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2025 OKINAWA HOLIDAY ILLUMINATION SHOPPING TOUR

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5 Nights / 7 Days • 8 Meals (5 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 2 Dinners)

Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide

December 09 – 15, 2025 • Tour Manager: Bryan Wauke

OVERVIEW: Okinawa is home to a unique culture that differs considerably from that of mainland Japan. Until the islands were invaded by the Satsuma domain (present day Kagoshima Prefecture) in 1609, Okinawa existed as an entirely separate country from Japan, known as the Ryukyu Kingdom. After the invasion, the Ryukyu Kingdom served as a tributary state to Japan, but continued to be governed by the royal family from Shuri Castle. It was not until 1879, a few years after the Meiji Restoration, that the kingdom was abolished and incorporated into Japan as Okinawa Prefecture. The castles of Okinawa, known as "gusuku" in the Okinawan language, are among the most vivid monuments that testify to the unique cultural and historical heritage of the Ryukyu Kingdom. In the year 2000, five castles and four related sites were designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites under the collective title of "Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu."

VISIT: Naha • Toyosaki • Nago • Onna • Manza • Motobu • Kitanakagusuku

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS: Shuri Castle • Awamori (Rice Liquor) Factory
Ryukyu Mura • Sweets House • Churaumi Aquarium

ILLUMINATION HIGHLIGHT: Southeast Botanical Gardens Illumination

SHOPPING HIGHLIGHTS: Iias Okinawa Toyosaki
Michi-no-Eki • AEON MALL RYCOM • Kokusai-dori

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE: Ryusou Ryukyu Kimono Dress-Up

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HOTEL JAL CITY NAHA – 4-STAR (4 NIGHTS):

The hotel is conveniently located facing Naha's Kokusai-dori, the center of tourism.



ANA INTERCONTINENTAL MANZA BEACH RESORT – 4-STAR (1 NIGHT):

Surrounded by a coral reef and pristine National Park, the hotel is a luxury beach resort off the coast of Okinawa Island.

Day 1: Tue, Dec 09 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines.

Day 2: Wed, Dec 10 – TOKYO – NAHA. Arrive in the Tokyo International Airport. After entry formalities, enjoy a bento box at the domestic departure gate. Depart the Tokyo Domestic Airport and arrive in Okinawa. Transfer by coach to your hotel in Naha. HOTEL JAL CITY NAHA (2 Nights) (D)

Day 3: Thur, Dec 11 – NAHA – TOYOSAKI – NAHA. After a sumptuous buffet breakfast at your hotel, we embark on a full day of discovery! **Shuri Castle** (Shurijo), the most important castle of the Ryukyu Kingdom, served both as the central government office and royal residence. Although the main buildings of Shuri Castle were destroyed in a fire in October 2019, reconstruction to bring back the castle to its former glory is expected to be completed in 2026. Shurijo is the only castle in Okinawa that has been reconstructed. Only ruins remain of all the other castles. **Dress-up in Ryusou Ryukyu kimonos** for a group photo! Before returning to the hotel, enjoy free time at **Iias Okinawa Toyosaki**, a four floor mall with a wide selection of specialty and brand stores selling local and international products, where you will have ample time for shopping and lunch (on your own). (B)

*One bag will be kept at the Hotel JAL City Naha until your return. Prepare an overnight bag for one night in Manza.

Day 4: Fri, Dec 12 – NAHA – NAGO – ONNA – MANZA. After breakfast, take a tour of an **Awamori (Rice Liqueur) Factory**. Awamori is the signature alcoholic beverage of Okinawa and most of the Ryukyu Islands. Learn the unique process involved in making Awamori. Next, stop at a roadside **Michi-no-Eki** stand for lunch (on own). 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, we head north to Onna and spend some time at **Ryukyu Mura**, a small theme park about Okinawan culture in the form of a recreated village from the times of the Ryukyu Kingdom. The highlight of the village is the Eisa show. Eisa, a form of folk dance originating in the Okinawa Islands, that is performed by the young people of each community during the Bon festival to honor the spirits of their ancestors. In the finale of the Eisa show, visitors can join in on the dance known as Kachashi. The term "kachashi" is a

word from the Okinawan dialect and means "to mix." It implies the idea of sharing happiness, which fosters a sense of unity that transcends borders and language barriers. Make a stop at **Sweets House**, before transferring to the hotel for a buffet dinner. ANA INTERCONTINENTAL MANZA BEACH RESORT (1 Night) (B, D)

Day 5: Sat, Dec 13 – MANZA – MOTOBU – KITANAKAGUSUKU – NAHA. After an incredible breakfast buffet, enjoy a visit to the **Churaumi Aquarium**, widely considered Japan's best aquarium. It is the main attraction of the Ocean Expo Park on the former grounds of the 1975 International Ocean Expo. The aquarium was completely redesigned and reopened in 2002. The highlight of a visit to the Churaumi Aquarium is the massive Kuroshio Tank, one of the largest in the world. The tank takes its name from the warm Kuroshio current which plays a large part in the variety of Okinawa's of marine life. Enjoy some free time at **AEON MALL RYCOM** on the way back to Naha City. Transfer to the hotel. After a brief rest, transfer to **Southeast Botanical Gardens** to **view the illuminations**. See lighted palm trees, lawns carpeted with lights, and lights arranged to accentuate the natural features, and plant life of the gardens. Walk through a tunnel of lights for a truly magical experience. The Local Guide will have recommendations for dinner. HOTEL JAL CITY NAHA (2 Nights) (B, L)

Day 6: Sun, Dec 14 – NAHA. Full day at leisure. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. If you haven't gotten enough shopping done yet, don't worry. Your hotel is centrally located on **Kokusai-dori**, the main shopping street in Naha. Many of the shops and restaurants on the 1.6 kilometers street opens at 10:00 am and remain open until 11:00 pm (or longer). A "not to miss" on Kokusai-dori is the Don Quijote store that is open until 3:00 am every day! It's the perfect location to find souvenirs and omiyage. Shoppers will also enjoy Heiwa-dori, a covered arcade just off of Kokusai-dori. (B)

Day 7: Mon, Dec 15 – NAHA – TOKYO – HONOLULU. Enjoy a relaxing morning at leisure, transfer to the Okinawa Airport. Depart Okinawa and arrive at the Tokyo Domestic Airport. Depart Tokyo International Airport and arrive in Honolulu the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B)

