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# 2026 FALL NORTHERN KYUSHU, IWAKUNI & OSAKA GOURMET TOUR

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11 Nights / 13 Days • 24 Meals (11 Breakfasts, 7 Lunches, 6 Dinners)  
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide  
November 11 – 23, 2026

**VISIT:** Haneda, Fukuoka, Sasebo, Nagasaki, Unzen, Shimabara, Kumamoto, Beppu, Kitakyushu, Shimonoseki, Iwakuni, Hiroshima & Osaka

**TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:** Dazaifu Tenmangu, Kushida Shrine, Hakata Machiya Furusato Kan, Kujukushima National Park, Kujukushima Cruise, Huis Ten Bosch Amusement Park, Glover Garden, Chinatown, Dejima, Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, Unzen Jigoku, Unzen Ropeway, Shimabara Bukeyashiki, Shimeiso Garden, Ferry Ride to Kumamoto, Suizenji Park, Kumamoto Castle, Sakurano-Baba Josaien, Umi Jigoku ("Sea Hell"), Chinoike Jigoku ("Blood Pond Hell"), Moji Port, Karato Market, Akama Shrine, Museum of Japanese Emigration to Hawaii, Kintaikyo Bridge, Orizuru Tower, Hiroshima Train Station Shopping, Shinkansen Bullet Train Ride, Kuromon Ichiba Market, Dotonbori Shopping, Shinsaibashi Shopping Arcade & AEON MALL Rinku Sennan

**HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES:** Umegae Sake Brewery Tour and Tasting, Kimono Dress-up & Okonomiyaki (Savory Pancake) Making

## 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](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: 06/29/26. 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.**

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**Day 1: Wed, Nov 11** – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 12:05 pm.

**Day 2: Thur, Nov 12** – 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: Fri, Nov 13** – HANEDA – FUKUOKA. 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 #315 at 11:00 am and arrive at the Fukuoka Airport at 1:00 pm. Upon arrival in Fukuoka, visit **Dazaifu Tenmangu**, a Shinto shrine that worships Sugawara Michizane, or Tenjin, the deity of learning, culture, and the arts. As one of Japan's most important Shinto shrines, it welcomes more than 10 million visitors a year. 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. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant before arriving at the hotel for the evening. NISHITETSU GRAND HOTEL (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

**Day 4: Sat, Nov 14** – FUKUOKA. Day at leisure. The Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

**Day 5: Sun, Nov 15** – FUKUOKA – SASEBO. Japan is a nation of many islands but most travelers never get beyond the main four. At **Kujukushima National Park** near Sasebo in Nagasaki Prefecture, however, you can up your island quotient by taking a **scenic cruise** of the region's waters. The word "kujuku" literally means "99" but has come to refer to as a vast number or something uncountable. In truth, there are 208 islands off the coast of Sasebo, the largest concentration of islands anywhere in Japan. If these islands look familiar, chalk it up to the fact that they featured prominently in the opening scenes of the film *The Last Samurai*. After lunch, learn about sake at **Umegae Shuzo**, a sake brewery that is well known for its traditional methods. Take a **tour of the facilities and taste some of their award-winning sake**. After checking into the hotel, you'll receive your entrance ticket to **Huis Ten Bosch**, an amusement park that recreates a Dutch town, conveniently located next to the hotel. This spacious resort is suffused with a European atmosphere with its picturesque canals, iconic windmills, beautiful gardens and architecture. You can explore the park at your leisure this evening. HOTEL NIKKO HUIS TEN BOSCH (1 Night) (B, L)

**Day 6: Mon, Nov 16** – SASEBO – NAGASAKI. After breakfast, begin the day with a visit to **Glover Garden**, an open-air museum exhibiting mansions of former Western merchants of Nagasaki. A nice panorama of the city can be enjoyed from the garden of the Former Glover House, the oldest wooden Western-style building in Japan. Next, travel to Nagasaki's **Chinatown** for lunch. After lunch, take a stroll around the area. Then visit **Dejima**, the artificial island built in the shape of a fan that was used as the sole trading spot with foreign countries from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. For 200 years, until Japan reopened the country in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Dejima was its only window to the world. Next, visit the **Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum**, an informative yet sobering look at the impact of the dropping of the "Fat Man" atomic bomb on Nagasaki. Tonight, enjoy a special **shippoku dinner** (Japanese culinary style that is heavily influenced by Chinese cuisine) at the hotel. While not an onsen hot spring, the large public baths at the hotel offer stunning views of the city. INASAYAMA KANKO HOTEL (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 7: Tue, Nov 17** – NAGASAKI – UNZEN – SHIMABARA – KUMAMOTO. First stop this morning is at **Unzen Jigoku** ("Unzen Hell"), where hot water and gases spout out of the earth. **Unzen Ropeway** leads part way up the mountain slope. The lower and upper ropeway stations have observation decks with views over the surrounding mountains and the Ariake Sea all the way to Kumamoto Prefecture on a clear day. Enjoy the spectacular views. After lunch, explore **Shimabara Bukeyashiki** (Samurai Residence Street). Then, spend some time at **Shimeiso Garden** to view the spring water pond with numerous carp swimming inside. Take a **short ferry ride to Kumamoto**. The remainder of the day is at your leisure. Recommendations will be made by the Local Guide for dinner options. KUMAMOTO HOTEL CASTLE (1 Night) (B, L)

**Day 8: Wed, Nov 18** – KUMAMOTO – BEPPU. Begin the day exploring **Suizenji Park**, a spacious, Japanese-style garden in Kumamoto, best enjoyed by strolling along its circular path. Built by the Hosokawa Family in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the garden reproduces the 53 post stations of the Tokaido Road – the important road which connected Edo (historical name for modern-day Tokyo) and Kyoto during the Edo period – in miniature form, including a small Mt. Fuji. While here, you'll have the chance to find out what **wearing a kimono** is like for yourself. A great photo opportunity! Then, visit the large and well-fortified **Kumamoto Castle**, which is considered one of the three premier castles in Japan (along with Himeji Castle and Matsumoto Castle). Find a taste of the old days at **Sakura-no-Baba Josaien**, an Edo-themed complex just down the hill from Kumamoto Castle. Enjoy lunch here (on your own). This evening, enjoy a relaxing soak in one of the open-air or indoor **onsen hot springs** after a buffet dinner at the hotel. SUGINOI HOTEL SORA-KAN (1 Night) (B, D)

**Day 9: Thur, Nov 19** – BEPPU – KITAKYUSHU. Beppu is famous for its "hells" of dramatic pools of bubbling water, mud and geysers. Visit two of the "hells." **Umi Jigoku** ("Sea Hell"), a pond of boiling blue water, and



**Chinoike Jigoku** ("Blood Pond Hell") with its bubbling blood red waters. Lunch today is uniquely prepared **jigoku-mushi**, which uses volcanic steam from natural vents. **Moji Port** had been an important trading port for Japan since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Although main port activities have moved to a newer location, Moji Port retains its importance as a tourist destination due to several well-preserved Western-style buildings from the Meiji and Taisho periods. Use the free time here to take a leisurely stroll around the waterfront, check out one of Japan's oldest train stations, or explore the shopping facilities at Kaikyō Plaza. Banana products are specialty of Moji Port, as bananas were traditionally imported through the port from Southeast Asia. A special delicacy of the area is Yaki Curry, a baked curry and rice dish. Don't miss out trying this specialty at the restaurants here. Tonight, you're in for a treat! Enjoy a specially prepared **fugu (puffer fish) dinner** at a local restaurant. RIHGA ROYAL HOTEL KOKURA (1 Night) (B, L, D)

\*Baggage will be sent from Kokura to Osaka, skipping Iwakuni. Prepare overnight bag for one night.

**Day 10: Fri, Nov 20** – KOKURA – SHIMONOSEKI – IWAKUNI. Start the day with a visit to the lively **Karato Market**. While it began as a street market in 1909, the Karato Market has grown significantly in the 100+ years since its inception and now ships fish all over Japan. Unlike Tokyo's famous Tsukiji (now Toyosu) Fish Market, at Karato Market, you can buy food directly from the sellers, many of whom had caught the seafood themselves earlier that morning from the nearby waters of Kanmon Strait. The market is well known for its assorted fugu offerings (which are prepared as sashimi, seafood soup, fried fish sticks, etc.), mixed seafood donburi (rice bowls), and individually sold pieces of sushi. In addition, if you are looking for seafood to bring home, there is an area inside the market for just that. You can pick up fugu crackers, dried fugu fins to drink with sake, fugu rice seasoning, and so much more. Nearby is **Akama Shrine**, with the large white base that supports one of its many red roofs. This shrine was built to commemorate the spirit of the six-year-old Emperor Antoku, who died here during the decisive Battle of Dan-no-Ura between the Minamoto and Taira Clans in 1185. After lunch, visit the **Museum of Japanese Emigration to Hawaii**. Explore and learn something new. This evening, enjoy a spectacular **Kaiseki Dinner** at the hotel. Don't forget to enjoy the **natural onsen hot springs** at the hotel as well. The onsens, which are divided for men and women, can be enjoyed indoors or outdoors. The high-quality service and facilities are sure to become some of your fondest memories of your visit to Japan. IWAKUNI KOKUSAI KANKO HOTEL (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 11: Sat, Nov 21** – IWAKUNI – HIROSHIMA – OSAKA. Explore **Kintaikyo Bridge**, which has been Iwakuni's most distinguished landmark and a subject of admiration for hundreds of years. The elegant, wooden bridge makes five bold arches onto massive stone pillars as it crosses over the Nishiki River. Then, visit **Orizuru Tower** which offers sweeping views of the city of Hiroshima and the Atomic Bomb Dome. For lunch, learn how to **make your very own okonomiyaki (savory pancake)**. Enjoy time to shop at **Hiroshima Train Station** before boarding the **Shinkansen Bullet Train** to Shin-Osaka Station. The evening is at leisure to explore the dining and shopping opportunities near the hotel. The Local Guide will be available with suggestions. HILTON OSAKA (2 Nights) (B, L)

**Day 12: Sun, Nov 22** – OSAKA. Full day at leisure. Perfect to visit with family and friends or for power shopping! Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

**Day 13: Mon, Nov 23** – OSAKA – KANSAI – HONOLULU. Full day of shopping! Start with a visit to **Kuromon Ichiba Market**, a lively covered market which stretches for 580m. 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 here (on your own). 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 the 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. A final shopping stop will be made at **AEON MALL Rinku Sennan** before transferring to the Kansai International Airport for the return flight home. Depart Kansai International Airport via Japan Airlines flt #790 at 10:10 pm and arrive in Honolulu at 10:25 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B)