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# 2025 FALL TOKYO SUMO TOURNAMENT

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**8 Nights / 10 Days • 16 Meals (8 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 4 Dinners)**  
**Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide**  
**September 12 – 21, 2025 • Tour Managers: Darrell Chung & Arlene Oshima**

## VISIT:

Omiya • Kawagoe • Yamanashi • Hakone • Tokyo • Nikko

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Kinbue Shoyu Park • Kawagoe Shopping Arcade • Kawagoe Festival Float Museum  
Shingen Mochi Factory Tour • Oshino Hakkai • Hakone Ropeway • Owakudani  
Lake Ashi Cruise • Odawara Castle • Ryogoku Kokugikan Sumo Arena  
September Sumo Tournament • Toshogu Shrine • Nikko Edo Wonderland  
Tokyo Skytree • Tokyo Solamachi • Toyosu Senkyaku Banrai  
Asakusa Sensoji Temple • Nakamise Shopping • Ameyoko Shopping

## HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE:

Grape Picking

## UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE:

Toshogu Shrine

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\* 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](http://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" 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: 05/05/25. 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.

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## COMPLETE PACKAGE!

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**Day 1: Fri, Sept 12** – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 12:45 pm.

**Day 2: Sat, Sept 13** – 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)

\*Baggage will be sent from Omiya to Tokyo, skipping Yamanashi and Hakone. Prepare an overnight bag for two nights.

**Day 3: Sun, Sept 14** – OMIYA – KAWAGOE – YAMANASHI. Learn how shoyu continues to be made in the traditional brewing method, at the **Kinbue Shoyu Park**. Established in 1789, you can tour the factory, compare different shoyu flavors in the restaurant, and discover an array of shoyu-based souvenirs in the shop. After lunch, don't miss out on trying the unique shoyu flavored soft serve ice cream! It's surprisingly good. Then enjoy some time at the **Kawagoe Shopping Arcade** and the **Kawagoe Festival Float Museum**. Transfer to the hotel in Yamanashi for dinner. Relax in the hotel hot springs, before or after dinner. The **onsen hot springs** – 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. **HOTEL KASUGAI** (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 4: Mon, Sept 15** – YAMANASHI – HAKONE. Begin the day at a local farm **picking grapes** straight off the vine! Take a tour of the **Shingen Mochi Factory** – and watch how these rice cakes are made and individually hand wrapped for sale. After lunch, visit **Oshino Hakkai**, a set of eight ponds located in the Fuji Five Lake Region. The eight ponds are fed by melting snow from the nearby slopes of Mt. Fuji. The melted snow filtered down through porous layers of lava for 80 years, resulting in a very clear spring water that is revered by the locals. Next to one pond, visitors can drink the cool water straight from the source. Then transfer to the hotel in Hakone for a **Kaiseki Dinner** and an evening of leisure. Don't forget to relax in the hotel **onsen hot springs** tonight. **HAKONE YUMOTO FUJIYA HOTEL** (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 5: Tue, Sept 16** – HAKONE – TOKYO. After a delicious breakfast at the hotel, take a tour of the Hakone area, where much of the area is considered an active volcanic zone since its creation from eruption of Mt. Hakone some 3,000 years ago. Take the **Hakone Ropeway** and view the surrounding countryside. Visit **Okawudani** ("Great Boiling Valley"), the source of the hot spring waters of Hakone. Then enjoy a **boat ride on the beautiful Lake Ashi**. After lunch, visit **Odawara Castle**, located at the entrance to Hakone, it's the closest castle keep to Tokyo. The castle was used by the powerful Hojo Clan, one of the most powerful clans during the Sengoku (Warring States) Era, as its base to control the region around modern day Tokyo. Toyotomi Hideyoshi was able to reunite Japan when he attacked the castle and defeated the Hojo Clan in 1590. Continue on to Tokyo. Enjoy an evening of leisure. The Local Guide will have suggestions for dinner and your evening of leisure. **GRAND NIKKO TOKYO DAIBA** (5 Nights) (B, L)

**Day 6: Wed, Sept 17** – TOKYO. Enjoy a morning of leisure. This afternoon, depart the hotel for the **Ryogoku Kokugikan Sumo Arena**. Get comfortable in your reserved seats as you watch the matches on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of the **September Sumo Tournament**. Held every September, this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the last of Japan's six major sumo tournaments (called honbasho), held during the year – on each odd month – taking place over 15 consecutive days. While the event is broadcasted on NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation), nothing beats being able to experience the excitement of being there in person, as the crowd sits in tense silence as everyone waits for the wrestlers to choose their moment to lunge at their opponent. Cheer on your favorite wrestler. With current sumo ranking announced just two and a half weeks prior, each wrestler is eager to battle to improve their ranking and status with winning matches. For dinner, "eat like a sumo wrestler" with a special chankonabe meal. **Chankonabe** is a type of nabemono (Japanese stew or one-pot dish) commonly eaten in vast quantities by sumo wrestlers as part of a weight-gaining diet. The dish contains a dashi or chicken broth soup base with sake or mirin to add flavor. The characteristic of this hot pot is that there is no specific "recipe". And unlike other varieties of Japanese hot pot meals, meats, seafood, vegetables, and pretty much everything can be thrown into the hot pot. Chanko is a term used to refer to all types of cuisine made by sumo wrestlers (rikishi). The word chanko comes from combining "chan" meaning



"parent" and "ko" meaning "child," and refers to the act of everyone – coaches and trainees alike – sharing the same meal together. After dinner, return to the hotel. (B, D)

**Day 7: Thur, Sept 18** – 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 Ieyasu, the founder of the Tokugawa shogunate. Next is 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. You'll have time here to enjoy lunch and explore the park. Return to Tokyo, where the evening is at your leisure. (B, L)

**Day 8: Fri, Sept 19** – TOKYO. Start the day of activities at **Tokyo Skytree** for a view of the surrounding city. At just over 2,000 feet tall, it is the tallest tower in Tokyo. Rising 350 meters above the ground, the Tokyo Skytree Tembo Deck offers a 360-degree panoramic view of Tokyo. Enjoy lunch (on your own) at **Tokyo Solamachi** – located at the base of the Tokyo Skytree – where a variety of restaurant and food choices are available. Return to the **Ryogoku Kokugikan Sumo Arena**. Get comfortable in your reserved seats as you watch the matches on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of the **September Sumo Tournament**. At the end of the matches, return to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

**Day 9: Sat, Sept 20** – TOKYO. Day at Leisure. Enjoy shopping and dining in the bustling Shinjuku Area. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. Perfect day to relax and/or visit with family and friends in Tokyo. (B)

**Day 10: Sun, Sept 21** – TOKYO – HONOLULU. Begin the day at **Toyosu Senkyaku Banrai**, a shopping complex that recreates an Edo period neighborhood. Toyosu Senkyaku Banrai offers fresh food from the neighboring Toyosu Market and serves to showcase the best foods in Tokyo. Enjoy time for shopping and lunch (on your own), exploring the offerings at the numerous stalls. If you get tired, head up to the 8th floor and relax at the foot bath garden – which is free of charge to all visitors. Then head to **Asakusa**, the center of Tokyo's shitamachi (literally "low city") 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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. Next 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 streets were 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. Transfer to the Haneda International Airport for the flight home. Depart Haneda via Japan Airlines flt #74 at 9:05 pm and arrive in Honolulu at 9:50 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B)

**UNESCO World Heritage Site:** Toshogu Shrine (1999).

**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.** 031825