



2027 WINTER TOKYO SUMO TOURNAMENT

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8 Nights / 10 Days • 16 Meals (8 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 5 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide
January 15 – 24, 2027 • Tour Manager: Melanie Lum

OVERVIEW: Grand Sumo Tournaments (Honbashi) are held six times a year across four major cities in Japan! Each tournament lasts 15 days, typically in odd-numbered months, starting in January. The **January Tokyo Grand Sumo Tournament**, also known as Hatsu Bashi (First Tournament), will take place from January 10 – 24, at the Ryogoku Kokugikan Sumo Arena. This is the first major tournament of the year, featuring top-division makuuchi and juryo wrestlers. Makuuchi is the top division rank, fixed at just 42 wrestlers, while the juryo is the second highest division rank, fixed at 28 wrestlers. Once a wrestler is promoted to the rank of juryo, he is considered a professional with significant salary and privileges, as opposed to lower rankings that are "in training" and receive only a small allowance. With wrestlers being promoted and demoted based on their win-loss record, each match is a battle, as wrestlers fight to increase their ranking.

VISIT: Haneda, Yokohama, Hakone & Tokyo

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS: Odawara Castle, Owakudani, Hakone Ropeway, Boat Ride on Lake Ashi, Oshino Hakkai, Local Shopping Mall, Edo-Tokyo Museum, Ryogoku Kokugikan Sumo Arena, Tokyo Grand Sumo Tournament, Chankonabe Meal, Meiji Shrine, Azabudai Hills, teamLab Borderless: MORI Building DIGITAL ART MUSEUM, Toyosu Senkyaku Banrai, Asakusa Sensoji Temple, Nakamise Shopping & Ameyoko Shopping

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES: Ramen Making, Strawberry Picking, Hakone Yosegi-Zaiku & Agekama (Fried Fishcake) Making

COMPLETE PACKAGES!

Includes Roundtrip Airfare from Honolulu, 8 Nights Hotel, 16 Meals, Tips for Local Tour Guides and Bus Drivers, All Taxes & Fees

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Day 1: Fri, Jan 15 — HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 11:40 am.

Day 2: Sat, Jan 16 — 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)

*Baggage will be sent from Haneda to Tokyo, skipping Hakone. Prepare an overnight bag for two nights.

Day 3: Sun, Jan 17 — HANEDA — YOKOHAMA — HAKONE. After breakfast, depart for Hakone. En route, stop in Yokohama and take part in a **ramen making** experience, where you will make noodles using the traditional Chinese method of “green bamboo beating” learn how flour is transformed into ramen. You’ll get to enjoy your creation for lunch. After lunch, go to a local farm and **pick strawberries** at the peak of ripeness. A great afternoon treat! Next, explore the nearby **Odawara Castle**, which was originally built in the mid-15th century. One of the most powerful clans during Sengoku (Warring States Era), the Hojo Clan used the castle as its base to control the region around modern-day Tokyo. Today, it’s the closest castle keep to Tokyo. Continue to Hakone, where much of the area is considered an active volcanic zone since its creation from eruption of Mt. Hakone some 3,000 years ago. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel. Tonight, try out the **onsen hot springs**, which are divided for men and women. The high-quality service and facilities are sure to become some of your fondest memories of your visit to Japan. Don’t miss out! HAKONE KOWAKIEN HOTEL (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 4: Mon, Jan 18 — HAKONE. After a delicious breakfast at the hotel, visit **Owakudani** (Great Boiling Valley), the source of the onsen hot spring waters of Hakone. Next, hop on the **Hakone Ropeway** and view the surrounding countryside. Enjoy a boat ride on the beautiful Lake Ashi. After lunch, try your hand at **Hakone yosegi-zaiku**, an inlaid mosaic woodwork unique to this area. A great souvenir of this trip! Next, learn to **make agekama**, also known as kamaboko, a savory Japanese fishcake made by deep-frying surimi paste (minced fish paste primarily made from white fish, like Alaskan pollock) until golden brown and crispy. It’s characterized by its bouncy texture, and can include vegetables like burdock root or ginger. Freshly fried kamaboko is so tasty! Return to the hotel for dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Tue, Jan 19 — HAKONE — TOKYO. On the way back to Tokyo, visit **Oshino Hakkai**, a set of eight ponds located in the Fuji Five Lake Region. The eight ponds are fed by melting snow from the nearby slopes of Mt. Fuji. The melted snow filtered down through porous layers of lava for 80 years creates a very clear spring water that is revered by the locals. Visitors can drink the cool water straight from the source. Next, enjoy free time at a **local shopping mall**, where you will have ample time to explore, shop, and enjoy lunch (on your own). Continue on to your hotel in Tokyo and enjoy an evening of leisure. The Local Guide will have suggestions for shopping and dining nearby. KEIO PLAZA HOTEL TOKYO (5 Nights) (B)

Day 6: Wed, Jan 20 — TOKYO. Start your day at the **Edo-Tokyo Museum**, which vividly illustrates the past of Tokyo (known as Edo until 1869) through its exhibits. Visitors are able to experience and learn about various aspects of what life was like during the Edo period. Next, depart for the **Ryogoku Kokugikan Sumo Arena**, where the **JANUARY GRAND SUMO TOURNAMENT**, also known as Hatsu Basho (First Tournament), is taking place. The results of these official tournaments determine the ranking and status of a rishiki (sumo wrestler). Since rank and status affects the privileges and pay that a wrestler receives, they are all eager to battle to improve their ranking by winning as many matches as they can during the 15-day tournament. Get comfortable in your reserved seats as you watch the sumo matches take place. While the tournament is broadcasted on NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation), nothing beats being able to experience the excitement of being there in person, as the crowd sits in tense silence as everyone waits for the wrestlers to choose their moment to lunge at their opponent. Enjoy a bento lunch as you cheer on your favorite wrestler. When the days matches are over, depart the arena for dinner, where you will **“eat like a sumo wrestler”** with a **special chankonabe meal**. Chankonabe is a type of nabemono (Japanese stew or one-pot dish) commonly eaten in vast quantities by sumo wrestlers as part of a weight-gaining diet. The dish contains a dashi or chicken broth soup base with sake or mirin to add flavor. The characteristic of this hot pot is that there is no specific “recipe.” And unlike other varieties of Japanese hot pot meals, meats, seafood, vegetables, and pretty much everything can be thrown into the hot pot. Chanko is a term used to refer to all types of cuisine made by sumo wrestlers. The word chanko comes from combining “chan” meaning “parent” and “ko” meaning “child,” and refers to the act of everyone — coaches and trainees alike — sharing the same meal together. After dinner, return to the hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Thur, Jan 21 — TOKYO. After breakfast, explore **Meiji Shrine**, the Shinto shrine dedicated to the deified spirits of the Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shoken, who modernized Japan by transforming the country from an isolated feudal shogunate into a modern industrialized world power within a single



generation. As you pass its massive torii gates, you’ll be surprised at the tranquil atmosphere you experience in the middle of bustling Tokyo! Then, **enjoy free time in Azabudai Hills** for shopping and dining (on your own). Azabudai Hills opened in November 2023 and features the 325-m-tall Mori JP Tower, the tallest building in Tokyo and the largest skyscraper in the world by floor area. If you follow the signs for the Sky Lobby, you will be whisked up to the 33rd floor of the Mori JP Tower, and gain free access to one of the best observation decks in Tokyo, with gorgeous views from the floor-to-ceiling windows — including the famous Tokyo Tower. You’ll also find around 150 restaurants, cafés, and shops, including luxury brands like Dior and Cartier. There is even a 4,000 square-meter underground food market that features more than 30 food specialty stores within its walls. Next, explore **teamLab Borderless: MORI Building DIGITAL ART MUSEUM**. “teamLab Borderless is a world of artworks without boundaries, a museum without a map created by art collective teamLab. Artworks move out of rooms, relate to other works, influence each other, and at times intermingle, without boundaries. Through this group of works, one continuous world without boundaries is created. Immerse your body in borderless art. Wander, explore with intention, discover, and create a world with others.” Return to the hotel for an evening of leisure. (B)

Day 8: Fri, Jan 22 — TOKYO. Enjoy a morning of leisure. In the early afternoon, return to the **Ryogoku Kokugikan Sumo Arena**. Get comfortable in your reserved seats as you watch more **JANUARY GRAND SUMO TOURNAMENT** sumo matches. At the end of the day, return to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

Day 9: Sat, Jan 23 — 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 10: Sun, Jan 24 — TOKYO — HANEDA — HONOLULU. Begin the day at **Toyosu Senkyaku Banrai**, a shopping complex that recreates an Edo period neighborhood. Toyosu Senkyaku Banrai offers fresh food from the neighboring Toyosu Market and serves to showcase the best foods in Tokyo. Enjoy time for shopping and lunch (on your own). If you get tired, head up to the 8th floor and relax at the foot bath garden, which is free of charge to all visitors. Then, head to **Asakusa**, the center of Tokyo’s shitamachi (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 omiyage for centuries. Finally, visit **Ameyoko**, a busy market street between Okachimachi Station and Ueno Station. 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 here 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. Transfer to the Haneda International Airport for the flight home. Depart Haneda via Japan Airlines flt #72 at 9:55 pm and arrive in Honolulu at 9:40 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B)

* 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/line” 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. **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: 09/07/26. 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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