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Off the Beaten Path: A Different Side of Japan

2025 SUMMER GRAND NIIGATA, SADO ISLAND PLUS TOKYO SHOPPING

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9 Nights / 11 Days • 20 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 7 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes English-Speaking Local Guide
June 18 – 28, 2025 • Tour Manager: Marie Kanealii-Ortiz

HIDDEN GEMS OF JAPAN: There's more to Japan than the well-known destinations of Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka. After all, with over 43 prefectures, there are surely TONS of other hidden gems out there that will be worth your while! In fact, there is one stunning place that's yet to be discovered by foreign tourists, and that's a visit to Niigata Prefecture facing the Sea of Japan.

VISIT: Omiya • Niigata • Sado Island • Tokyo

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS: JR Super Express Train Ride • Teradomari Fish Market
Michi-no-Eki Tsubame Sanjo • Knife Factory Tour • Yahiko Park • Yahiko Shrine
Yahiko Ropeway • Shirone Giant Kite Museum • Jet Foil Ride to Sado Island
Japanese Crested Ibis Conservation Centre • Obata Sake Brewery
Oni Daiko (Demon Drums) Performance • Sado Gold Mine
Tarai-Bune (Bathtub) Boat Ride • Shukunegi • Jet Foil Ride to Niigata
Northern Culture Museum • Geiko Dinner • Minato Marche Pier Bandai
Imayo Tsukasa Sake Brewery • Niigata Saito Villa • AEON MALL Niigata Minami
Ameyoko Shopping • Asakusa Sensoji Temple • Nakamise Shopping

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES: Kite Making • Soba Noodle Making • Mochi Pounding
Senbei (Rice Cracker) Making • Sake Brewery Tour and Tasting • Sushi Making

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English narration directly to your ear!

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& Niigata Exclusives!**

ONI DAIKO
— Demon Drums
Performance!

KAISEKI DINNER
— With Geiko (Geisha)
Performance!

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Day 1: Wed, June 18 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 12:45 pm.

Day 2: Thur, June 19 – TOKYO – OMIYA. Arrive at the 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: Fri, June 20 – OMIYA – NIIGATA. After breakfast, transfer to Omiya Station. Ride the **JR Super Express Train** to Niigata Station. Upon arrival in Niigata, stop at **Teradomari Fish Market**. Fresh fish straight from the local Teradomari Bay and Izumozaki Bay, famous for the quality of their fish, can be purchased at reasonable prices here. Enjoy lunch (on own) here. Try the famous hamayaki (fresh seafood grilled at the beach), crab dishes, and kaisen don (sashimi on rice). After lunch, stop at road side stand **Michi-no-Eki Tsubame Sanjo**. Not only do they provide a clean and convenient rest stop, local farmers and fisherman sell their products at rock-bottom prices. Take a **tour of a knife factory**, before transferring to the hotel. Soak in the **onsen hot spring** before or after your multi-course **Kaiseki Dinner**. YUMOTOYA (2 Nights) (B, D)

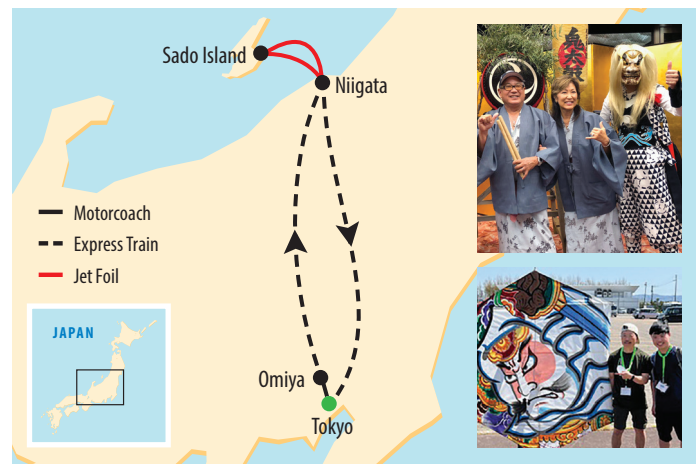
Day 4: Sat, June 21 – NIIGATA. Begin the day at **Yahiko Park**, which offers visitors a taste of traditional Japanese scenery. Also visit **Yahiko Shrine**. Take it all in from the amazing vantage point of the **Yahiko Ropeway!** After enjoying lunch at a local restaurant, visit **Shirone Giant Kite Museum** and **learn how to make a kite**. Return to the hotel for a different **Kaiseki Dinner**. (B, L, D)

*Baggage will be sent from Yumotoya to Hotel Nikko Niigata, skipping Sado Island. Prepare overnight bag for two nights.

Day 5: Sun, June 22 – NIIGATA – SADO ISLAND. Transfer to Niigata Port. Take a **jet foil to Sado Island**. Upon arrival in Sado, take a tour of the **Japanese Crested Ibis Conservation Centre**. Next, visit the **Obata Sake Brewery** for a **tour and tasting**. Transfer to the hotel. A special **Kaiseki Dinner** will be served at your hotel accompanied by an authentic **Oni Daiko (Demon Drums) Performance**. Don't forget to try out 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. HOTEL YAHATAKAN (2 Nights) (B, D)

Day 6: Mon, June 23 – SADO ISLAND. Full day sightseeing of Sado Island by coach, starting with a tour of the **Sado Gold Mine**. **Make your own soba noodles** and eat your delicious creation for lunch. After lunch, take a traditional **tarai-bune boat ride**. The tarai-bune tub boats floating along the Ogi coastline are considered the symbol of Ogi. These boats are constructed out of cedar wrapped with bamboo on the outside, with a diameter of about 150 cm. Developed and used during Edo and Meiji periods, the tarai-bune tub boats, mainly operated by women, were ideal for tight turn and stability amidst the abundant reefs and coves along the Ogi Peninsula. These boats were originally used for collecting shellfish and seaweed from around the coast. Then visit the charming fishing village of **Shukunegi**. The entire village is designated as a National Historic Site. Take a stroll along the narrow streets of Shukunegi Village to feel the history and experience the living conditions of people living during the Edo period. As this area was previously a trading port for ships going to Edo (Tokyo) and Osaka, many who lived here were ship carpenters and sailors. Here, you will be able to find the popular sankaku-ya, which is a triangle-shaped house, built to fit the shape of the land available at that period of time. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant before returning to the hotel for the evening. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Tue, June 24 – SADO ISLAND – NIIGATA. Take the **jet foil** from Sado Island to Niigata. After arriving in Niigata, begin exploring the **Northern Culture Museum**, where you'll have lunch and **learn how to pound mochi**. Originally serving as a mansion of Ito Bunkichi, who lived in the Edo Period (1603–1868) and was one of the greatest landowners in Japan, nowadays, the museum houses calligraphy and ceramics, lacquer ware, and documents related to Ito's family history. You can also visit the garden; it is a "walking" garden with a big pond. Tonight, you're in for a real treat!! Along with dinner, we are **entertained by an authentic Geiko**. Dancing, singing, and playing fun games. HOTEL NIKKO NIIGATA (2 Nights) (B, L, D)



Day 8: Wed, June 25 – NIIGATA. Begin the day making your very own custom-designed **jumbo senbei (rice cracker)**. Next, explore **Minato Marche Pier Bandai**, a food market that offers a multiple of food options, including fish caught in the Japan Sea, to vegetables and fruit directly delivered from farms, to Niigata-produced koshihikari rice, to a variety of high-quality brand sake from across the prefecture, all kinds of Niigata's specialties relating to food are here. Enjoy lunch (on your own) here. After lunch, visit the **Imayo Tsukasa Sake Brewery** and learn about sake, how it is made, and **taste a few of their products**. Lastly, take a tour of **Niigata Saito Villa**. Built by a wealthy merchant, Saito Kijuro, in 1918, the villa was carefully constructed to provide the best view of the Japanese garden. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. After dinner, stop at **AEON MALL Niigata Minami** before returning to the hotel for the evening. (B, D)

Day 9: Thur, June 26 – NIIGATA – TOKYO. After breakfast, depart Niigata and travel to Tokyo via **JR Super Express Train**. Transfer from Tokyo Station to your hotel. Enjoy some time at leisure to explore the area around your hotel on your own before dinner. GRAND NIKKO TOKYO DAIBA (2 Nights) (B, D)

Day 10: Fri, June 27 – TOKYO. Day at leisure. 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 11: Sat, June 28 – TOKYO – HONOLULU. Begin the day with a hands-on **sushi making class**, which will yield your delicious lunch. After lunch, visit **Ameyoko**, a busy market street along the Yamanote Line tracks between Okachimachi and Ueno Stations. Visit **Asakusa**, the center of Tokyo's shitamachi (literally "low city"), one of Tokyo's 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 7th 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. Transfer to the airport for your flight home. Depart the 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)

*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: 02/07/25. NST at its discretion, may use group and individual photos on its website, print, television, and various social media.

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