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# 2025 SPRING BREAK ULTIMATE TOKAIDO ROAD WITH MIYAJIMA & HIROSHIMA

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*Luxury hot spring onsen experience with gourmet Kaiseki Dinner in Hakone and Miyajima!  
Travel to Tokyo and return from Osaka!*

**9 Nights / 11 Days • 19 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, 4 Dinners)**  
**Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide**  
**March 14 – 24, 2025 • Tour Manager: Geri Ichimura**

## OVERVIEW:

The Tokaido ("East Sea Road") was the most important of the Five Routes of the Edo period — connecting Edo (modern-day Tokyo) to Kyoto in Japan. Unlike the inland and less heavily traveled Nakasendo, the Tokaido traveled along the sea coast of eastern Honshu, hence the route's name.

## VISIT:

Tokyo • Oshino • Hakone • Miyajima • Hiroshima • Okayama  
Kurashiki • Himeji • Kyoto • Nara • Osaka

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Harajuku Shopping • Asakusa Sensoji Temple • Nakamise Shopping • Ameyoko Shopping  
Oshino Hakkai • Owakudani • Hakone Ropeway • Lake Ashi Cruise • Shinkansen Bullet Train Ride  
Ferry Ride to Miyajima Island • Itsukushima Shrine • Peace Memorial Park • A-Bomb Museum  
A-Bomb Dome • Children's Memorial • AEON MALL • Kurashiki Bikan Area • Himeji Castle  
Koko-en Garden • Kiyomizu Temple • Heian Jingu Shrine • Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion)  
Fushimi Inari Shrine • Todaiji Temple • Nara Deer Park

## HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES:

Sushi Making • Surikomi Yuzen Table Mat Dyeing (Brush Dyed Yuzen)  
Traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony

## UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES:

Itsukushima Shrine • A-Bomb Dome • Himeji Castle • Kiyomizu Temple  
Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion) • Todaiji Temple

## COMPLETE PACKAGE!

Includes Roundtrip Airfare from Honolulu,  
9 Nights Hotel, 19 Meals, Tips for Local Tour  
Guides and Bus Drivers, All Taxes & Fees

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**Day 1: Fri, Mar 14** – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 11:55 am.

**Day 2: Sat, Mar 15** – TOKYO. Arrive at the Haneda International Airport at 3:55 pm. After entry formalities, transfer by coach to your hotel in Tokyo. KEIO PLAZA HOTEL TOKYO (3 Nights)

**Day 3: Sun, Mar 16** – TOKYO. After a sumptuous buffet breakfast, embark on a full day of discovery! First visit the visually stimulating **Harajuku Shopping District**. Today's highlight will be a hands-on **sushi making session**, which will yield your delicious lunch. After lunch, 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 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 transfer back to the hotel in Tokyo. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel. (B, L, D)

**Day 4: Mon, Mar 17** – TOKYO. Day at leisure. Enjoy shopping and dining in the bustling Shinjuku Area. Perfect day to relax and/or visit with family and friends in Tokyo. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

**Day 5: Tue, Mar 18** – TOKYO – OSHINO – HAKONE. After breakfast, depart Tokyo for Hakone. 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. Continue the journey 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. After lunch, visit **Owakudani** ("Great Boiling Valley"), the source of the hot spring waters of Hakone. View the surrounding countryside from the **Hakone Ropeway**. Next, enjoy a **boat ride on the beautiful Lake Ashi**. Then transfer to the hotel to savor an authentic multi-course, seasonal, gourmet **Kaiseki Dinner**. The onsen hot springs – which are divided for men and women – allow you to **enjoy the onsen 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. YUMOTO FUJIYA HOTEL (1 Night) (B, L, D)

\*Baggage will be sent from Hakone to Okayama, skipping Miyajima. Prepare an overnight bag for one night.

**Day 6: Wed, Mar 19** – HAKONE – HIROSHIMA – MIYAJIMA. Transfer to Odawara Train Station where we will board a **Shinkansen Bullet Train** to Hiroshima. Transfer to Miyajima-guchi by motorcoach. Take a **short ferry ride** to the island of Miyajima, considered sacred by many. Walk to the hotel. This evening soak in the relaxing atmosphere of the **onsen hot springs**. For dinner, enjoy a traditional, multi-course **Kaiseki Dinner** featuring Hiroshima's local and seasonal ingredients including fresh seafood from the Seto Inland Sea. IWASO INN (1 Night) Japanese-Style Room with Onsen and Kaiseki Dinner (B, D)

**Day 7: Thur, Mar 20** – MIYAJIMA – HIROSHIMA – OKAYAMA. After breakfast, begin the morning exploring **Itsukushima Shrine**. At high tide, the vermilion torii gate looks like it's floating in the middle of the sea. The shrine complex has been selected as one of Japan's three most scenic places (nihon sankei). Board the **ferry back to Hiroshima**. After lunch, visit the **Peace Memorial Park, A-Bomb Museum, A-Bomb Dome**, and **Children's Memorial**. Depart Hiroshima for Okayama, today's final destination.

Upon arrival to Okayama enjoy an evening of shopping and dining (on your own) at the **Super AEON Shopping Mall. HOTEL GRANVIA OKAYAMA (1 Night)** (B, L)

**Day 8: Fri, Mar 21** – OKAYAMA – KURASHIKI – HIMEJI – KYOTO. After breakfast, depart Okayama. Visit **Kurashiki** and its beautiful **Bikan Area**. In merchant days, this scenic town thrived as a port for rice shipments. Several old rice granaries and examples of historic architecture still remain, in addition to the stone lined canal. Next we drive to Himeji to visit **Himeji Castle**. It is known as "White Egret Castle" and "White Heron Castle" because of its brilliant white exterior, resembling a bird taking flight. Himeji Castle is the largest and most visited castle in Japan. A short walk from the castle's main gate (Otemon Gate), is **Koko-en Garden**. Opened in 1992 on the former site of the feudal lord's west residence, this Japanese style garden consists of nine separate walled gardens designed in various styles of the Edo Period (1603–1868) and features a pond with a waterfall, a tea garden, a pine tree garden, a bamboo garden, and a flower garden. Transfer to the hotel in Kyoto for an evening of leisure. The Local Guide will have suggestions for dinner. RIHGA GRAN KYOTO (3 Nights) (B, L)

**Day 9: Sat, Mar 22** – KYOTO. After a sumptuous Japanese/Western buffet breakfast at the hotel, embark on a full day of sightseeing beginning with a visit to **Kiyomizu Temple** (literally "Pure Water Temple"). Next visit, **Heian Jingu Shrine** which has a relatively short history, dating back just over a hundred years to 1895. The shrine was built on the occasion of the 1100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the capital's foundation in Kyoto and is dedicated to the spirits of the first and last emperors who reigned from the city, Emperor Kammu (737–806) and Emperor Komei (1831–1867). Heian is the former name of Kyoto. Today's hands-on experience is **surikomi yuzen (brush dyed yuzen)**. Since the patterns are dyed by placing a paper stencil over a table mat you can make an authentic piece, even if this is your first time. Lastly, we visit **Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion)**, a Zen Temple whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. Return to the hotel for a buffet dinner. (B, L, D)

**Day 10: Sun, Mar 23** – KYOTO. Full day at leisure. A perfect day to fulfill your shopping list. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

**Day 11: Mon, Mar 24** – KYOTO – NARA – OSAKA – HONOLULU. On our way to Osaka experience a **traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony**. Then visit the stunning vermilion colored **Fushimi Inari Shrine**, whose four kilometer long tunnel of scarlet torii gates was featured on the film *Memoirs of a Geisha*. After lunch, visit the **Todaiji Temple**, the largest wooden building in Japan, which houses the largest bronze statue of Buddha at 16.3 meters high. The surrounding **Nara Deer Park** is inhabited by **over 1,000 Shika deer**. Depart Nara for the Kansai International Airport and check in for the flight home. Depart Osaka via Japan Airlines flt #792 at 10:10 pm and arrive in Honolulu at 10:25 am on the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B, L)

**UNESCO World Heritage Sites:** Mt. Fuji (2013), Itsukushima Shrine (1996), A-Bomb Dome (1996), Himeji Castle (1993), Kiyomizu Temple (1994), Kinkakuji Temple (1994), Todaiji Temple (1998).

\*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" 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: 11/04/24. 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.** 111924