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2027 FALL TOHOKU & HOKKAIDO

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10 Nights / 12 Days • 24 Meals (10 Breakfasts, 8 Lunches, 6 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide
October 10 – 21, 2027

VISIT: Omiya, Sendai, Matsushima, Ishinomaki, Rikuzentakata, Hiraizumi, Tsunagi Onsen, Lake Tazawa, Morioka, Lake Towada, Oirase, Kazuno, Aomori, Hakodate, Lake Toya, Shiraoi, Sapporo & Tobetsu

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS: Zuihoden, Sendai Shopping Arcades, Matsushima Bay Cruise, Matsushima Fish Market, All-You-Can-Eat Steamed Oysters, Zuiganji, Matsushima Museum, Kanrantei, Okawa Elementary School Memorial, Michi-no-Eki Takata Matsubara, Chusonji, Lake Tazawa, Golden Statue of Tatsuko, Tezukuri Mura, Asabiraki, Michi-no-Eki Antora, Lake Towada Cruise, Oirase Gorge, Nebuta Museum WA RASSE, THE DANSHAKU LOUNGE, Hakodate Night View, Hakodate Morning Market, Hakodate Bay Area, Goryokaku Park, UPOPOY National Ainu Museum and Park, Orientation Drive Tour of Sapporo, ROYCE' CACAO AND CHOCOLATE TOWN, AEON MALL & Chitose Airport Domestic Terminal Shopping Mall

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES: Sasa-Kamaboko Grilling, Indigo Dyeing & Ice Cream Making

Non-Stop Travel Hokkaido Exclusives!

ICE CREAM MAKING — Made with fresh Hokkaido milk!

CRABS: PICK'EM "LIVE" FROM THE TANK — Savor the freshly steamed morsels!

Non-Stop Travel Exclusive!

WHISPER: WIRELESS TOUR GUIDE SYSTEM — Don't miss a thing! English narration directly to your ear!

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Includes Roundtrip Airfare from Honolulu, 10 Nights Hotel, 24 Meals, Tips for Local Tour Guides and Motorcoach Drivers & All Taxes and Fees

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Day 1: Sun, Oct 10 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 12:15 pm.

Day 2: Mon, Oct 11 – HANEDA – OMIYA. Arrive at Haneda International Airport at 3:55 pm. After entry formalities, transfer by coach to your hotel and enjoy the evening at leisure. The hotel is within walking distance of Omiya Station, a major hub for shopping and dining. PALACE HOTEL OMIYA (1 Night)

Day 3: Tue, Oct 12 – OMIYA – SENDAI. After breakfast, walk to the Omiya Station and depart for Sendai via shinkansen bullet train. Upon arrival, **learn how to grill sasa-kamaboko**, a bamboo leaf-shaped fish cake. Enjoy your perfectly grilled sasa-kamaboko with lunch. Then, visit **Zuihoden**, the mausoleum of Date Masamune, one of Japan's most iconic and formidable feudal lords. Next, explore **Sendai's Shopping Arcades**, a network of covered streets near Sendai Station featuring more than 250 shops, before transferring to the hotel for a Western dinner. HOTEL METROPOLITAN SENDAI (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 4: Wed, Oct 13 – SENDAI – MATSUSHIMA – SENDAI. This morning, embark on an unforgettable **sightseeing cruise** of **Matsushima Bay**, celebrated as one of Japan's Three Most Scenic Views. Then, visit **Matsushima Fish Market**, a popular retail and dining complex specializing in local seafood. Enjoy specialties such as oyster burgers or purchase fresh seafood to take home, but be sure to save your appetite for today's special lunch: **all-you-can-eat steamed oysters**! Next, visit **Zuiganji**, one of the region's most renowned Zen temples. Lastly, visit the **Matsushima Museum** to view relics of the Date clan, including armor and weapons, then relax with tea at nearby **Kanrantei** while admiring its gold-leaf doors and panoramic views of Matsushima Bay. Return to the hotel for an evening at leisure. (B, L)

*Baggage will be sent from Sendai to Morioka, skipping Tsunagi Onsen. Prepare an overnight bag for one night.

Day 5: Thu, Oct 14 – SENDAI – ISHINOMAKI – RIKUZENTAKATA– HIRAIZUMI – TSUNAGI ONSEN. Today, we head to Ishinomaki to visit the **Okawa Elementary School Memorial**, honoring those who perished in the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011. Then, stop at **Michi-no-Eki Takata Matsubara** to stretch your legs and enjoy lunch (on your own). After, visit **Chusonji**, a temple of the Tendai sect of Buddhism and Hiraizumi's most famous attraction. Tonight, enjoy a gourmet **kaiseki dinner** and soak in the luxurious **onsen hot springs**. The onsens, which are divided for men and women, can be enjoyed indoors or outdoors. TSUNAGI ONSEN HOTEL SHION (1 Night) (B, D)

Day 6: Fri, Oct 15 – TSUNAGI ONSEN – LAKE TAZAWA – MORIOKA. Start the day at **Lake Tazawa**, where the famous **golden statue of Tatsuko** stands at the western end and has become a local symbol. After a soba lunch at a local restaurant, enjoy a hands-on **indigo dyeing** activity at **Tezukuri Mura**, a traditional arts and crafts village. Upon arrival in Morioka, stop at **Asabiraki**, a renowned sake brewery, to learn how sake is made and have the chance to purchase some of its premium products. Check in at the hotel, where the remainder of the day is at your leisure. HOTEL METROPOLITAN MORIOKA NEW WING (1 Night) (B, L)

*Baggage will be sent from Morioka to Hakodate, skipping Kazuno. Prepare an overnight bag for one night.

Day 7: Sat, Oct 16 – MORIOKA – LAKE TOWADA – OIRASE – KAZUNO. Depart for Kazuno after breakfast. En route, make a stop at **Michi-no-Eki Antora** for a chance to stretch your legs and get a little shopping done. These convenient rest stations offer clean facilities, farmer-direct products, and a variety of omiyage items. After lunch at a local restaurant, enjoy a scenic **cruise on Lake Towada**, the largest caldera lake on Japan's main island. Then, stroll along **Oirase Gorge**, one of Japan's most celebrated scenic landscapes. The crystal-clear Oirase Stream traces the valley floor, winding past more than a dozen waterfalls and through lush, forested hillsides. This evening, enjoy a soak in the **onsen hot springs** before and/or after your **kaiseki dinner**. OYU ONSEN HOTEL KAZUNO (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 8: Sun, Oct 17 – KAZUNO – AOMORI – HAKODATE. This morning, visit **Nebuta Museum WA RASSE**, a museum dedicated to the famous Nebuta Festival that is held annually in early August. Transfer to Hakodate by shinkansen bullet train. To travel between the islands of Honshu and Hokkaido, trains pass through the Seikan Tunnel, the longest seabed tunnel in the world. Pick up a bento box lunch to enjoy onboard the train. Upon arrival in Hokkaido, stop at **THE DANSHAKU LOUNGE**, a unique museum, restaurant, and shop. Continue to Hakodate, where you will dine at a local restaurant before taking an evening tour to admire **Hakodate's famous night views** via a ropeway up Mt. Hakodate. Transfer to the hotel for the night, and don't forget to try-out the hotel's natural **onsen hot springs**. HOTEL & SPA CENTURY MARINA HAKODATE (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 9: Mon, Oct 18 – HAKODATE – LAKE TOYA. After breakfast, walk to the world-famous **Hakodate Morning Market**, a bustling destination offering freshly caught seafood. Then, explore the **Hakodate Bay Area**, a historic waterfront district now home to vibrant shopping and dining. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit **Goryokaku Park** and explore Goryokaku Fort, a massive star-shaped Western-style citadel. Ascend the 350-foot-tall Goryokaku Tower for sweeping 360-degree views of the grounds. Upon arrival at the hotel, enjoy a buffet dinner. This is your final opportunity to relax in an **onsen hot spring**, so be sure to take advantage of it. From the baths, you can admire spectacular views of Lake Toya and perhaps even catch the fireworks display! TOYAKO MANSEIKAKU HOTEL LAKESIDE TERRACE (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 10: Tue, Oct 19 – LAKE TOYA – SHIRAOI – SAPPORO. Start the day at learning how to **make ice cream**. Enjoy your creamy treat before stopping at a local restaurant for lunch. Then, visit **UPOPOY National Ainu Museum and Park**, which promotes understanding and awareness of Ainu history and culture, the heritage of Hokkaido's Indigenous people. Upon arrival in the capital of Hokkaido, enjoy a brief **orientation drive tour of Sapporo**, which includes the Sapporo TV Tower, Sapporo Clock Tower, Red Brick Office (Former Hokkaido Government Office Building), and Odori Park. Head to a local restaurant for dinner before checking in to the hotel. KEIO PLAZA HOTEL SAPPORO (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 11: Wed, Oct 20 – SAPPORO – TOBETSU – SAPPORO. After breakfast, learn how the famous ROYCE' chocolate treats are made at the **ROYCE' CACAO AND CHOCOLATE TOWN**, and receive a complimentary sample at the end of the museum tour. Then,



pick out "LIVE" crabs* to enjoy along with a special kaisen don (fresh seafood over rice) lunch at a local restaurant. Return to the hotel, where the remainder of the day is at your leisure. Your hotel is approximately a five-minute walk from JR Sapporo Station and the Tanukikoji Shopping Arcade, home to a MEGA Don Quijote, is also a short walk away. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B, L)

*One live crab for every 6th tour member. Live crab subject to weather conditions and availability.

Day 12: Thu, Oct 21 – SAPPORO – CHITOSE – HANEDA – HONOLULU. After breakfast, make a stop at an **AEON MALL**, with some time for shopping and lunch (on your own). Upon arrival at Chitose Airport, explore the four-story **shopping mall within the Domestic Terminal**, featuring restaurants, shops, attractions, sweets, family entertainment, and more than two dozen seafood stores offering fresh, frozen, and dried delicacies to enjoy or take home. Depart Chitose Domestic Airport via Japan Airlines flt #516 at 4:00 pm. Arrive at Haneda Domestic Airport at 5:45 pm. Depart Haneda International Airport via Japan Airlines flt #74 at 9:05 pm and arrive in Honolulu at 9:30 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B)

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†† 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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