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10 Nights / 12 Days • 20 Meals (10 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 5 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide
March 24 – April 04, 2027 • Tour Manager: Andy Lau

OVERVIEW: Okinawa's distinct culture reflects its past as the independent Ryukyu Kingdom. The islands remained a separate country until the kingdom was abolished and incorporated into Japan as the Okinawa Prefecture in 1879. Okinawa's castles, known as "Gusuku" in the Okinawan language, are some of the clearest symbols of its unique heritage. In 2000, five castles and four related sites were recognized together as a UNESCO World Heritage Site under the collective title of "Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu."

VISIT: Haneda, Naha, Itoman, Onna, Kitanakagusuku, Manza, Nakijin, Motobu, Kyoda, Nanjo, Kyoto, Kameoka, Arashiyama & Osaka

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS: Shuri Castle, San-A Naha Main Place, Himeyuri Peace Museum, Okinawa Peace Memorial Park, Mabuni Hill, Ryukyu Mura, AEON MALL Okinawa Rycom, Awamori (Rice Liquor) Factory, Nakijin Castle, Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium, Michi-no-Eki KYODA, Okinawa World, Gyokusendo Cave, Kingdom Village, Habu (Snake) Museum, Glass Factory, Sanjusangen-do, Nijo Castle, Sagano Torokko Ressha (Sagano Romantic Train) Ride, Arashiyama, Kinkakuji (Temple of the Golden Pavilion), Kuromon Ichiba Market, Dotonbori, Shinsaibashi, Osaka Castle & AEON MALL Rinku Sennan

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES: Ryusou Ryukyu Kimono Dress-Up, Coral Dyeing, Shisa Painting, Wagashi (Traditional Japanese Sweets) Making & Yuzen Dyeing

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES: Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu, Nijo Castle & Kinkakuji

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NON-STOP TRAVEL REFER-A-FRIEND REWARDS††

Day 1: Wed, Mar 24 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 12:05 pm.

Day 2: Thur, Mar 25 – 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, Mar 26 – HANEDA – NAHA. After a breakfast buffet 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 #915 at 11:55 am and arrive at the Naha International Airport at 2:45 pm. After arriving in Naha, visit **Shuri Castle** (Shurijo), the most important castle of the Ryukyu Kingdom, serving both as the central government office and royal residence. While here, dress up in **Ryusou Ryukyu kimonos** for a group photo! Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant, before walking to your hotel. HOTEL COLLECTIVE (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 4: Sat, Mar 27 – NAHA – ITOMAN – NAHA. Coral is central to Okinawa's history and culture, and fossilized coral is used to create unique works of art. Try your hand at this tradition by decorating a tote bag using a **coral dyeing** technique found only in Okinawa. Next, have free time at **San-A Naha Main Place**, the largest shopping mall in Naha, to shop and enjoy lunch (on your own). After lunch, visit the **Himeyuri Peace Museum**, which details what Okinawans endured during and after World War II. The museum also honors the female high school students who were forced to work in army field hospitals under horrific conditions. Next is the **Okinawa Peace Memorial Park**, situated on **Mabuni Hill**, the site where the Battle of Okinawa ended. Return to the hotel for an evening of leisure. (B)

*One bag will be held at the hotel in Naha. Prepare a bag for a one night stay in Manza.

Day 5: Sun, Mar 28 – NAHA – ONNA – KITANAKAGUSUKU – MANZA. After breakfast, we head north to Onna and spend the morning at **Ryukyu Mura**, a small theme park about Okinawan culture in the form of a recreated village from the time of the Ryukyu Kingdom. The highlight of Ryukyu Mura is the eisa show, a form of folk dance that is performed to honor the spirits of one's ancestors. Then, stop at **AEON MALL Okinawa Rycom** for shopping and lunch (on your own). Finally, we visit an **awamori (rice liquor) factory** to learn the unique process involved in making awamori. Awamori is the signature alcoholic beverage of Okinawa. Enjoy dinner at the hotel tonight. ANA INTERCONTINENTAL MANZA BEACH RESORT (1 Night) (B, D)

Day 6: Mon, Mar 29 – MANZA – NAKIJIN – MOTOBU – KYODA – NAHA. After a buffet breakfast, explore the ruins of **Nakijin Castle**, a designated UNESCO World Heritage site, and learn about the history of Okinawa. Then, enjoy a visit to the **Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium**, one of the largest and most renowned aquariums in the world. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, before making a stop at **Michi-no-Eki KYODA** for a chance to stretch your legs and get a little shopping done. KYODA offers a wide variety of specialties from the northern Okinawa, including hard-to-find products from Okinawa's remote islands. Upon arrival in Naha, the remainder of the day is at your leisure. The Local Guide will have suggestions for dinner. HOTEL COLLECTIVE (3 Nights) (B, L)

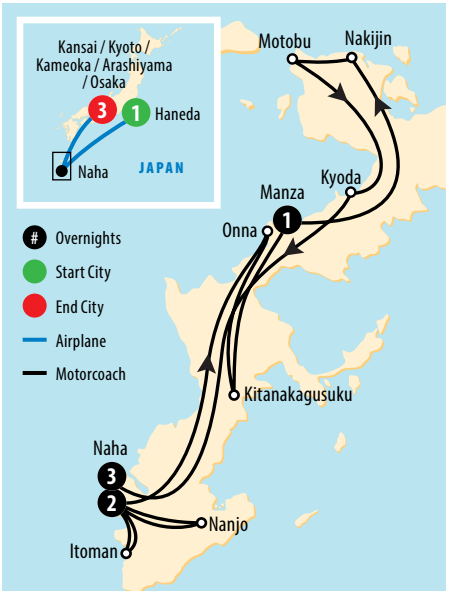
Day 7: Tue, Mar 30 – NAHA. Full day at leisure. The perfect day to relax and/or visit with family and friends. Don't miss out on the numerous shopping opportunities at Kokusai-dori, the main shopping street in Naha, where you can find a Don Quijote open until 3:00 am every day! Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

Day 8: Wed, Mar 31 – NAHA – NANJO – NAHA. Start the day with a visit to **Okinawa World**, a theme park about Okinawan culture. The park's main attractions are **Gyokusendo Cave**, **Kingdom Village**, and **Habu (Snake) Museum**. Gyokusendo Cave is the longest cave in southern Okinawa and the second longest in Japan. Kingdom Village recreates a traditional Ryukyu village and hosts workshops in weaving, dyeing, sugar cane processing, instrument making, glass blowing, and other traditional Okinawan crafts. Many workshops offer hands-on experiences and tours. Colorful Ryukyu glass is one of those must have souvenirs when visiting Okinawa, so be sure to check out the **Ryukyu glass factory**! Enjoy a buffet lunch while here. Before returning to Naha, let your creative side loose when **you paint a shisa**, a traditional cultural artifact and decoration that resembles a cross between a lion and a dog, often seen in pairs. Return to the hotel in Naha for some time to relax before enjoying dinner at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Thur, Apr 01 – NAHA – KANSAI – KYOTO. This morning, we depart Naha and fly to Kansai. Depart the Naha Airport via Japan Transocean Air flt #4 at 11:25 am. Arrive at the Kansai Domestic Airport at 1:30 pm. Transfer by coach to your hotel in Kyoto. The remainder of your day is at your leisure. The Local Guide will have suggestions for dinner. DOUBLETREE BY HILTON KYOTO STATION (3 Nights) (B)

Day 10: Fri, Apr 02 – KYOTO. Start the day at **Sanjusangen-do**, a Buddhist temple famous for its 1,001 statues of Kannon, the goddess of compassion. Then, explore **Nijo Castle**, which are arguably the best surviving examples of architecture from Japan's feudal era. After lunch at a local restaurant, **learn how to make wagashi** (traditional Japanese sweets). Then, try your hand at **yuzen dyeing**, one of Kyoto's traditional craft techniques. Since the patterns are dyed by placing a stencil over a piece of fabric, such as a tote bag, you can make an authentic piece, even if this is your first time. Return to the hotel for a Western dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 11: Sat, Apr 03 – KYOTO – KAMEOKA – ARASHIYAMA – KYOTO. After breakfast, travel aboard the **Sagano Torokko Ressha (Sagano Romantic Train)** from Kameoka to Arashiyama. In **Arashiyama**, enjoy free time for a leisurely stroll around the area, shop for world-famous Arashiyama bamboo products, or explore the famous Arashiyama Bamboo Forests. After lunch, visit **Kinkakuji (Temple of the Golden Pavilion)**, a Zen temple whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. The remainder of the evening is at your leisure. (B, L)



Day 12: Sun, Apr 04 – KYOTO – OSAKA – KANSAI – HONOLULU. After a morning of leisure, visit **Kuromon Ichiba Market**, a lively covered market famous for its seafood, produce, meats, confectionery, and more. Next, visit Dotonbori and Shinsaibashi, a couple of interconnected districts known as one of Osaka's most popular tourist destinations. **Dotonbori** is a lively shopping and entertainment district along Dotonbori Canal, while nearby **Shinsaibashi** is a premier shopping area, blending chain stores, department stores, and top designer labels. Enjoy lunch in the area (on your own). Spend time exploring **Osaka Castle**, arguably one of Osaka's most prominent landmarks. Osaka Castle Park is one of Japan's most iconic cherry blossom viewing spots, featuring over 600 trees across its expansive grounds. 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)

UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu (2000), Nijo Castle (1994), Kinkakuji (1994).

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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. 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: 11/13/26. 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.** JI7516 102626



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