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2025 FALL TOHOKU & HOKKAIDO TOUR #2

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Let's Support Tohoku! "Ganbatte Tohoku!" Explore the less traveled Tohoku Region then enjoy a visit to Hokkaido. Enjoy the onsen hot springs of Tsunagi, Kazuno, Hakodate, and Lake Toya...a once in a lifetime experience!

10 Nights / 12 Days • 25 Meals (10 Breakfasts, 8 Lunches, 7 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide

Tour #2: October 22 – November 02, 2025

VISIT: Omiya • Sendai • Matsushima • Kesenuma • Rikuzentakata • Hiraizumi • Tsunagi Tazawa • Morioka • Oirase • Towada • Kazuno • Aomori • Hakodate • Toya • Shiraoi • Sapporo

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS: Shinkansen Bullet Train Ride • Zuihoden • Sendai Shopping Area Matsushima Scenic Cruise • Matsushima Fish Market • Zuiganji Temple • Matsushima Museum Kanran-tei • Disaster Memorial Ruins • Abasse Takata • Chusonji Temple • Lake Tazawa Tatsuko Statue • Tezukuri Mura • Asabiraki Shuzo • Michi-no-Eki Antora • Lake Towada Cruise Oirase Gorge • Nebuta Museum WA RASSE • Michi-no-Eki Danshaku Lounge • Hakodate Night View Tour Hakodate Morning Market • Hakodate Bay Area • Fort Goryokaku • Goryokaku Tower • Silo Observatory National Ainu Museum UPOPOY • Hokkaido University Gingko Tree Street • TV Tower • Clock Tower Odori Park • Former Government Building • Mt. Okura Lift • Tanuki Koji Shopping Arcade ROYCE' Cacao and Chocolate Town • AEON MALL Sapporo • Chitose Airport Domestic Terminal Shopping

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES: Sasakama Kan (Hand-Grilled Fish Cake) Making Indigo Dyeing • Ice Cream Making

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Day 1: Wed, Oct 22 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 12:15 pm.

Day 2: Thur, Oct 23 – TOKYO – OMIYA. Arrive 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)

Day 3: Fri, Oct 24 – OMIYA – SENDAI. After breakfast, walk to the Omiya Train Station and depart for Sendai via **Shinkansen Bullet Train**. Upon arrival in Sendai, visit **Zuihoden**, the mausoleum of Date Masamune, one of the most powerful feudal lords of the Edo period. Then, **learn how sasakama kan (hand-grilled fish cake) is made**. Enjoy your grilled fish cakes with lunch. Spend some time in the **Sendai Shopping Area** before transferring to the hotel for dinner. HOTEL METROPOLITAN SENDAI (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 4: Sat, Oct 25 – SENDAI – MATSUSHIMA. After a sumptuous breakfast buffet at hotel depart for a full day of sightseeing to Matsushima. For hundreds of years, **Matsushima Bay** has been celebrated as one of Japan's three most scenic views alongside Miyajima and Amanohashidate. The bay is dotted by over 200 small islands covered by pine trees. Embark on an unforgettable **sightseeing cruise** before exploring the **Matsushima Fish Market**. Today's lunch includes a special steamed oyster tabehodai. Next visit, **Zuiganji Temple**, one of Tohoku region's most famous and prominent Zen temples. Zuiganji is well known for its beautifully gilded and painted sliding doors. Lastly, visit the **Matsushima Museum**, which houses armor, weapons, tools, and other relics from the feudal times, and the nearby **Kanran-tei**, a Momoyama-style tea house, for some tea. Transfer to the hotel for dinner and evening of leisure. MATSUSHIMA CENTURY HOTEL (1 Night) (B, L, D)

*Baggage will be sent from Sendai to Morioka, skipping Tsunagi. Prepare an overnight bag for one night.

Day 5: Sun, Oct 26 – MATSUSHIMA – KESENNUMA – RIKUZENTAKATA – HIRAZUMI – TSUNAGI. We start the day with a tour of the **Disaster Memorial Ruins** at the Former Okawa Elementary School, to learn about the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011. Next, stop at **Abasse Takata**, a mall consisting of 14 shops, a supermarket, drug store, confectionary, and stationary shop for lunch (on your own) and shopping. After lunch, visit Hiraizumi's most famous attraction, **Chusonji Temple**, which was established in 850 as a temple of the Tendai sect of Buddhism. The temple came to prominence when the northern branch of the Fujiwara Clan moved their base to Hiraizumi. At peak, the temple consisted of a large network of dozens of buildings. Enjoy a soak in the luxurious **onsen hot springs** and a gourmet **Kaiseki Dinner**. TSUNAGI ONSEN HOTEL SHION (1 Night) (B, D)

Day 6: Mon, Oct 27 – TSUNAGI – TAZAWA – MORIOKA. Start the day at **Lake Tazawa (Tazawako)**, a scenic caldera lake that has not been overly developed and retains a natural and rustic atmosphere. At the western end of the lake there is a famous **golden statue of a woman named Tatsuko** that has become a local symbol. According to legend, Tatsuko was a beautiful girl who prayed to retain her beauty forever but was instead cursed and turned into a dragon and eventually sunk to the bottom of Lake Tazawa. In a fun hands-on activity at **Tezukuri Mura**, a traditional arts and craft village, you'll **learn how to dye using indigo**. Stop at **Asabiraki Shuzo**, a sake brewery, before transferring to the hotel in Morioka, where the remainder of the day is at your leisure. HOTEL METROPOLITAN MORIOKA NEW WING (1 Night) (B, L)

*Baggage will be sent from Morioka to Hakodate, skipping Kazuno. Prepare an overnight bag for one night.

Day 7: Tue, Oct 28 – MORIOKA – OIRASE – TOWADA – KAZUNO. Depart for Kazuno after breakfast. En route, make a stop at the roadside **Michi-no-Eki Antora** for a chance to stretch the legs and get a little shopping done as well. Not only do they provide a clean and convenient rest stop, but you will find an array of farmer-direct merchandise along with other "omiyage" items. After lunch at a local restaurant, take a scenic cruise on Lake Towada, the largest

caldera lake on Honshu, Japan's main island. It is characterized by two large peninsulas, which extend nearly a third way across the lake. Oirase Stream is a picturesque mountain stream in Aomori Prefecture that is one of Japan's most famous and popular destinations. The stream flows along the floor of the **Oirase Gorge**, winding among trees which, while a lush green in spring and summer, turn brilliant shades of red, yellow and orange from late October through early November. Over a dozen waterfalls cascade down into the stream all along its length from the walls of the gorge. This evening enjoy a special **Kaiseki Dinner** at your hotel. The **onsens** – which are divided for men and women – allow you to enjoy the hot springs whether indoors or outdoors. The high-quality service and facilities are sure to become some of your fondest memories of your visit to Japan. OYU ONSEN HOTEL KAZUNO (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 8: Wed, Oct 29 – KAZUNO – AOMORI – HAKODATE. This morning we make our way to Hakodate. En route, visit **Nebuta Museum WA RASSE**, an interesting museum dedicated to the city's famous Nebuta Matsuri which is held annually in early August. The museum attempts to capture the spirit of the festival and gives visitors a taste of its lively atmosphere, history and traditions. Transfer to Hakodate by **Shinkansen Bullet Train**. To travel between the islands of Honshu and Hokkaido, trains pass through the Seikan Tunnel, the longest seabed tunnel in the world. Upon arrival, stop at **Danshaku Lounge**, a roadside **Michi-no-Eki**. After dinner, enjoy a spectacular, "night-view tour" of **Hakodate**. Try the various **onsens** available at the hotel. HOTEL & SPA CENTURY MARINA HAKODATE (1 Night) (B, L, D)

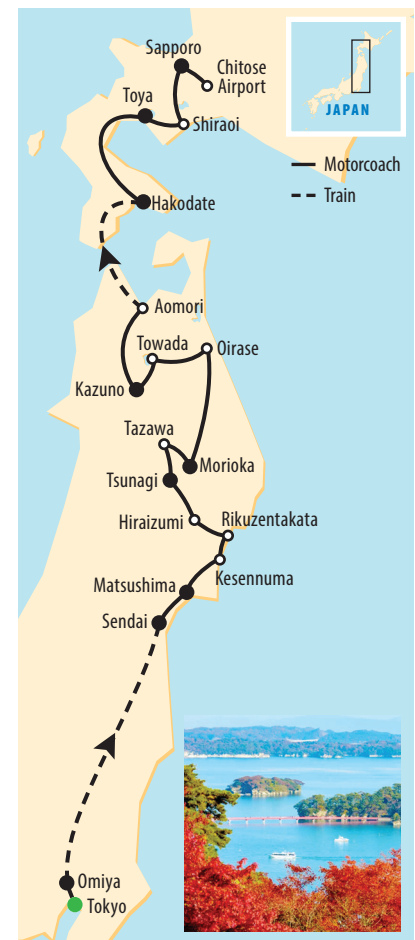
Day 9: Thur, Oct 30 – HAKODATE – TOYA. After breakfast, visit the world famous **Hakodate Morning Market**, where a variety of freshly caught seafood will be on display. Enjoy free time to **shop in the Hakodate Bay Area**. After lunch, visit **Fort Goryokaku**, a massive, star shaped, Western-style citadel, which was built in the last years of the Edo Period for the defense of Hakodate against the imperialist threat posed by the Western powers. After the fort had lost its military importance, it was turned into a public park. Visit the 107 meter high **Goryokaku Tower**, located within the park grounds. Transfer to Toya. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel. Tonight is the last night to spend time relaxing in the hotel **onsen**. Don't miss your chance! THE LAKE VIEW TOYA NONOKAZE RESORT SPA RESORT BUILDING (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 10: Fri, Oct 31 – TOYA – SHIRAOI – SAPPORO. Start the day at the **Silo Observatory** – where you will **learn how to make ice cream**. Officially opened on July 12, 2020, the mission of the new **National Ainu Museum UPOPOY** is "to promote a proper understanding and awareness of Ainu history and culture in Japan and elsewhere out of respect for the dignity of the indigenous Ainu people, while contributing to the creation and development of new aspects of Ainu culture." Learn about the Ainu people and culture via short films shown on the large screen in the 96 seat theater, and through the various artifacts and displays set up in the exhibition rooms located on the 2nd floor of the museum. Upon arriving in Sapporo, the remainder of the evening is at your leisure. The Local Guide will have suggestions for dinner tonight. KEIO PLAZA HOTEL SAPPORO (2 Nights) (B, L)

Day 11: Sat, Nov 01 – SAPPORO. Begin the day at the **Hokkaido University Ginkgo Tree Street** – a 380 meter long tunnel of 70 ginkgo biloba trees – whose leaves have turned beautiful colors for the fall season. Then, drive by the **TV Tower**, **Clock Tower**, the **Former Government Office Building**, and **Odori Park**. For lunch, **pick out "LIVE" crabs** from the tanks, to enjoy with a special kaisen don (fresh seafood over rice) lunch. After lunch, view the spectacular sights from the top of **Mt. Okura** via the **Okurayama Observatory Chair Lift**. Spend time at the **Tanuki Koji Shopping Arcade**, the largest and oldest shopping arcade in Sapporo, which houses over 200 shops. Celebrate new friendships and discoveries with a Farewell Dinner, before returning to the hotel for the evening. (B, L, D)

*One live crab for every 6th tour member.

Day 12: Sun, Nov 02 – SAPPORO – CHITOSE – HONOLULU. Begin the day with a tour of the new **ROYCE' Cacao and Chocolate Town** to learn how the famous ROYCE' chocolate treats are made. Receive a complimentary sample at the end of the tour. One last shopping stop at the **AEON MALL Sapporo** before departing for the airport. Arrive early at the Chitose Airport and begin exploring the



shopping mall located within the Domestic Terminal.

Consisting of four floors of restaurants, shops and activities, there's something for everyone. Those with a sweet tooth will enjoy the Sweets Zone, where you can enjoy Hokkaido sweets in a spacious and relaxing setting, and the ROYCE' Chocolate World (factory, museum, shop, and bakery) and LeTAO Chocolatier. The kids (and those young at heart) will enjoy the Doraemon Sky Park and Hello Kitty Happy Flight, which have an activity area, shop, and café (fees may apply) or the Pokémon store. UNIQLQ aims to provide customers with "ultimate casual clothes." And there are more than two dozen shops at the airport that specialize in various fresh, frozen or dried seafood that can be eaten there or packed for you to bring home. Depart the Chitose Domestic Airport via Japan Airlines flt #518 at 5:00 pm. Arrive at the Haneda Domestic Airport at 6:45 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 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: 06/13/25. 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

