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2026 CHERRY BLOSSOMS GRAND MIYAJIMA, HIROSHIMA, KYOTO, NARA & OSAKA TOUR #1

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Featuring a two night stay on Miyajima Island.

Authentic onsen hot springs experience with included gourmet Kaiseki Dinners.

9 Nights / 11 Days • 18 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 4 Dinners)

Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide

Tour #1: April 07 – 17, 2026 • Tour Managers: Erik & Lianne Wong

VISIT:

Kansai, Himeji, Kurashiki, Okayama, Hiroshima, Miyajima,
Kyoto, Arashiyama, Kameoka, Nara & Osaka

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Himeji Castle, Koko-en Garden, Kurashiki Bikani Area, AEON MALL Okayama, Peace Memorial Park, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, Atomic Bomb Dome, Children's Memorial, Peace Bell, Ferry Ride to Miyajima Island, Itsukushima Shrine, Omotesando Street, Miyajima Ropeway, JR Super Express Train Ride, Arashiyama Bamboo Forest, Sagano Torokko Ressha (Sagano Romantic Train) Ride, Heian Jingū Shrine, Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion), Toji Temple, Sanjusangen-do, Todaiji Temple, Nara Deer Park, Kuromon Ichiba Market, Dotonbori Shopping, Shinsaibashi Shopping & AEON MALL

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES:

Momiji Manju Making, Wagashi (Traditional Japanese Sweets) Making,
Traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony & Yuzen Dyeing

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES:

Himeji Castle, Atomic Bomb Dome, Itsukushima Shrine,
Kinkakuji Temple, Toji Temple & Todaiji Temple

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Day 1: Tue, Apr 07 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #791 at 11:35 am.

Day 2: Wed, Apr 08 – 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)

Day 3: Thur, Apr 09 – KANSAI – HIMEJI – KURASHIKI – OKAYAMA. After a sumptuous buffet breakfast, travel 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. A short walk from the castle's main gate (Otemon Gate), is **Koko-en Garden**. Opened in 1992 on the former site of the feudal lord's west residence, this Japanese style garden consists of nine separate walled gardens designed in various styles of the Edo Period (1603–1868) and features a pond with a waterfall, a tea garden, a pine tree garden, a bamboo garden, and a flower garden. After lunch, depart Himeji for **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. Arrive in Okayama. The remainder of the day is at your leisure to explore on your own. Numerous choices for dining and shopping available at the nearby **AEON MALL Okayama**. ANA CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL OKAYAMA (1 Night) (B, L)

Day 4: Fri, Apr 10 – OKAYAMA – HIROSHIMA – MIYAJIMA. After a breakfast, travel to Hiroshima. After lunch, visit the **Peace Memorial Park**, **Hiroshima Peace Memorial**, **Atomic Bomb Dome**, **Children's Memorial**, and the **Peace Bell**. Take a short **ferry ride** to the island of Miyajima, considered sacred by many. Walk to the hotel. This evening soak in the relaxing atmosphere of 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 5: Sat, Apr 11 – MIYAJIMA. Start the day with a visit to 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). Today, you'll **learn how to make momiji manju**, a specialty of the area. Enjoy excellent shopping and snacking opportunities down **Omotesando Street**, the main street of Miyajima Island. After lunch (on your own), take in the view from **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. Enjoy a different variety of **Kaiseki Dinner** at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 6: Sun, Apr 12 – MIYAJIMA – HIROSHIMA – KYOTO. After breakfast, take a short **ferry ride** off of the island and transfer to the Hiroshima station, for the **JR Super Express Train** to Kyoto. Upon arrival in Kyoto, walk to the nearby hotel. The remainder of the day is at your leisure to explore on your own. Numerous choices for dining and shopping nearby. DAIWA ROYNET HOTEL KYOTO TERRACE HACHIKO PREMIER (3 Nights) (B)

Day 7: Mon, Apr 13 – KYOTO – ARASHIYAMA – KAMEOKA – KYOTO. After breakfast, transfer to Arashiyama. Enjoy free time in Arashiyama, where you may choose to explore the famous **Arashiyama Bamboo Forests**, or shop for world-famous Arashiyama bamboo products. Next, **learn how to make wagashi**, traditional Japanese sweets. After lunch, enjoy more free time in Arashiyama. Then board the **Sagano Torokko Ressha (Sagano Romantic Train)** to Kameoka. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Tue, Apr 14 – KYOTO. After a delicious Japanese/Western buffet breakfast at the hotel, embark on a full day of sightseeing and activities in Kyoto. Begin with a **traditional Japanese tea ceremony**. 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. After lunch, learn how **Surikomi Yuzen (brush dyed Yuzen)** is done. Since the patterns are dyed by placing a paper stencil over an item, like a table mat, you can make an



authentic piece, even if this is your first time. A great souvenir to remind you of this trip! Lastly, visit **Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion)**, a Zen Temple whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. Return to the hotel for an evening of leisure. (B, L)

Day 9: Wed, Apr 15 – KYOTO – NARA – OSAKA. After breakfast, check out from hotel. A full day of sightseeing is ahead. Before departing Kyoto, visit **Toji Temple** ("East Temple"), a Buddhist temple founded just after the capital was moved to Kyoto in the late 700s. Toji's five-storyed tall pagoda stands 57 meters tall, making it the tallest wooden pagoda in Japan, and has become a symbol of both the temple and Kyoto as it can be seen from many places across the city. Next, visit **Sanjusangen-do**, the Buddhist temple famous for its 1,001 statues of Kannon, the goddess of compassion. After lunch, explore the **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**. Arrive at the hotel in Osaka. Evening is at your leisure. Your Tour Guide will have suggestions for dinner and shopping. HOTEL INTERGATE OSAKA UMEDA (2 Nights) (B, L)

Day 10: Thur, Apr 16 – OSAKA. Full day at leisure. A perfect day to fulfill the remainder of your shopping list. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

Day 11: Fri, Apr 17 – 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. **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 the airport for the return flight home. Depart the 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)

UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Himeji Castle (1993), A-Bomb Dome (1996), Itsukushima Shrine (1996), Kinkakuji Temple (1994), Toji Temple (1994), 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. 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-cruiseline" 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: 11/26/25. 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.** JI6414 122225

