



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

# 2026 CHERRY BLOSSOMS SADO ISLAND, SNOW MONKEYS, NAGOYA, HAKONE & TOKYO TOUR #1

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Onsen hot springs experience with seasonal Kaiseki Dinners on Sado Island and Nagano!  
Travel roundtrip from Tokyo!

10 Nights / 12 Days • 21 Meals (10 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 6 Dinners)  
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide  
Tour #1: April 02 – 13, 2026 • Tour Managers: Steven & Naomi Lee

**OVERVIEW:** One of Japan's largest islands, Sado Island has an interesting history. Its culture can be seen in its unique traditional arts and entertainment. Jigokudani, home of the world famous snow monkeys, is situated in the valley of the Yokoyu River. Two hundred or so Japanese Macaque monkeys inhabit the area. Hakone, famous for its onsen hot springs, natural beauty and the view of nearby Mt. Fuji, is one of the most popular destinations among Japanese and international tourists looking for a break from Tokyo. Tokyo is Japan's capital and the world's most populous metropolis and offers a seemingly unlimited choice of shopping, entertainment, culture, and dining to its visitors.

**VISIT:** Omiya, Niigata, Sado Island, Nagano, Matsumoto, Nagoya, Shizuoka, Hakone & Tokyo

**TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:** JR Super Express Train Ride, Northern Culture Museum, Pier Bandai, Jet Foil Ride to Sado Island, Oni-Daiko (Demon Drums) Performance, Kirariumu Sado, Kitazawa Flotation Plant, Sado Gold Mine, Obata Sake Brewery, Tarai-bune Boat Ride, Shukunegi, Japanese Crested Ibis Conservation Centre, Jet Foil Ride to Niigata Port, Niigata Furusato Village, Jigokudani Monkey Park (for Nagano Snow Monkeys), Zenko-ji Temple, Hokusai Museum, Stroll Around Obuse, Ishii Miso, Matsumoto Castle, Toyota Automobile Museum, Noritake no Mori, AEON MALL Nagoya Noritake Garden, Unagi Pie Factory, Michi-no-Eki Kakegawa, Owakudani, Hakone Ropeway, Asakusa Sensoji Temple, Nakamise Shopping & Ameyoko Shopping

**HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES:** Mochi Pounding, Soba Noodle Making, Strawberry Picking, Kimono Dress Up, Green Tea Field and Factory – Pack Your Own Canister of Tea, Hakone Yosegi-Zaiku Making & Sushi Making Class

## COMPLETE PACKAGE!

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

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\* 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: 11/21/25. 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. 072325



**Day 1: Thur, Apr 02** — HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #783 at 1:10 pm.

**Day 2: Fri, Apr 03** — NARITA — OMIYA. Arrive at the Narita International Airport at 4:45 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)

\*Baggage will be carried by truck from Omiya to Nagano, skipping Sado Island. Prepare an overnight bag for two nights.

**Day 3: Sat, Apr 04** — OMIYA — NIIGATA — SADO ISLAND. After a sumptuous breakfast buffet at the hotel, walk to the Omiya station. Transfer to Niigata by **JR Super Express Train**. Begin the sightseeing in Niigata with a tour of the **Northern Culture Museum**, which originally served 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. Don't forget to view the beautiful garden with its large pond. While there, **learn how to pound mochi**. It's not as easy as it looks. Next, explore **Pier Bandai**, a food market that offers multiple food options, including fish caught in the Sea of Japan, to vegetables and fruit directly delivered from farms, Niigata-produced koshihikari rice, a variety of high-quality brand sake from across the prefecture, and all kinds of Niigata's specialties relating to food. Then, transfer to Niigata Port to ride a **jet foil** to Sado Island. Arrive in Sado Island and transfer to hotel in Sado. Enjoy a traditional multi-course **Kaiseki Dinner**, featuring ingredients unique to Sado Island. During dinner, watch an **Oni-Daiko (Demon Drums) performance**. The **onsen hot springs** — 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, L, D)

**Day 4: Sun, Apr 05** — SADO ISLAND. After breakfast, depart on a full day sightseeing. Begin the day at **Kirariumu Sado**, the Sado Gold Mine Welcome Center, where you will learn everything you need to know about the gold mine. Take a drive by the **Kitazawa Flotation Plant**, before transferring to the **Sado Gold Mine**, to learn about the 400+ year history of the largest gold mine in Japan. Full-size dolls and robots provide accurate representation of the historic workings of the mine in the Edo period. In the museum, you can try to lift a pure gold bar, with a value of over 100 million yen, out of a clear box. Many have tried, but few have succeeded. Next, **learn how to make soba noodles** and eat your delicious creation for lunch. After lunch, visit the **Obata Sake Brewery**, the brewer of the *Manotsuru* brand sake. Established in 1892, this brewery has won the gold prize a total of ten times at the nation's most respected National New Sake Awards. It was also honored three times with a prestigious gold medal in the sake category at the world's largest wine competition held in London, the International Wine Challenge (in 2004, 2007, and 2015). This is your chance to purchase some of these prize winning sakes for your own collection. Next, 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 centimeters. Developed and used during the Edo and Meiji periods, the tarai-bune tub boats, mainly operated by women, were ideal for tight turns 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 a Western dinner at a local restaurant before returning to the hotel. (B, L, D)

**Day 5: Mon, Apr 06** — SADO ISLAND — NAGANO. Before departing from Sado, take a tour of the **Japanese Crested Ibis Conservation Centre**. Transfer to Ryotsu Port and take the **jet foil** to Niigata Port. The **Niigata Furusato Village** is a culture and tourism facility providing tourist information related to Niigata prefecture and introducing various local products. The facility provides tourist information, and it also sells specialty products of Niigata, including local sake, rice, and fresh fish. Enjoy free time here for lunch (on your own) and shopping. Then, transfer to the hotel in Nagano. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel. HOTEL METROPOLITAN NAGANO (2 Nights) (B, D)

**Day 6: Tue, Apr 07** — NAGANO. Full-day sightseeing in Nagano by coach, starting with a visit to the **Jigokudani Monkey Park (for Snow Monkeys)**. Next, explore the grounds of **Zenko-ji Temple**. One of the most important and popular temples in Japan, Zenko-Ji Temple was founded in the 7<sup>th</sup> century and stores the first Buddhist statue ever to be brought into Japan when Buddhism was first introduced in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. Have lunch (on your own) here. After lunch, visit a local farm and **pick some strawberries**. Enjoy these sweet treats as an afternoon snack! Learn more about Japan's most famous artist, renowned master of ukiyo-e woodblock prints, Katsushika Hokusai, at the **Hokusai Museum**. Said to have produced more than 30,000 artworks during his lifetime, Hokusai's great masterpiece — a great phoenix — adorns the ceiling of the Ganshoin Temple to this day. After taking a **stroll around Obuse**, return to the hotel for an evening of leisure. The Local Guide will have suggestions for dinner tonight. (B)

**Day 7: Wed, Apr 08** — NAGANO — MATSUMOTO — NAGOYA. After breakfast, depart for Nagoya via Matsumoto. Miso is a staple in Japanese cooking. Both the color and the flavor of the miso paste deepens during the fermentation and aging process. Whiter miso is fermented for a shorter time, while brown and red miso are aged and fermented for longer periods to produce the darker color and flavors. **Ishii Miso**, which was founded in 1868, is known for its traditional use of wooden barrels, natural fermentation (no heating process), and aging their miso for three years. You will have the chance to try their three-year-old miso at lunch. The souvenir store has additive-free miso, miso sweets, and miso soft serve ice cream for purchase. After lunch, you'll have the chance to experience **wearing a kimono** as you explore **Matsumoto Castle**. Depart Matsumoto for Nagoya. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel. NAGOYA TOKYU HOTEL (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

**Day 8: Thur, Apr 09** — NAGOYA. Begin the day with a visit to the **Toyota Automobile Museum**, a large museum showcasing the history of Toyota as an automobile manufacturer. In addition to displaying its own vehicles that Toyota



has manufactured over the years, numerous vehicles from other manufacturers of various makes are also displayed in the museum. Next, learn about Noritake, a leading ceramics company with over 100+ years of history, at **Noritake no Mori**. Built on the grounds of the Noritake's former factory grounds, Noritake no Mori includes a craft center, where visitors can observe how porcelain is created, and a museum, where examples of the items produced by the company throughout the years are displayed, a gardens, shop, café, and restaurant. Walk to the **AEON MALL Nagoya Noritake Garden** located next to Noritake no Mori. You'll have leisure time for shopping and lunch (on your own) here. Return to the hotel for an evening of leisure. The Local Guide will have suggestions for dinner tonight. (B)

\*Baggage will be carried by truck from Nagoya to Tokyo, skipping Hakone. Prepare an overnight bag for one night.

**Day 9: Fri, Apr 10** — NAGOYA — SHIZUOKA — HAKONE. Start the day at the famous **Unagi Pie Factory**, where the signature souvenir of Shizuoka Prefecture, Unagi Pies, are made and sold. This confection is a unique elongated oval shaped pie resembling the historically famous eels of Lake Hamana. What is even more surprising is that it not only a shape but is made by kneading real powdered eel into the dough. Its crispy texture and balanced sweetness and richness spread in your mouth always making you want to go for another piece. Stop at the road side stand **Michi-no-Eki Kakegawa** for lunch (on your own) along with a chance to get a little shopping done as well. Not only do they provide a clean and convenient rest stop, with quick and tasty food, but you will also find an array of farmer-direct merchandise along with other omiyage items. Shizuoka is a world leader in the production of Japanese green tea — with 40% of all of Japan's green tea being grown in Shizuoka. Wherever you go in the prefecture you will see row upon row of green tea hedges. After lunch, visit a **green tea field and factory** to learn about tea production. While there, **pack your own canister of tea**. What a great souvenir of your time in Shizuoka! Depart Shizuoka for Hakone, where much of the area is considered an active volcanic zone since its creation from eruption of Mt. Hakone some 3,000 years ago. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel. After dinner, soak your body in the **healing onsen hot springs** of Hakone. 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. HAKONE HOTEL KOWAKIEN (1 Night) (B, D)

**Day 10: Sat, Apr 11** — HAKONE — TOKYO. After breakfast, visit **Okwakudani** ("Great Boiling Valley"), and see the source of the hot spring waters of Hakone. Take the **Hakone Ropeway** and view the surrounding countryside. After lunch, try your hand at **Hakone Yosegi-Zaiku**, inlaid and mosaic woodwork unique to this area. A great souvenir of this trip! Transfer to the hotel in Tokyo. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel this evening. GRAND NIKKO TOKYO DAIBA (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

**Day 11: Sun, Apr 12** — TOKYO. Full day at leisure. A perfect day to shop, dine, and explore Tokyo on your own. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

**Day 12: Mon, Apr 13** — TOKYO — HANEDA — HONOLULU. After a sumptuous buffet breakfast, embark on a full day of discovery! Today's highlight will be a hands-on **sushi making session**, which will yield your delicious lunch. After lunch, 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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. Lastly, explore **Ameyoko**, a busy market street along the Yamanote Line tracks between Okachimachi and Ueno Stations. The name "Ameyoko" is a short form for "Ameya Yokocho" ("candy store alley"), as candies were traditionally sold there. Alternatively, "Ame" also stands for "America", because a lot of American products used to be available there when the street was the site of a black market in the years following WWII. Today, various products such as clothes, bags, cosmetics, fresh fish, dried food, and spices are sold along Ameyoko. Transfer to the airport for the flight home. Depart the Haneda International Airport via Japan Airlines flt #74 at 9:05 pm and arrive in Honolulu at 9:30 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B, L)

**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