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# 2026 CHERRY BLOSSOMS GRAND CIRCLE SHIKOKU PLUS SHOPPING

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9 Nights / 11 Days • 21 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, 6 Dinners)  
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide  
March 27 – April 06, 2026 • Tour Managers: Delbert & Gale Nakaoka

## VISIT:

Kobe • Awajishima • Naruto • Takamatsu • Kochi • Ashizuri • Dogo  
Matsuyama • Imabari • Washuzan • Kurashiki • Okayama • Osaka

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Awa Jurobe Puppet Theater and Museum • Awa Dance Museum • Naruto Whirlpool Cruise  
Kotohira Shrine • Ritsurin Garden • Boat Cruise in Oboke Gorge • Kazurabashi Bridge  
Kochi Castle • Kochi Yosakoi Joho Koryukan • Katsurahama • Shimanto River Cruise  
John Mung Museum • Matsuyama Ropeway • Matsuyama Castle • Ishiteji Temple  
Stroll the Dogo Onsen Area • Imabari Towel Museum • Michi-no-Eki • Shimanami Kaido  
Mt. Washuzan • Kurashiki Bikan Area • Korakuen Garden • Shinkansen Bullet Train Ride  
Kuromon Ichiba Market • Dotonbori Shopping • Shinsaibashi Shopping  
Osaka Castle Park • AEON MALL

## HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES:

Indigo Dyeing • Udon Making Class • Washi Paper Making Class  
Seared Bonito Making Class • Fruit Picking

## COMPLETE PACKAGE!

Includes Roundtrip Airfare from Honolulu,  
9 Nights Hotel, 21 Meals, Tips for Local Tour  
Guides and Motorcoach Drivers, All Taxes & Fees

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**Day 1: Fri, Mar 27** — HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 11:55 am.

**Day 2: Sat, Mar 28** — HANEDA — ITAMI — KOBE. Arrive at the Haneda International Airport at 3:55 pm. After entry formalities, enjoy a bento box at the domestic departure gate. Depart Haneda Domestic Airport via Japan Airlines flt #137 at 6:45 pm and arrive at the Osaka Itami Airport at 8:00 pm. Transfer to the hotel in Kobe. ANA CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL KOBE (1 Night) (D)

**Day 3: Sun, Mar 29** — KOBE — AWAJISHIMA — NARUTO. After a sumptuous Japanese/Western buffet breakfast at the hotel, embark on a full day of sightseeing. Begin at the **Awa Jurobe Puppet Theater and Museum** and learn about Awa Ningyo Joruri, a traditional performance art of Tokushima using puppets made of cypress wood. The lifelike movement of the dolls combined with traditional music is a unique entertainment experience. After lunch, **watch a performance** at the **Awa Dance Museum**. The **Naruto Whirlpool**, which occur along the Shikoku Coast of the Naruto Strait, are created by the large volumes of water moving between the Seto Inland Sea and the Pacific Ocean between high and low tide, combined with the unique underwater geography of the narrow strait. View the whirlpool from water level on **cruise**. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel tonight. AOWO NARUTO RESORT (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 4: Mon, Mar 30** — NARUTO — TAKAMATSU. **Indigo dyeing** is very well known in Tokushima. To ensure that the cloth had been dyed thoroughly it was soaked in a tray for about two minutes then rinsed with water, repeat many times. Next, we **learn how to make udon noodles**. Enjoy your hand-made creation for lunch. After lunch, visit the **Kotohira Shrine**. **Ritsurin Garden** is a landscape garden in Takamatsu City, built by the local feudal lords during the early Edo Period. Considered one of the best gardens in Japan, it is often suggested that Ritsurin Garden deserves a spot on the list of the "three most beautiful gardens of Japan" alongside Kanazawa's Kenrokuen, Mito's Kairakuen, and Okayama's Korakuen. This evening enjoy shopping in the arcade surrounding your hotel. JR HOTEL CLEMENT TAKAMATSU (1 Night) (B, L)

\*Baggage will be sent from Takamatsu to Dogo, skipping Kochi and Ashizuri. Prepare an overnight bag for two nights.

**Day 5: Tue, Mar 31** — TAKAMATSU — KOCHI. Start the day with a **boat cruise in Oboke Gorge**. On this gentle 30 minute boat ride down the Yoshino River, guides point out interesting rocks, many of which resemble different animals, along the way. Then take a walk across **Kazurabashi Bridge**, a suspension bridge made of mountain vines, was built as a way to move people and goods across the river and as a deterrent to outsiders, which could easily be cut down if enemies approached. After lunch, visit **Kochi Castle**, one of just twelve Japanese castles to have survived the fires, wars and other catastrophes of the post feudal age. **Kochi Yosakoi Joho Koryukan** is a museum that showcases the history and appeal of the Yosakoi Festival, which was founded in 1954. There is a Yosakoi Theatre with a 150-inch large-screen display showing how the Yosakoi Festival has developed over time, which really makes visitors feel as though they are watching the Festival in real life, along with a Yosakoi Experience Corner where visitors can try on the costumes worn by Yosakoi Festival dancers. Check into the hotel in Kochi. The remainder of the evening is at your leisure. Your Tour Guide will have suggestions for dinner. THE CROWN PALAIS NEW HANKYU KOCHI (1 Night) (B, L)

**Day 6: Wed, Apr 01** — KOCHI — ASHIZURI. Start the day **learning how to make washi paper**. A great souvenir of your trip! Then it's on to **Katsurahama**, where you will find a statue of the famous historical hero, Sakamoto Ryoma (1835–1867). He played an important role in opening up modern Japan at the end of the Edo era. Learn how to **make seared bonito**. Enjoy your creation for lunch. After lunch, take a **cruise on the Shimanto River**, then make way to your hotel to enjoy a traditional Japanese multi-course **Kaiseki Dinner**. ASHIZURI KOKUSAI HOTEL (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 7: Thur, Apr 02** — ASHIZURI — DOGO. Visit the **John Mung Museum** and learn how he was instrumental in the opening of Japan to foreigners. After lunch, **pick some fruit** at the peak of sweetness. A great afternoon snack. Transfer to Dogo and relax your body at the world-famous Dogo Onsen, one of the oldest **onsen hot springs** in Japan, with a history stretching back over 1,000 years. The area around Dogo retains the feeling of a resort town, with guests from all over the country wandering the streets in yukata robes after their bath. Enjoy another **Kaiseki Dinner** at the hotel. Don't forget to check out the nearby **shopping arcade** full of shops selling local products of the area. If you time your visit right, you can watch the **Botchan Karakuri Clock**, located at the entrance of the shopping arcade, come to life like a cuckoo clock (every hour between 8:00 am and 10:00 pm). There is also a **free foot bath** at the base of the clock. DOGO KAN (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

**Day 8: Fri, Apr 03** — DOGO — MATSUYAMA — DOGO. Take the **Matsuyama Ropeway**, a single-chair chairlift, a pleasant and popular way to ascend Mt. Katsuyama and visit the **Matsuyama Castle**. **Ishiteji Temple** located near Dogo Onsen to the northeast of Matsuyama's city center, is the city's most famous



temple. It is number 51 of the 88 temples on the Shikoku Pilgrimage. Pilgrims dressed in white are a frequent sight at this large temple. After lunch, return to the hotel and enjoy free time to stroll around the Dogo area before dinner. This evening, savor your third seasonal traditional, multi-course **Kaiseki Dinner**. (B, L, D)

\*Baggage will be sent from Dogo to Osaka, skipping Kurashiki. Prepare an overnight bag for one night.

**Day 9: Sat, Apr 04** — DOGO — IMABARI — WASHUZAN. On our way back to Honshu today, stop and explore **Imabari Towel Museum**. Located in Japan's largest towel producing town, this unique museum is dedicated to showing off the wonders of the towel. Later, 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. Next we cross the **Shimanami Kaido**, the 60 kilometer long toll road that connects the island of Shikoku to the main island of Honshu. Before arriving at the hotel, stop at **Mt. Washuzan**, a scenic spot that received its name due to its resemblance to an eagle with its wings spread. The panoramic view of the blue sea and Seto Ohashi Bridge from there is truly spectacular. Enjoy a Western dinner at the hotel. WASHU BLUE RESORT KASAGO (1 Night) (B, D)

**Day 10: Sun, Apr 05** — WASHUZAN — KURASHIKI — OKAYAMA — OSAKA. After breakfast, depart Washuzan for Kurashiki. Explore **Kurashiki's** beautiful **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. Enjoy lunch on your own. Transfer to Okayama to view the beautiful scenery at **Korakuen Garden**, considered one of Japan's top three Japanese gardens. It is located just beside Okayama Castle, which can be seen from the garden as "borrowed scenery." Transfer by **Shinkansen Bullet Train** to the Shin-Osaka Station. The evening is at your leisure. Your Tour Guide will have suggestions for dinner and shopping. HOTEL GRANVIA OSAKA (1 Night) (B)

**Day 11: Mon, Apr 06** — OSAKA — KANSAI — 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, visit **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. Next stop is **Shinsaibashi Shopping Arcade**, 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. You'll have time for shopping and lunch (on your own) here. After lunch, explore the **Osaka Castle Park**. Located in the center of Osaka, this vast park includes the Osaka Castle Museum and plenty of spots to enjoy flowers throughout the seasons, including the Nishinomaru Garden, where you can enjoy around 300 cherry trees. One last shopping stop at an **AEON MALL**. Return to Kansai International Airport for our return flight home. Depart Osaka via Japan Airlines flt #792 at 10:10 pm and arrive Honolulu at 10:45 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B)

\*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" 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: 11/17/25. 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.** 072325