









Off the Beaten Path: A Different Side of Japan

2025 FALL SADO ISLAND, SNOW MONKEYS, NAGOYA, HAKONE & TOKYO TOUR #2

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10 Nights / 12 Days • 21 Meals (10 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 6 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide
Tour #2: November 11 – 22, 2025 • Tour Manager: Anona Gabriel

OVERVIEW: One of Japan's largest islands, Sado Island has an interesting history. Its culture can be seen in its unique traditional arts and entertainment. Jigokudani, home of the world famous "snow monkeys," is situated in the valley of the Yokoyu River. 200 or so Japanese macaque monkeys inhabit the area. Hakone, famous for its hot springs, natural beauty and the view of nearby Mt. Fuji, is one of the most popular destinations among Japanese and international tourists looking for a break from Tokyo. Tokyo is Japan's capital and the world's most populous metropolis and offers a seemingly unlimited choice of shopping, entertainment, culture, and dining to its visitors.

VISIT: Omiya · Niigata · Sado Island · Nagano · Matsumoto · Nagoya · Shizuoka · Hakone · Tokyo

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS: JR Super Express Train Ride • Northern Culture Museum
Jet Foil Ride to Sado Island • Kirarium Sado • Sado Gold Mine
Tarai-bune Boat Ride • Shukunegi • Japanese Crested Ibis Conservation Centre
Jigokudani Monkey Park (for Nagano Snow Monkeys) • Zenko-ji Temple • Obuse Town
Ishii Miso Kura • Matsumoto Castle • Noritake no Mori • AEON MALL • Toyota Museum
Unagi Pie Factory • Michi-no-Eki Kakegawa • Owakudani • Hakone Ropeway
Ameyoko Shopping • Asakusa Sensoji Temple • Nakamise Shopping

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES: Soba Noodle Making • Imayo Tsukasa Sake Brewery with Tasting Apple Picking • Bamboo Basket Making • Hakone Yosegi-Zaiku Making • Sushi Making

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ONI DAIKO —
Demon Drums Performance!

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Day 2: Wed, Nov 12 – TOKYO – OMIYA. Arrive in Tokyo at the Haneda International Airport at 3:55 pm. After entry formalities, transfer by coach 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)

*Baggage will be carried by truck from Tokyo to Nagano, skipping Sado Island. Prepare an overnight bag for two nights.

Day 3: Thur, Nov 13 — OMIYA — NIIGATA — SADO ISLAND. After a sumptuous breakfast buffet at hotel, walk to Omiya Station. Transfer to Niigata by JR Super Express Train. Upon arrival on Niigata, visit the Northern Culture Museum, which 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. Don't forget to view the beautiful garden with its large pond. Enjoy lunch here. Transfer to Niigata Port. Ride a jet foil to Sado Island. Arrive in Sado Island and transfer to hotel in Sado. Enjoy a traditional multi-course Kaiseki Dinner, featuring ingredients unique to Sado Island. During dinner, watch a Oni Daiko (Demon Drums) Performance. Don't forget to try out the onsen hot springs — which are divided for men and women. The high-quality service and facilities are sure to become some of your fondest memories of your visit to Japan. HOTEL YAHATAKAN (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 4: Fri, Nov 14 — 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 cm. 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 5: Sat, Nov 15 – SADO ISLAND – NIIGATA – NAGANO. This morning, take a tour of the **Japanese Crested Ibis Conservation Centre**. Then ride a **jet foil** from Ryotsu Port to Niigata Port. Transfer to hotel in Nagano by coach. After a brief rest, take a **tour of Imayo Tsukasa Sake Brewery** and **sample their tasty products**. Return to the hotel. Relax in the **onsen hot springs** before enjoying dinner at the hotel. RYOKAN BIYUNOYADO (2 Nights) (B, D)

Day 6: Sun, Nov 16 — NAGANO. After breakfast, enjoy a full-day of sightseeing in Nagano by coach. First, visit **Jigokudani Monkey Park (for Snow Monkeys).** Next, visit **Zenko-ji Temple**. After lunch (on your own) take a stroll around **Obuse**, a small town in northern Nagano, renown for Edo Period (1603—1867) woodblock painter, Katsushika Hokusai (1760—1849). Best known for his ukiyo-e woodblock print *The Great Wave off Kanagawa*, Hokusai spent the later years of his life in Obuse after being invited there by Takai Kozan, a wealthy farmer and merchant. During his stay, Hokusai painted several masterpieces including *Dragon and Phoenix* for the ceiling of the Higashimachi Festival Float, *Masculine Waves and Feminine Waves* for the ceiling of the Kanmachi Festival Float, and *Phoenix* for the ceiling of the main hall at Gansho-in temple. Several of the town's highlights are related to the artist. Enjoy free time to explore the many craft shops and stores that litter this town. Next, stop at a local farm and **pick some apples** at the peak of ripeness. A great late afternoon snack. Return to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

Day 7: Mon, Nov 17 — NAGANO — MATSUMOTO — NAGOYA. After breakfast, depart Nagano for Matsumoto. Stop at **Ishii Miso Kura**, a miso brewery that still produces miso using the traditional method. Miso, fermented soybean paste, is an essential ingredient in Japanese cuisine. Nagano prefecture is the top producer of miso in Japan. Unlike the cheaper mass produced miso, that is aged for only a few months in plastic or metal barrels, their miso is fermented for over three years in wooden barrels and has a much deeper taste. Enjoy lunch while here. Did you try to miso infused ice cream? Did it taste like you imagined? After lunch, explore **Matsumoto Castle**. Originally known as Fukashi Castle, it is one of Japan's premier historic castles, along with Himeji and Kumamoto, and is listed as a National Treasure of Japan. Continue to Nagoya, where the remainder of the evening is at your leisure. NAGOYA MARRIOTT ASSOCIA HOTEL (2 Nights) (B, L)

Day 8: Tue, Nov 18 — NAGOYA. Begin the day learning about Noritake, a leading ceramics company with over 100+ years of history, at **Noritake no Mori**. Built on the grounds of the Noritake's former factory grounds, Noritake no Mori includes a craft center, where visitors can observe how porcelain is created, and a museum, where examples of the items produced by the company throughout the years are displayed, a gardens, shop, café, and restaurant. Next, stop at an **AEON MALL**, with free time for shopping and lunch (on your own). After lunch, explore the **Toyota Museum**, before returning to the hotel for an evening of leisure. (B)



Day 9: Wed, Nov 19 — NAGOYA — SHIZUOKA — HAKONE. Start the day at the famous Unagi Pie Factory, where the signature souvenir of Shizuoka Prefecture, Unagi Pies, are made and sold. This confection is a unique elongated oval shaped pie resembling the historically famous eels of Lake Hamana. What is even more surprising is that it not only a shape but is made by kneading real powdered eel into the dough. Its crispy texture and balanced sweetness and richness spread in your mouth always making you want to go for another piece. Stop at the roadside Michi-no-Eki Kakegawa for lunch (on your own) along with a chance to get a little shopping done as well. Not only do they provide a clean and convenient rest stop, with quick and tasty food, but you will also find an array of farmer-direct merchandise along with other omiyage items. Next, learn how to make a bamboo basket. This evening, continue to Hakone where much of the area is considered an active volcanic zone since its creation from eruption of Mt. Hakone some 3,000 years ago. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel. In addition, tour members are allowed to unlimited visits to nearby **Hakone Kowakien Yunessun**, an all-weather onsen amusement park, at no additional cost! Get your wristband, which will give you entry to Yunessun, at the hotel's front desk. Walk a short distance (three minutes) to Yunessun. The hotel wristband will allow you to enter without waiting in line, even when Yunessun is crowded! Get your one complimentary face and body towel and lounge wear (additional towels or lounge wear are at an additional cost). Enjoy food and beverages at Yunessun at your own expense. HAKONE HOTEL KOWAKIEN (1 Night) (B, D)

Day 10: Thur, Nov 20 – HAKONE – TOKYO. After breakfast, travel to **Owakudani** ("Great Boiling Valley") and see the source of the onsen hot spring waters of Hakone. View the surrounding countryside from the **Hakone Ropeway**. After lunch, learn how to make a **Hakone yosegi-zaiku** box. Transfer to the hotel in Tokyo. GRAND NIKKO TOKYO DAIBA (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 11: Fri, Nov 21 — TOKYO. Full day at leisure. A perfect day to shop, dine, and explore Tokyo on your own. Your local quide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

Day 12: Sat, Nov 22 — TOKYO — HONOLULU. After a sumptuous buffet breakfast embark on a full day of discovery!

Today's highlight will be a hands-on sushi making session, which will yield your delicious lunch. After lunch, 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 street 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. Then visit Asakusa, the center of Tokyo's shitamachi (literally "low city"), one of Tokyo's 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. Transfer to the Haneda International Airport for the flight home.

Depart Haneda via Japan Airlines flt #72 at 9:55 pm and arrive Honolulu at 9:55 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B, L)

^{*} 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/kinferees. After indipersit, 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: 5500 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. I farely booking discount is per person. Purchase of NST's complete Air and Land Package is required. It 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 disabilities are not suitable for the vacation of fyou 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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