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# 2025 SPRING BREAK GRAND MIYAJIMA, HIROSHIMA, KYOTO, NARA & OSAKA

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*Featuring two nights at the incomparable Iwaso Inn on Miyajima Island!  
Authentic onsen hot spring experience with included gourmet Kaiseki Dinners!*

**9 Nights / 11 Days • 18 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 4 Dinners)  
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide  
March 11 – 21, 2025 • Tour Manager: Wendy Iwasaki**

## VISIT:

Kansai • Himeji • Kurashiki • Okayama • Hiroshima • Miyajima  
Kyoto • Kameoka • Arashiyama • Nara • Osaka

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Himeji Castle • Kurashiki Bikan Area • AEON MALL • Peace Memorial Park • A-Bomb Museum  
A-Bomb Dome • Children's Memorial • Peace Bell • Ferry Ride to Miyajima Island  
Itsukushima Shrine • Omotesando Street • Miyajima Ropeway  
JR Super Express Train Ride • Sagano Torokko Ressha (Sagano Romantic Train)  
Arashiyama Bamboo Forest • Kiyomizu Temple • Heian Jingu Shrine  
Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion) • Fushimi Inari Shrine • Todaiji Temple  
Nara Deer Park • Kuromon Ichiba Market • Dotonbori Shopping  
Shinsaibashi Shopping • AEON MALL

## HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES:

Momiji Manju Making • Wagashi (Traditional Japanese Sweets) Making  
Surikomi Yuzen Table Mat Dyeing (Brush Dyed Yuzen) • Traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony

## UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES:

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

## COMPLETE PACKAGE!

Includes Roundtrip Airfare from Honolulu,  
9 Nights Hotel, 18 Meals, Tips for Local Tour  
Guides and Bus Drivers, All Taxes & Fees

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**Day 1: Tue, Mar 11** – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #791 at 11:25 am.

**Day 2: Wed, Mar 12** – KANSAI. Arrive at Kansai International Airport at 3:50 pm. After entry formalities, walk to the hotel located within the airport. Dinner has been arranged at the hotel. HOTEL NIKKO KANSAI AIRPORT (1 Night) (D)

**Day 3: Thur, Mar 13** – KANSAI – HIMEJI – KURASHIKI – OKAYAMA. After a sumptuous buffet breakfast 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. This splendid example of traditional architecture was declared one of the first UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Japan. After lunch, visit **Kurashiki** and the **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. Transfer to Okayama where you will enjoy shopping and dining (on your own) at one of the largest **AEON Shopping Malls**. HOTEL GRANVIA OKAYAMA (1 Night) (B, L)

\*Baggage will be sent from Okayama to Kyoto, skipping Miyajima. Prepare an overnight bag for two nights.

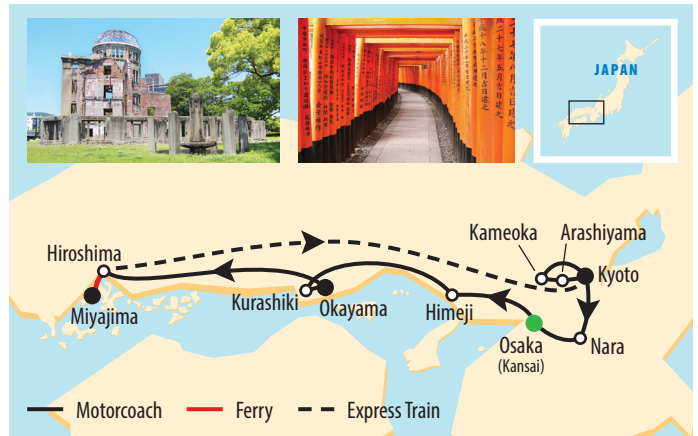
**Day 4: Fri, Mar 14** – OKAYAMA – HIROSHIMA – MIYAJIMA. In Hiroshima visit the **Peace Memorial Park, A-Bomb Museum, A-Bomb Dome, Children’s Memorial**, and the **Peace Bell**. After a **short ferry ride** arrive on the island of Miyajima, considered sacred by many. This evening soak in the relaxing atmosphere of Iwaso Inn and the **onsen hot spring baths**. You can enjoy the beauty of the primeval forests and gentle sound of mountain streams while taking a bath. This evening enjoy a **traditional, multi-course Kaiseki Dinner** featuring Hiroshima’s local and seasonal ingredients including fresh seafood from the Seto Inland Sea. IWASO INN (2 Nights) Onsen and Kaiseki Dinner (B, L, D)

**Day 5: Sat, Mar 15** – MIYAJIMA. After a special breakfast, this morning we will visit the **Itsukushima Shrine**. At high tide, the vermilion torii gate of Itsukushima Shrine 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). Enjoy excellent shopping and numerous choices for lunch (on your own) down **Omotesando Street**, the main street of Miyajima Island. Later, **learn how to make momiji manju**, a specialty of the area. We then make our way to the **Miyajima Ropeway** – the cable car and gondola system linking Miyajima township to Mt. Misen. On a clear day the ropeway provides an excellent observation point, plus access to the Wild Monkey Park, temples, and shrines. The remainder of the afternoon is at your leisure. This evening enjoy a different variety of **Kaiseki Dinner**. Be sure to enjoy the **onsen hot springs** before and after your dinner. (B, D)

**Day 6: Sun, Mar 16** – MIYAJIMA – HIROSHIMA – KYOTO. After breakfast, we make our way back to Hiroshima via a **short ferry ride**. We then take a ride on the **JR Super Express Train** to Kyoto. Evening at leisure to explore on your own. Numerous choices for dining and shopping nearby. MIYAKO HOTEL KYOTO HACHIJO (3 Nights) (B)

**Day 7: Mon, Mar 17** – KYOTO – KAMEOKA – ARASHIYAMA – KYOTO. After breakfast, travel to Kameoka and board the **Sagano Torokko Ressha (Sagano Romantic Train)** to Arashiyama. Enjoy free time in Arashiyama. Choose to explore the famous **Arashiyama Bamboo Forests**, or shop for world-famous Arashiyama bamboo products. After lunch, **learn how to make wagashi**, traditional Japanese sweets. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

**Day 8: Tue, Mar 18** – KYOTO. After a delicious 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. Then visit the **Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion)**,



a Zen Temple whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. 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. Return to the hotel, for an evening is at your leisure. (B, L)

**Day 9: Wed, Mar 19** – KYOTO – NARA – OSAKA. After breakfast, check out from hotel. A full day of sightseeing is ahead. On our way to Osaka, experience a **traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony**. Next, view 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*. Next visit **Todaiji Temple** in Nara. Todaiji, the largest wooden building in Japan, houses the largest bronze statue of Buddha at 16.3 meters high. The surrounding **Nara Deer Park** is inhabited by **over 1,000 deer**. Arrive at the hotel in Osaka. Evening is at your leisure. Your Tour Guide will have many suggestions for dinner and shopping. HOTEL GRANVIA OSAKA (2 Nights) (B, L)

**Day 10: Thur, Mar 20** – OSAKA. Full day at leisure. A perfect day to fulfill the remainder of your omiyage shopping list. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

**Day 11: Fri, Mar 21** – OSAKA – HONOLULU. After hotel checkout, start the day with a visit to **Kuromon Ichiba Market**, a lively covered market which stretches for 580 meters in Osaka’s Chuo Ward. The market is famous for its fresh seafood, fruits and vegetables, meats, dried fish, pickles, and confectionery. Many stalls will prepare, cook and serve their food to you right on the spot! An excellent place to stroll, sample, and snack on a delicious variety of fresh market foods. Next explore **Dotonbori**, one of Osaka’s most popular tourist destinations, this street runs parallel to the Dotonbori canal. It is a popular shopping and entertainment district and is also known as a food destination. **Shinsaibashi Shopping Arcade** and the surrounding area is Osaka’s premier shopping center. Approximately 600 meters long, this area is unique as it combines chain retail stores and trendy boutiques with expensive department stores and top designer fashion labels. A final shopping stop will be made at an **AEON MALL** before transferring to Kansai International Airport for our return flight home. Depart Osaka via Japan Airlines flt #792 at 10:10 pm and arrive in Honolulu at 10:25 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B)

**UNESCO World Heritage Sites:** Himeji Castle (1993), A-Bomb Dome (1996), Itsukushima Shrine (1996), 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/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” 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: 11/01/24. 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.** 119124