

Affordable Luxury – Small Group Tours



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Off the Beaten Path: A Different Side of Japan

2026 FALL YAMAGATA & TOKYO

Continue Your “Off the Beaten Path” Journey

Enjoy your choice of Japan Airlines’ “Economy,” “Premium Economy,” or the affordable luxury of “Business” class service. Premium Economy class customers will begin their journey with a relaxing visit to JAL’s “Sakura Lounge” and the “Sakura Lounge — Hale” for Business class.

9 Nights / 11 Days • 22 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, 7 Dinners)

Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide

November 07 – 17, 2026 • Tour Manager: Marie Kanealii-Ortiz

VISIT: Haneda, Yonezawa, Kaminoyama Onsen, Sagae, Tendo, Sakata, Shonai, Tsuruoka & Tokyo

DISCOVER YAMAGATA — A Hidden Treasure! With four distinct seasons and ever-changing climates, the rich nature of the region is overflowing with high-quality beef, pork, seafood, rice, and fruit, resulting in a variety of exquisite flavors and incredibly diverse food culture. Yamagata is also known for its onsen hot springs with a comforting traditional Japanese aesthetic. In addition, Yamagata’s traditions have been carefully passed down through the generations, allowing visitors to experience the region’s rich heritage, traditional festivals, mountain worship pilgrimages, and historical heritage sites for themselves. Join us as we travel to Yamagata and experience all of these charms for yourself!

AFFORDABLE LUXURY — SMALL GROUP TOUR EXCLUSIVES:

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COMPLETE PACKAGES!

Includes Roundtrip Airfare from Honolulu, 9 Nights Hotel, 22 Meals, Tips for Local Tour Guides and Motorcoach Drivers, All Taxes & Fees

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2026 Fall Yamagata & Tokyo



BENIBANA (SAFFLOWER) DYEING

Day 1: Sat, Nov 07 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 12:05 pm.

Day 2: Sun, Nov 08 – HANEDA. Arrive at the Haneda International Airport at 4:05 pm. After entry formalities, walk to your hotel connected to the airport terminal. Enjoy dinner at the hotel. HOTEL VILLA FONTAINE PREMIER HANEDA AIRPORT (1 Night) (D)

Day 3: Mon, Nov 09 – HANEDA – YONEZAWA – KAMINOYAMA ONSEN. After a sumptuous breakfast buffet at the hotel, transfer to Tokyo Station. Depart via **Shinkansen Bullet Train**, with **reserved seating** in the **Green Car**, to Yonezawa. Upon arrival in Yonezawa, enjoy lunch featuring **Yonezawa beef**. After lunch, take a **tour of the Nitta Factory**. Yonezawa has long cultivated a legacy as a textile town. Its origins trace back to Lord Uesugi Yozan's promotion of silk weaving. For five generations, the Nitta Family has been part of this heritage, and has been dedicated to textile craftsmanship in the city of Yonezawa. Then, visit **Toko Sake Brewery**, a historic brewery (since 1597) known for its high-quality sake using local rice and pure water. Explore the brewery's museum and shop, where you will learn about sake making, **taste different varieties**, and be able to purchase premium sake, umeshu (plum wine), koji and sake lees products, and even sake-based cosmetics. You're in for a treat! Transfer to the ryokan (traditional Japanese inn), where you'll be staying at for the next two nights. This ryokan has been elected one of the **top 10 out of "100 Best Ryokans and Hotels Chosen by Professionals"** consecutively for 40 years. The hotel offers several public **onsen hot spring** options for its guest to enjoy. The onsen, which are divided for men and women, can be enjoyed indoors or outdoors. Soak in skin-beautifying waters to your heart's content in the public onsen or in your Japanese-Western style room with its own **private semi-open-air onsen**. The high-quality service and facilities are sure to become some of your fondest memories of your visit to Japan. You'll have some leisure time to explore the grounds before dinner. NIPPON NO YADO KOYO (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 4: Tue, Nov 10 – KAMINOYAMA ONSEN – YONEZAWA – KAMINOYAMA ONSEN. After breakfast, depart Kaminoyma Onsen for Yonezawa. Enroute, stop at **Michi-no-Eki Yamagata Zao**, a roadside rest station, for a chance to stretch your legs and get a little shopping done as well. Not only do they provide a clean and convenient rest stop, but you will find an array of farmer-direct merchandise along with other omiyage items. Next, visit **Takahata Winery**, where you'll have lunch, **meet the wine makers**, and learn about the wine making process. The extremely popular wines are produced using grapes and other local fruits (cherries, peaches, etc) that are cultivated by local farmers. Enjoy an **exclusive wine tasting** to sample their wide selection of wines. Staff with sommelier qualifications are available to answer your questions, so you will surely find your favorite wine selection here. The shop offers a wide selection of limited-edition wines that can only be purchased here, as well



SHOGI PIECE PAINTING

as snacks that pair perfectly with wine. Then, explore the **Uesugi Museum** (Denkoku-no-Mori), located on the former grounds of Yonezawa Castle. It holds valuable articles relating to the Uesugi Clan that flourished as warriors. A highlight of the museum is without a doubt the *Uesugi Rakuchi Rakugai Zubyobu* (folding screen), which is a national treasure. It is said that this folding screen depicts everyday life in Kyoto and was gifted to Uesugi Kenshin by Oda Nobunaga. It depicts approximately 2,500 people, regardless of their social status. Furthermore, you can understand what it was like to be in Kyoto in those days because it also depicts animals, plants, famous places, and festivals. Usually, a replica is on display, but the original is exhibited for a limited time in the spring and fall when a special exhibition is held. Located in the adjacent Matsugasaki Park is **Uesugi Shrine** where Uesugi Kenshin, one of the most powerful warriors of the Sengoku (Warring States) era, is enshrined. The shrine is believed to bring good luck, academic success, and thriving business thanks to Kenshin's lingering spiritual energy. Watch a special **Uesugi Hojutsutai Show**, where reenactors shoot tanegashimas, a matchlock gun introduced by the Portuguese in 1543. The tanegashima was used by the samurai class and their foot soldiers, and within a few years it forever changed the way war was fought in Japan. Tonight, dinner will be served at **Uesugi Hakushaku-tei**, the former residence of Uesugi Mochinori, the 13th and last daimyo (feudal lord) of the Yonezawa domain. At dinner, watch an **Ai no Busho-tai Performance** ("Love Warriors" Performance), where performers dressed in kimonos demonstrate moves with their katanas (Japanese sword), and also dance to some music. Return to the hotel for an evening of leisure. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Wed, Nov 11 – KAMINOYAMA ONSEN – SAGAE – TENDO. Today is full of hands-on experiences! Start the day at the **Benibana Museum** to learn about **benibana (safflower) dyeing**, the rare dyeing method that uses safflower flowers rather than bark or leaves of a tree. Safflowers have two pigments: yellow and red. The intensity of the color changes depending on how many times the cloth is dyed. The more you dye, the deeper the color. You'll have free time at **Cherryland Sagae**, the largest Michi-no-Eki in the Tohoku Region, to shop for local specialty products and enjoy lunch (on your own). Besides finding over 600 cherry-related products, you'll also find Yamagata's signature sweets and desserts, as well as a wide variety of locally produced alcoholic beverages including sake, shouchu, and wine. After lunch, you'll have the chance to **paint a shogi piece**. Shogi is the traditional Japanese strategy board game known as "Japanese chess," where the goal is to checkmate the opponent's King by capturing it. It's one of the most popular board games in Japan, and even non-chess players find it fun to play. A unique souvenir of this trip! Transfer to the hotel, where you'll have some leisure time to explore the hotel before dinner. While there are public onsen available at the hotel, you will also have a **private open-air onsen** in your room. HOHOEMI NO YADO TAKINOUY (2 Nights) (B, D)



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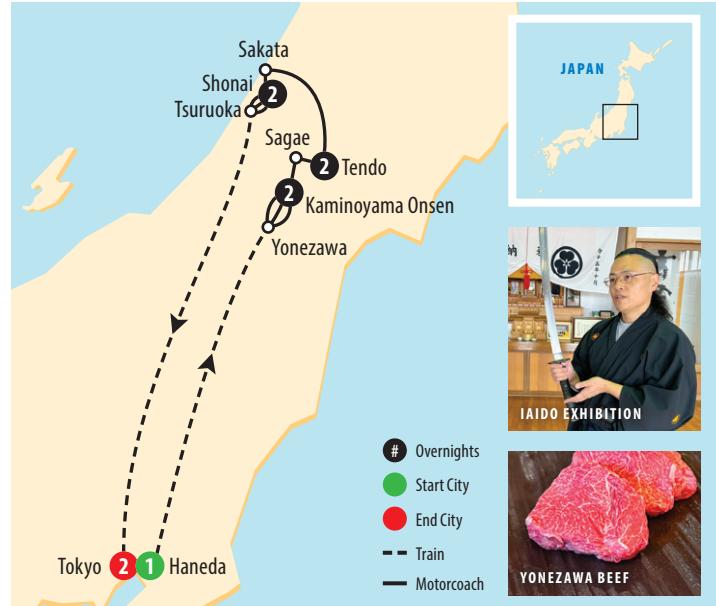


Day 6: Thur, Nov 12 – TENDO. After a morning of leisure, depart the hotel for an **imoni culinary experience**. Imoni is a satoimo (Japanese taro root) and beef stew, typically enjoyed during the rice harvesting season in autumn. Imoni recipes slightly differ depending on the region which is cooking it: for example, Yamagata imoni contains beef and a shoyu base, while the imoni from the Miyagi prefecture uses beef with a miso soup base. Even the Shonai region of Yamagata has a different take on it and uses pork with a miso base. Enjoy this local dish for lunch. After, transfer back to the hotel for some leisure time before dinner. Tonight, you're in for a real treat!! Along with dinner, you'll be **entertained by an authentic Maiko**. Dancing, singing, and playing fun games! (B, L, D)

Day 7: Fri, Nov 13 – TENDO – SAKATA – SHONAI. During the Sengoku and early Edo Eras, most people believed that a katana's only purpose was to hurt others. However, new ideas developed through iaido which focused on spiritual training, improving skills, and personal growth. This "way" ("do") of the "warrior" ("bushi") has come to be called "bushido" ("way of the warrior"), a philosophy that attracted attention from both Japan and overseas. Iaido is a foundation of Japanese warrior philosophy and training. Iaido is the technique of quickly drawing and responding to attacks with a katana. Learn the traditional art of drawing, cutting, and sheathing the katana in fluid motions, focusing on mental discipline, self-development, posture, and concentration through solo katas (forms) at an **iaido exhibition**. Then, take a **scenic cruise down the Mogami River** on a traditional, hand-rowed boat, as the boatmen serenade you as they carefully navigate the waters. Enjoy a seasonal deluxe bento lunch onboard as you view the surrounding mountainside decked out in fall colors. Explore the **Sakata Seafood Market**, where incredibly fresh fish and seafood are available. Many shops sell ready-to-eat sashimi and nigiri sushi – or can easily prepare any freshly caught fish and seafood into sashimi for you. Transfer to the hotel in Shonai. Designed by the world-famous architect Shigeru Ban, the hotel was designed to blend into the rice fields and surrounding landscape, giving its guests a calm and peaceful experience. Explore the hotel and its facilities – from its many lavish **onsens** and sauna, to a gym, bar and lounge, library with fantastic views, and shop with specialty products from the area – you will surely enjoy a relaxing stay. Enjoy a Western course dinner at the hotel. SUIDEN TERRASE (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 8: Sat, Nov 14 – SHONAI – TSURUOKA – SHONAI. After a morning of leisure, depart for **Kurayashiki LUNA**, a restaurant that specializes in local Yamagata beef, Shonai seafood, Shonai vegetables, and of course the Yamagata brand of rice, *Tsuyahime*. Savor all the seasonal bounties of the area in this 170-year-old sake brewery turned restaurant. Return to the hotel after lunch, where the remainder of the day is at your leisure. Dinner will be served at the hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Sun, Nov 15 – SHONAI – TSURUOKA – TOKYO. Spend the last day in the Yamagata Prefecture learning about and shopping for two of Tsuruoka's local products: silk and locally made wine. Tsuruoka



is one of leading silk producing areas in Japan and the only places in Japan where all processes of the silk production (from sericulture to the creation of the silk product) can be carried out in the same region. At **Tsuruoka Silk Mirai Kan**, you will learn about the approximately 3,000 samurai from the Shonai Domain, who traded their katanas for hoes in 1872, and cleared and cultivated wasteland, building one of the largest silkworm farms in Japan. The gift shop carries a wide range of products – from ties and scarves, to hats and bags. **Pino Collina** offers a wide selection of wine, including their own brand of brewed wine, a wide variety of non-alcoholic wines, along with original products including wine pudding and wine jam – all of which make great souvenirs. Get the chance to **taste some of the wine** with lunch while overlooking the vineyard. Next, relax on the leisurely drive to Niigata Station. Depart via **Shinkansen Bullet Train**, with reserved seating in the **Green Car**, for Tokyo Station. Upon arrival in Tokyo, transfer to the hotel, where the remainder of the evening is at your leisure. The hotel is surrounded by numerous dining and shopping opportunities. **KEIO PLAZA HOTEL TOKYO** (2 Nights) (B, L)

Day 10: Mon, Nov 16 – TOKYO. Day at leisure. Enjoy shopping and dining in the bustling Shinjuku area. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. Perfect day to relax and/or visit family and friends in Tokyo. (B)

Day 11: Tue, Nov 17 – TOKYO – HANEDA – HONOLULU. After breakfast, depart the hotel for a full day of shopping! Begin the day at **Asakusa**, in the center of Tokyo's shitamachi (literally "low city") 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 tourist souvenirs for centuries. Next, visit **Ameyoko**, a busy market street along the Yamanote Line tracks between Okachimachi and Ueno Stations. The name "Ameyoko" is a short form for "Ameya Yokocho" ("Candy Store Alley"), as candies were traditionally sold there. Alternatively, "Ame" also stands for "America," because a lot of American products used to be available there when the street was the site of a black market in the years following WWII. Today, various products such as clothes, bags, cosmetics, fresh fish, dried food, and spices are sold along Ameyoko. Finally, visit **Ario Kitasuna**, a shopping center with over 100 specialty shops. This includes CAN★DO, a 100 yen store, and Halos Garden – an amusement center for the whole family featuring the latest gaming machines, hands-on sweet making, a large ball pit, and more! You'll have ample time to shop before departing for the airport. Depart the Haneda International Airport via Japan Airlines flt #72 at 9:55 pm and arrive in Honolulu at 9:55 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B)

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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS: Shinkansen Bullet Train Ride, Nitta Factory Tour, Toko Sake Brewery, Michi-no-Eki Yamagata Zao, Uesugi Museum, Uesugi Shrine, Uesugi Hojutsutai Show, Uesugi Hakushaku-tei, Ai no Busho-tai Performance, Benibana Museum, Cherryland Sagae, Imoni Lunch, Maiko Performance, Iaido Exhibition, Mogami River Cruise, Sakata Seafood Market, Kurayashiki LUNA, Tsuruoka Silk Mirai Kan, Asakusa Sensoji Temple, Nakamise Shopping, Ameyoko Shopping & Ario Kitasuna

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES: Takahata Winery Wine Tasting, Benibana (Safflower) Dyeing, Shogi Piece Painting & Pino Collina Wine Tasting

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:



HOTEL VILLA FONTAINE PREMIER HANEDA AIRPORT (HANEDA AIRPORT — 1 NIGHT):

Conveniently located just a one-minute walk from Terminal 3. Shake the weariness of the 9 ½ hour flight as you relax in the onsen hot spring, enjoy a drink from your in room's refrigerator, or get in a workout at the hotel's gym (all complimentary for Premier guests). A distinctive feature of the hotel is that all **Premier guest rooms face the Tama River**, ensuring every stay comes with a stunning view.



NIPPON NO YADO KOYO (KAMINOYAMA ONSEN — 2 NIGHTS): A welcoming inn with traditional ambience, situated on a lush hill with a sweeping view of the Zao Mountains. Soak in the skin-beautifying waters to your heart's content and have a relaxing moment in the public onsen hot springs or in your Japanese-Western style room with its own **private semi-open-air bath**. The ryokan (traditional Japanese Inn) has been elected one of the **top 10 out of "100 Best Ryokans and Hotels Chosen by Professionals"** consecutively for 40 years.



HOHOEMI NO YADO TAKINOYU (TENDO — 2 NIGHTS): Your stay centers around harmony with nature and care for every detail. This ryokan combines traditional Japanese architecture with warm hospitality and natural materials to create a place where you can relax with peace of mind. The setting in Tendo, known for its onsens, shogi culture, and fruit orchards, brings you close to both natural beauty and deep-rooted traditions. Immerse yourself in the gentle waters of the public onsen and enjoy a blissful moment as you take in the panoramic view of Tendo's cityscape and the beautiful mountains that change with the seasons. Or relax in the peace and quiet of your own **private open-air bath** in your room.



SUIDEN TERRASE (SHONAI — 2 NIGHTS):

Welcome to the **hotel floating in the middle of rice fields**, blending in with the surrounding landscape. The Japanese proverb SEI-KOU-U-DOKU means to "work in the field in fine weather and read at home in rainy weather," symbolizing a balanced, self-sufficient, peaceful life away from societal chaos. It represents a harmonious lifestyle of hard work and intellectual pursuit, adapting to the environment, often associated with rural living. Suiden Terrase embraces the concept of this proverb as they offer alternatives to the hustle and bustle of city living in its rural surroundings. Offering several **indoor and open-air baths and saunas**, in-room massages to help you relax, a gym equipped with various machines to help you maintain your everyday health, and two different libraries that offer over 2,000 books, make for an enriching stay. There is also a Sake Bar and a self-serve Sake Lounge, where you can enjoy locally-made drinks, such as craft beers to specialty sakes and wines, and even gelato and juice made with seasonal fruits from Yamagata. At the hotel's gift shop, you can find special products made in the region, ranging from wine and sake, snacks with limited flavors available only in Yamagata, and even hotel branded items. Alternatively, if laundry relaxes you, you're in luck – there is a self-serve laundry facility on-site available for use during your stay.



KEIO PLAZA HOTEL TOKYO (TOKYO — 2 NIGHTS): The Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo is at the perfect location to explore the delights of the city of Tokyo. Just outside the Tochomae Station and only a five-minute walk from Shinjuku Station, the most popular shopping and entertainment spots, this luxury hotel provides stunning experiences which will linger with guests for a long time. Stay in a **Premier Grand Room** (located on the 35th to 41st floors), with stunning views of the city, where you will have **access to the Club Lounge** on the 45th floor.



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