



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

# 2026 CHERRY BLOSSOMS NORTHERN KYUSHU, IWAKUNI & OSAKA GOURMET TOUR

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10 Nights / 12 Days • 24 Meals (10 Breakfasts, 7 Lunches, 7 Dinners)  
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide  
March 24 – April 04, 2026 • Tour Manager: Laureen Chu

## VISIT:

Haneda • Fukuoka • Sasebo • Nagasaki • Unzen • Shimabara • Kumamoto  
Beppu • Shimonoseki • Iwakuni • Suo Oshima • Hiroshima • Osaka

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Dazaifu Tenmangu • Kushida Shrine • Hakata Machiya Furusato Kan • Kujukushima Park  
Kujukushima Cruise • Sake Brewery Tour and Tasting • Huis Ten Bosch Amusement Park  
Glover Garden • China Town • Dejima Island • Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum  
Nagasaki Peace Memorial Park • Unzen Jigoku • Unzen Ropeway • Shimeiso Garden  
Shimabara Bukeyashiki • Ferry Ride to Kumamoto • Suizenji Park • Kumamoto Castle • Sakura no Baba  
Umi Jigoku • Chinoike Jigoku • Akama Shrine • Museum of Japanese Emigration to Hawaii  
Kintaikyo Bridge • Orizuru Tower • Hiroshima Train Station Shopping • Shinkansen Bullet Train Ride  
Kuromon Ichiba Market • Dotonbori Shopping • Shinsaibashi Shopping • AEON MALL Rinku Sennan

## HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES:

Kimono Dress-Up • Strawberry Picking • Okonomiyaki (Savory Pancake) Making

## GOURMET HIGHLIGHTS:

Multi-Course Shippoku Cuisine Dinner • Jigoku-Mushi (Geothermal Steam Cooking) Lunch  
Fugu (Puffer Fish) Special Dinner • Okonomiyaki (Savory Pancake) Lunch  
Kobe Beef Shabu Shabu Dinner

## COMPLETE PACKAGE!

Includes Roundtrip Airfare from Honolulu,  
10 Nights Hotel, 24 Meals, Tips for Local Tour  
Guides and Bus Drivers, All Taxes & Fees

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**Day 1: Tue, Mar 24** — HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #71 at 4:10 pm.

**Day 2: Wed, Mar 25** — HANEDA. Arrive at the Haneda International Airport at 8:10 pm. After entry formalities, walk to your hotel connected to the airport terminal. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel. HOTEL VILLA FONTAINE GRAND HANEDA AIRPORT (1 Night) (D)

**Day 3: Thur, Mar 26** — HANEDA — FUKUOKA. After a breakfast buffet at your hotel, transfer back to the Haneda airport terminal. Enjoy a bento box at the domestic departure gate. Depart Haneda Domestic Airport via Japan Airlines flt #315 at 11:05 am and arrive at the Fukuoka Airport at 1:00 pm. Upon arrival in Fukuoka, visit **Dazaifu Tenmangu**, is a Shinto Shrine that enshrines Sugawara Michizane, or Tenjin, the deity of learning, culture and the arts. As one of Japan's most important Shinto shrines, it welcomes more than 10 million visitors a year. **Kushida Shrine**, a Shinto shrine that was founded in 757. Affectionately referred to as "Okushi-san" by locals, this shrine is deeply loved by the citizens of Fukuoka and is the starting location of two of Fukuoka's famous summer festivals — Hakata Gion Yamasaka and Hakata Okunchi. Before leaving the shrine — look for the well surrounded by three cranes right by the shrine building. According to legend, the water from the well grants longevity and eternal youth. To do so, you must take three sips of water — praying for your own longevity with the first sip, praying for the wellbeing of your family with the second sip, and finally praying for the health of friends with the third and final sip. Next, spend some time exploring **Hakata Machiya Furusato Kan**, a folk museum that showcases the lifestyle and culture of life in Hakata (Fukuoka) in the Meiji and Taisho periods. Traditional crafts and local sweets are great souvenirs of your visit here. Transfer to the hotel. Walk to a nearby restaurant for a mizutaki (chicken hot pot) dinner. THE ROYAL PARK HOTEL FUKUOKA (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 4: Fri, Mar 27** — FUKUOKA — SASEBO. Japan is nation of many islands but most travelers never get beyond the main four. At **Kujukushima National Park** near Sasebo in Nagasaki Prefecture, however, you can up your island quotient by taking a **scenic cruise** of the region's waters. The word "kujuku" literally means "99" but has come to refer to a vast number or something uncountable. In truth, there are 208 islands off the coast of Sasebo, the largest concentration of islands anywhere in Japan. If these islands look familiar, chalk it up to the fact that they featured prominently in the opening scenes of the film *The Last Samurai*. After lunch, take a tour of a **sake brewery**, **learn about sake** and **sample some of their products**. Take a tour of **Huis Tens Bosch** (Hausu Ten Bosu), a theme park in Nagasaki Prefecture which recreates a Dutch town. This spacious resort is suffused with a European atmosphere with its picturesque canals, iconic windmills, beautiful gardens and architecture. Transfer to the hotel for an evening of leisure. Recommendations will be made by the Local Guide for dinner options. HOTEL NIKKO HUIS TEN BOSCH (1 Night) (B, L)

**Day 5: Sat, Mar 28** — SASEBO — NAGASAKI. **Glover Garden** is a park in Nagasaki built for Thomas Blake Glover, a Scottish merchant who contributed to the modernization of Japan in shipbuilding, coal mining, and other fields. In it stands the Glover Residence, the oldest Western style house surviving in Japan and Nagasaki's foremost tourist attraction. After lunch, take a stroll through Nagasaki's **Chinatown**. Next, explore **Dejima**, the artificial island built in the shape of a fan, that was used as the sole trading spot with foreign countries from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. For 200 years, until Japan reopened the country in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Dejima was its only window to the world. We end the day with a visit to the **Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum** and **Peace Park Memorial**. This evening, enjoy a multi-course **Shippoku Cuisine Dinner** at the hotel. INASAYAMA KANKO HOTEL (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 6: Sun, Mar 29** — NAGASAKI — UNZEN — SHIMABARA — KUMAMOTO. First stop this morning is at **Unzen Jigoku** ("Unzen Hell"), where hot water and gases spout out of the earth. **Unzen Ropeway** leads part way up the mountain slope. The lower and upper ropeway stations have observation decks with views over the surrounding mountains and the Ariake Sea all the way to Kumamoto Prefecture on a clear day. Enjoy the spectacular views. After lunch visit **Shimeiso Garden** to view the spring water pond with the numerous carp swimming inside. Then explore Shimabara's **Bukeyashiki**, samurai residences. Take a short **ferry ride** from Shimabara to Kumamoto. This evening, dinner suggestions will be made by the Local Guide. KUMAMOTO HOTEL CASTLE (1 Night) (B, L)

**Day 7: Mon, Mar 30** — KUMAMOTO — BEPPU. After breakfast, experience first-hand what **wearing a kimono** is like. Then explore **Suizenji Park** is a spacious, Japanese style landscape garden in Kumamoto, best enjoyed by scrolling along a circular path. It was built by the Hosokawa Family in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The garden reproduces the 53 post stations of the Tokaido, the important road, which connected Edo with Kyoto during the Edo Period, in miniature form, including a small Mt. Fuji. Next, visit **Kumamoto Castle** and at the nearby **Sakura no Baba**, an Edo-themed complex. This evening enjoy a buffet dinner at your hotel and enjoy a relaxing soak in one of the open-air or indoor **onsen hot springs**. SUGINOI HOTEL SORA-KAN (1 Night) (B, D)

**Day 8: Tue, Mar 31** — BEPPU — SHIMONOSEKI. Beppu is famous for its "hells" of dramatic pools of bubbling water, mud and geysers. Visit two: **Umi Jigoku** or "**Sea Hell**" is a pond of boiling blue water and **Chinoike Jigoku** or "**Blood Pond Hell**" with its bubbling blood red waters. Lunch today is uniquely prepared using volcanic steam from natural vents, **jigoku-mushi**. End the day with a visit to **Akama Shrine**, with the large white base that supports one of its many red roofs. This shrine was built to commemorate the spirit of the six-year-old Emperor Antoku, who died here during the decisive Battle of Dan-no-Ura between the Minamoto and Taira Clans



in 1185. Tonight, walk to a 100-year-old restaurant and enjoy a spectacular **fugu (puffer fish) course dinner**. SHIMONOSEKI GRAND HOTEL (1 Night) (B, L, D)

\*Baggage will be sent from Shimonoseki to Osaka, skipping Suo Oshima. Prepare overnight bag for one night.

**Day 9: Wed, Apr 01** — SHIMONOSEKI — SUO OSHIMA. Start the day with a visit to a local farm and **pick some strawberries** at the peak of ripeness. After lunch, explore the **Museum of Japanese Emigration to Hawaii**, located on Suo Oshima Island. The former Fukumoto House was restored and converted into the Museum. Since 1995 the town of Suo Oshima, having sent a lot of emigrants to countries overseas, began to put together a collection of various data and materials related to emigration to Hawai'i in order to inform present and future generations of their ancestors' past. This evening enjoy the natural **onsen hot springs** after dinner. MARISSA RESORT SAZANSTO SUO-OSHIMA (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 10: Thur, Apr 02** — SUO OSHIMA — IWAKUNI — HIROSHIMA — OSAKA. Depart Suo Oshima for Osaka. En route, stop at the **Kintaiyo Bridge**, which has been Iwakuni's most distinguished landmark and a subject of admiration for hundreds of years. The elegant, wooden bridge makes five bold arches onto massive stone pillars as it crosses over the Nishiki River. In Hiroshima, visit the **Orizuru Tower** which offers sweeping views of the city of Hiroshima and the Atomic Dome. For lunch, **learn how to make** your very own **okonomiyaki (savory pancake)**, a city specialty of Hiroshima. Enjoy the **shopping opportunities** at the **Hiroshima Station**. Board your **Shinkansen Bullet Train** from Hiroshima station to Shin-Osaka Station. This evening savor an authentic **Kobe Beef Shabu Shabu Dinner**. HILTON OSAKA (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

**Day 11: Fri, Apr 03** — 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 12: Sat, Apr 04** — OSAKA — ITAMI — HANEDA — HONOLULU. Full day of shopping! Start 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 **AEON MALL Rinku Sennan** before transferring to the airport for our return flight home. Depart Osaka Itami Airport via Japan Airlines flt #128 at 4:55 pm and arrive at the Haneda Domestic Airport at 6:15 pm. Depart Haneda International Airport via Japan Airlines flt #72 at 9:55 pm and arrive Honolulu at 10:20 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: 11/14/25. 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

