

Affordable Luxury — Small Group Tours



Japan.
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JAPAN AIRLINES



Off the Beaten Path: A Different Side of Japan

2027 SHIBATA CITY ORGANIC RICE PLANTING PLUS TOKYO SHOPPING Niigata, Yamagata & Miyagi Prefecture

**Plant your very own organic rice in the heart of Niigata Prefecture!
Your organic Koshihikari rice will be delivered to Honolulu in the fall!!**

Enjoy your choice of Japan Airlines' "Economy," "Premium Economy," or the affordable luxury of "Business" class service. Premium Economy class customers will begin their journey with a relaxing visit to JAL's "Sakura Lounge" and the "Sakura Lounge — Hale" for Business class.

**11 Nights / 13 Days • 27 Meals (11 Breakfasts, 8 Lunches, 8 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide
May 15 – 27, 2027 • Tour Manager: Andy Lau**

VISIT: Tokyo, Niigata, Shibata City, Yonezawa, Kaminoyama Onsen,
Sagae, Tendo, Sendai & Matsushima

SHIBATA CITY: "The Rice Capital of Japan!" Join us on this one-of-a-kind tour celebrating organic Koshihikari rice, wagyu beef, organic sake, and one of the best natural onsen hot springs in all of Japan!

AFFORDABLE LUXURY — SMALL GROUP TOUR EXCLUSIVES:

- Limited to 24 pampered tour members
- A more relaxed pace of touring
- Upgraded hotels and meals
- Minimum 2 nights at each hotel
- Sake, beer, and soft drinks with all included dinners
- Green car seats on the shinkansen bullet train

COMPLETE PACKAGES!

Includes Roundtrip Airfare from Honolulu,
11 Nights Hotel, 27 Meals, Tips for Local Tour Guides
and Motorcoach Drivers & All Taxes and Fees

**JAPAN AIRLINES:
CHOICE OF CABINS**
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\$10,888*

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\$12,888*

HURRY! Only 6 Seats Available at this Price!!

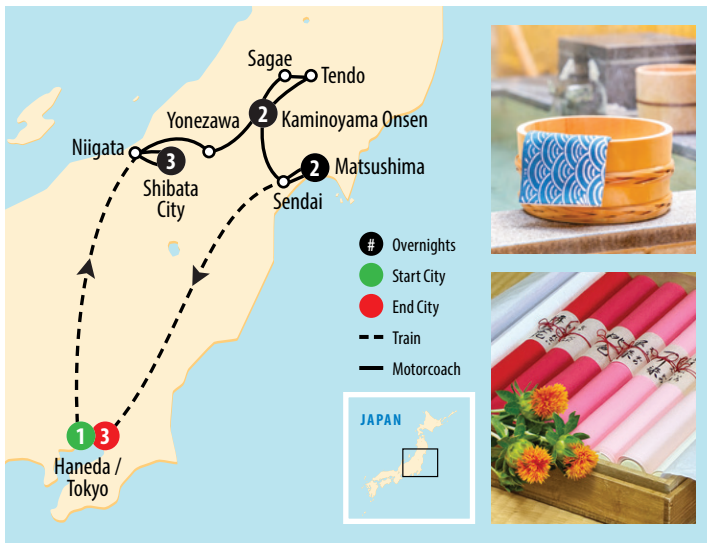
JAL BUSINESS
\$14,888*

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EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT PER PERSON

Book by 10/30/26 & **SAVE \$100†**
Book by 12/18/26 & **SAVE \$50†**

2027 Shibata City Organic Rice Planting Plus Tokyo Shopping



Day 1: Sat, May 15 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 12:15 pm.

Day 2: Sun, May 16 – HANEDA – TOKYO. Arrive at the Haneda International Airport at 3:55 pm. After entry formalities, transfer by coach to your hotel. After checking in, walk to the nearby Daimaru Tokyo and enjoy a buffet dinner. HOTEL METROPOLITAN TOKYO MARUNOUCHI (1 Night) (D)

Day 3: Mon, May 17 – TOKYO – NIIGATA – SHIBATA CITY. After a delicious breakfast buffet, walk to Tokyo Station. Depart via shinkansen bullet train with **reserved seating** in the **green car** for Niigata. Upon arrival, visit the **Northern Culture Museum**, a former mansion of Ito Bunkichi, one of Japan's greatest landowners, showcasing art, family artifacts, and a scenic garden. While here, learn how to **pound 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. Transfer to your hotel in Shibata City, which is considered to have the **No. 1 best onsen hot spring facility in ALL of Japan**. Relax in one of the indoor or open-air onsen hot springs before and/or after your **kaiseki dinner**, or consider a soak in the **private open-air onsen hot spring** in your Japanese-style room. SHIRATAMA NO YU KAHOU (3 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 4: Tue, May 18 – SHIBATA CITY. Today is the day! We join the Sase Family in **planting our very own, organic Koshihikari rice**. Then, **cook local specialties**, like onigiri (rice ball, often wrapped in nori) or tonjiru (a savory pork and root vegetable miso soup), with local farmers and enjoy your creations for lunch. Return to the hotel for some time at leisure. This evening, savor a special bento dinner served at the historic **Zoshunkaku**, an early 20th-century house that integrates Japanese architecture with chandeliers and striking mosaic floors. During dinner, you will be **entertained by an authentic geisha**, with dancing, singing, and playing fun games! Geisha are highly trained entertainers skilled in singing, dancing, and playing music. You will also experience a memorable **kagami wari** (also known as kagami biraki), a traditional Japanese ceremony in which a sake barrel is opened with a mallet to symbolize the sharing of divine blessings. Return to your hotel after a full day of unique activities. (B, L, D)

***Your organic Koshihikari rice will be delivered to Honolulu in the fall, 10 pounds per Tour Member.**

Day 5: Wed, May 19 – SHIBATA CITY. Start the day with a visit to **Tonton Ichiba**, where you can find a variety of local delicacies from around the Shibata area. Then, head to a local farm to **pick**

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Fill every inch of your suitcase with Japan-exclusive Costco finds and your belly with food court favorites you can't get back home. Think seasonal pizzas, rich Hokkaido soft cream, and other Japan-only surprises. Costcos in Japan accept cash and international Visa credit and debit cards, so you can shop and snack with ease.

strawberries for a sweet treat. After an Italian lunch at a local restaurant, visit the **Aumont Sake Brewery** learn how they have been making quality sake for more than 200 years. You're sure to find a sake that matches your palate. Return to the hotel for some leisure time before a **kaiseki dinner**. Tonight is your last chance to soak in the healing **onsen hot spring** waters of the No. 1 best onsen facility in **ALL** of Japan. You don't want to miss out! (B, L, D)

Day 6: Thu, May 20 – SHIBATA CITY – YONEZAWA – KAMINOYAMA ONSEN. This morning, depart the hotel for Kaminoyama Onsen. En route, stop at **Takahata Winery** for lunch and enjoy an **exclusive wine tasting** featuring a selection of its wines. The winery specializes in showcasing the distinctive qualities of grapes and locally grown fruits, such as cherries and peaches, cultivated by regional farmers. Their wines have earned numerous awards in domestic and international competitions. At the winery's shop, browse a selection of limited-edition wines available exclusively on-site, along with snacks that pair perfectly with each pour. Then, explore the **Uesugi Museum** (Denkoku-no-Mori) on the former grounds of Yonezawa Castle, home to treasured artifacts of the Uesugi Clan that flourished as warriors. A highlight of the museum is the Uesugi Rakuchu Rakugai Zubyobu, a National Treasure of Japan. The six-panel folding screen depicts approximately 2,500 people from all walks of life in 16th century Kyoto. In the adjacent Matsugasaki Park, visit **Uesugi Shrine**, where Uesugi Kenshin – one of the most powerful warriors of the Sengoku era (Warring States era) – is enshrined and revered for bringing good luck, academic success, and prosperity in business. Then, watch a memorable **Uesugi Hojutsutai Show**, where reenactors shoot tanegashimas (matchlock guns). The guns were used by the samurai class and their foot soldiers, and within a few years it forever changed the way war was fought in Japan. Tonight, a special Yonezawa beef dinner will be served at **Uesugi Hakushaku-tei**, the former residence of the last feudal lord of the area. During dinner, watch a lively **Ai no Busho-tai Performance**, where performers dressed in kimonos demonstrate moves with their katanas (traditional Japanese sword) and dance to music. Transfer to an award-winning ryokan (traditional Japanese inn), your home for the next two nights. Enjoy a relaxing soak in the public onsen hot springs, or unwind in your own Japanese-Western style room featuring a **private semi-open-air onsen hot spring** to your heart's content. NIPPON NO YADO KOYO (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 7: Fri, May 21 – KAMINOYAMA ONSEN – SAGAE – TENDO – KAMINOYAMA ONSEN. Start the day at the **Kahokucho Benibana Museum** to learn about benibana (safflower) dyeing, a rare technique that uses safflowers instead of bark or leaves. Try your hand at this traditional craft through an immersive **benibana dyeing** experience. The intensity of the color changes depending on how



many times the cloth is dyed—the more it is dyed, the deeper the color becomes! Then, enjoy free time at **Cherryland Sagae**, the largest michi-no-eki (roadside rest station) in the region and one of the area's largest cherry theme parks. You will have time to shop for local specialty products and enjoy lunch (on your own). Afterward head to Tendo, a city renowned for its craftsmanship in producing shogi pieces, and enjoy **painting your own shogi piece** for a fun, uniquely Japanese souvenir of this trip. Shogi is the traditional Japanese strategy board game known as Japanese chess, and is one of the most popular board games in the country. Return to the hotel for an evening at leisure. (B, D)

Day 8: Sat, May 22 — KAMINOYAMA ONSEN — SENDAI — MATSUSHIMA. This morning, we depart the hotel for Sendai. Upon arrival, **learn how to grill sasa-kamaboko**, a bamboo leaf-shaped fish cake. Enjoy your perfectly grilled sasa-kamaboko with a steamed seafood lunch. Next, spend some time to explore the **Sendai Shopping Arcades**, a network of covered shopping streets located to the west and north of Sendai Station, commonly known as Ichibancho. It is home to over 250 stores, ranging from high-end fashion boutiques and department stores to discount chains and local souvenir shops. After, visit **Zuihoden**, the mausoleum of Date Masamune, one of Japan's most iconic and formidable feudal lords of the Sengoku era (Warring States era). Recognized as a National Treasure, Zuihoden is celebrated for its lavish Momoyama-style architecture, richly adorned with vibrant multicolored wood carvings, black lacquer, and gold leaf. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant before heading to your luxury hotel in Matsushima. Relax with a soak in the hotel's indoor public onsen hot spring, or unwind in your Japanese-Western-style room, complete with a **private open-air onsen hot spring**. **YOKI MATSUSHIMA** (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 9: Sun, May 23 — MATSUSHIMA. After a delicious breakfast at the hotel, embark on an unforgettable sightseeing **cruise of Matsushima Bay**, celebrated as one of Japan's Three Most Scenic Views. This scenic journey offers an ideal way to admire the bay's many pine-clad islands and islets. Next, visit **Zuiganji**, one of the region's most renowned Zen temples. Rebuilt by the feudal lord Date Masamune in the 17th century, the temple is renowned for its opulent Momoyama-era architecture, cedar-lined approach, and meditation caves. Lastly, visit the Matsushima Museum and the nearby Kanrantei tea house. The **Matsushima Museum** showcases relics of the Date clan from the feudal era, including armor, weapons, and other artifacts. At **Kanrantei**, admire the beautiful gold-leaf sliding doors and relax over a cup of tea while taking in unobstructed, picturesque views of Matsushima Bay. The remainder of the evening is at your leisure after a sumptuous Japanese dinner at the hotel. Tonight is the last night to have a rejuvenating soak in an **onsen hot spring** — don't miss out! (B, L, D)



Day 10: Mon, May 24 — MATSUSHIMA — SENDAI — TOKYO. Depart the hotel for Sendai Station for our ride back to the capital of Japan. Transfer to Tokyo by shinkansen bullet train with **reserved seating** in the **green car**. Upon arrival, explore **teamLab Borderless: MORI Building DIGITAL ART MUSEUM**, a world of artworks without boundaries. Artworks move across rooms and at times intermingle, creating one continuous world without boundaries in this immersive experience. After, transfer to the hotel located in the center of Shinjuku, the hub of shopping and restaurants in Tokyo. The remainder of the day is at your leisure. Your Local Guide will have recommendations for shopping and dining opportunities near the hotel. **KEIO PLAZA HOTEL TOKYO** (3 Nights) (B, L)

Day 11: Tue, May 25 — TOKYO. Enjoy a full day at leisure. The perfect day to relax and/or visit family and friends in Tokyo, or venture out on an adventure of your own! Your hotel is directly connected to the underground passage of Shinjuku Station's West Exit (about a five-minute walk away) and near Tochomae Station (about a two-minute walk away), offering easy access to major shopping areas and scenic attractions. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

Day 12: Wed, May 26 — TOKYO. Another full day at leisure. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

Day 13: Thu, May 27 — TOKYO — HANEDA — HONOLULU. Hope you didn't forget to bring your Costco card and left some extra room in your luggage, as the day begins at **Costco** for some shopping and time to check out its food court! Discover how Costco in Japan is both familiar and distinctly different. Be sure to save your appetite, though, as a delicious wagyu beef teppanyaki lunch awaits at a local restaurant. Then, explore **Ameyoko**, a bustling market street that features over 400 shops and stalls known for offering significant bargains on various products such as clothes, bags, cosmetics, dried seafood, spices, and more. After, transfer to the airport for the flight home. Depart the Haneda International Airport 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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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS: Northern Culture Museum, Kagami Wari, Dinner at Zoshunkaku with Authentic Geisha, Tonton Ichiba, Aumont Sake Brewery, Uesugi Museum, Uesugi Shrine, Uesugi Hojutsutai Show, Dinner at Uesugi Hakushaku-tei, Ai no Busho-tai Performance, Kahokucho Benibana Museum, Cherryland Sagae, Sendai Shopping Arcades, Zuihoden, Matsushima Bay Cruise, Zuiganji, Matsushima Museum, Kanrantei, teamLab Borderless: MORI Building DIGITAL ART MUSEUM, Costco & Ameyoko

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES: Mochi Pounding, Rice Planting, Cooking Local Specialties with Farmers, Strawberry Picking, Takahata Winery Wine Tasting, Benibana Dyeing, Shogi Piece Painting & Sasa-Kamaboko Grilling

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:



HOTEL METROPOLITAN TOKYO MARUNOUCHI

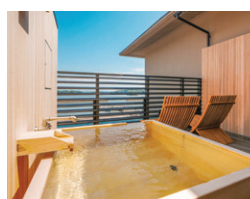
(1 NIGHT, TOKYO): Directly connected to **Tokyo Station**, this stylish boutique hotel provides a sophisticated, tranquil hideaway in the heart of Tokyo.



SHIRATAMA NO YU KAHOU (3 NIGHTS, SHIBATA CITY): Relax in your **Japanese-style room** that includes a wide veranda and your own **private open-air onsen hot spring** at this luxurious ryokan (traditional Japanese inn). The ryokan's large public natural onsen features an indoor bath, sauna, cold water bath, cypress open-air bath, and more. It's no wonder this ryokan is recognized as the **No. 1 onsen in ALL of Japan** by the "100 Best Ryokans and Hotels Chosen by Professionals."

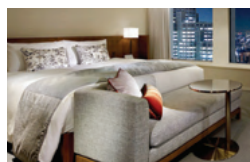
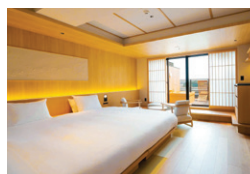


NIPPON NO YADO KOYO (2 NIGHTS, KAMINOYAMA ONSEN): This welcoming ryokan features a traditional ambience with sweeping views of the Zao Mountains. Soak in the skin-beautifying waters in the public onsen hot springs or in your **Japanese-Western-style room** with its own **private semi-open-air onsen hot spring**. The ryokan has been elected one of the **top 10** of "100 Best Ryokans and Hotels Chosen by Professionals" consecutively for 40 years.



YOKI MATSUSHIMA (2 NIGHTS, MATSUSHIMA):

Located near Matsushima Bay, one of Japan's Top Three Scenic Views (Nihon Sankei), this luxury hot spring hotel offers guests an unbeatable stay. Enjoy a relaxing soak in your Japanese-Western-style room with its own **private open-air onsen hot spring** cypress bath with views of the sea and islands to your heart's content.



KEIO PLAZA HOTEL TOKYO

(3 NIGHTS, TOKYO): The hotel is perfectly located for exploring the many delights of Tokyo. **Situated just outside Tochomae Station** and only a **five-minute walk from Shinjuku Station**, one of the city's most popular shopping and entertainment areas, this luxury hotel offers unforgettable experiences that will linger long after your stay. Stay in a **Premier Grand Room**, where natural aesthetics meet refined luxury and sweeping city views, plus enjoy access to the **Club Lounge** on the 45th floor.



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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-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. 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: 01/05/27. 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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