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JAPAN AIRLINES

Off the Beaten Path: A Different Side of Japan

2027 CHERRY BLOSSOMS GRAND NIIGATA, SADO ISLAND PLUS TOKYO SHOPPING

Explore a stunning destination on the coast of the Sea of Japan!

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 • 21 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 7 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide
April 10 – 20, 2027

OVERVIEW: There's more to Japan than the well-known destinations of Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka. With 43 prefectures across the country, there are countless hidden gems waiting to be explored — among them is the Niigata Prefecture, a beautiful corner of Japan still largely undiscovered by foreign travelers. Discover the Japan you didn't know you were missing!

VISIT: Omiya, Niigata, Yudagami Onsen, Sado Island & Tokyo

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS: Takada Castle Sakura Festival, Yahiko Park, Yahiko Shrine, Yahiko Panorama Tower, Yahiko Climbing Car, Knife Factory Tour, Michi-no-Eki, Toki no Mori Park, Obata Sake Brewery, Oni Daiko (Demon Drum) Performance, Kirarium Sado, Kitazawa Flotation Plant (Drive By), Sado Nishimikawa Gold Park, Tarai-Bune Boat Ride, Shukunegi, Pier Bandai, Niigata Furusato Village, Geiko Dinner, Niigata Saito Villa, Northern Culture Museum, AEON MALL, teamLab Borderless: MORI Building DIGITAL ART MUSEUM, Sensoji, Nakamise & Ameyoko

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES: Strawberry Picking, Soba Noodle Making, Mochi Pounding, Senbei (Rice Cracker) Making & Sushi Making

Non-Stop Travel Sado Island & Niigata Exclusives!

ONI DAIKO (DEMON DRUM) PERFORMANCE — Sado Island's unique tradition in which benevolent oni dance and play taiko drums to ward off evil!

KAISEKI DINNER WITH GEIKO PERFORMANCE — Savor a traditional multi-course Kaiseki Dinner and enjoy entertainment by an authentic geiko!

COMPLETE PACKAGES!

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

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Non-Stop Travel Exclusive!

**WHISPER: WIRELESS TOUR
GUIDE SYSTEM** — Don't miss a thing!
English narration directly to your ear!



Day 1: Sat, Apr 10 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 12:15 pm.

Day 2: Sun, Apr 11 – HANEDA – OMIYA. Arrive at the Haneda International Airport at 3:55 pm. After entry formalities, transfer by coach to your hotel in Omiya. The remainder of the evening is at your leisure. Your hotel is just a short walk from JR Omiya Station, one of the area's largest stations with various of shopping and dining opportunities. PALACE HOTEL OMIYA (1 Night)

Day 3: Mon, Apr 12 – OMIYA – NIIGATA – YUDAGAMI ONSEN. After a sumptuous breakfast buffet, walk to Omiya Train Station and take the JR Super Express Train to Niigata for a day full of cherry blossom viewing. Upon arrival, visit Takada Castle, home to over 4,000 cherry trees and the renowned **Takada Castle Sakura Festival**, one of the world's top flower festivals. Next, stroll through **Yahiko Park**, where cascades of cherry blossoms envelop you in soft pink like you've never seen before, and visit nearby **Yahiko Shrine**. Then, admire the scenery from the **Yahiko Panorama Tower**, Japan's oldest rotating and lifting observation tower, slowly turning 360 degrees as it climbs 85 meters, and the vintage inclined **Yahiko Climbing Car** as it glides up the mountain ridge. Transfer to the hotel for a multi-course **Kaiseki Dinner**, and enjoy a relaxing soak in the **onsen hot springs** before or after dinner. HOTEL OYANAGI (2 Nights) (B, D)

Day 4: Tue, Apr 13 – YUDAGAMI ONSEN – NIIGATA – YUDAGAMI ONSEN. Begin the day at a local farm, where you will have the chance to **pick some fresh strawberries**. After lunch at a local restaurant, take a **tour of a knife factory**, and see how these kitchen essentials are made. Then, stop at a **Michi-no-Eki** for some time to shop and stretch your legs. You will be able to find an array of farmer-direct merchandise along with other items from around the area. Return to the hotel for a **Kaiseki Dinner**. (B, L, D)

*Baggage will be carried by truck from Hotel Oyanagi in Niigata to the Hotel Nikko Niigata, skipping Sado Island. Prepare an overnight bag for two nights.

Day 5: Wed, Apr 14 – YUDAGAMI ONSEN – NIIGATA – SADO ISLAND. Transfer to Niigata Port and take a jet foil to Sado Island. Upon arrival in Sado, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Then, take a tour of the **Toki no Mori Park**, a conservation park and museum dedicated to the endangered Japanese crested ibis. Next, visit **Obata Sake Brewery**, a multiple gold prize winner at Japan's National New Sake Awards and London's International Wine Challenge. Transfer to the hotel, where a special **Kaiseki Dinner** featuring ingredients unique to Sado Island will be served accompanied by an authentic

oni daiko (demon drum) performance. Don't forget to try out the **onsen hot springs**, which can be enjoyed indoors or outdoors. HOTEL YAHATAKAN (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 6: Thur, Apr 15 – SADO ISLAND. After breakfast, begin the day at **Kirarium Sado** to learn about the Sado Gold Mine before driving past **Kitazawa Flotation Plant**. Then, **learn how to make soba noodles** and eat your delicious creation for lunch. After, visit **Sado Nishimikawa Gold Park** to explore more of Sado Island's gold-mining history. Next, take a traditional **tarai-bune boat ride** – round vessels once used by women to collect shellfish and seaweed among Ogi's rocky coves. Lastly, visit the charming fishing village of **Shukunegi**, where narrow lanes, Edo-period homes, and the unique triangle-shaped Sankaku-ya house reflect its past as a bustling trading port. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant before returning to the hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Fri, Apr 16 – SADO ISLAND – NIIGATA. Take the jet foil to Niigata Port. Explore **Pier Bandai**, a food market that offers all kinds of specialties from the area. You'll have free time here to enjoy lunch (on your own). Then, visit the **Niigata Furusato Village**, a culture and tourism facility that provides a mix of shopping and dining opportunities, including specialty products from around Niigata. Tonight, you're in for a treat! Along with dinner, we are entertained by an authentic **geiko** – dancing, singing, and playing fun games! HOTEL NIKKO NIIGATA (2 Nights) (B, D)

Day 8: Sat, Apr 17 – NIIGATA. This morning, tour **Niigata Saito Villa**, a 1918 residence built by wealthy merchant Saito Kijuro which was carefully designed to showcase its Japanese garden. Next, visit the **Northern Culture Museum**, which originally served as a mansion of Ito Bunkichi, one of Japan's greatest landowners, that showcases calligraphy, ceramics, lacquer ware, documents related to Ito's family history, and features a beautiful garden with a large pond. While here, **learn how to pound mochi** – it's not as easy as it looks! Enjoy your fresh mochi with your lunch. After, take part in a **senbei (rice cracker) making** experience. Finally, spend some free time at an **AEON MALL**. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant before returning to the hotel for the evening. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Sun, Apr 18 – NIIGATA – TOKYO. After breakfast, depart Niigata and travel to Tokyo via JR Super Express Train. Then, explore **teamLab Borderless: MORI Building DIGITAL ART MUSEUM**, a world of artworks without boundaries. Artworks move across rooms and at times intermingle, creating one continuous world without boundaries in this immersive experience. Transfer to your hotel. Enjoy some time at leisure to explore the area on your own before a buffet dinner at the hotel. KEIO PLAZA HOTEL TOKYO (2 Nights) (B, D)



Day 10: Mon, Apr 19 – TOKYO. Full day at leisure. The perfect day to relax and/or visit family and friends in Tokyo! Enjoy shopping and dining in the bustling Shinjuku area where your hotel is located, or venture out on an adventure of your own. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

Day 11: Tue, Apr 20 – TOKYO – HANEDA – HONOLULU. Begin the day with a hands-on **sushi making** class, which will yield your delicious lunch. After, visit the Asakusa district, where the charm of old Tokyo still lives on. Its star attraction is **Sensoji**, a beloved 7th century Buddhist temple, also known as Asakusa Kannon Temple. Leading up to the temple is **Nakamise**, a lively shopping street lined with traditional snacks and souvenirs. Finally, explore **Ameyoko**, a bustling market street that features over 400 shops and stalls known for offering significant bargains on various products such as clothes, bags, cosmetics, dried seafood, spices, and more. Transfer to Haneda International Airport for the flight home. Depart Haneda via Japan Airlines flt #72 at 9:55 pm and arrive in Honolulu at 10:20 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. Tour highlights and activities are subject to change. Seasonal highlights and activities, such as cherry blossoms and fall foliage, are subject to weather and/or other conditions and is NOT guaranteed. **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: 12/01/26. 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.** J17512 060126



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