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9 Nights / 11 Days • 21 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 7 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide
March 19 – 29, 2027 • Tour Managers: Steven & Naomi Lee

VISIT: Kansai, Mie, Toba, Ise, Nachikatsuura, Kushimoto, Shirahama, Wakayama, Mt. Koya, Osaka, Kyoto, Uji & Nara

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS: Hachiman Kamado, Mikimoto Pearl Island, Ise Grand Shrine, Okage Yokochi, Toba Aquarium, Toba Ichibangai, Futami Okitama Shrine, Meoto Iwa, Kumano Nachi Taisha, Nachi no Taki, Hashigui Iwa, Toretore Market, Sandanbeki Cliff, Sandanbeki Cave, Senjoshiki, Umeboshi (Salted Plum) Factory, Ota Kyusuke Miso Factory, Shoyu Factory, Wakayama Castle, Kongobuji, Dotonbori, Kuromon Ichiba Market, Nijo Castle, Kinkakuji (Temple of the Golden Pavilion), Byodoin Omotesando, Todaiji, Nara Deer Park & AEON MALL Rinku Sennan

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE: Yuzen Dyeing

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES: Nijo Castle, Kinkakuji & Todaiji



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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-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. 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: 11/09/26. 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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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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Day 1: Fri, Mar 19 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #799 at 11:25 am.

Day 2: Sat, Mar 20 – KANSAI. Arrive in Kansai International Airport at 3:55 pm. After entry formalities, walk to the hotel located within the airport, where dinner has been arranged. HOTEL NIKKO KANSAI AIRPORT (1 Night) (D)

Day 3: Sun, Mar 21 – KANSAI – MIE – TOBA. After breakfast, depart Kansai for Toba. En route, stop in Mie and learn about the ama, the local women who free dive for seafood and other marine products. Relax in the **Hachiman Kamado**, the huts used by the ama to warm up between dives. Enjoy some freshly caught seafood for lunch while the ama share stories of their adventures. After, learn about pearls and pearl cultivation at **Mikimoto Pearl Island**, and watch an ama dive demonstration. Tonight, enjoy a special **Kaiseki Dinner** at the hotel. Don't forget to try out the **onsen hot springs**, which 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. TOBA KOKUSAI HOTEL (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 4: Mon, Mar 22 – TOBA – ISE – TOBA. After breakfast, travel to Ise and visit the **Ise Grand Shrine**, the most important Shinto shrine in the country. Next, explore **Okage Yokocho**, a street reproducing the temple town during the latter part of the Edo period. There are many shops for you to explore and enjoy lunch (on your own). Then, visit the **Toba Aquarium**, which contains one of the largest number of species of fish and animals in Japan spread out over twelve zones. It is also the only aquarium in Japan to have a dugong in captivity. Finally, spend some time at **Toba Ichibangai**, the largest shopping center in Toba, before returning to the hotel for a buffet dinner. (B, D)

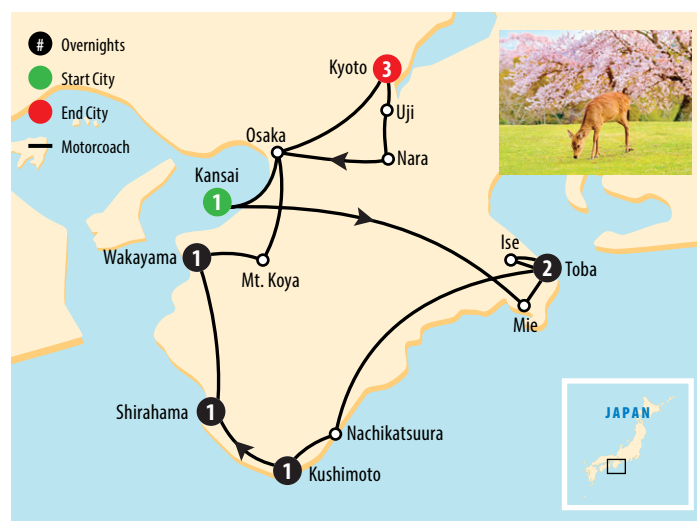
*Baggage will be sent from Toba to Wakayama, skipping Kushimoto and Shirahama. Prepare an overnight bag for two nights.

Day 5: Tue, Mar 23 – TOBA – NACHIKATSUURA – KUSHIMOTO. After breakfast, visit the **Futami Okitama Shrine**. The grounds are dotted with frogs, who are said to be messengers of Sarutahiko no Okami, the shrine's main deity, and symbolize the safe return of people and things. Nearby is the **Meoto Iwa** (Wedded Rocks), a pair of side-by-side rocks in the sea bound by a shimenawa (sacred rope) symbolizing marital harmony. After lunch, visit **Kumano Nachi Taisha**, a shrine that exemplifies the harmonious fusion of Buddhist and Shinto religions. The shrine sits beside **Nachi no Taki**, Japan's tallest single-drop waterfall. Then, transfer to the hotel for a buffet dinner. Don't forget to soak in the hotel's **onsen hot springs**. MERCURE WAKAYAMA KUSHIMOTO RESORT & SPA (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 6: Wed, Mar 24 – KUSHIMOTO – SHIRAHAMA. After breakfast, visit **Hashigui Iwa**, a line of 40 large and small rocks stretching 850 meters out into the sea. Then, stop at **Toretore Market** for some shopping and lunch (on your own). After, visit the **Sandanbeki Cliff** and **Sandanbeki Cave**, historically significant as a former pirate and samurai hideaway. Lastly, visit **Senjoshiki**, a vast wave-carved sandstone plateau jutting into the Pacific on Shirahama's west coast, before transferring to the hotel. A Western dinner will be served at the hotel this evening. NANKI-SHIRAHAMA MARRIOTT HOTEL (1 Night) (B, D)

Day 7: Thur, Mar 25 – SHIRAHAMA – WAKAYAMA. This morning, enjoy shopping at an **umeboshi (salted plum) factory**, a uniquely Japanese staple. Next, learn about two ingredients essential to Japanese cuisine at the **Ota Kyusuke Miso Factory** and a **shoyu factory**. After lunch at a local restaurant, explore **Wakayama Castle**, which offers stunning panoramic views of Wakayama City from its main keep situated atop Mt. Torafuso. Transfer to the hotel in Wakayama and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. HOTEL GRANVIA WAKAYAMA (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 8: Fri, Mar 26 – WAKAYAMA – MT. KOYA – OSAKA – KYOTO. After breakfast, explore Mt. Koya, a sacred Buddhist temple settlement and headquarters of the Shingon sect of Esoteric Buddhism, founded by Kuukai (also known as Kobo Daishi), one of Japan's most significant religious



figures. Once a small, secluded temple town, Mt. Koya is now home to more than a hundred temples, including **Kongobuji**, the head temple you'll visit. Then, we stop in Osaka and visit **Dotonbori**, a lively shopping and entertainment district along the Dotonbori Canal. Enjoy lunch here (on your own). Lastly, visit **Kuromon Ichiba Market**, a lively covered market stretching 580 meters, famous for its fresh seafood, fruits and vegetables, meats, dried fish, pickles, and confectionery. Transfer to the hotel in Kyoto, where the remainder of the day is at your leisure. The Local Guide will have suggestions on various dining and shopping opportunities nearby. MIYAKO HOTEL KYOTO HACHUO (3 Nights) (B)

Day 9: Sat, Mar 27 – KYOTO. After a delicious buffet breakfast, embark on a full day of sightseeing, beginning with a visit to **Nijo Castle**. When the Tokugawa Shogunate fell in 1867, the castle was briefly used as an imperial palace before being donated to the city and opened to the public as a historic site. The castle buildings are arguably the best surviving examples of architecture from Japan's feudal era. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before taking part in today's hands-on experience: **yuzen dyeing**, one of Kyoto's traditional craft techniques. Since the patterns are dyed by placing a paper stencil over a piece of fabric, such as a tote bag, you can make an authentic piece, even if this is your first time. A great souvenir of this tour! Lastly, visit the iconic **Kinkakuji (Temple of the Golden Pavilion)**, a Zen temple whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. After dinner, the remainder of the evening is at your leisure. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Sun, Mar 28 – KYOTO. Full day at leisure. The perfect day to fulfill your shopping list. Your hotel is surrounded by department stores, specialty stores, and restaurants. The Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

Day 11: Mon, Mar 29 – KYOTO – UJI – NARA – OSAKA – KANSAI – HONOLULU. After breakfast, depart Kyoto for Kansai. En route, stop in Uji and enjoy free time exploring **Byodoin Omotesando**, the historic temple road leading up to Byodoin. It is a prime shopping area renowned for its abundance of Uji matcha green tea shops, cafés, souvenir shops, and stores selling unique local products. Enjoy a variety of matcha-based dishes, such as matcha dumplings, matcha sweets, and matcha soba noodles, as well as Kyoto-style obanzai (traditional home-cooked dishes) at one of numerous restaurants and cafés. Try comparing the matcha soft serve from different shops and find your favorite. After lunch at a local restaurant, explore **Todaiji**, the largest wooden building in Japan that houses a 16.3-meter-high bronze statue of Buddha, the largest in the country. Then, visit the surrounding **Nara Deer Park**, which is inhabited by over 1,000 deer. A final shopping stop will be made at **AEON MALL Rinku Sennan**, before transferring to the Kansai International Airport for our return flight home. Depart Kansai via Japan Airlines flt #790 at 10:00 pm and arrive in Honolulu at 10:45 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B, L)

UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Nijo Castle (1994), Kinkakuji (1994), Todaiji (1998).