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Very unique tour itinerary! Let's explore two diverse climates & cultures in one exciting trip!

Enjoy spring blooms and cooler weather, perfect for exploring the sights! Cherry blossoms are in bloom in much of Okinawa in February, adding extra beauty to the sights and attractions of the islands. The cooler temperatures and low humidity compared to the hot Okinawan summers make it the perfect month to sightsee and explore.

11 Nights / 13 Days • 23 Meals (11 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, 6 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide
January 27 – February 08, 2027 • Tour Manager: Sandra Lum

OVERVIEW: Okinawa is home to a unique culture that differs considerably from that of mainland Japan. Until the islands were invaded in 1609, Okinawa existed as an entirely separate country from Japan, known as the Ryukyu Kingdom. After the invasion, the Ryukyu Kingdom served as a tributary state to Japan, but continued to be governed by the royal family. It was not until 1879 that the Kingdom was abolished and incorporated into Japan as the Okinawa Prefecture. The castles of Okinawa, known as "Gusuku" in the Okinawan language, are among the most vivid monuments that testify to the unique cultural and historical heritage of the Ryukyu Kingdom. In 2000, five castles and four related sites were designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites under a collective title.

VISIT: Haneda, Naha, Kitanakagusuku, Onna, Manza, Motobu, Nakijin, Kyoda, Nanjo, Fukuoka, Dazaifu, Sasebo & Saga

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS: Awamori (Rice Liquor) Factory Tour, Shuri Castle, AEON MALL Okinawa Rycom, Ryukyu Mura (Ryukyu Village), Okashigoten Onna Store, Motobu Yaedake Cherry Blossom Festival, Nakijin Castle Site, Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium, Michi-no-Eki Kyoda, Okinawa World, Gyokusendo Stalactite Cave, Habu (Snake) Museum, Kingdom Village, Glass Factory, AEON MALL Fukuoka, Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine, Huis Ten Bosch Amusement Park & Okawachiyama Village

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES: Ryusou Ryukyu Kimono Dress-Up, Coral Dyeing, Local Okinawan Cooking Class, Shisa Painting, Strawberry Picking, Kobayashi Sake Brewery Tour and Tasting & Hakata Doll Painting

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES: Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu

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Day 1: Wed, Jan 27 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 11:40 am.

Day 2: Thur, Jan 28 – 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, Jan 29 – HANEDA – NAHA. After a buffet breakfast at your hotel, transfer back to the Haneda Airport. Enjoy a bento box at the domestic departure gate. Depart Haneda Domestic Airport via Japan Airlines flt #987 at 11:30 am and arrive at the Naha International Airport at 2:25 pm. Get introduced to Okinawa with a tour of an **awamori (rice liquor) factory**. Awamori is the signature alcoholic beverage of Okinawa and most of the Ryukyu Islands. During the tour, learn the unique process involved in making awamori. Transfer to the hotel. Walk to a nearby restaurant for dinner. HOTEL COLLECTIVE (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 4: Sat, Jan 30 – NAHA. First stop this morning is **Shuri Castle**, the most important castle of the Ryukyu Kingdom, serving both as the central government office and royal residence. The main buildings of Shuri Castle were destroyed in a fire in October 2019, and has been meticulously reconstructed to bring back the castle to its former glory. It is the only castle in Okinawa that has been reconstructed. Only ruins remain of all the other castles. **Dress up in Ryusou Ryukyu kimonos** for a group photo! Then, we head to a special hands-on **coral dyeing** activity, which is only done in Okinawa. Coral is fundamental to the history and culture of the Okinawan Islands. Many areas of Okinawa's main island are made of limestone formed by ancient coral reefs several hundred thousand years ago. Today, coral fossils are often used to create various art pieces in Okinawa. Try your hand at bringing your own art to life. After lunch, return to the hotel, where the remainder of the day is at your leisure. The Local Guide will have suggestions for shopping and dining nearby. (B, L)

*Baggage will be held at the hotel in Naha. Prepare an overnight bag for two nights.

Day 5: Sun, Jan 31 – NAHA – KITANAKAGUSUKU – ONNA – MANZA. After breakfast, we head north to Onna. En route, stop at **AEON MALL Okinawa Rycom**, Okinawa's largest shopping and entertainment complex, for shopping and lunch (on own). After lunch, continue to Onna, where you will explore the **Ryukyu Mura** (Ryukyu Village), a small theme park about Okinawan culture in the form of a recreated village from the times of the Ryukyu Kingdom. The highlight of the village is the eisa show, a form of folk dance that is performed during the obon festival to honor the spirits of one's ancestors. In the finale of the eisa show, visitors can join in on the dance known as kachashi. The word "kachashi" in the Okinawan dialect means "to mix," which implies the idea of sharing happiness to foster a sense of unity. Then, make a stop at the **Okashigoten Onna Store**, the perfect spot to satisfy your sweet tooth and shop for sweets from all over Okinawa! Founded in 1979, this beloved Okinawan confectionary brand is famous for its signature beni-imo (purple sweet potato) tart. If you are not a beni-imo fan, they also have sweets in other flavors, such as chocolate and kokuto (Okinawan black sugar). These are "must have" omiyage items to share with family and friends. Enjoy dinner at the hotel tonight. ANA INTERCONTINENTAL MANZA BEACH RESORT (2 Nights) (B, D)

Day 6: Mon, Feb 01 – MANZA – MOTOBU – NAKIJIN – MOTOBU – KYODA – MANZA. After an incredible breakfast buffet, depart Manza for Motobu. Attend the **MOTOBU YAEDAKE CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL** and walk under a canopy of pink cherry blossoms. With the cherry blossom season in Okinawa typically lasting between mid-January and early-February, you'll be one of the first to see cherry blossoms in Japan! Next, visit the ruins of **Nakijin Castle** and learn about the history of Okinawa. The castle, a former residence of the Ryukyu Kingdom governor during the 14th century, is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. After lunch, visit the **Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium**, one of the largest and most renowned aquariums in the world. Located within the Ocean Expo Park – a large, multi-attraction recreational complex – the aquarium is widely considered best in Japan. A highlight of the aquarium is the massive Kuroshio Sea Tank, one of the largest tanks in the world, that houses whale sharks. On the way back to Naha, stop at the roadside **Michi-no-Eki Kyoda** 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. Kyoda offers a wide variety of specialties from the 12 municipalities in the northern region of Okinawa, including hard-to-find products from remote islands such as Iheya Island and Izena Island. Return to the hotel for dinner. The remainder of the evening is at your leisure. (B, L, D)

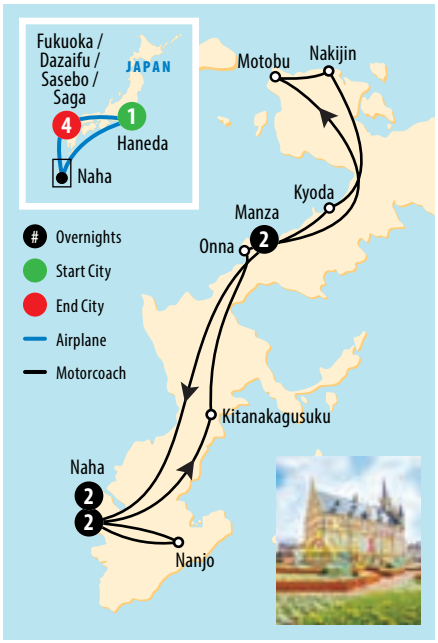
Day 7: Tue, Feb 02 – MANZA – NAHA. The foundation of every culture is rooted in the food that its people eat. Learn about the Okinawan culture as you take a **cooking class for Okinawan cuisine**. Enjoy your tasty creations for lunch. After, let your creative side loose when you **paint a Shisa**, a traditional Okinawan cultural artifact and decoration. Shisas are believed to offer protection from evil, with the left shisa traditionally having a closed mouth to keep good spirits in, and the open mouthed shisa on the right wards off evil spirits. Pairs of shisa can often be seen on rooftops or flanking the gates to houses. Great souvenirs of this trip! Transfer to the hotel in Naha for an evening of leisure. HOTEL COLLECTIVE (2 Nights) (B, L)

Day 8: Wed, Feb 03 – NAHA – NANJO – NAHA. Another full day of exploring is ahead! Start the day with a visit to **Okinawa World**, a theme park about Okinawan culture. The park's main attractions are a massive natural cave, craft village, and **habu (snake) museum**. With a total length of 5km, **Gyokusendo Cave** is the longest of the many caves in the south of Okinawa Island and the second longest cave in the entire country. Approximately 850m of the cave is open to the public and features spectacular stalactites and stalagmites. The **Kingdom Village** is a nice replica of a traditional Okinawan village with workshops showcasing various traditional Okinawan crafts, such as weaving, dyeing, paper making, pottery, sugar cane processing, the making of music instruments, and glass blowing. Colorful **Ryukyu glass** is one of those must have souvenirs when visiting Okinawa. Taking a tour of the workshop allows visitors to see how the craftsmen create their art, and hands-on experiences are offered at many of the workshops. Enjoy a buffet lunch while here. Return to Naha. This evening, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Thur, Feb 04 – NAHA – FUKUOKA. Depart Naha Airport via Japan Transocean Air flt #52 at 10:25 am. Arrive at the Fukuoka Airport at 12:10 pm. En route to the hotel, a stop will be made at **AEON MALL Fukuoka**, one of the largest AEON MALLs in Kyushu. You'll have ample time to explore the numerous stores in this shopping mall. Then transfer to the hotel in Fukuoka. Enjoy a little time to rest before walking to a nearby restaurant for dinner. THE ROYAL PARK HOTEL FUKUOKA (1 Night) (B, D)

Day 10: Fri, Feb 05 – FUKUOKA – DAZAIFU – SASEBO. This morning visit Dazaifu, established in the late 7th century and served as the administrator center of the entire island of Kyushu for over 500 years. Nowadays, Dazaifu is a small, quiet city on the outskirts of the large city of Fukuoka with a number of temples and shrines, the most famous of which is the **Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine**. Next, travel to Sasebo and visit **Huis Ten Bosch**, an amusement park that recreates a Dutch town. This spacious theme park is suffused with a European atmosphere with its picturesque canals, iconic windmills, beautiful gardens, and architecture. Enjoy lunch (on your own) here. Check into the hotel. The remainder of the day is at your leisure. You may return to Huis Ten Bosch and continue exploring the park (on your own). HOTEL NIKKO HUIS TEN BOSCH (1 Night) (B)

Day 11: Sat, Feb 06 – SASEBO – SAGA – FUKUOKA. After breakfast, travel to **Okawachiyama Village**, a small, isolated village in the mountains just outside central Imari. Alongside Arita (in the neighboring valley), it was the first place in Japan to produce porcelain after kaolin – the mineral essential to making porcelain – had been found in the area and craftsmen with the necessary skills had been brought from Korea into the country. Today, Okawachiyama Village consists mostly of pottery workshops and their store fronts. Enjoy some time to stroll the area and shop for the beautiful Imari yaki porcelain ware. After lunch at a local restaurant, **pick some fresh strawberries** at the peak of ripeness. How sweet! Enjoy eating the "fruits of your labor" before returning to Fukuoka. Finally, visit the **Kobayashi Sake Brewery**, where you will learn about how sake is made and to **sample some of their tasty products**. Arrive at the hotel in Fukuoka. The Local Guide will have suggestions for dinner and your evening of leisure. THE ROYAL PARK HOTEL FUKUOKA (2 Nights) (B, L)



Day 12: Sun, Feb 07 – FUKUOKA. A free day at leisure to explore Fukuoka on your own. The perfect day to relax and/or visit with family and friends. Or perhaps do more shopping! Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

Day 13: Mon, Feb 08 – FUKUOKA – HANEDA – HONOLULU. After a morning of leisure, enjoy a hands-on activity as you **paint a Hakata doll**. Hakata dolls are one of the major craft products of the Fukuoka prefecture and are known for their high-quality and realistic facial expressions. A great souvenir of your trip! Transfer to the Fukuoka Airport for the flight home. Depart Fukuoka via Japan Airlines flt #322 at 4:45 pm. Arrive at the Haneda Domestic Airport at 6:20 pm. Depart the Haneda International Airport via Japan Airlines flt #74 at 9:00 pm and arrive Honolulu at 8:45 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B)

UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu (2000)

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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-cruiseline" Air and Land Package must be made by money order or personal check. NST does not guarantees 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. **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: 09/18/26. NST at its discretion, may use group and individual photos on its website, print, television, and various social media. Tour highlights and activities are subject to change. Cherry blossoms are subject to weather conditions and is NOT guaranteed. † 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.** JI7102 040626