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2025 SUMMER 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 English-Speaking Local Guide
June 14 – 24, 2025 • Tour Manager: Mia Frey

VISIT:

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

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Todayji Temple • Nara Deer Park • Sagano Torokko Ressha (Sagano Romantic Train) Ride
Arashiyama Bamboo Forest • Fushimi Inari Shrine • Kiyomizu Temple • Heian Jingu Shrine
Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion) • Himeji Castle • Kurashiki Bikan Area
AEON MALL Okayama • 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
Kuromon Ichiba Market • Dontonbori Shopping • Shinsaibashi Shopping • AEON Mall

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES:

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

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES:

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

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Day 1: Sat, June 14 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #791 at 12:05 pm.

Day 2: Sun, June 15 – 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: Mon, June 16 – KANSAI – NARA – KYOTO. After a sumptuous buffet breakfast, we'll depart the hotel for Nara. Begin with a visit to **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 Shika deer**. After lunch, experience a **traditional Japanese tea ceremony**. Transfer to the hotel in Kyoto. Evening at leisure to explore on your own. Numerous choices for dining and shopping nearby. MIYAKO HOTEL KYOTO HACHUJO (3 Nights) (B, L)

Day 4: Tue, June 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. On the way back to Kyoto, 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*. Enjoy dinner at the hotel. (B, L, D)

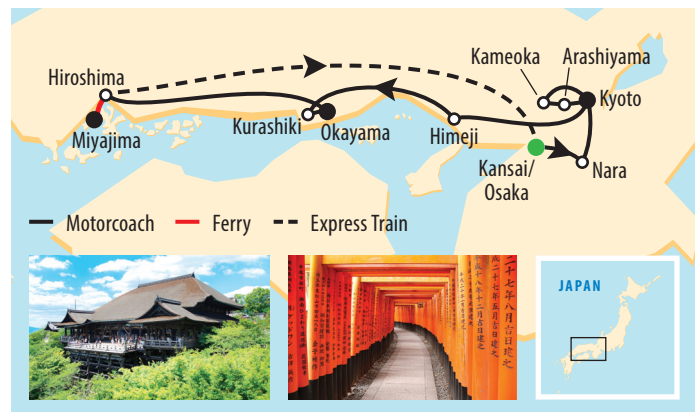
Day 5: Wed, June 18 – KYOTO. After a delicious Japanese/Western buffet breakfast at the hotel, embark on a full day of sightseeing beginning with a visit to **Kiyomizu Temple** (literally "Pure Water Temple"). Next visit, **Heian Jingu Shrine** which has a relatively short history, dating back just over a hundred years to 1895. The shrine was built on the occasion of the 1100th 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 of leisure. (B, L)

Day 6: Thur, June 19 – KYOTO – HIMEJI – KURASHIKI – OKAYAMA. 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, **AEON MALL Okayama**. HOTEL GRANVIA OKAYAMA (1 Night) (B, L)

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

Day 7: Fri, June 20 – 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 8: Sat, June 21 – 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). **Learn how to make momiji manju**, a specialty of the area. Enjoy excellent shopping and numerous choices for lunch (on your own) down **Omotesando Street**, the main street of Miyajima Island. 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 spring** baths before and after your dinner. (B, D)

Day 9: Sun, June 22 – MIYAJIMA – HIROSHIMA – OSAKA. 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 Osaka. Arrive in Osaka and transfer to the hotel. Evening is at your leisure. Your Tour Guide will have many suggestions for dinner and shopping. HOTEL GRANVIA OSAKA (2 Nights) (B)

Day 10: Mon, June 23 – 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: Tue, June 24 – 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 9:45 pm and arrive in Honolulu at 11:05 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B)

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

* 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: 02/04/25. 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. **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