



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

# 2026 FALL GRAND OKINAWA PLUS FUKUOKA

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**10 Nights / 12 Days • 19 Meals (10 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 6 Dinners)**  
**Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide**  
**November 05 – 16, 2026 • Tour Manager: Wendy Iwasaki**

**OVERVIEW:** Okinawa is home to a unique culture that differs considerably from that of mainland Japan. Until the islands were invaded by the Satsuma domain (present day Kagoshima Prefecture) in 1609, Okinawa existed as an entirely separate country from Japan, known as the Ryukyu Kingdom. After the invasion, the Ryukyu Kingdom served as a tributary state to Japan, but continued to be governed by the royal family from Shuri Castle. It was not until 1879, a few years after the Meiji Restoration, that the kingdom was abolished and incorporated into Japan as Okinawa Prefecture. The castles of Okinawa, known as "Gusuku" in the Okinawan language, are among the most vivid monuments that testify to the unique cultural and historical heritage of the Ryukyu Kingdom. In the year 2000, five castles and four related sites were designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites under the collective title of "Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu."

**VISIT:** Haneda, Naha, Itoman, Nanjo, Onna, Kitanakagusuku, Manza, Motobu, Nakijin & Fukuoka

**TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:** Walking Tour Around the Hotel, Himeyuri Peace Museum, Mabuni Hill, Okinawa Peace Memorial Park, Okinawa World, Gyokusendo Cave, Habu (Snake) Museum, Ryukyu Mura, AEON MALL Okinawa Rycom, Awamori Factory, Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium, Nakijin Castle Site, Sweets House, Shuri Castle, Dazaifu, Kushida Shrine, Hakata Machiya Furusato Kan & AEON MALL

**HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES:** Shisa Painting, Ryusou Ryukyu Kimono Dress-Up, Ryuzen Zome (Coral Dyeing), Fruit Picking & Hakata Doll Painting

**UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES:** Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu

## COMPLETE PACKAGES!

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**Day 1: Thur, Nov 05** – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 12:05 pm.

**Day 2: Fri, Nov 06** – HANEDA. Arrive at the Haneda International Airport at 4:05 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: Sat, Nov 07** – HANEDA – NAHA. 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 #915 at 11:55 am and arrive at the Naha International Airport at 2:45 pm. Transfer to the hotel. After checking-in at the hotel, take a **walking tour** to familiarize yourself with the **area around the hotel**. Walk to a nearby restaurant for dinner. HOTEL COLLECTIVE (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

**Day 4: Sun, Nov 08** – NAHA – ITOMAN – NANJO – NAHA. After breakfast, we visit two WWII memorial sites. Begin by exploring the **Himeyuri Peace Museum**, which details what the Okinawan people experienced: from the atrocities of war, to their struggles during American occupation, and the difficulties they faced with the switching of government powers in the post-war years. The museum also commemorates the fate of the female high school students that had worked in the army field hospitals under horrendous conditions, many of which did not survive the war. Testimonials of the few survivors of the Battle of Okinawa are exhibited here, offering detailed recollections of their painful experiences. Next is the **Okinawa Peace Memorial Park**, situated on **Mabuni Hill**, the site where the Battle of Okinawa ended, was created to mourn the loss of close to a quarter of a million people. One of the key features of the park is the Cornerstone of Peace inscribed with the names of some 200,000 individuals, including civilians and Japanese and foreign soldiers, who lost their lives in the Battle of Okinawa. The concept of the stone monuments is to remember those who died and to pray for them, to share lessons learned from war and to provide a place for meditation and learning. Spend the afternoon exploring **Okinawa World**, a theme park about Okinawan culture. The park's main attractions are a **massive natural cave, craft village, and a habu (snake) museum**. With a total length of 5km, **Gyokusendo Cave** is the longest of the many caves in southern Okinawa, and the second longest cave in the entire country. 850m of the cave are open to the public and feature spectacular stalactites and stalagmites. The Kingdom Village is a nice replica of a traditional Ryukyu village with workshops introducing the various traditional Okinawan crafts, such as weaving, dyeing, paper making, pottery, sugar cane processing, the making of music instruments, and the more recently introduced glass blowing. Colorful Ryukyu glass is one of those must have souvenirs when visiting Okinawa. Taking a tour of the work shop allows visitors to see how the craftsmen create their art. Hands-on experiences are offered at many of the workshops. Enjoy lunch here. This evening, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. Transfer back to the hotel. (B, L, D)

\*Baggage will be held at the hotel in Naha. Prepare an overnight bag for two nights.

**Day 5: Mon, Nov 09** – NAHA – ONNA – KITANAKAGUSUKU – MANZA. After breakfast, we head north to Onna and spend the morning at **Ryukyu Mura**, a small theme park about Okinawan culture in the form of a recreated village from the times of the Ryukyu Kingdom. The highlight of the village is the eisa show. Eisa, a form of folk dance originating in the Okinawa, is performed during the obon festival to honor the spirits of one's ancestors. In the finale of the eisa show, visitors can join in on the dance known as kachashi. The word "kachashi" in the Okinawan dialect means "to mix" – it implies the idea of sharing happiness, which fosters a sense of unity that transcends borders and language barriers. Then, stop at **AEON MALL Okinawa Rycom** for shopping and lunch (on your own). Next, we visit an **awamori (rice liquor) factory**. Awamori is the signature alcoholic beverage of Okinawa. Learn the unique process involved in making awamori. Enjoy dinner at the hotel tonight. ANA INTERCONTINENTAL MANZA BEACH RESORT (2 Nights) (B, D)

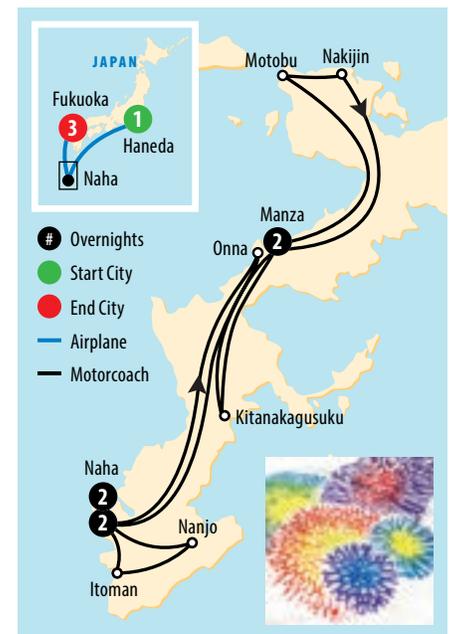
**Day 6: Tue, Nov 10** – MANZA – MOTOBU – NAKIJIN – MANZA. After an incredible breakfast buffet, enjoy a visit to the **Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium**, one of the largest and most renowned aquariums in the world. Located within the Ocean Expo Park, a large, multi-attraction recreational complex, it is widely considered Japan's best aquarium. A highlight of the aquarium is the massive Kuroshio Sea Tank, one of the largest in the world. Enjoy lunch (on your own) here. Next, visit the ruins of **Nakijin Castle** and learn about the history of Okinawa. The castle is a former residence of the Ryukyu Kingdom governor during the 14<sup>th</sup> century and is a designated UNESCO World Heritage site. Let your creative side loose when you **paint a Shisa**, a traditional Ryukyuan cultural artifact and decoration. Often seen in pairs and resemble a cross between a lion and a dog, shisa are from Okinawan mythology, and are believed to protect from some evils. People place pairs of shisa on their rooftops or flanking gates to their houses, with the left shisa traditionally has a closed mouth, the right one an open mouth. The open mouth shisa traditionally wards off evil spirits, while the closed mouth shisa keeps good spirits in. Transfer back to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

**Day 7: Wed, Nov 11** – MANZA – NAHA. Say goodbye to the beautiful coral reefs, cobalt blue ocean views, and pristine white beaches of Manza Beach as you depart the hotel. Before leaving Manza, make a stop at **Sweets House**. After lunch, visit **Shuri Castle** (Shurijo), the most important castle of the Ryukyu Kingdom, serving both as the central government office and royal residence. Although the main buildings of Shuri Castle were destroyed in a fire in October 2019, reconstruction to bring back the castle to its former glory is expected to be completed in 2026. Shurijo is the only castle in Okinawa that has been reconstructed. Only ruins remain of all the other castles. **Dress up in Ryusou Ryukyu kimonos** for a group photo! Coral is a fundamental part of the history and culture of the Okinawan Islands. Many areas of Okinawa's main island are made of Ryukyu limestone formed by ancient coral reefs several hundred thousand years ago. Today, coral fossils are often used to create various art pieces in Okinawa. Try your hand at bringing your own art to life when you learn how to decorate a tote bag using **ryuzen zome**, a **coral dyeing** technique done only in Okinawa. After arriving at the hotel, walk to a nearby restaurant for an Okinawan dinner. HOTEL COLLECTIVE (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

**Day 8: Thur, Nov 12** – NAHA. Full day at leisure. The perfect day to relax and/or visit with family and friends in Okinawa. Don't miss the out on the numerous shopping opportunities on Kokusai-dori, the main shopping street in Naha, including the Heiwa-dori shopping arcade or the Don Quijote that is open until 3:00 am every day! Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

**Day 9: Fri, Nov 13** – NAHA – FUKUOKA. Depart Naha Airport via Japan Transocean Air flt #52 at 10:30 am. Arrive at the Fukuoka Airport at 12:10 pm. Transfer by motorcoach to your hotel in Fukuoka. The Local Guide will have suggestions for dinner and your evening of leisure. HOTEL NEW OTANI HAKATA (3 Nights) (B)

**Day 10: Sat, Nov 14** – FUKUOKA. After a sumptuous breakfast buffet at your hotel, depart for a full day of sightseeing. **Dazaifu** was established in the late 7<sup>th</sup> century and served as the administrative center of the entire island of Kyushu for over 500 years. Nowadays, Dazaifu is a small, quiet city on the outskirts of the large city of Fukuoka. Enjoy lunch (on your own) here. After lunch, go to a local farm and **pick fruit** at the peak of ripeness. Then, head to **Kushida Shrine**, a Shinto shrine affectionately referred to as "Okushi-san" by local. This shrine is deeply loved by the citizens of Fukuoka and is the starting location of two of Fukuoka's famous summer festivals: the Hakata Gion Yamasaka and Hakata Okunchi. Before leaving the shrine, look for the well surrounded by three cranes. 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, the wellbeing of your family with the second sip, and finally for the health of friends with the third sip. Next, spend some time exploring **Hakata Machiya Furusato Kan**, a folk museum that showcases the lifestyle and culture of life in Hakata (Fukuoka) during the Meiji and Taisho periods. Return to the hotel for an evening of leisure. (B)

**Day 11: Sun, Nov 15** – FUKUOKA. A free day at leisure. Explore Fukuoka on your own. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. Perfect day to relax and/or visit with family and friends in Fukuoka. Or perhaps do more shopping! (B)

**Day 12: Mon, Nov 16** – FUKUOKA – HONOLULU. After a leisurely breakfast, try your hand at **hakata doll painting**, which makes a great souvenir and gift. Then, make a stop at an **AEON MALL** for some last minute shopping and lunch (on your own). Then transfer to the Fukuoka Airport for the flights home. Depart Fukuoka via Japan Airlines flt #322 at 4:50 pm. Arrive at the Haneda Domestic Airport at 6:30 pm. Depart the Haneda International Airport via Japan Airlines flt #74 at 9:00 pm and arrive Honolulu at 9:00 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B)

**UNESCO World Heritage Sites:** Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu (2000)

\* 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 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: 06/26/26. 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 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.** J16637 013026

