll Around Chinatown • Dejima • Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum
Nagasaki Peace Memorial Park • Unzen Jigoku • Unzen Ropeway • Shimeiso Garden
Shimabara Bukeyashiki (Samurai Residences) • Ferry Ride to Kumamoto • Suizenji Park
Kumamoto Castle • Sakura no Baba • Umi Jigoku (Sea Hell) • Chinoike Jigoku (Blood Pond Hell)
Mekari Parking Area • Akama Shrine • Museum of Japanese Emigration to Hawaii
Kintaikyo Bridge • Orizuru Tower • Shinkansen Bullet Train Ride • Kuromon Ichiba Market
Dotonbori Shopping • Shinsaibashi Shopping • AEON MALL Rinku Sennan

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE: Kimono Dress-up

ONSEN HOT SPRINGS:

- **Beppu — Suginoi Hotel Sora-Kan (1 Night):** On the top floor of Sora-kan, Sorayu has been created, where you can enjoy a bath with a breathtaking view filled with a sense of freedom from a height of approximately 250 meters above sea level. At Tanayu, a large open-air bath with a five-tiered bath spread out like rice terraces, you can enjoy the night view of Beppu Bay and the city, and on clear days, as far as Cape Sada in Shikoku. Aqua Garden, an outdoor onsen hot spring that allows you to enter in a swimsuit, is also popular.
- **Iwakuni — Iwakuni Kokusai Kanko Hotel (1 Night):** Located right in front of Kintaikyo Bridge, enjoy Japanese-style rooms and public indoor and outdoor onsen hot spring baths.

COMPLETE PACKAGE!

Includes Roundtrip Airfare from Honolulu,
10 Nights Hotel, 22 Meals, Tips for Local Tour
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Day 1: Tue, Nov 18 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 11:55 am.

Day 2: Wed, Nov 19 – 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: Thur, Nov 20 – HANEDA – FUKUOKA. After a breakfast buffet at your hotel, transfer back to the Haneda airport terminal. Depart Haneda Domestic Airport via Japan Airlines flt #315 at 11:05 am and arrive at the Fukuoka Airport at 1:00 pm. Upon arrival in Fukuoka, visit **Dazaifu Tenmangu**, a Shinto Shrine that enshrines Sugawara Michizane, or Tenjin, the deity of learning, culture and the arts. As one of Japan's most important Shinto shrines, it welcomes more than 10 million visitors a year. **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. Next, 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. After arriving at the hotel, walk to the nearby restaurant for dinner. THE ROYAL PARK HOTEL FUKUOKA (1 Night) (B, D)

Day 4: Fri, Nov 21 – FUKUOKA – SASEBO. Japan is a nation of many islands but most travelers never get beyond the main four. At **Kujukushima National Park** near Sasebo in Nagasaki Prefecture, however, you can up your island quotient by taking a **scenic cruise** of the region's waters. The word "kujuku" literally means "99" but has come to refer to a vast number or something uncountable. In truth, there are 208 islands off the coast of Sasebo, the largest concentration of islands anywhere in Japan. If these islands look familiar, chalk it up to the fact that they featured prominently in the opening scenes of the film *The Last Samurai*. After lunch, learn about sake at **Umegae Shuzo**, a sake brewery that is well known for its traditional methods. Take a **tour of the facilities** and **taste some of their award-winning sake**. Continue to the hotel. After checking into the hotel, you'll receive your entrance ticket to **Huis Ten Bosch** (Hausu Ten Bosu) a theme park that recreates a Dutch town, conveniently located next to the hotel. This spacious resort is suffused with a European atmosphere with its picturesque canals, iconic windmills, beautiful gardens and architecture. You can explore the park at your leisure this evening. HOTEL NIKKO HUIS TEN BOSCH (1 Night) (B, L)

Day 5: Sat, Nov 22 – SASEBO – NAGASAKI. After breakfast, begin the day with a visit to **Glover Garden**, an open-air museum exhibiting mansions of former Western residents of Nagasaki. A nice panorama of the city can be enjoyed from the garden. Take a stroll through **Chinatown**. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch, visit **Dejima**, the artificial island built in the shape of a fan, that was used as the sole trading spot with foreign countries from the 17th to the 19th centuries. For 200 years, until Japan reopened the country in the 19th century, Dejima was its only window to the world. Next, the sobering **Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum** and **Nagasaki Peace Park**, which commemorates the atomic bombing of Nagasaki on August 9, 1945, that destroyed wide parts of the city and killed tens of thousands of inhabitants. Enjoy a special Shippoku Dinner at the hotel tonight. INASAYAMA KANKO HOTEL (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 6: Sun, Nov 23 – NAGASAKI – UNZEN – SHIMABARA – KUMAMOTO. First stop this morning is at **Unzen Jigoku** ("Unzen Hell"), where hot water and gases spout out of the earth. **Unzen Ropeway** leads part way up the mountain slope. The lower and upper ropeway stations have observation decks with views over the surrounding mountains and the Ariake Sea all the way to Kumamoto Prefecture on a clear day. Enjoy the spectacular views. After lunch visit **Shimeiso Garden** to view the spring water pond with the numerous carp swimming inside. Then explore **Shimabara Bukeyashiki**, samurai residences. Take a short ferry ride from Shimabara to Kumamoto. The remainder of the day is at your leisure. Recommendations will be made by the Local Guide for dinner options. KUMAMOTO HOTEL CASTLE (1 Night) (B, L)

Day 7: Mon, Nov 24 – KUMAMOTO – BEPPU. Begin the day experiencing first-hand what **wearing a kimono** is like. Next, explore **Suizenji Park**, a spacious, Japanese style landscape garden in Kumamoto, best enjoyed by scrolling along a circular path. It was built by the Hosokawa Family in the 17th century. The garden reproduces the 53 post stations of the Tokaido, the important road, which connected Edo with Kyoto during the Edo Period, in miniature form, including a small Mt. Fuji. Then visit the large and well-fortified castle, **Kumamoto Castle**, which is considered one of the three premier castles in Japan (along with Himeji Castle and Matsumoto Castle). Find a taste of the old days at **Sakura no Baba**, an Edo-themed complex just down the hill from Kumamoto Castle. Enjoy lunch here (on your own). This evening enjoy a relaxing soak in one of the open-air or indoor **onsen hot springs**. SUGINOI HOTEL SORA-KAN (1 Night) (B, D)

Day 8: Tue, Nov 25 – BEPPU – SHIMONOSEKI. Beppu is famous for its "hells" of dramatic pools of bubbling water, mud, and geysers. Visit two: **Umi Jigoku** or "Sea Hell" is a pond of boiling blue water and **Chinoike Jigoku** or



"Blood Pond Hell" with its bubbling blood red waters. Lunch today is uniquely prepared using volcanic steam from natural vents, **jigoku-mushi**. End the day at **Mekari Parking Area** for some shopping time and to enjoy the view of Kanmon Straits. Enjoy a spectacular **fugu (puffer fish) course dinner** at a 100-year-old restaurant. SHIMONOSEKI GRAND HOTEL (1 Night) (B, L, D)

*Baggage will be sent from Shimonoiseki to Osaka, skipping Iwakuni. Prepare overnight bag for one night.

Day 9: Wed, Nov 26 – SHIMONOSEKI – SUO OSHIMA – IWAKUNI. Start the day with a visit to **Akama Shrine**, with the large white base that supports one of its many red roofs. This shrine was built to commemorate the spirit of the six-year-old Emperor Antoku, who died here during the decisive Battle of Dan-no-Ura between the Minamoto and Taira Clans in 1185. After lunch, visit the **Museum of Japanese Emigration to Hawaii**. Explore and learn something new. This evening enjoy a spectacular **Kaiseki Dinner** along with the **natural onsen hot springs**. IWAKUNI KOKUSAI KANKO HOTEL (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 10: Thur, Nov 27 – IWAKUNI – HIROSHIMA – OSAKA. Explore the **Kintaikyō Bridge**, which has been Iwakuni's most distinguished landmark and a subject of admiration for hundreds of years. The elegant, wooden bridge makes five bold arches onto massive stone pillars as it crosses over the Nishiki River. Then visit **Orizuru Tower** which offers sweeping views of the city of Hiroshima and the Atomic Dome. For lunch, **learn how to make your very own okonomiyaki (savory pancake)**. Enjoy time to shop at Hiroshima Train Station before boarding the **Shinkansen Bullet Train** from Hiroshima Station to Shin-Osaka Station. The evening is at leisure to explore the dining and shopping opportunities near the hotel. The Local Guide will be available with suggestions. HOTEL INTERGATE OSAKA UMEDA (2 Nights) (B, L)

Day 11: Fri, Nov 28 – OSAKA. Full day at leisure. Perfect to visit with family and friends or for power shopping! Your Japan-based Tour Guide will also offer an optional activity. (B)

Day 12: Sat, Nov 29 – OSAKA – HANEDA – HONOLULU. Full day of shopping! Start 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, visit **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 **AEON MALL Rinku Sennan** before transferring to the Itami International Airport for our return flight home. Depart Osaka via Japan Airlines flt #128 at 4:55 pm and arrive at the Haneda Domestic Airport at 6:10 pm. Depart the Haneda International Airport via Japan Airlines flt #74 at 9:00 pm and arrive in Honolulu at 9:00 am 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-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: 07/11/25. 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.**



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