



2026 FALL GRAND MIYAJIMA, HIROSHIMA, KYOTÓ, NARA & OSAKA TOUR #1

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*Featuring 2 Nights at the incomparable Iwaso Inn 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: October 03 – 13, 2026

VISIT:

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

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion), Nijo Castle, Sagano Torokko Ressha (Sagano Romantic Train) Ride, Arashiyama Bamboo Forest, Chazuna, Byodoin Temple, Nara Sumi Kinkoen, Todaiji Temple, Nara Deer Park, Himeji Castle, Kurashiki Bikan Area, AEON MALL, 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, Kuromon Ichiba Market, Dotonbori Shopping & Shinsaibashi Shopping Arcade

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES:

Yuzen Dyeing, Wagashi (Traditional Japanese Sweets) Making, Matcha Grinding, Learn the Art of Nigiri Sumi (Ink Sticks), Practice Calligraphy & Momiji Manju Making

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES:

Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion), Nijo Castle, Byodoin Temple, Todaiji Temple, Himeji Castle, Atomic Bomb Dome & Itsukushima Shrine

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Day 1: Sat, Oct 03 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #799 at 11:35 am.

Day 2: Sun, Oct 04 – KANSAI. Arrive at Kansai International Airport at 3:40 pm. After entry formalities, walk to the hotel located within the airport. Dinner will be served at the hotel. HOTEL NIKKO KANSAI AIRPORT (1 Night) (D)

Day 3: Mon, Oct 05 – KANSAI – KYOTO. After a sumptuous buffet breakfast at the hotel, embark on a full day of sightseeing beginning with a visit to **Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion)**, a Zen Temple whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. After lunch, explore the grounds of **Nijo Castle**. When the Tokugawa Shogunate fell in 1867, Nijo Castle was used as an imperial palace for a while before being donated to the city and opened up to the public as a historic site. Its palace buildings are arguably the best surviving examples of castle palace architecture of Japan's feudal era. Finally, today's hands-on experience is **yuzen dyeing** (surikomi yuzen), which is one of Kyoto's traditional craft 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. A great souvenir of this tour! Transfer to the hotel for an evening of leisure. After check-in, explore the many restaurants and shops conveniently located near your hotel. MIYAKO HOTEL KYOTO HACHIO (3 Nights) (B, L)

Day 4: Tue, Oct 06 – KYOTO – KAMEOKA – ARASHIYAMA – KYOTO. After breakfast, travel to Kameoka and board the **Sagano Torokko Ressa** (Sagano Romantic Train) to Arashiyama. In Arashiyama, you'll have the choice of several activities. Explore the famous **Arashiyama Bamboo Forests**. Or shop for world-famous Arashiyama bamboo products. Enjoy a very special **yudofu (boiled tofu)** set menu lunch, a local Arashiyama specialty. **Learn how to make wagashi (traditional Japanese sweets)**. Return to Kyoto for another evening of leisure. (B, L)

Day 5: Wed, Oct 07 – KYOTO – UJI – NARA – KYOTO. Begin the day at the Tea and Uji Community Center, **Chazuna**, where you will **learn how to grind green tea leaves** via a grinding millstone. You can brew your own ground matcha in a teapot and drink it. Next, visit **Byodo-in Temple**. Together with its garden, the temple represents the “Pure Land Paradise” and was influential on later temple construction. Byodo-in was initially built in 998 as a countryside retreat villa for the powerful politician Fujiwara no Michinaga, not as a temple. Did you know that 95% of Japan's ink is currently produced in Nara? After lunch, you'll **learn about the art of nigiri sumi (ink sticks)**, which has been around since the Muromachi period (1336–1573) at **Nara Sumi Kinkoen**. An artesian will tell you about the history of this craft as he demonstrates how to mold the raw ink, with the warmth of your hands, into a one-of-a-kind hand-pressed nigiri sumi that will bear the impression of your hand and fingerprints. Next, using nigiri sumi that have already dried and hardened, you'll **practice the art of calligraphy** as you learn to write your name in hiragana. What fun! Before departing Nara, visit **Todaiji Temple**, the largest wooden building in Japan that houses the largest bronze statue of Buddha, measuring 16.3m high. The surrounding **Nara Deer Park** is inhabited by over 1,000 deer. Will these deer “bow” to you for a cracker (sold on Nara Park grounds)? Return to the hotel in Kyoto for a buffet dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Thur, Oct 08 – KYOTO – HIMEJI – KURASHIKI – OKAYAMA. After a sumptuous buffet breakfast we drove 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. After lunch, visit **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. Transfer to Okayama where you will enjoy shopping and dining (on your own) at an **AEON MALL**. HOTEL GRANVIA OKAYAMA (1 Night) (B, L)

*Baggage will be sent from Okayama to Osaka, skipping Miyajima. Prepare an overnight bag for two nights.

Day 7: Fri, Oct 09 – OKAYAMA – HIROSHIMA – MIYAJIMA. Depart Okayama for Hiroshima. After lunch, visit the **Peace Memorial Park**, **Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum**, **Atomic Bomb Dome**, **Children's Memorial**, and the **Peace Bell**. After a **short ferry ride** arrive on the island of Miyajima, considered sacred by many. This evening soak in the relaxing atmosphere of Iwaso Inn's **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) (B, L, D)



Day 8: Sat, Oct 10 – MIYAJIMA. After a special breakfast, walk to the nearby **Itsukushima Shrine**. At high tide, the vermilion torii gate 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). **Learn how to make momiji manju**, a specialty of the area. After, explore **Omotesando Street**, the main street of Miyajima Island, for excellent shopping and numerous choices for lunch (on your own). Then, take in the view from the **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. This evening enjoy a different variety of **Kaiseki Dinner**. Be sure to enjoy the **onsens** before and after your dinner. (B, D)

Day 9: Sun, Oct 11 – MIYAJIMA – HIROSHIMA – OSAKA. After breakfast, we make our way back to Hiroshima via a **short ferry ride**. We then take a ride on the **JR Super Express Train** to Osaka. After checking-in to the hotel, the remainder of the day is at your leisure. Your Local Guide will have many suggestions for dinner and shopping. HILTON OSAKA (2 Nights) (B)

Day 10: Mon, Oct 12 – 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 11: Tue, Oct 13 – OSAKA – ITAMI – HANEDA – HONOLULU. After hotel checkout, start the day with a visit to **Kuromon Ichiba Market**, a lively covered market which stretches for 580m 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 and Shinsaibashi Shopping Arcade, a couple of Osaka's most popular tourist destinations. **Dotonbori** is a popular shopping and entertainment district that runs parallel to Dotonbori Canal, and is also known as a food destination. At approximately 600m long, **Shinsaibashi Shopping Arcade** and the surrounding area is Osaka's premier shopping center. The unique area combines chain retail stores and trendy boutiques with department stores and top designer fashion labels. Enjoy lunch here (on your own). Transfer to the Osaka Itami Airport for our return flight home. Depart Itami via Japan Airlines flt #128 at 5:00 pm and arrive in the Haneda Domestic Airport at 6:15 pm. 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)

UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Kinkakuji Temple (1994), Nijo Castle (1994), Byodo-in Temple (1994), Todaiji Temple (1998), Himeji Castle (1993), Atomic Bomb Dome (1996), Itsukushima Shrine (1996)

* 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 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: 05/26/26. NST at its discretion, may use group and individual photos on its website, print, television, and various social media. [†] 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 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.** JI6629 013026

