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Off the Beaten Path: A Different Side of Japan

2026 CHERRY BLOSSOMS TAKAYAMA SPRING FESTIVAL

Enjoy your choice of Japan Airlines' "Economy," "Premium Economy," or the affordable luxury of "Business" class service. Premium Economy class customers will begin their journey with a relaxing visit to JAL's "Sakura Lounge" and the "Sakura Lounge — Hale" for Business class.

Onsen hot springs experiences in Takayama and Hakone! Travel from Osaka to Tokyo!

8 Nights / 10 Days • 19 Meals (8 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 6 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide
April 10 – 19, 2026

OVERVIEW: The Takayama Festival is ranked as one of Japan's three most beautiful festivals alongside Kyoto's Gion Matsuri and the Chichibu Yomatsuri. It is held twice a year in spring and autumn in the old town of Takayama, and attracts large numbers of spectators. From delightful onsen hot springs to specially prepared, Kaiseki Dinners, this tour has something for everyone! Join us!

VISIT: Kansai • Nara • Uji • Kyoto • Kanazawa • Shirakawago • Takayama • Oshino • Hakone • Tokyo

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS: Todaiji Temple • Nara Deer Park • Byodoin Temple
Fushimi Inari Shrine • Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion) • Sanjusangen-do
Stroll Through the Gion Geisha District • JR Limited Express Train Ride • Shirakawago
Myozenji Temple • Takayama Festival Evening and Daytime Floats • Takayama Morning Market
Kami-Sannomachi (Old Town) • Miso-gura • Oshino Hakkai • Owakudani • Hakone Ropeway
Lake Ashi Cruise • Asakusa Sensoji Temple • Nakamise Shopping • Ameyoko Shopping

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES: Yuzen Dyeing • Traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony
Hakone Yosegi-Zaiku • Sushi Making Class

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES: Todaiji Temple
Byodoin Temple • Kinkakuji Temple • Shirakawago

**Non-Stop Travel
Exclusive!**

DON'T MISS A THING!!
WHISPER — Wireless Tour Guide System!
English narration directly to your ear!

* 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-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: 12/01/25. 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.**

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COMPLETE PACKAGE!

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8 Nights Hotel, 19 Meals, Tips for Local Tour
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Day 1: Fri, Apr 10 — HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #791 at 11:35 am.

Day 2: Sat, Apr 11 — KANSAI. Arrive at the Kansai International Airport at 3:40 pm. Walk to your hotel which is a short covered walk from the airport. Dinner has been arranged at the hotel. HOTEL NIKKO KANSAI AIRPORT (1 Night) (D)

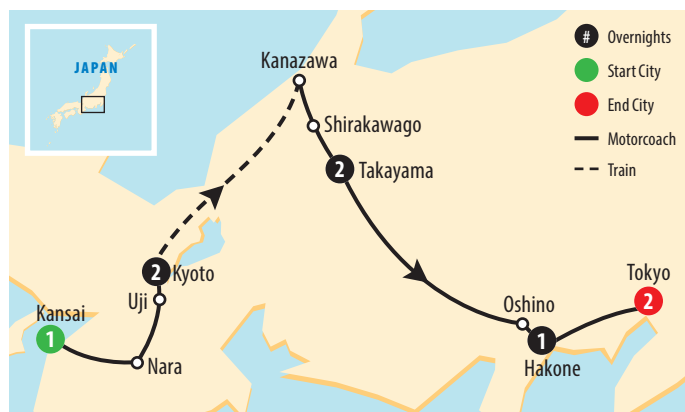
Day 3: Sun, Apr 12 — KANSAI — NARA — UJI — KYOTO. In the morning we will travel to Nara, the oldest capital city of Japan. Visit **Todaiji Temple**, the largest wooden building in Japan. The largest bronze statue of Buddha at 16.3 meters high and the surrounding **Nara Deer Park** is inhabited by **over 1,000 deer**. After lunch, we proceed to Uji where we will visit, **Byodoin Temple**. Together with its garden, the temple represents the Pure Land Paradise and was influential on later temple construction. Byodoin was initially built in 998 as a countryside retreat villa for the powerful politician Fujiwara no Michinaga, not as a temple. On our way to Kyoto, we will visit the stunning vermilion colored **Fushimi Inari Shrine**, whose four kilometer long tunnel of scarlet torii gates was featured in the film *Memoirs of a Geisha*. Enjoy a Western course dinner at the hotel. DOUBLETREE BY HILTON KYOTO STATION (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 4: Mon, Apr 13 — KYOTO. Today we continue our tour of Kyoto, once the capital of Japan and still considered its cultural center. Begin the morning with visit the famous **Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion)**, a Zen Temple whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. Formally known as Rokuonji, the temple was the retirement villa of the shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu. Today's hands-on experience is **Surikomi Yuzen (brush dyed Yuzen)**, which is one of Kyoto's traditional craft "Kyo-Yuzen Dyeing" techniques. Since the patterns are dyed by placing a paper stencil over a piece of fabric, such as a tote bag you can make an authentic piece, even if this is your first time. Your very own original work will be a perfect memento for yourself or a gift for someone. After lunch, experience a **traditional Japanese tea ceremony**. Next, visit **Sanjusangen-do**, the Buddhist temple famous for its 1,001 statues of Kannon, the goddess of compassion. Lastly, take a stroll through **Gion**, the old **Geisha Quarter**. Return to the hotel for an evening of leisure. The Local Guide will have suggestions on various dining and shopping opportunities nearby. (B, L)

*Baggage will be sent from Kyoto to Hakone — one per person — skipping Takayama. Prepare an overnight bag for two nights.

Day 5: Tue, Apr 14 — KYOTO — KANAZAWA — SHIRAKAWAGO — TAKAYAMA. After breakfast, take a **JR Limited Express Train** to Kanazawa located on the shores of the Sea of Japan. Enjoy lunch in Kanazawa before we head out to **Shirakawago**. Ogimachi is the largest village and main attraction of Shirakawago. The village is home to several dozen well preserved gassho-zukuri farmhouses, some of which are more than 250 years old. **Myozenji Temple**, which is unique for its thatched roof rather than the typical tiled roof seen on most temples, is connected to the Myozenji-ke farmhouse next door where the priest of the temple lives. Then, we continue on to Takayama, where a festival that dates to the 15th century will be heating up. Located amongst the Japan Alps it is known as "**Little Kyoto**" for its preserved historical structures. It was cut off from the rest of Japan for most of its history and thus has maintained a very unique and traditional atmosphere. This evening relax with a restful soak in the **onsen hot springs**. After a buffet dinner at the hotel, walk into town to experience the **Takayama Festival at night**. This festival is held on the 14th and 15th of April to pray for a good harvest. The highlight of the festival is in the evening when colorful dashi (floats) are led through the streets amid cheers and drums. These ornate floats are decorated with intricate wood carvings and beautiful metal work. HOTEL ASSOCIA TAKAYAMA RESORT (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 6: Wed, Apr 15 — TAKAYAMA. After breakfast we will continue sightseeing in Takayama, which includes the **Morning Market**. You can browse the market stalls for local crafts and fresh farm products. Takayama's Old Town has been beautifully preserved, with many buildings and whole streets of houses dating from the Edo Period (1600–1868). Enjoy the **Takayama Festival during the day**, as the floats parade through the town. After lunch (on your own), explore the **Kami-Sannomachi area (Old Town)**, you can find many old homes, shops, coffee houses and sake breweries, some of which have been in business for centuries. The remainder of the afternoon is at your leisure. Return to the hotel for a specially prepared **Kaiseki Dinner**. (B, D)



Day 7: Thur, Apr 16 — TAKAYAMA — OSHINO — HAKONE. After breakfast, depart Takayama for Hakone. En route, stop at **Miso-gura**, for lunch and time for shopping. After lunch, stop at **Oshino Hakkai**, a set of eight ponds located in the Fuji Five Lake Region. The eight ponds are fed by melting snow from the nearby slopes of Mt. Fuji. The melted snow filtered down through porous layers of lava for 80 years, resulting in a very clear spring water that is revered by the locals. Next to one pond, visitors can drink the cool water straight from the source. After lunch, continue to 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. Transfer to the hotel for a buffet dinner. 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. In addition, tour members are allowed to unlimited visits to nearby Hakone Kowakien Yunessun, an all-weather onsen amusement park, at no additional cost! Get your wristband, which will give you entry to Yunessun, at the hotel's front desk. Walk a short distance (three minutes) to Yunessun. The hotel wristband will allow you to enter without waiting in line, even when Yunessun is crowded! Get your one complimentary face and body towel and lounge wear (additional towels or lounge wear are at an additional cost). Enjoy food and beverages at Yunessun at your own expense. HAKONE HOTEL KOWAKIEN (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 8: Fri, Apr 17 — HAKONE — TOKYO. This morning, visit **Owakudani** ("Great Boiling Valley"), the source of the hot spring waters of Hakone. Then take the **Hakone Ropeway** and view the surrounding countryside. Enjoy a **boat ride on the beautiful Lake Ashi**. After lunch, try your hand at **Hakone Yosegi-Zaiku**, inlaid and mosaic woodwork unique to this area. Then, proceed to Tokyo. This evening, dinner will be served at the hotel. GRAND NIKKO TOKYO DAIBA (2 Nights) (B, D)

Day 9: Sat, Apr 18 — TOKYO. Day at leisure. Perfect day to relax and/or visit with family and friends in Tokyo. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

Day 10: Sun, Apr 19 — TOKYO — HONOLULU. After a sumptuous buffet breakfast embark on a full day of discovery! Today's highlight will be a hands-on **sushi making class**, which will yield your delicious lunch. After lunch, visit **Asakusa** in 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 7th 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. Next, begin exploring **Ameyoko**, a busy market street along the Yamanote Line tracks between Okachimachi and Ueno Stations. The name "Ameyoko" is a short form for "Ameya Yokochō" ("candy store alley"), as candies were traditionally sold there. 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 Haneda International Airport via Japan Airlines flt #74 at 9:05 pm and arrive Honolulu at 9:30 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B, L)

UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Todaiji Temple (1998), Byodoin Temple (1994), Kinkakuji Temple (1994), Shirakawago (1995).