

Affordable Luxury — Small Group Tours



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Off the Beaten Path: A Different Side of Japan

2027 SUMMER YAMAGATA & TOKYO

Featuring the Yamagata Hanagasa Festival

Dance to the rhythmic music of one of Tohoku's largest parades!

Enjoy your choice of All Nippon Airways' "Economy" or "Premium Economy" class service. Premium Economy class customers will begin their journey with a relaxing visit to ANA's Lounge.

**9 Nights / 11 Days • 19 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 6 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide
July 31 – August 10, 2027 • Tour Managers: Dean & Annette Mizumura**

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

YAMAGATA HANAGASA FESTIVAL: One of Tohoku's Largest Parades!

The Yamagata Hanagasa Festival is one of four major summer festivals in the Tohoku region, held annually from August 05 – 07. Its spectacular evening parade features approximately 10,000 dancers perform along a 1.2-kilometer route through the city center, just under three-quarters of a mile. Dressed in colorful attire, the dancers wave hanagasa hats — straw hats adorned with safflowers, Yamagata prefecture's official flower — while moving to the rhythmic beat of taiko drums and folk songs. Join the fun and experience the festival's lively spirit for yourself by taking part in one of its two daily dance opportunities!

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,
9 Nights Hotel, 19 Meals, Tips for Local Tour Guides
and Motorcoach Drivers & All Taxes and Fees

ALL NIPPON AIRWAYS: CHOICE OF CABINS

Treat yourself to a better vacation!

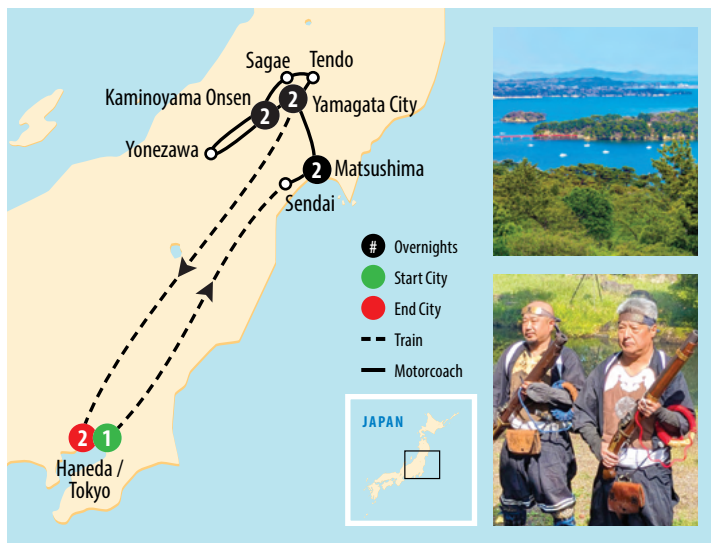
**ANA ECONOMY
\$10,288***

**ANA PREMIUM ECONOMY
\$12,888***

HURRY! Only 6 Seats Available at this Price!

**EARLY BOOKING
DISCOUNT PER PERSON**
Book by 10/30/26 & **SAVE \$100[†]**
Book by 12/18/26 & **SAVE \$50[†]**

2027 Summer Yamagata & Tokyo



Day 1: Sat, Jul 31 — HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via All Nippon Airways flt #185 at 1:55 pm.

Day 2: Sun, Aug 01 — HANEDA — TOKYO. Arrive at the Haneda International Airport at 5:25 pm. After entry formalities, transfer by coach to your hotel. After checking in, enjoy dinner with your fellow Tour Members. HOTEL METROPOLITAN TOKYO MARUNOUCHI (1 Night) (D)

Day 3: Mon, Aug 02 — TOKYO — SENDAI — MATSUSHIMA. 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, learn how to **grill sasa-kamaboko**, a bamboo leaf-shaped fish cake. Enjoy your perfectly grilled sasa-kamaboko with lunch. 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. 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. 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 4: Tue, Aug 03 — MATSUSHIMA. Begin the day with 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. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before visiting the Matsushima Museum and the nearby Kanranitei tea house. The **Matsushima Museum** showcases relics of the Date clan from the feudal era, including armor, weapons, and other artifacts. At **Kanranitei**, admire the beautiful gold-leaf sliding doors and relax over a cup of tea while taking in unobstructed, picturesque views of Matsushima Bay. 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. The remainder of the evening is at

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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.

your leisure after dinner at the hotel. Don't forget to take a rejuvenating soak in the **onsen hot spring**! (B, L, D)

Day 5: Wed, Aug 04 — MATSUSHIMA — YAMAGATA CITY — KAMINOYAMA ONSEN. Depart the hotel for Kaminoyama Onsen, stopping in Yamagata to visit the **Yamadera Galleria**. This interactive art facility immerses visitors in the spiritual culture of Yamadera Temple through images, sounds, lights, and scents, allowing you to experience the atmosphere of the mountain temple without climbing its stone steps. Then, explore the **Yamadera Basho Memorial Museum** (Yamadera Basho Kinenkan) is a biographical museum dedicated to the haiku poet Matsuo Basho. After, spend some time at **Michi-no-Eki Yamagata Zao**, a roadside rest station, for a chance to stretch your 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. Enjoy lunch here (on your own). Finally, enjoy scenic panoramic mountain views from the **Zao Ropeway**, before arriving at 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, D)

Day 6: Thu, Aug 05 — KAMINOYAMA ONSEN — YONEZAWA — KAMINOYAMA ONSEN. After a morning at leisure, visit the **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 Zuboyobu, 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



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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. Tonight is the last night to have a rejuvenating soak in an **onsen hot spring** — don't miss out! (B, L, D)

Day 7: Fri, Aug 06 — KAMINOYAMA ONSEN — SAGAE — TENDO — YAMAGATA CITY. 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). Then, 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. Continue to Yamagata City and check in to your hotel before making your way to the **Yamagata Hanagasa Festival** to enjoy its vibrant evening festivities. Held annually in Yamagata City from August 05 — 07, the festival features a spectacular **evening parade** where approximately 10,000 dancers perform the hanagasa odor (flower hat dance). Dressed in colorful attire, the dancers wave hanagasa hats — straw hats adorned with safflowers, Yamagata prefecture's official flower — while moving to the rhythmic beat of taiko drums and folk songs. The festival attracts over one million spectators each year and showcases a variety of dance styles. Join the fun and experience the festival's lively spirit for yourself by taking part in one of its two daily dance opportunities! **YAMAGATA KOKUSAI HOTEL (2 Nights) (B)**

Day 8: Sat, Aug 07 — YAMAGATA CITY. Enjoy a day at leisure. Today marks the final day of the **Yamagata Hanagasa Festival**, with several daytime events available for you to explore on your own. The hotel also offers convenient access to Yamagata Station and the adjacent Yamako



Bus Terminal, approximately a 10-minute walk away. Return in the early evening to enjoy the **festival parade**. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

Day 9: Sun, Aug 08 — YAMAGATA CITY — TOKYO. Depart the hotel for our ride back to the capital of Japan via shinkansen bullet train with **reserved seating** in the **green car**. Upon arrival in Tokyo, 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, enjoy a delicious wagyu beef teppanyaki dinner at a local restaurant. Transfer to the hotel located in the center of Shinjuku, the hub of shopping and restaurants in Tokyo. **KEIO PLAZA HOTEL TOKYO (2 Nights) (B, D)**

Day 10: Mon, Aug 09 — 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 11: Tue, Aug 10 — 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. After, take part in a **ramen making experience** and enjoy your tasty creation for lunch. Finally, spend some time exploring **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. Then, transfer to the airport for the flight home. Depart the Haneda International Airport via All Nippon Airways flt #186 at 9:55 pm and arrive in Honolulu at 10:35 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B, L)

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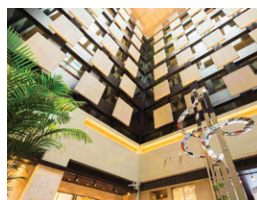
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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS: Zuihoden, Sendai Shopping Arcades, Matsushima Bay Cruise, Matsushima Museum, Kanran-tei, Zuigan-ji, Yamadera Galleria, Yamadera Basho Memorial Museum, Michi-no-Eki Yamagata Zao, Zao Ropeway, Uesugi Museum, Uesugi Shrine, Uesugi Hojutsutai Show, Dinner at Uesugi Hakushaku-tei, Ai no Busho-tai Performance, Kahokucho Benibana Museum, Cherryland Sagae, Yamagata Hanagasa Festival, teamLab Borderless: MORI Building DIGITAL ART MUSEUM, Costco & Ameyoko

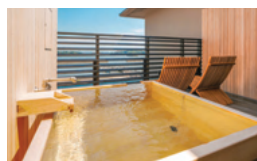
HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES: Sasa-Kamaboko Grilling, Takahata Winery Wine Tasting, Benibana Dyeing, Shogi Piece Painting & Ramen Making

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

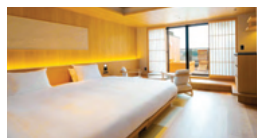


HOTEL METROPOLITAN TOKYO MARUNOUCHI (1 NIGHT, TOKYO):

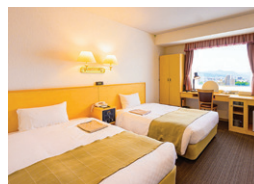
Directly **connected to Tokyo Station**, this stylish boutique hotel provides a sophisticated, tranquil hideaway in the heart of Tokyo.



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.

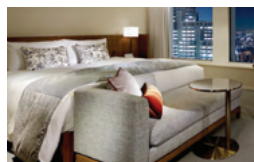


NIPPON NO YADO KOYO (2 NIGHTS, KAMINOYAMA ONSEN): This welcoming ryokan features a traditional ambience with sweeping views of the Zao Mountains. Soak in the skin-beautifying waters in the public onsen hot springs or in your **Japanese-Western-style room** with its own **private semi-open-air onsen hot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



YAMAGATA KOKUSAI HOTEL (2 NIGHTS, YAMAGATA CITY):

Located in **downtown Yamagata**, the hotel is approximately a 10-minute walk from Yamagata Station and the adjacent Yamako Bus Terminal. It features a Japanese and Western buffet breakfast highlighting **local specialties** like **Yamagata beef curry**, fresh **shine muscat grapes**, and **imoni**, a satoimo (Japanese taro root) and beef stew.



KEIO PLAZA HOTEL TOKYO (2 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.



**615 Piikoi Street, Suite 102
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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: 03/23/27. 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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