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off the Beaten Path: *A Different Side of Japan*

2026 SPRING BREAK GRAND OKINAWA PLUS SNOW MONKEYS & TOKYO SHOPPING

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

9 Nights / 11 Days • 19 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 5 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide
March 13 – 23, 2026

OVERVIEW: Okinawa is home to a unique culture that differs considerably from that of mainland Japan. Until the islands were invaded by the Satsuma Domain (present day Kagoshima Prefecture) 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 from Shuri Castle. It was not until 1879, a few years after the Meiji Restoration, that the kingdom was abolished and incorporated into Japan as 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 the year 2000, five castles and four related sites were designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites under the collective title of "Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu."

OKINAWA HIGHLIGHTS (5 NIGHTS): Shisa Painting Experience • Shuri Castle
Ryusou Ryukyu Kimono Dress-Up Experience • Coral Dyeing Experience
AEON MALL Okinawa RYCOM • Awamori (Rice Liquor) Factory Tour • Churaumi Aquarium
Nakijin Castle Site • Michi-no-Eki KYODA • Okinawa World • Gyokusendo Stalactite Cave
Habu (Snake) Museum • Glass Factory • Himeyuri Peace Museum • Mabuni Hill

HOTEL COLLECTIVE (OKINAWA): Luxurious accommodations right on Kokusai-dori shopping street.

NAGANO & TOKYO HIGHLIGHTS (3 NTS): LaLaport Toyosu • JR Super Express Train Ride
Jigokudani Monkey Park • Zenkoji Temple • Sushi Making Class Experience
Asakusa Sensoji Temple • Nakamise Shopping • Ameyoko Shopping

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

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Day 1: Fri, Mar 13 — HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 11:55 am.

Day 2: Sat, Mar 14 — HANEDA. Arrive at the Haneda International Airport at 3:55 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: Sun, Mar 15 — HANEDA — NAHA. After a breakfast buffet at your hotel, transfer back to the Haneda airport terminal. 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 2:20 pm. Begin your introduction to Okinawa with a chance to **paint your own shisa** — a traditional Ryukyuan cultural artifact derived from Chinese guardian lions, often seen in similar pairs, resembling a cross between a lion and a dog, from Okinawan mythology. Shisas are believed to protect from some evils — with the left shisa traditionally having a closed mouth keeping good spirits in, while the open mouth shisa on the right traditionally wards off evil spirits. Transfer to the hotel. After hotel check in, transfer to a local restaurant for dinner. HOTEL COLLECTIVE (1 Night) (B, L, D)

*Baggage will be held at the hotel in Naha. Prepare an overnight bag for one night stay in Manza.

Day 4: Mon, Mar 16 — NAHA — KITANAKAGUSUKU — NAGO — MANZA. After a sumptuous buffet breakfast at your hotel, we embark on a full day of discovery! Begin the day at **Shuri Castle** (Shurijo), the most important castle of the Ryukyu Kingdom, serving both as the central government office and royal residence. Although the main buildings of Shuri Castle were destroyed in a fire in October 2019, reconstruction to bring back the castle to its former glory is expected to be completed by fall of 2026. Shurijo 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! Coral is a fundamental part of the history and culture of the Okinawan Islands. Many areas of Okinawa's main island are made of Ryukyu 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 when you learn how to **decorate a tote bag** using a **coral dyeing technique** done only in Okinawa, "**ryuzen zome**." Then stop at **AEON MALL Okinawa Rycom** for shopping and lunch (on your own). Next we visit an **awamori (rice liquor) factory**. Awamori is the signature alcoholic beverage of Okinawa and most of the Ryukyu Islands. Learn the unique process involved in making Awamori. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel tonight. ANA INTERCONTINENTAL MANZA BEACH RESORT (1 Night) (B, D)

Day 5: Tue, Mar 17 — MANZA — MOTOBU — NAKIJIN — NAGO — NAHA. After an incredible breakfast buffet, enjoy a visit to the **Churaumi Aquarium**, widely considered Japan's best aquarium. It is the main attraction of the Ocean Expo Park on the former grounds of the 1975 International Ocean Expo. The aquarium was completely redesigned and reopened in 2002. The highlight of a visit to the Churaumi Aquarium is the massive **Kuroshio Tank**, one of the largest in the world. The tank takes its name from the warm Kuroshio current which plays a large part in the variety of Okinawa's of marine life. Next, visit the ruins of **Nakijin Castle**. 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. On the way back to Naha City, stop at the roadside **Michi-no-Eki KYODA** for a chance to stretch the legs and get a

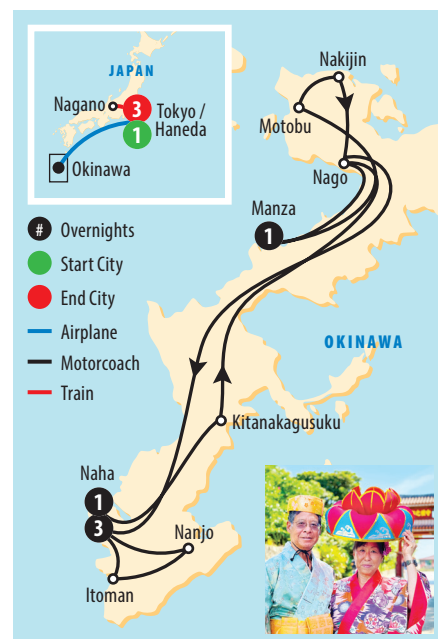
little shopping done as well. Not only do they provide a clean and convenient rest stop, but you will find an array of farmer-direct merchandise along with other "omiyage" items. The remainder of the day is at your leisure. The Local Guide will have suggestions for dinner tonight. HOTEL COLLECTIVE (3 Nights) (B, L)

Day 6: Wed, Mar 18 — NAHA. Full day at leisure. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. Perfect day to relax and/or visit with family and friends in Okinawa. Don't miss the out on the numerous shopping opportunities on Kokusai-dori — including the Heiwa-dori covered shopping arcade or the Don Quijote that is open until 3:00 am every day! (B)

Day 7: Thur, Mar 19 — NAHA — NANJO — ITOMAN — 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, a craft village and a snake museum. With a total length of five kilometers, **Gyokusendo Cave** is the longest of the many caves in the south of Okinawa Island and the second longest cave in the entire country. 850 meters of the cave are open to the public and feature spectacular stalactites and stalagmites. The **Kingdom Village** is a nice replica of a traditional Ryukyu village with workshops introducing the various traditional Okinawan crafts, such as weaving, dyeing, paper making, pottery, sugar cane processing, the making of music instruments, and the more recently introduced glass blowing. Colorful **Ryukyu glass** is one of those **must have souvenirs** when visiting Okinawa. Taking a tour of the work shop allows visitors to see how the craftsmen create their art. Hands-on experiences are offered at many of the workshops. Enjoy a buffet lunch while there. After lunch, visit the **Himeyuri Peace Museum**, which details what the Okinawan people experienced — from the atrocities of war, to their struggles during American occupation, and the difficulties they faced with the switching of government powers in the post-war years. The museum also commemorates the fate of the female high school students that had worked in the army field hospitals under horrendous conditions — many of which did not survive the war. Testimonials of the few survivors of the Battle of Okinawa are exhibited here — offering detailed recollections of their painful experiences. Next, take in the view from **Mabuni Hill**, the site where the Battle of Okinawa ended. After returning to the hotel, walk to a nearby restaurant for dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Fri, Mar 20 — NAHA — TOKYO. Depart Naha Airport via Japan Airlines flt #910 at 1:40 pm and arrive at Haneda Domestic Airport at 4:00 pm. En route to the hotel, a stop will be made at **LaLaport Toyosu**, a mall located on Tokyo Bay that has 180 shops, including UNIQLO, 100 yen shop, DAISO, and more. This evening enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel. KEIO PLAZA HOTEL TOKYO (3 Nights) (B, D)

Day 9: Sat, Mar 21 — TOKYO — NAGANO — TOKYO. After breakfast, motorcoach transfer to Tokyo Train Station and board the **JR Super Express Train** to Nagano. Receive a bento lunch upon arrival in Nagano. Transfer by motorcoach to the **Jigokudani Monkey Park** for the unique experience of seeing wild monkeys bathing in a natural hot spring. The park is inhabited by Japanese Macaques, which are also known as Snow Monkeys. The park has one man-made pool around which the monkeys gather. Then travel to **Zenkoji Temple**, one of the most important and popular temples in Japan. Return to Tokyo via **JR Super Express Train**. The remainder of the evening is at your leisure. The Local Guide will have many suggestions for dinner and shopping. (B, L)



Day 10: Sun, Mar 22 — TOKYO. Day at leisure. Enjoy shopping and dining in the bustling Shinjuku area. Perfect day to relax and/or visit with family and friends in Tokyo. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

Day 11: Mon, Mar 23 — TOKYO — HONOLULU. After breakfast, embark on a full day of discovery! Today's highlight will be a hands-on **sushi making session**, which will yield your delicious lunch. **Asakusa** is next — the center of Tokyo's shitamachi (literally "low city"), one of Tokyo's 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 tourist souvenirs for centuries. Finally spend some time in **Ameyoko**, a busy market street along the Yamanote Line tracks between Okachimachi and Ueno Stations before heading to the airport. Depart the Haneda International Airport via Japan Airlines flt #72 at 9:55 pm and arrive in Honolulu at 9:55 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B, L)

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

* 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. **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: 11/03/25. 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.** 071325

