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Off the Beaten Path: A Different Side of Japan

2027 FALL
SADO ISLAND, SNOW MONKEYS, NAGOYA, HAKONE & TOKYO

Discover Japan beyond the guidebook:
from beating drums to tranquil onsen hot springs!

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10 Nights / 12 Days • 21 Meals (10 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 6 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide
October 06 – 17, 2027

VISIT: Omiya, Niigata, Sado Island, Yudanaka Onsen, Nagano, Matsumoto, Nagoya, Shizuoka, Hakone & Tokyo

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS: Northern Culture Museum, Pier Bandai, Oni Daiko (Demon Drums) Performance, Kirarium Sado, Sado Nishimikawa Gold Park, Tarai-bune Boat Ride, Shukunegi, Toki no Mori Park, Asahi Shuzo Sake Brewery, Jigokudani Monkey Park, Zenkoji, Ishii Miso, Matsumoto Castle, AEON MALL, Atsuta Jingu Shrine, Green Tea Factory, Michi-no-Eki Kakegawa, Owakudani, Hakone Ropeway, Sensoji, Nakamise & Ameyoko

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES: Mochi Pounding, Soba Noodle Making, Gold Panning, Apple Picking, Shibori Dyeing, Tea Packing, Bamboo Basket Making, Hakone Yosegi-Zaiku & Sushi Making

Non-Stop Travel Sado Island Exclusives!

ONI DAIKO (DEMON DRUM) PERFORMANCE — Sado Island's unique tradition in which benevolent oni dance and play taiko drums to ward off evil!

COMPLETE PACKAGES!

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

Day 1: Wed, Oct 06 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 12:15 pm.

Day 2: Thu, Oct 07 – HANEDA – OMIYA. Arrive at Haneda International Airport at 3:55 pm. After entry formalities, transfer by coach to your hotel in Omiya, where the remainder of the evening is at your leisure. The hotel is just a short walk from JR Omiya Station, one of the area's largest stations with various of shopping and dining opportunities. PALACE HOTEL OMIYA (1 Night)

*Baggage will be carried by truck from Omiya to Yudanaka Onsen, skipping Sado Island. Prepare an overnight bag for two nights.

Day 3: Fri, Oct 08 – OMIYA – NIIGATA – SADO ISLAND. After breakfast, walk to Omiya Station and take the JR Super Express to Niigata. Upon arrival, visit the **Northern Culture Museum**, a former mansion showcasing art, family artifacts, and a scenic garden. While here, try your hand at **pounding mochi** – it's not as easy as it looks! Enjoy your fresh mochi with a specially prepared hagama (rice cooked in traditional cast iron pot) lunch. Next, explore **Pier Bandai**, a food market that offers all kinds of specialties from the area. Transfer to Niigata Port to ride a jet foil to Sado Island. After checking into the hotel, savor a traditional multi-course kaiseki dinner, featuring local ingredients. During dinner, watch an **oni daiko (demon drum) performance**. Don't forget to try out the **onsen hot springs**, which can be enjoyed indoors or outdoors. SADO RESORT HOTEL AZUMA (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

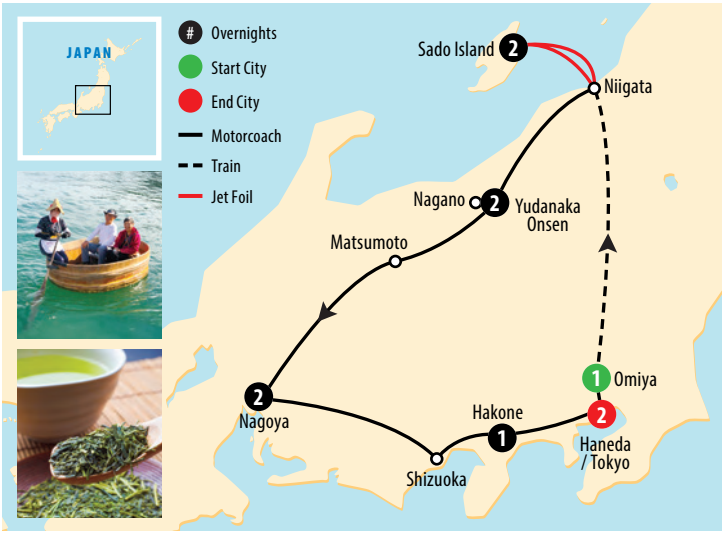
Day 4: Sat, Oct 09 – SADO ISLAND. Begin the day at **Kirarium Sado**, the official guidance center and gateway to the Sado Gold and Silver Mine, where you will learn everything you need to know about the island's mining history. Next, learn how to **make soba noodles** and eat your delicious creation for lunch. Afterward, visit **Sado Nishimikawa Gold Park** for a hands-on **gold panning** experience. Then, take a traditional **tarai-bune boat ride** – round vessels once used by women to collect shellfish and seaweed among Ogi's rocky coves. Finally, visit the charming fishing village of **Shukunegi**, where narrow lanes and Edo-period homes reflect its history as a bustling trading port. Enjoy a Western dinner at a local restaurant before returning to the hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Sun, Oct 10 – SADO ISLAND – NIIGATA – YUDANAKA ONSEN. This morning, take a tour of the **Toki no Mori Park**, a conservation park and museum dedicated to the endangered Japanese crested ibis. Transfer to Ryotsu Port and take the jet foil to Niigata Port. Then, visit **Asahi Shuzo Sake Brewery**, renowned for its award-winning sake made with pure underground water and locally grown Niigata rice. Tour the brewery, learn about the brewing process, and sample some of their products. Enjoy dinner at the ryokan (traditional Japanese inn), and soak your body in the natural **onsen hot springs**, which can be enjoyed indoors or outdoors. ISSA NO KOMICHI BIYU NO YADO (2 Nights) (B, D)

Day 6: Mon, Oct 11 – YUDANAKA ONSEN – NAGANO – YUDANAKA ONSEN. Start the day with a visit to **Jigokudani Monkey Park** and observe Japanese macaques bathing in the onsen hot springs. Next, explore **Zenkoji**, home to the first Buddhist statue ever brought into the country. Enjoy lunch in the area (on your own). After, visit a local farm to **pick apples** for a refreshing afternoon treat. Return to the ryokan, where dinner has been arranged. Don't forget to take a relaxing soak in the **onsen hot springs**! (B, D)

Day 7: Tue, Oct 12 – YUDANAKA ONSEN – MATSUMOTO – NAGOYA. After breakfast, visit **Ishii Miso**, renowned for its traditional wooden barrels, natural fermentation, and three-year aging process. Sample their miso during lunch, and spend time browsing the shop which offers additive-free miso and other miso-related products – there is even soft serve miso ice cream! Then, explore **Matsumoto Castle**, Japan's oldest surviving wooden castle tower, distinguished by its striking black-lacquered exterior. Continue to Nagoya, where the remainder of the evening is at your leisure after checking in to the hotel, which is situated directly above Nagoya Station. NAGOYA MARRIOTT ASSOCIA HOTEL (2 Nights) (B, L)

Day 8: Wed, Oct 13 – NAGOYA. This morning, unleash your creativity in a hands-on **shibori dyeing** workshop. Learn how to bind fabric following stenciled patterns before dyeing it to create intricate, one-of-a-kind designs. After, visit an **AEON MALL** for some time to shop and grab lunch (on your own). Visit **Atsuta Jingu Shrine**, Japan's second most revered Shinto shrine, home to the sacred Kusanagi-no-Tsurugi, one of Japan's Three Imperial Regalia, before returning to the hotel. The remainder of the day is at your leisure. The Local Guide will have suggestions for shopping and dining. (B)



*Baggage will be carried by truck from Nagoya to Tokyo, skipping Hakone. Prepare an overnight bag for one night.

Day 9: Thu, Oct 14 – NAGOYA – SHIZUOKA – HAKONE. This morning we make our way to Shizuoka, which produces about 40% of Japan's green tea. Visit a **green tea factory** to tour the facility and **pack your own canister of tea** – a perfect souvenir of the area! After stopping at **Michi-no-Eki Kakegawa** for lunch (on your own), learn how to **make a bamboo basket**. Continue to Hakone and enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel. Be sure to soak your body in the healing **onsen hot springs**, which can be enjoyed indoors or outdoors. HAKONE KOWAKIEN HOTEL (1 Night) (B, D)

Day 10: Fri, Oct 15 – HAKONE – TOKYO. After breakfast, visit **Owakudani** (Great Boiling Valley), and see the source of Hakone's onsen hot spring waters. Then, hop on the **Hakone Ropeway** and take in views of the surrounding countryside, where you may spot the first hints of color on the highest peaks. After a Western lunch at a local restaurant, try your hand at **Hakone yosegi-zaiku**, a unique woodwork technique that utilizes the natural colors of various trees to create beautiful geometric patterns. Transfer to the hotel in Tokyo and enjoy a buffet dinner. GRAND NIKKO TOKYO DAIBA (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 11: Sat, Oct 16 – TOKYO. Enjoy a full day at leisure. The perfect day to relax and/or visit family and friends in Tokyo! Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

Day 12: Sun, Oct 17 –TOKYO – HANEDA – HONOLULU. After a morning at leisure, take part in a hands-on **sushi making** class, which will yield your delicious lunch. After, visit the Asakusa district, where the charm of old Tokyo still lives on. Its star attraction is **Sensoji,** a beloved 7th century Buddhist temple, also known as Asakusa Kannon Temple. Leading up to the temple is **Nakamise**, a lively shopping street lined with traditional snacks and souvenirs. Finally, explore **Ameyoko**, a bustling market street featuring over 400 shops and stalls known for offering significant bargains on various products. Transfer to Haneda International Airport for the flight home. Depart Haneda via Japan Airlines flt #72 at 9:55 pm and arrive in Honolulu at 10:20 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B, L)

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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: 05/28/27. 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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