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**off the Beaten Path:** *A Different Side of Japan*

# 2026 SPRING BREAK SADO ISLAND, SNOW MONKEYS, NAGOYA, HAKONE & TOKYO

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"Business" class service. Business class customers will begin their journey  
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*Onsen hot springs experience with seasonal Kaiseki Dinner! Travel roundtrip from Tokyo!*

**10 Nights / 12 Days • 22 Meals (10 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 7 Dinners)**  
**Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide**  
**March 12 – 23, 2026 • Tour Manager: Anona Gabriel**

**OVERVIEW:** One of Japan's largest islands, Sado Island has an interesting history. Its culture can be seen in its unique traditional arts and entertainment. Jigokudani, home of the world famous snow monkeys, is situated in the valley of the Yokoyu River. 200 or so Japanese Macaque monkeys inhabit the area. Hakone, famous for its hot springs, natural beauty and the view of nearby Mt. Fuji, is one of the most popular destinations among Japanese and international tourists looking for a break from Tokyo. Tokyo is Japan's capital and the world's most populous metropolis and offers a seemingly unlimited choice of shopping, entertainment, culture, and dining to its visitors.

**VISIT:** Omiya • Niigata • Sado Island • Nagano  
Matsumoto • Nagoya • Shizuoka • Hakone • Tokyo

**TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:** JR Super Express Train Ride • Northern Culture Museum  
Jet Foil Ride to Sado Island • Oni Daiko Performance • Kirarium Sado • Sado Gold Mine  
Tarai-bune Boat Ride • Shukunegi • Japanese Crested Ibis Conservation Centre  
Jigokudani Monkey Park (for Nagano Snow Monkeys) • Zenko-ji Temple • Hokusai Museum  
Daio Wasabi Nojo • Matsumoto Castle • Noritake no Mori • AEON MALL  
Toyota Automobile Museum • Hatcho Miso Factory • Michi-no-Eki Kakegawa • Owakudani  
Hakone Ropeway • Asakusa Sensoji Temple • Nakamise Shopping • Ameyoko Shopping

**HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES:** Soba Noodle Making • Obata Sake Brewery Tour with Tasting  
Strawberry Picking • Kimono Dress-Up • Green Tea Field and Factory – Pack Your Own Canister of Tea  
Hakone Yosegi-Zaiku Making • Sushi Making Class

## COMPLETE PACKAGE!

Includes Roundtrip Airfare from Honolulu,  
10 Nights Hotel, 22 Meals, Tips for Local Tour  
Guides and Motorcoach Drivers, All Taxes & Fees

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**ONI DAIKO —**  
**Demon Drums Performance!**

**Day 1: Thur, Mar 12** – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #783 at 12:40 pm.

**Day 2: Fri, Mar 13** – NARITA – OMIYA. Arrive at the Narita International Airport at 4:50 pm. After entry formalities, transfer by coach to your hotel in Omiya. The remainder of the evening is at your leisure. The hotel is conveniently located a six-minute walk from the JR Omiya Station, which is one of the largest stations in the Saitama Prefecture. There will be various choices for shopping and dining at the train station. DAIWA ROYNET HOTEL OMIYA NICH-GUCHI (1 Night)

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

**Day 3: Sat, Mar 14** – OMIYA – NIIGATA – SADO ISLAND. After a sumptuous breakfast buffet at hotel, walk to Omiya Station. Transfer to Niigata by **JR Super Express Train**. Upon arrival on Niigata, visit the **Northern Culture Museum**, which originally serving as a mansion of Ito Bunkichi, who lived in the Edo Period (1603–1868) and was one of the greatest landowners in Japan. Nowadays, the museum houses calligraphy and ceramics, lacquer ware, and documents related to Ito's family history. Don't forget to view the beautiful garden with its large pond. Enjoy lunch here. Transfer to Niigata Port. **Ride a jet foil to Sado Island**. Arrive in Sado Island and transfer to hotel in Sado. Enjoy a traditional multi-course **Kaiseki Dinner**, featuring ingredients unique to Sado Island. During dinner, watch an **Oni Daiko (Demon Drums) Performance**. Don't miss forget to try out the **onsen hot springs** – which are divided for men and women. The high-quality service and facilities are sure to become some of your fondest memories of your visit to Japan. HOTEL YAHATAKAN (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

**Day 4: Sun, Mar 15** – SADO ISLAND. Full day sightseeing of Sado Island by coach, including **Kirarium Sado** and the **Sado Gold Mine**. Kirarium Sado is the Sado Gold Mine Welcome Center, where you will learn everything you need to know about the gold mine. At the Sado Gold Mine, learn about the 400+ year history of the largest gold mine in Japan. Full-size dolls and robots provide accurate representation of the historic workings of the mine in the Edo period. In the museum, you can try to lift a pure gold bar, with a value of over 100 million yen, out of a clear box. Many have tried, but few have succeeded. Next, learn to **make your own soba noodles** and eat your delicious creation for lunch. After lunch, visit the **Obata Sake Brewery** for a **tour and tasting**. Then take a traditional **tarai-bune boat ride**. The tarai-bune tub boats floating along the Ogi coastline are considered the symbol of Ogi. These boats are constructed out of cedar wrapped with bamboo on the outside, with a diameter of about 150 centimeter. Developed and used during Edo and Meiji periods, the tarai-bune tub boats, mainly operated by women, were ideal for tight turn and stability amidst the abundant reefs and coves along the Ogi Peninsula. These boats were originally used for collecting shellfish and seaweed from around the coast. Finally, visit the charming fishing village of **Shukunegi**. The entire village is designated as a National Historic Site. Take a stroll along the narrow streets of Shukunegi Village to feel the history and experience the living conditions of people living during the Edo period. As this area was previously a trading port for ships going to Edo (Tokyo) and Osaka, many who lived here were ship carpenters and sailors. Here, you will be able to find the popular sankaku-ya which is a triangle-shaped house, built to fit the shape of the land available at that period of time. Enjoy dinner at local restaurant before returning to the hotel. (B, L, D)

**Day 5: Mon, Mar 16** – SADO ISLAND – NIIGATA – NAGANO. After breakfast, take a tour of the **Japanese Crested Ibis Conservation Centre**. Take a **jet foil to Niigata Port**. Transfer to the hotel in Nagano by coach. Enjoy dinner at the hotel. RYOKAN BIYUNOYADO (1 Night) (B, D)

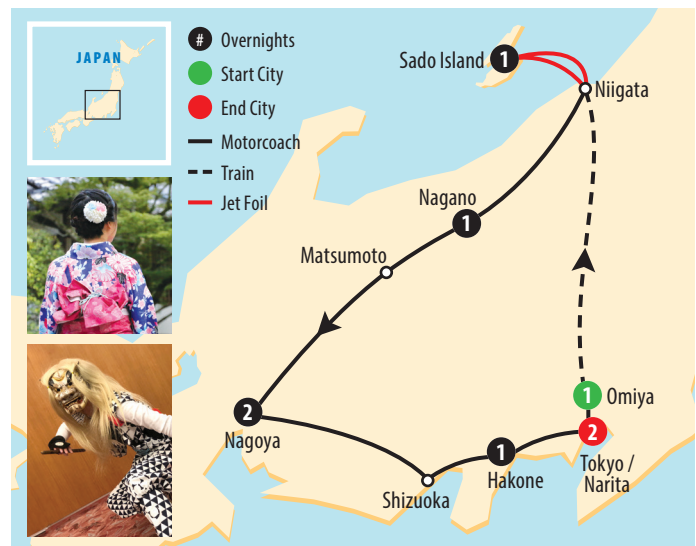
**Day 6: Tue, Mar 17** – NAGANO. Full-day sightseeing in Nagano by coach, starting with a visit to the **Jigokudani Monkey Park (for Snow Monkeys)**. Next, explore the grounds of **Zenko-ji Temple**. One of the most important and popular temples in Japan, Zenko-ji Temple was founded in the 7<sup>th</sup> century and stores the first Buddhist statue ever to be brought into Japan when Buddhism was first introduced in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. Have lunch (on your own) here. After lunch, visit a local farm and **pick some strawberries**. Enjoy these sweet treats as an afternoon snack! Learn more about Japan's most famous artist, renowned master of ukiyo-e woodblock prints, Katsushika Hokusai, at the **Hokusaikan Museum**. Said to have produced more than 30,000 artworks during his lifetime, Hokusai's great masterpiece – a great phoenix – adorns the ceiling of the Ganshoin Temple to this day. Enjoy dinner at the hotel tonight. HOTEL METROPOLITAN NAGANO (1 Night) (B, D)

**Day 7: Wed, Mar 18** – NAGANO – MATSUMOTO – NAGOYA. After breakfast, depart for Nagoya via Matsumoto. Along the way, stop at **Daio Wasabi Nojo**, the country's largest wasabi farm, for a tour of the farm and lunch. After lunch, you'll have the chance to experience **wearing a kimono** as you explore **Matsumoto Castle**. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. NAGOYA TOKYU HOTEL (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

**Day 8: Thur, Mar 19** – NAGOYA. Start the day learning about Noritake, a leading ceramics company with over 100+ years of history, at **Noritake no Mori**. Built on the grounds of the Noritake's former factory grounds, Noritake no Mori includes a craft center, where visitors can observe how porcelain is created, and a museum, where examples of the items produced by the company throughout the years are displayed, a gardens, shop, café and restaurant. Enjoy free time for shopping and dining (on your own) at an **AEON MALL**. After lunch, visit the **Toyota Automobile Museum**, a large museum showcasing the history of Toyota as an automobile manufacturer. In addition to displaying its own vehicles that Toyota has manufactured over the years, numerous vehicles from other manufacturers of various makes are also being displayed in the museum. Return to the hotel for an evening of leisure. The Local Guide will have suggestions for dinner tonight. (B)

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

**Day 9: Fri, Mar 20** – NAGOYA – SHIZUOKA – HAKONE. Start the day at the **Hatcho Miso Factory** and learn about this Japanese kitchen staple. Stop at the roadside **Michi-no-Eki Kakegawa** for lunch (on your own) along with a chance to get a little shopping done as well. Not only do they provide a clean and convenient rest stop, with quick and tasty food, but you will also find an array of farmer-direct merchandise along with other omiyage items. Shizuoka is a world leader in the production of Japanese green tea – with 40% of all of Japan's green tea being grown in Shizuoka. Where ever you go in the prefecture you will see row upon row of green tea hedges. After lunch, visit at a **green tea field and factory** to learn about tea production.



While there, **pack your own canister of tea**. What a great souvenir of your time in Shizuoka! Depart Shizuoka for Hakone, where much of the area is considered an active volcanic zone since its creation from eruption of Mt. Hakone some 3,000 years ago. Transfer to the hotel for a buffet dinner. The **onsen hot springs** – which are divided for men and women – allow you to enjoy the hot springs whether indoors or outdoors. The high-quality service and facilities are sure to become some of your fondest memories of your visit to Japan. HAKONE HOTEL KOWAKIEN (1 Night) (B, D)

**Day 10: Sat, Mar 21** – HAKONE – TOKYO. After breakfast, depart for **Okwakudani** ("Great Boiling Valley"), the source of the hot spring waters of Hakone. Then take the **Hakone Ropeway** and view the surrounding countryside. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch, try your hand at **Hakone Yosegi-Zaiku**, inlaid and mosaic woodwork unique to this area, and make a great memento of your trip to Japan. Next, transfer to the hotel in Tokyo. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel. GRAND NIKKO TOKYO DAIBA (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

**Day 11: Sun, Mar 22** – TOKYO. Full day at leisure. A perfect day to shop, dine, and explore Tokyo on your own. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. Don't miss out on the attractions located near the hotel as well. Located just a three-minute walk from the hotel, Aquacity is a shopping mall featuring various stores, boutiques, restaurants, cafés and a cinema complex. The 5<sup>th</sup> floor houses a ramen theme park where you can try different ramen from all over Japan. There are nice views of the Rainbow Bridge from the wooden deck in front of Aquacity and the neighboring Decks. Decks is a shopping mall featuring shops, restaurants and multiple indoor theme parks, including Tokyo Joypolis, LEGOLAND Discovery Center, a Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, and a trick art museum. And just five-minutes away, DiverCity Tokyo Plaza is a shopping, dining and entertainment complex that opened in 2012 and features attractions related to the Gundam anime series, including a large, "life-size" Gundam statue in front of the building and Gundam Base Tokyo, a shop dedicated to plastic models. The latest scientific technology that Japan has to offer at the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, just 15 minutes from the hotel. (B)

**Day 12: Mon, Mar 23** – TOKYO – NARITA – HONOLULU. After a sumptuous buffet breakfast embark on a full day of discovery! Today's highlight will be a hands-on **sushi making session**, which will yield your delicious lunch. After lunch visit **Asakusa**, the center of Tokyo's shitamachi (literally "low city"), one of Tokyo's districts, where an atmosphere of the Tokyo of past decades survives. Asakusa's main attraction is **Sensoji**, a very popular Buddhist temple, built in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. The temple is approached via the **Nakamise**, a shopping street that has been providing temple visitors with a variety of traditional local snacks and tourist souvenirs for centuries. Lastly, visit **Ameyoko**, a busy market street along the Yamanote Line tracks between Okachimachi and Ueno Stations. The name "Ameyoko" is a short form for "Ameya Yokocho" ("candy store alley"), as candies were traditionally sold there. Alternatively, "ame" also stands for "America," because a lot of American products used to be available there when the street was the site of a black market in the years following WWII. Today, various products such as clothes, bags, cosmetics, fresh fish, dried food, and spices are sold along Ameyoko. Transfer to the airport for the flight home. Depart the Narita International Airport via Japan Airlines flt #784 at 9:20 pm and arrive in Honolulu at 9:25 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B, L)

\* 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](http://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. **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: 10/31/25. 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.** 071325

