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**off the Beaten Path:** *A Different Side of Japan*

# 2026 CHERRY BLOSSOMS GOURMET ONSEN MEGURI (DISCOVERY)

*Exciting Tour! Enjoy the best Japan has to offer. Gourmet seasonal multi-course  
Kaiseki Dinners at Japan's most famous onsen hot springs locales.*

**9 Nights / 11 Days • 21 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 7 Dinners)**  
**Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide**  
**April 04 – 14, 2026 • Tour Manager: Pat Oshiro**

**VISIT:** Kansai, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Izumo, Tamatsukuri, Matsue,  
Tottori, Kinokuni, Ine, Amanohashidate, Kyoto, Nara & Osaka

**TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:** Shinkansen Bullet Train Ride, A-Bomb Dome, Peace Memorial Park, Peace Memorial  
Museum, Peace Bell, Ferry Ride to Miyajima, Itsukushima Shrine, Michi-no-Eki, Izumo-Taisha, Hori River Cruise,  
Matsue Castle, AEON MALL, Adachi Museum of Art, Tottori Sand Dunes, Amanohashidate Ropeway (Cable Car),  
Kasamatsu Park Observatory, Bay of Ine, Michi-no-Eki Observatory, Ryoanji Temple, Uzumasa Movie Village,  
Nishiki Market, Ginkakuji Temple (Silver Pavilion), Todaiji Temple, Nara Deer Park & AEON MALL Rinku Sennan

**HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES:** Momiji Manju Making, Kimono Dress-Up, Tea Ceremony & Yatsushashi Making

**UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES:** A-Bomb Dome, Itsukushima Shrine, Ginkakuji Temple & Todaiji Temple

## ONSEN HOT SPRINGS:

- **Miyajima — Iwaso Inn (2 Nights):** Located on the World Heritage Miyajima Island, Iwaso Inn features Japanese-style accommodations with beautiful surrounding views. Guests can relax in the indoor and outdoor onsen hot spring baths. Traditional multi-course Kaiseki Dinners featuring seafood and local ingredients are served at the dining room. A Japanese or Western breakfast is served at Momiji Restaurant. Iwaso Inn is a five-minute walk from Itsukushima Shrine and Momijidani Park.
- **Tamatsukuri – Hotel Gyokusen (2 Nights):** Tamatsukuri Onsen is one of the premier onsen resorts in Shimane, widely known for its beautifying effects on skin. Eighteen hotels and ryokans (traditional Japanese inns) are built along both sides of the Tamayu River. Some of them offer a day spa, and public foot spas can also be enjoyed free of charge. The area also has spiritual locations, high-quality souvenir shops, and cafes for visitors. Rejuvenate in Hotel Gyokusen's lobby lounge, overlooking a traditional Japanese garden, bringing out the best in the natural beauty of the pine trees and the rock garden.
- **Kinosaki – Nishimuraya Shogetsutei (2 Nights):** Kinosaki is the quintessential onsen town, with seven public baths and dozens of onsen ryokan, this is the place to sample the onsen ryokan experience. Enjoy a stroll along the willow lined river. The cuisine of Nishimuraya Shogetsutei features only the freshest, local ingredients, including crab (available early Nov to late March) from the Sea of Japan and the famous Tajima Beef (the stock cattle of the world famous Kobe Beef).

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**Day 1: Sat, Apr 04** — HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt # 791 at 11:35 am.

**Day 2: Sun, Apr 05** — KANSAI. Arrive at Kansai International Airport at 3:40 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)**

\*Baggage will be carried by truck from Kansai to Tamatsukuri, skipping Miyajima. Prepare an overnight bag for two nights.

**Day 3: Mon, Apr 06** — KANSAI — HIROSHIMA — MIYAJIMA. After breakfast, depart the hotel for the Shin-Osaka Train Station. Take a ride on the **Shinkansen Bullet Train** to Hiroshima. Upon arrival in Hiroshima, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch, take a tour of the **A-Bomb Dome, Peace Memorial Park, Peace Memorial Museum**, and the **Peace Bell**. After a short **ferry ride** arrive on the island of Miyajima, which is 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 4: Tue, Apr 07** — MIYAJIMA. After breakfast, walk to the nearby vermilion torii gate of **Itsukushima Shrine**, which at high tide, 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. Free time will be given to explore the excellent shopping opportunities available down the main street of Miyajima Island and enjoy lunch (on your own). Return to the hotel for a different variety of **Kaiseki Dinner**. Be sure to enjoy the **onsen hot spring** baths before and after your dinner. (B, D)

**Day 5: Wed, Apr 08** — MIYAJIMA — IZUMO — TAMATSUKURI. After breakfast, depart Miyajima for Izumo via a short **ferry ride**. En route, stop at a road side **Michi-no-Eki** stand for lunch (on your own). Not only do they provide a clean and convenient rest stop, local farmers and fisherman sell their products at rock-bottom prices. After lunch, visit the **Izumo-Taisha** located near the Sea of Japan. It is one of Japan's most important shrines. Izumo used to be ruled by a powerful clan in pre-historic times, and the region plays a central role in Japan's creation mythology. The main deity (kami) enshrined at Izumo-Taisha is Okuninushi no Okami. According to the creation myths, Okuninushi was the creator of the land of Japan and the ruler of Izumo. He also became known as the deity of good relationships and marriage. Visitors consequently clap their hands four times instead of the usual two times during their prayers: twice for themselves and twice for their actual or desired partners. This evening enjoy dinner at your hotel. Be sure to enjoy the onsen hot springs (before or after dinner) and perhaps a stroll along the Tamayu River. **HOTEL GYOKUSEN (2 Nights) (B, D)**

**Day 6: Thur, Apr 09** — TAMATSUKURI — MATSUE — TAMATSUKURI. Begin the day with a **boat cruise on the Hori River**. Next, **dress up in a kimono** and **experience a tea ceremony**. Great photo opportunities! After lunch, visit the quaint **Matsue Castle**. Then enjoy some time shopping and dining (on your own) at an **AEON MALL** before returning to the hotel. Be sure to enjoy the **onsen hot spring** baths before and after your dinner. (B, L)

**Day 7: Fri, Apr 10** — TAMATSUKURI — TOTTORI — KINOSAKI. After breakfast, depart the hotel. Explore the **Adachi Museum of Art**. Founded by Adachi Zenko in 1980 as a way of combining his passions for Japanese art and garden design. He hoped that viewing the gardens and artwork together would expand peoples' appreciation and interest in Japanese art. The Adachi Museum of Art is best known for its award winning garden. It has been named the best garden in Japan annually since 2003 by the *Journal of Japanese Gardening*. The garden can be enjoyed at any time of the year and shows a different character depending on the season. It can only be viewed from the museum building. In addition to the gardens, the Adachi Museum of Art also houses a collection of nearly 1,300 twentieth century paintings and artworks which are rotated seasonally. There is also a permanent exhibit of paintings by Yokoyama Taikan, as well as a ceramics exhibit. After lunch, witness the awesome **Tottori Sand Dunes** on our way to Kinotsaki. This evening enjoy a stroll along the willow lined river. Enjoy a rejuvenating soak in the **onsen hot springs** before or after your **Kaiseki Dinner** at the hotel. **NISHIMURAYA SHOGETSUTEI (2 Nights) (B, L, D)**

**Day 8: Sat, Apr 11** — KINOSAKI — INE — AMANOHASHIDATE — KINOSAKI. This morning, visit **Amanohashidate**, one of the three most scenic places in Japan along with Matsushima Bay near Sendai and Miyajima Island. The coast line is a long sandbar. You'll get a chance to ride the **Amanohashidate Ropeway (Cable Car)** to view the surrounding countryside and visit the **Kasamatsu Park Observatory**. After lunch, stop at the



**Bay of Ine.** The small village is unique, consisting of 230 funaya (over water houses). Take a walk around this area. Stop at the **Michi-no-Eki Observatory** before returning to the hotel for dinner. (B, L, D)

**Day 9: Sun, Apr 12** — KINOSAKI — KYOTO. After breakfast, depart for Kyoto. Upon arrival in Kyoto, the remainder of your day is at your leisure. Your hotel is surrounded by department stores, specialty stores, and restaurants. A perfect time to fulfill your shopping list. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. **DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON KYOTO STATION (2 Nights) (B)**

**Day 10: Mon, Apr 13** — KYOTO. First stop this morning is at **Ryoanji Temple**, is the site of Japan's most famous rock garden, which attracts hundreds of visitors every day. Today's highlight is a visit to **Uzumasa Movie Village**, the only theme park in Japan where you can observe the filming of jidaigeki (period drama) films. Here you can walk freely around the Toei Kyoto Studio film set. This set depicts a street from the Edo period, and is used to shoot more than 200 films per year. Enjoy the atmosphere of ancient Japan by taking in a ninja show maybe even dressing up as a geisha or samurai (additional cost). Next visit **Nishiki Market**, also known as "Kyoto's Kitchen" is a narrow, five block long shopping street lined by more than one hundred shops and restaurants. Specializes in all things food related, like fresh seafood, produce, knives and cookware, and is a great place to find seasonal foods and Kyoto specialties, such as Japanese sweets, pickles, dried seafood, and sushi. Spend your free time here exploring, shopping, and enjoy lunch (on your own). Last stop today is at the **Ginkakuji Temple (Silver Pavilion)**. Dinner this evening will be at the hotel. (B, D)

**Day 11: Tue, Apr 14** — KYOTO — NARA — OSAKA — KANSAI — HONOLULU. After breakfast, check out from hotel. A full day of sightseeing and activities is ahead. Start the day with **learning how to make** a local Kyoto treat — **yatsushashi**, a Japanese confectionery which is made from rice flour, sugar, and cinnamon. After lunch, 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**. A final shopping stop will be made at **AEON MALL Rinku Sennan** before transferring to the airport for the return flight home. Depart Kansai International Airport via Japan Airlines flt # 792 at 10:10 pm and arrive Honolulu at 10:45 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B, L)

**UNESCO World Heritage Sites:** A-Bomb Dome (1996), Itsukushima Shrine (1996), Ginkakuji Temple (1994), and 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" cruise or 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: 11/25/25. NST at its discretion, may use group and individual photos on its website, print, television, and various social media. Cherry blossoms are subject to weather conditions and are NOT guaranteed. † 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.**