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Off the Beaten Path: A Different Side of Japan

2026 FALL ISE GRAND SHRINE, TOBA, SHIRAHAMA, MT. KOYA & WAKAYAMA PLUS OSAKA TOUR #1

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9 Nights / 11 Days • 19 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 6 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide
Tour #1: October 12 – 22, 2026

VISIT: Kansai, Toba, Ise, Nachikatsuura, Kushimoto, Shirahama, Wakayama, Mt. Koya, Osaka, Kyoto & Uji

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS: Hachiman Kamado, Mikimoto Pearl Island, Ise Grand Shrine, Okage Yokocho Street, Toba Aquarium, Toba Ichibangai, Futami Okitama Shrine, Meoto Iwa, Kumano Nachi Taisha, Nachi no Taki, Hashigui Iwa Rocks, Toretore Market, Sandanbeki Cliffs, Sandanbeki Cave, Senjoshiki, Umeboshi (Salted Plum) Factory, Ota Kyusuke Miso Factory, Kadocho Soy Sauce Factory, Wakayama Castle, Mt. Koya, Kongobuji, Kuromon Ichiba Market, Dotonbori Shopping, Nijo Castle, Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion), TeamLab Biovortex Kyoto, Chazuna, Byodoin Temple, Byodoin Omotesando & AEON MALL Rinku Sennan

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES: Yuzen Dyeing & Matcha Grinding

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE: Nijo Castle, Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion) & Byodoin Temple

COMPLETE PACKAGES!

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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. 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: 06/04/26. 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. J16613 013026



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Day 1: Mon, Oct 12 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 12:15 pm.

Day 2: Tue, Oct 13 – HANEDA – KANSAI. Arrive at the Haneda International Airport at 3:55 pm. Depart Haneda via Japan Airlines flt #229 at 8:55 pm and arrive at the Kansai Domestic Airport at 10:20 pm. After entry formalities, walk to the hotel located across from Kansai Airport. Enjoy dinner at the hotel. HOTEL NIKKO KANSAI AIRPORT (1 Night) (D)

Day 3: Wed, Oct 14 – KANSAI – TOBA. After breakfast, depart Kansai for Toba. Learn about the Ama, local women who free dive for shellfish, sea vegetables, and other marine products. Relax in the **Hachiman Kamado**, the huts used by the Ama to warm up between dives. Enjoy some freshly caught seafood for lunch while the Ama divers share stories of their adventures. After lunch, learn about pearls and pearl cultivation at **Mikimoto Pearl Island**. Enjoy a special **Kaiseki Dinner** at the hotel tonight. TOBA HOTEL INTERNATIONAL (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 4: Thur, Oct 15 – TOBA – ISE – TOBA. After breakfast, travel to Ise and visit the **Ise Grand Shrine** (Ise Jingu Shrine), the most important Shinto shrine in the country. Dedicated to the sun goddess Amaterasu, Ise Grand Shrine is the ancestral shrine of the emperors of Japan. Explore **Okage Yokocho Street**, a street reproducing the crowded Ise temple town during the end stage of the Edo Period (1603–1868). There are many shops for you to explore and enjoy lunch (on your own) here. Next, visit **Toba Aquarium**, which contains one of the largest number of species of fish and animals in Japan spread out over twelve zones. The Toba Aquarium is also the only aquarium in Japan to have a dugong in captivity. Spend some time at **Toba Ichibangai**, the largest shopping center in Toba, before returning to the hotel for a Western course dinner. (B, D)

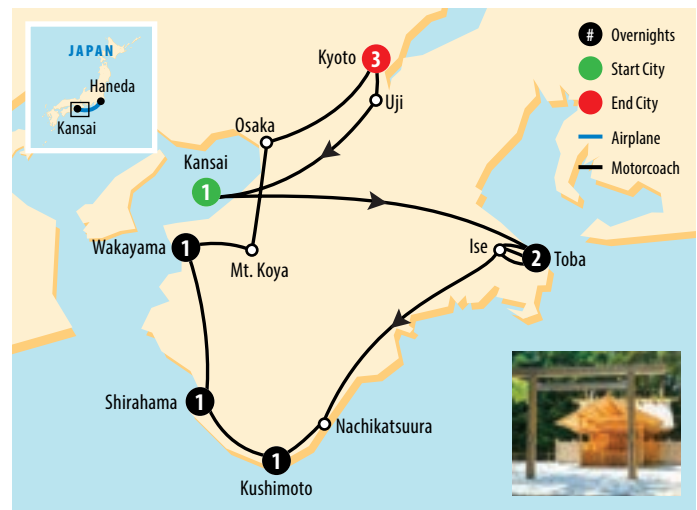
*Baggage will be sent from Toba to Wakayama, skipping Kushimoto and Shirahama. Prepare an overnight bag for two nights.

Day 5: Fri, Oct 16 – TOBA – ISE – NACHIKATSUURA – KUSHIMOTO. After breakfast, visit the **Futami Okitama Shrine**, where a number of Shinto deities are enshrined. Many frog sculptures can be seen in the vicinity of the shrine as they are believed to be a type of charm for bringing people or things back. Not far from the shrine is the **Meoto Iwa**, a pair of large and small rocks located side by side in the sea. The larger of the two rocks represents the husband and the smaller one represents the wife. Both rocks are connected by a shimenawa rope which acts as the division between the spiritual and earthly realms. After lunch, visit **Kumano Nachi Taisha**, one of the three Kumano shrines, situated a few kilometers inland from the coastal hot spring resort of Katsura. The shrine is part of a large complex of neighboring religious sites that exemplify the past fusion of Buddhist and Shinto. The site also boasts the tallest waterfall in Japan, **Nachi no Taki**. The tallest single-tiered waterfall in Japan, it was the original religious site in the area. Transfer to the hotel for a buffet dinner. MERCURE WAKAYAMA KUSHIMOTO RESORT & SPA (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 6: Sat, Oct 17 – KUSHIMOTO – SHIRAHAMA. After breakfast, visit the **Hashigui Iwa Rocks**, a group of 40 gigantic igneous rocks that form a line in the sea that is 850 meters long. Stop at **Toretore Market** for some shopping and lunch (on your own). After lunch, visit the **Sandanbeki Cliffs** and **Sandanbeki Cave**. Lastly, visit **Senjoshiki**, a unique landscape located on the west coast of Shirahama before transferring to the hotel for a Western dinner. MARRIOTT NANKI SHIRAHAMA (1 Night) (B, D)

Day 7: Sun, Oct 18 – SHIRAHAMA – WAKAYAMA. Depart Shirahama for Wakayama. Enjoy shopping at an **umeboshi (salted plum) factory**, for this uniquely Japanese staple. Next, learn about two ingredients essential to Japanese cuisine at the **Ota Kyusuke Miso Factory** and **Kadocho Soy Sauce Factory**. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Lastly, visit **Wakayama Castle**. Built on the orders of warlord Toyotomi Hideyoshi in 1585. Unfortunately the castle did not survive WWII, and most of the present buildings are a 1958 post-war reconstruction. Only the Okaguchi Gate and stone walls remain from the original castle. Transfer to the hotel in Wakayama. Enjoy dinner at the hotel. DAIWA ROYNET HOTEL WAKAYAMA (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 8: Mon, Oct 19 – WAKAYAMA – MT. KOYA – OSAKA – KYOTO. After breakfast, explore **Mt. Koya** (Koya-san), the center of Shingon Buddhism; an important Buddhist sect which was introduced to Japan in 805 by Kobo Daishi (also known as Kukai), one of Japan's most significant religious figures. A small, secluded temple town has developed around the sect's headquarters that Kobo Daishi built on Koyasan's wooded mountaintop. It is also the site of Kobo Daishi's mausoleum and the start and end point of the Shikoku 88 Temple Pilgrimage. Kobo Daishi began construction on the original Garan Temple Complex in 826 after wandering the country for years in search of a suitable place to center his religion. Since then, over one hundred temples have sprung up along the streets of Koyasan. We visit the most important among them. **Kongobuji**, the head temple of Shingon Buddhism. Next explore the **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. Enjoy lunch (on your own) while here. Lastly, visit **Dotonbori**, one of Osaka's most popular tourist destinations. It is a popular shopping and entertainment district and is also known as a food destination. Transfer to the hotel in Kyoto. The remainder of the day is at your leisure. The Local Guide will have suggestions on various dining and shopping opportunities nearby. MIYAKO HOTEL KYOTO HACHUJO (3 Nights) (B)

Day 9: Tue, Oct 20 – KYOTO. Full day at leisure. Your hotel is surrounded by department stores, specialty stores, and restaurants. A perfect day to fulfill your shopping list. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

Day 10: Wed, Oct 21 – KYOTO. After a delicious Japanese/Western buffet breakfast at the hotel, embark on a full day of sightseeing beginning with a visit to **Nijo Castle**. After 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. Today's hands-on experience is **yuzen dyeing**. Since the patterns are dyed by placing a paper stencil over a table mat you can make an authentic piece, even if this is your first time. After lunch, visit **Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion)**, a Zen Temple whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. Lastly, explore the wonders of **teamLab Biovortex Kyoto**, a new concept by the team behind the international art collective teamLab. This venue focuses on a high-dimensional thinking athletics space based on the concept of perceiving the world with your body and thinking about it high-dimensionally. In a complex and challenging space, you will be immersed in a physically challenging four-dimensional world where time changes with the presence of your body. Return to the hotel for an evening of leisure. (B, L)

Day 11: Thur, Oct 22 – KYOTO – UJI – KANSAI – HONOLULU. After breakfast, check out from hotel. A full day of sightseeing is ahead. 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 **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. At **Byodoin Omotesando**, the road leading up to the main gate of Byodoin Temple, are long-established tea shops are located. The air is filled with the fragrance of tea. In 2001, the Ministry of the Environment recognized it as one of the "Top 100 Fragrant Landscapes to Pass on and Preserve." In addition to the long-established Uji tea shops, there are plenty of stores selling unique local products of Uji and souvenir shops. There are also numerous restaurants and cafés where you can leisurely enjoy a menu full of tea-based dishes, such as tea dumplings, matcha sweets, tea soba noodles, as well as Kyoto-style obanzai (traditional home-cooked dishes). One of the major attractions is the ability to enjoy authentic matcha soft serve ice cream while walking around. Try comparing the matcha soft serve from different shops and find your favorite. Enjoy time to shop and have lunch (on your own) here. A final shopping stop will be made at **AEON MALL Rinku Sennan** before transferring to Kansai International Airport for our return flight home. Depart Kansai via Japan Airlines flt #790 at 10:10 pm and arrive in Honolulu at 10:45 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B)

UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Nijo Castle (1994), Kinkakuji Temple (1994), Byodoin Temple (1994)

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.** 013026