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Off the Beaten Path: A Different Side of Japan

2026 FALL SADO ISLAND, SNOW MONKEYS, NAGOYA, HAKONE & TOKYO TOUR #2

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Onsen hot springs & seasonal Kaiseki Dinner! Travel Roundtrip from Tokyo!

10 Nights / 12 Days • 21 Meals (10 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 6 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide
Tour #2: November 09 – 20, 2026 • Tour Manager: Gwen Macion

OVERVIEW: One of Japan's largest islands, Sado Island has an interesting history. Its culture can be seen in its unique traditional arts and entertainment. Jigokudani, home of the world famous "snow monkeys," is situated in the valley of the Yokoyu River. 200 or so Japanese Macaque monkeys inhabit the area. Hakone, famous for its onsens, natural beauty, and the view of nearby Mt. Fuji, is one of the most popular destinations among tourists looking for a break from Tokyo. Tokyo is Japan's capital and the world's most populous metropolis. It offers a seemingly unlimited choice of shopping, entertainment, culture, and dining to its visitors.

VISIT: Omiya, Niigata, Sado Island, Nagano, Matsumoto, Nagoya, Shizuoka, Hakone & Tokyo

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS: JR Super Express Train Ride, Northern Culture Museum, Jet Foil Ride to Sado Island, Kirarium Sado, Sado Gold Mine, Tarai-bune Boat Ride, Shukunegi, Toki Forest Park, Jet Foil Ride to Niigata, Jigokudani Monkey Park, Zenko-ji Temple, Stroll Around Obuse, Ishii Miso, Matsumoto Castle, Arimatsu Narumi Tie-Dyeing Museum, AEON MALL, Atsuta Shrine, Green Tea Factory Tour, Michi-no-Eki Kakegawa, Owakudani, Hakone Ropeway, Asakusa Sensoji Temple, Nakamise Shopping & Ameyoko Shopping

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES: Soba Noodle Making, Asahi-Shuzo Sake Brewery Tour and Tasting, Apple Picking, Bamboo Basket Making, Hakone Yosegi-zaiku Making & Sushi Making

COMPLETE PACKAGES!

Includes Roundtrip Airfare from Honolulu, 10 Nights Hotel, 21 Meals, Tips for Local Tour Guides and Bus Drivers & All Taxes and Fees

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ONI DAIKO —
Demon Drums Performance!

Day 1: Mon, Nov 09 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 12:05 pm.

Day 2: Tue, Nov 10 – HANEDA – OMIYA. Arrive in the Haneda International Airport at 4:05 pm. After entry formalities, transfer by coach to your hotel in Omiya. The remainder of the evening is at your leisure. The hotel is conveniently located a five-minute walk from the JR Omiya Station, which is one of the largest stations in the Saitama Prefecture. There will be various choices for shopping and dining at the train station. PALACE HOTEL OMIYA (1 Night)

*Baggage will be carried by truck from Omiya to Nagano, skipping Sado Island. Prepare an overnight bag for two nights.

Day 3: Wed, Nov 11 – OMIYA – NIIGATA – SADO ISLAND. After a sumptuous breakfast buffet at hotel, walk to Omiya Station. Transfer to Niigata by **JR Super Express Train**. Upon arrival on Niigata, visit the **Northern Culture Museum**, which originally serving as a mansion of Ito Bunkichi, who lived during the Edo period and was one of the greatest landowners in Japan. Nowadays, the museum houses calligraphy and ceramics, lacquer ware, and documents related to Ito's family history. Don't forget to view the beautiful garden with its large pond. Enjoy lunch here. Transfer to Niigata Port to ride a **jet foil** to Sado Island. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel. Tonight, savor a traditional multi-course **Kaiseki Dinner**, featuring ingredients unique to Sado Island. During dinner, watch an **oni daiko (demon drums) performance**. Tonight, try out the **onsen hot springs**, which are divided for men and women. The high-quality service and facilities are sure to become some of your fondest memories of your visit to Japan. HOTEL YAHATAKAN (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 4: Thur, Nov 12 – SADO ISLAND. Begin the day at **Kirarium Sado**, the Sado Gold Mine Welcome Center, where you will learn everything you need to know about the gold mine. Head over to **Sado Gold Mine** to learn about the 400+ year history of the largest gold mine in Japan. Full-size dolls and robots provide an accurate representation of the historic workings of the mine during the Edo period. In the museum, you can try to lift a pure gold bar – a value of over 100 million yen – out of a clear box. Many have tried, but few have succeeded! Next, learn to **make your own soba noodles** and eat your delicious creation for lunch. After, take a traditional **tarai-bune boat ride**. These 150cm diameter boats are constructed out of cedar wrapped with bamboo on the outside. Developed and used during Edo and Meiji periods, the tarai-bune boats were ideal for tight turns and stability amidst the abundant reefs and coves along the Ogi Peninsula. Then, visit the charming fishing village of **Shukunegi**, which is designated as a National Historic Site. Take a stroll along the narrow streets to feel the history and experience the living conditions of people living during the Edo period. Here, you will be able to find the popular *sankaku-ya*, which is a triangle-shaped house, built to fit the shape of the land available at that period of time. Enjoy a Western dinner at a local restaurant before returning to the hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Fri, Nov 13 – SADO ISLAND – NIIGATA – NAGANO. This morning, take a tour of the **Toki Forest Park**, a conservation park of the crested ibis that allows visitors to see the endangered species up close. Then, ride a **jet foil** back to Niigata. En route to your hotel in Nagano, visit the **Asahi-Shuzo Sake Brewery**, which was founded in 1830. Since it's founding, Asahi-Shuzo has continued to brew sake under the "quality first" principle, using soft water drawn from pure underground streams that flow under the brewery, as well top-quality rice from local farmers. Asahi-Shuzo's passion for using only Niigata-grown ingredients has earned them numerous awards in Japan and abroad. Take a **tour the facilities**, learn how their sake is made, and enjoy a **sake tasting**. Tonight, relax in the **onsen hot springs** after enjoying dinner at the hotel. RYOKAN BIYUNOYADO (2 Nights) (B, D)

Day 6: Sat, Nov 14 – NAGANO. After breakfast, enjoy a full-day of sightseeing in Nagano by coach. First, visit **Jigokudani Monkey Park** for the unique experience of seeing wild monkeys bathing in a natural onsen. Next, travel to **Zenkoji Temple**, one of the most important and popular temples in Japan. After lunch (on your own), take a **stroll around Obuse**, a small town renown for Edo period woodblock painter, Katsushika Hokusai. Best known for his *ukiyo-e* woodblock print *The Great Wave off Kanagawa*, Hokusai spent the later years of his life in Obuse. Several of the town's highlights are related to Hokusai. Enjoy free time to explore the town's many craft shops and stores. Finally, stop at a local farm to **pick some apples** at the peak of ripeness. A great late afternoon snack! Return to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

Day 7: Sun, Nov 15 – NAGANO – MATSUMOTO – NAGOYA. After breakfast, stop at **Ishii Miso**, a miso brewery that still produces miso using traditional methods. Miso, a fermented soybean paste, is an essential ingredient in Japanese cuisine. Unlike the cheaper mass produced miso that is aged for only a few months in plastic or metal barrels, Ishii Miso ferments their miso for over three years in huge cedar barrels, giving it a much deeper taste. Enjoy lunch while here. Be sure to try the miso infused ice cream! After, explore **Matsumoto Castle**, one of Japan's premier historic castles that is also listed as a National Treasure of Japan. Continue to Nagoya, where the remainder of the evening is at your leisure. The Local Guide will have suggestions for dining and shopping nearby. NAGOYA MARRIOTT ASSOCIA HOTEL (2 Nights) (B, L)

Day 8: Mon, Nov 16 – NAGOYA. Begin the day at **Arimatsu Narumi Tie-Dyeing Museum**, a museum and workshop on the history of shibori (tie dyeing). You can learn about the 400+ years of history of shibori and purchase beautiful shibori products. The museum also holds demonstrations, where you can watch the talented shibori craftsmen create beautiful works of art. Next, stop at an **AEON MALL**, with free time for shopping and



lunch (on your own). When the son of Emperor Keiko passed away, his widow gathered his belongings, including the legendary Kusanagi Sword, and venerated his memory in a shrine at her home. Sometime later, these relics were moved to its current location at **Atsuta Shrine**. The Kusanagi Sword is one of the Three Sacred Treasures (Imperial Regalia) of Japan, which symbolize the divine authority of the Emperor and represent three core virtues: valor, wisdom, and benevolence. Return to the hotel for an evening of leisure. (B)

*Baggage will be carried by truck from Nagoya to Tokyo, skipping Hakone. Prepare an overnight bag for one night.

Day 9: Tue, Nov 17 – NAGOYA – SHIZUOKA – HAKONE. After breakfast, take a tour of a **Green Tea Factory** and learn about this distinctly Japanese beverage. Next, make a stop at **Michi-no-Eki Kakegawa** for lunch (on your own), along with a chance to get a little shopping done. Not only do these roadside stations provide a clean and convenient rest stop, but you will also find an array of farmer-direct merchandise along with other omiyage items. Next, learn how to **make a bamboo basket**. 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. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel. Tonight is your last chance to soak in an **onsen hot spring**. Don't miss out! HAKONE KOWAKIEN HOTEL (1 Night) (B, D)

Day 10: Wed, Nov 18 – HAKONE – TOKYO. After breakfast, travel to **Owakudani** ("Great Boiling Valley") and see the source of the onsen waters of Hakone. View the surrounding countryside from the **Hakone Ropeway**. After lunch, try your hand at **Hakone Yosegi-Zaiku**, an inlaid mosaic woodwork unique to this area. A great souvenir of this trip! Transfer to Tokyo and enjoy dinner at the hotel. GRAND NIKKO TOKYO DAIBA (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 11: Thur, Nov 19 – TOKYO. Full day at leisure. A perfect day to shop, dine, and explore Tokyo. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

Day 12: Fri, Nov 20 – TOKYO – HANEDA – HONOLULU. After a sumptuous buffet breakfast embark on a day of discovery! Today's highlight will be a hands-on **sushi making session**, which will yield your delicious lunch. After, visit **Asakusa**, the center of Tokyo's shitamachi (literally "low city"). It is 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 souvenirs for centuries. Next is **Ameyoko**, a busy market street between Okachimachi and Ueno Stations. Various products such as clothes, bags, cosmetics, fresh fish, dried food and spices are sold along Ameyoko. Transfer to the Haneda International Airport for the flight home. Depart Haneda via Japan Airlines flt #74 at 9:00 pm and arrive Honolulu at 9:00 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B, L)

* 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-cruiseline" 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.** J16639 013026

