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2027 SUMMER KYOTO GION FESTIVAL

Experience one of the oldest and greatest festivals in Japan!

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9 Nights / 11 Days • 17 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 4 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide
July 08 – 18, 2027 • Tour Manager: Randy Macadangdang

OVERVIEW: Kyoto's Gion Festival is one of Japan's largest and most celebrated summer festivals, designated as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage practice. Experience the festival and discover the wonders of Kyoto's history, craftsmanship, and musical traditions.

VISIT: Kansai, Himeji, Kurashiki, Okayama, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Osaka, Uji, Kyoto, Kameoka & Arashiyama

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS: Himeji Castle, Kurashiki Bikan Area, AEON MALL Okayama, Korakuen, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, Atomic Bomb Dome, Children's Memorial, Itsukushima Shrine, Omotesando Street, Miyajima Ropeway, Byodoin, Sanjusangen-do (Rengeo-in), Nijo Castle, Kinkakuji (Temple of the Golden Pavilion), Sagano Torokko Ressha (Sagano Romantic Train), Arashiyama, Nishiki Market, Gion Festival, Kuromon Ichiba Market, Dotonbori & Costco

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES: Momiji Manju Making, Yuzen Dyeing, Wagashi (Japanese Sweets) Making & Japanese Tea Ceremony

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES: Himeji Castle, Atomic Bomb Dome, Itsukushima Shrine, Nijo Castle & Kinkakuji

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Day 1: Thur, July 08 – HONOLULU – Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 12:45 pm.

Day 2: Fri, July 09 – HANEDA – KANSAI. Arrive at Haneda International Airport at 3:55 pm. Depart Haneda via Japan Airlines flt #229 at 8:40 pm and arrive at the Kansai Domestic Airport at 10:00 pm. After entry formalities, walk to the hotel located within the airport and enjoy a boxed dinner there. HOTEL NIKKO KANSAI AIRPORT (1 Night) (D)

Day 3: Sat, July 10 – KANSAI – HIMEJI – KURASHIKI – OKAYAMA. After a sumptuous buffet breakfast, visit **Himeji Castle**, Japan's largest and most visited castle and a splendid example of traditional architecture. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before stopping in **Kurashiki** to explore its beautiful **Bikan area**. In its merchant days, this scenic town thrived as a port for rice shipments, and several old rice granaries and historic buildings still remain along the stone-lined canal. After arriving at the hotel, walk to the nearby **AEON MALL Okayama** for shopping and dining (on your own). HOTEL GRANVIA OKAYAMA (1 Night) (B, L)

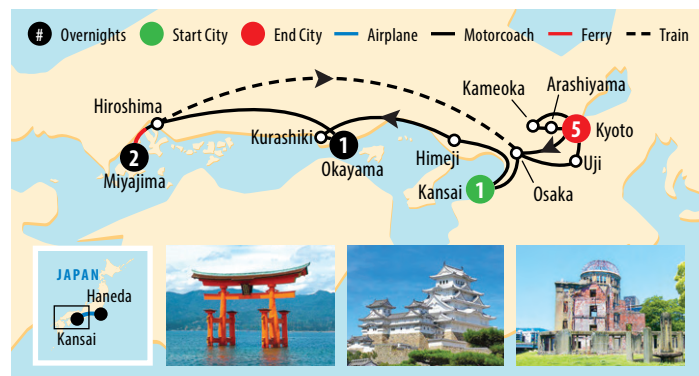
*Baggage will be sent from Okayama to Kyoto, skipping Miyajima. Prepare overnight bag for two nights.

Day 4: Sun, July 11 – OKAYAMA – HIROSHIMA – MIYAJIMA. Begin the day walking through **Korakuen**, considered one of Japan's three great landscape gardens. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the sobering **Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park**, which commemorates the bombing of Hiroshima, including the **Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum**, **Atomic Bomb Dome**, and **Children's Memorial**. Then, take a short ferry ride to the island of Miyajima, which is considered sacred by many, and walk to the ryokan (traditional Japanese inn). This evening, soak in the relaxing atmosphere of the **onsen hot springs**. You can enjoy the beauty of the surrounding primeval forest and gentle sound of mountain streams while taking a bath. Enjoy a traditional, multi-course **Kaiseki Dinner** featuring Hiroshima's local and seasonal ingredients including fresh seafood from the Seto Inland Sea. IWASO INN (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 5: Mon, July 12 – MIYAJIMA. This morning, walk to the nearby **Itsukushima Shrine**, whose vermilion torii gate looks like it is floating in the middle of the sea at high tide. The shrine complex is designated as one of Japan's Three Most Scenic Places. Then, learn how to **make momiji manju**, a specialty of the area. After, enjoy excellent shopping and dining choices for lunch (on your own) along **Omotesando Street**, the main street of Miyajima. Finally, take in the spectacular view from the **Miyajima Ropeway**. This evening, enjoy a different variety of **Kaiseki Dinner**. Be sure to enjoy the **onsen hot springs** before and/or after your dinner. (B, D)

Day 6: Tue, July 13 – MIYAJIMA – HIROSHIMA – OSAKA – UJI – KYOTO. After breakfast, we make our way back to Hiroshima via a short ferry ride. Then, board a JR Super Express Train to Osaka. Upon arrival, transfer to Uji via motorcoach and visit **Byodoin**. The temple is globally renowned for its Phoenix Hall (Hoodo), which is also depicted on the back of the 10-yen coin. After, make your way to the hotel in Kyoto, where the remainder of the evening is at your leisure. MIYAKO HOTEL KYOTO HACHUO (5 Nights) (B)

Day 7: Wed, July 14 – KYOTO. Start the day with a visit to **Sanjusangen-do**, the popular name for Renge-in, a temple famous for its 1,001 statues of Kannon, the goddess of mercy. Next, visit **Nijo Castle**, whose buildings are arguably the best surviving examples of architecture from Japan's feudal era. After lunch at a local restaurant, enjoy a hands-on **yuzen dyeing** (surikomi yuzen) experience, one of Kyoto's traditional craft dyeing 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. Lastly, visit **Kinkakuji (Temple of the Golden Pavilion)**, a Zen temple whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf, before returning to the hotel for a buffet dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Thur, July 15 – KYOTO – KAMEOKA – ARASHIYAMA – KYOTO. After breakfast, travel to Kameoka and board the **Sagano Torokko Ressha (Sagano Romantic Train)** to Arashiyama. Spend some free time to leisurely stroll around **Arashiyama**, shop for world-famous Arashiyama bamboo products, or explore the famous Arashiyama Bamboo Forests, before lunch at a local restaurant. Then, learn how to **make wagashi** (traditional Japanese sweets). Finally, explore **Nishiki Market**, a five-block street with over a hundred shops selling everything from fresh produce and cookware to Kyoto specialties. Return to Kyoto for an evening of leisure. (B, L)

Day 9: Fri, July 16 – KYOTO. Full day at leisure. Your hotel is surrounded by department stores, specialty stores, and restaurants. The perfect day to fulfill your shopping list or explore more of Japan on your own. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

Day 10: Sat, July 17 – KYOTO. This morning, transfer by public transportation to the **Gion Festival**, one of Japan's largest and most famous annual festivals. Many of its events are held at Yasaka Shrine, with the highlight being the Yamaboko Junko Grand Parade, a procession of 33 floats that winds through the streets to purify the city and appease the deities. Each two-storied float stands about six meters tall (almost 20 feet) and is adorned with exquisite craftsmanship such as woven fabrics, dyed textiles, and sculptures, earning them the description "mobile art museums." Hayashi-kata (musicians) perform traditional Gion-bayashi (traditional music of the Gion festival, featuring drums, flutes, and gongs) from the second level of the floats. Join thousands of festivalgoers in the merriment. In the afternoon, return to the hotel by public transportation. The remainder of the day is at your leisure. (B)

Day 11: Sun, July 18 – KYOTO – OSAKA – KANSAI – HONOLULU. After breakfast, experience a traditional **Japanese tea ceremony**. Then, visit **Kuromon Ichiba Market**, a covered market famous for its fresh seafood, premium meats, and vibrant street food culture. Enjoy lunch here (on your own). Next, visit **Dotonbori**, a lively shopping and entertainment district along the Dotonbori Canal. Finally, stop at a **Costco** for some shopping and time to check out the food court, before transferring to the Kansai International Airport. Depart Kansai via Japan Airlines flt #790 at 10:00 pm and arrive in Honolulu at 11:00 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B)

UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Himeji Castle (1993), Atomic Bomb Dome (1996), Itsukushima Shrine (1996), Nijo Castle (1994), Kinkakuji (1994)