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2025 SUMMER ADVENTURE: GUNMA, NAGANO, NIIGATA & TOKYO SHOPPING

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9 Nights / 11 Days • 19 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 5 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes English-Speaking Local Guide
June 12 – 22, 2025 • Tour Manager: Bryan Wauke

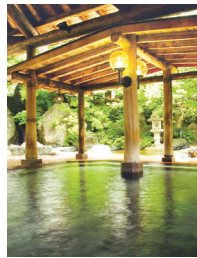
VISIT: Omiya • Gunma • Kawagoe • Minakami • Nagano
Matsumoto • Mt. Norikura • Yudanaka Onsen • Niigata • Tokyo

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS: Shoyu Factory • Kawagoe Old Town • Hotaru no Sato (Firefly Viewing)
Daio Wasabi Farm • Matsumoto Castle • Snow Walls of Mt. Norikura
Jigokudani Yaen Koen (Snow Monkey Park) • Knife Factory • Northern Culture Museum
Imayotsukasa Sake Brewery • Niigata Furusato Village • JR Super Express Train Ride
Tokyo Skytree • Ameyoko Shopping

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES: Minakami River Rafting^o • Mask Painting • Daruma Doll Decorating
Kimono Dress-Up • Cherry Picking • Senbei Rice Cracker Making • Mochi Pounding • Sushi Making

ONSEN HOT SPRINGS:

• **Gensen Yu-no-Yado – Matsunoi (2 Nights):** This hotel is surrounded by natural beauty and is blessed with four onsen hot spring wells. Gaze out at the changing beauty of the four seasons while enjoying the luxury of the onsens to the fullest.



• **Biyu-no-Yado (1 Night):** Located in the center of Yudanaka onsen hot springs area. Absorb mother nature's nutrients as you soak in the mineral onsen, just like the Snow Monkey.



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Day 1: Thur, June 12 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 12:45 pm.

Day 2: Fri, June 13 – TOKYO – OMIYA. Arrive at 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: Sat, June 14 – OMIYA – GUNMA – KAWAGOE – MINAKAMI. After a sumptuous breakfast buffet, visit a **Shoyu Factory**. Learn about how this staple of Japanese cuisine is made. Then take a stroll around **Kawagoe**. This old town has a rich history as a key supplier of commodities to the capital during the Edo Period. Enjoy time here for shopping and lunch (on your own). This evening enjoy a **Kaiseki Dinner** featuring seasonal vegetable and Minakami specialties at your hotel. Be sure to relax in the scenic **onsen hot spring baths**. 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. After dinner, depart the hotel to **view fireflies**. Watch as these soft bodied beetles emit light in the darkening evening. GENSEN YU-NO-YADO MATSUNOI (2 Nights) (B, D)

Day 4: Sun, June 15 – MINAKAMI. You're in for a real summer time treat! **River rafting!**^o From the middle of June the water level in the river drops and it is summer season rafting which is perfect for those who are not after the high thrills of spring. Mess around in and outside the boat with your guide, and enjoy the stunning nature that surrounds you. Even with the more gentle flow there is still plenty of time out on the river to have lots of fun. If you do not want to river raft, an alternate shopping excursion will be offered at **Kawaba Denen Plaza** – a large shopping and dining area. After lunch, stop at **Takumi no Sato**, an arts and crafts village of more than two dozen workshops and stores, where you will have the opportunity to **paint a mask**. A buffet dinner will be served at your hotel. (B, L, D)

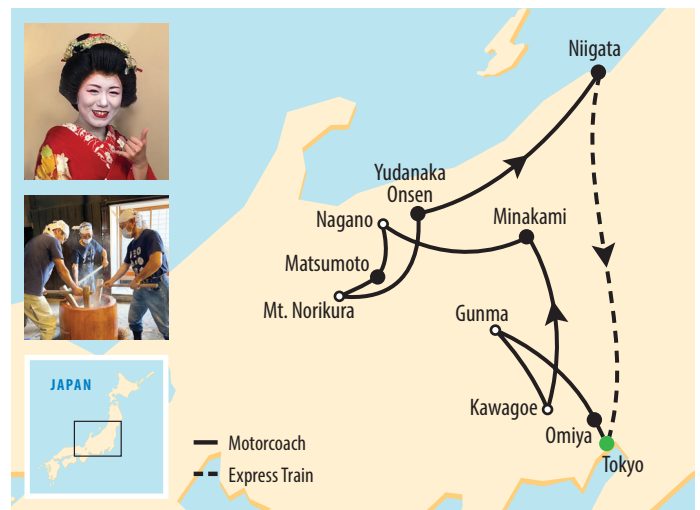
^oBaggage will be sent from Minakami to Yudanaka Onsen, skipping Matsumoto. Prepare overnight bag for one night.

Day 5: Mon, June 16 – MINAKAMI – NAGANO – MATSUMOTO. Let's **decorate our own daruma doll!** Everywhere in the prefecture, in shops, stations, hotels, you will see a daruma doll. This traditional artifact is famous for making every wish come true: people make wishes, and daruma dolls give them emotional and moral support, and they will be there for them until their wishes are granted. Next, visit **Daio Wasabi Farm** for lunch (on your own). Be sure to try the wasabi-flavored soft cream cone. After lunch, **dress-up in a kimono!** Then marvel at the superb architecture of **Matsumoto Castle**. HOTEL BUENA VISTA (1 Night) (B, D)

Day 6: Tue, June 17 – MATSUMOTO – MT. NORIKURA – YUDANAKA ONSEN. Travel to Mt. Norikura. At 3,026 meters in height, it's the third highest peak in the Northern Japan Alps. Feel dwarfed by the spectacular **10 meter tall snow walls** near the top of **Mt. Norikura** (weather permitting). Although it's June, the temperature will still be cold enough to keep the walls frozen – make sure to bring some warm clothes if you plan on getting off the bus to take pictures. After lunch continue on to **Yudanaka Onsen**, where you'll get to enjoy a special seasonal **Kaiseki Dinner**. Enjoy another opportunity to relax in the **onsen hot spring bath**. BIYU-NO-YADO (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 7: Wed, June 18 – YUDANAKA ONSEN – NIIGATA. Today we visit **Jigokudani Yaen Koen (Snow Monkey Park)**, home to a special troop of Japanese macaque monkeys that first came to international attention in 1970 when they were featured on the cover of *LIFE* magazine. You can observe the wild monkeys going about their daily lives, including bathing in onsen hot springs. Stop at a local farm and **pick cherries** for a mid-morning snack. After lunch, take a **tour of a knife factory** and see how this everyday essential is still made, using a combination of traditional methods and new technology. Arrive at the hotel for an evening of leisure. The Local Guide will have suggestions for dinner. HOTEL NIKKO NIIGATA (2 Nights) (B, L)

Day 8: Thur, June 19 – NIIGATA. Begin the day making your very own custom-designed **jumbo senbei rice cracker**. Next, visit the **Northern Culture Museum** where you're in for a big treat! Learn about **mochi pounding**. It's harder than it looks! Enjoy the freshly pounded mochi



with lunch. After lunch, visit **Imayotsukasa Sake Brewery** and learn how some of the best in Japan is made along with **tasting some of the product**. This evening along with dinner, we are **entertained by an authentic Geiko**. Dancing, singing, and playing fun games! So much fun! (B, L, D)

Day 9: Fri, June 20 – NIIGATA – TOKYO. Visit **Niigata Furusato Village** before making way to Niigata Train Station. Depart on a **JR Super Express Train** for Tokyo. Upon arrival in Tokyo, transfer to the hotel in the center of Shinjuku, the hub of shopping and restaurants in Tokyo. The remainder of the day is at your leisure. KEIO PLAZA HOTEL TOKYO (2 Nights) (B)

Day 10: Sat, June 21 – 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 11: Sun, June 22 – TOKYO – HONOLULU. After a sumptuous buffet breakfast embark on a full day of discovery! Today's highlight will be a hands-on **sushi making session**, which will yield your delicious lunch. After lunch, take in the view of the surrounding city from **Tokyo Skytree**. 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° panoramic view of Tokyo. Lastly, 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 street 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. Transfer to the airport for your flight home. Depart Haneda International Airport via Japan Airlines flt #72 at 9:55 pm and arrive in Honolulu at 10:40 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B, L)

Take the whole family on a vacation!

* 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" 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: 01/31/25. 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. ‡ All river rafting participants are required to purchase travel insurance that will cover them during the rafting experience. †† 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.** 091024