

Affordable Luxury — Small Group Tours



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JAPAN AIRLINES



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

2026 SHIBATA CITY ORGANIC RICE PLANTING, YAMAGATA, NIIGATA PLUS TOKYO SHOPPING

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.

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

11 Nights / 13 Days • 23 Meals (11 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 8 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide
May 12 – 24, 2026 • Tour Manager: Marie Kanealii-Ortiz

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

OVERVIEW: Introducing Shibata City, Niigata — "The Rice Capital of Japan!" Celebrating organic Koshihikari rice, Shibata wagyu beef, organic sake, and one of the best natural onsen hot springs in Japan! Join us on this one-of-a-kind tour to the "Rice Capital of Japan!"

AFFORDABLE LUXURY — SMALL GROUP TOUR EXCLUSIVES:

- Limited to 24 Pampered Tour Members
- A More Relaxed Pace of Touring
- Upgraded Hotels & Meals
- Minimum 2 Nights at Each Hotel
- Sake, Beer & Soft Drinks with All Included Dinners
- "Green Car" Seats on the Shinkansen Bullet Train

COMPLETE PACKAGE!

Includes Roundtrip Airfare from Honolulu,
11 Nights Hotel, 23 Meals, Tips for Local Tour
Guides and Motorcoach Drivers, All Taxes & Fees

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Book by 10/31/25 & **SAVE \$100†**

Book by 12/19/25 & **SAVE \$50†**

2026 Shibata City Organic Rice Planting, Yamagata, Niigata



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

Day 2: Wed, May 13 — TOKYO. Arrive at the Haneda International Airport at 3:55 pm. After entry formalities, transfer by coach to your hotel. Enjoy a Welcome Dinner at the hotel. KEIO PLAZA HOTEL TOKYO (2 Nights) (D)

Day 3: Thur, May 14 — TOKYO. After a delicious breakfast buffet, depart the hotel for a full day of sightseeing. Begin the day at the **Imperial Palace East Gardens** — the former site of Edo Castle's innermost circles of defense, the honmaru ("main circle") and ninomaru ("secondary circle"). None of the main buildings remain standing today — however the moats, walls, entrance gates and several guardhouses still exist. Next, visit **Toyosu Senkyaku Banrai**, a shopping complex that recreates an Edo period neighborhood. Toyosu Senkyaku Banrai offers fresh food from the neighboring Toyosu Market and serves to showcase the best foods in Tokyo. Enjoy shopping here, exploring the offerings at the numerous stalls. If you get tired, head up to the 8th floor and relax at the foot bath garden — which is free of charge to all visitors. You'll have time to enjoy lunch (on your own) here as well. After lunch, explore the all-new **TeamLab Borderless — Azabudai Hills**. "TeamLab Borderless is a world of artworks without boundaries, a museum without a map created by art collective TeamLab. Artworks move out of rooms, relate to other works, influence each other, and at times intermingle, without boundaries. Through this group of works, one continuous world without boundaries is created. Immerse your body in borderless art. Wander, explore with intention, discover, and create a world with others." Return to the hotel for an evening of leisure. Your Local Guide will have recommendations for shopping and dining opportunities near the hotel. (B)

Day 4: Fri, May 15 — TOKYO — YONEZAWA — KAMINOYAMA ONSEN. After breakfast, transfer to the Tokyo Station. Depart via **Shinkansen Bullet Train** with **reserved seating** in the **Green Car** for Yonezawa. Upon arrival in Yonezawa, enjoy lunch featuring Yonezawa beef. After lunch, take a tour of the **Toyo Sake Brewery**. Learn how sake is made and sample some of their tasty products. Transfer to the hotel, where you'll have some leisure time to explore the hotel before dinner. Don't forget to try the hotel **onsen hot springs**, before or after dinner. The onsens — 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. NIHON NO YADO KOYO (2 Nights) (B, L, D)



Day 5: Sat, May 16 — KAMINOYAMA ONSEN — SAGAE — TENDO — KAMINOYAMA ONSEN. Today is full of hands-on experiences! Start the day learning about **benibana-zome dyeing**, the rare dyeing method that uses flower (specifically safflower) rather than bark or leaves of a tree. Safflower flowers have two pigments — yellow and red. The intensity of the color changes depending on how many times the cloth is dyed. The more you dye, the deeper the color. You'll have free time at **Cherryland Sagae**, the largest roadside station (Michi-no-Eki) in the Tohoku region and one of Tohoku's largest cherry theme parks, to shop for local specialty products and enjoy lunch (on your own). Besides finding more than 600 cherry-related products on sale here, you'll also find Yamagata's signature sweets and desserts, as well as a wide variety of locally produced alcoholic beverages including sake, shochu, and wine. For lunch, you will find a variety of noodle dishes, including ramen and soba, such as the ever-popular gomoku ramen and seaweed and salt ramen; rice dishes such as katsudon (pork cutlet rice bowl) and hearty rice topped with starchy sauce, and dishes that feature brand-name Yamagata Beef, including steak rice bowls and curry. After lunch, you'll have the chance to **paint a shogi piece**. Shogi is the traditional Japanese strategy board game known as "Japanese chess," where the goal is to checkmate the opponent's King by capturing it. It's one of the most popular board games in Japan and even non-chess players find it fun to play. Return to the hotel for free time before dinner. (B, D)

Day 6: Sun, May 17 — KAMINOYAMA ONSEN — NIIGATA. After breakfast, depart the hotel for Niigata. **Takahata Winery**, which was founded in 1990, specializes in wines that highlight the unique characteristics of grapes from different regions. They have garnered numerous awards in both domestic and international competitions. Make a stop at **Michi-no-Eki Sekikawa** for a chance to stretch your legs, get a little shopping done, as well as have lunch (on your own). 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. After lunch, take a tour of the **Shirone Kite Museum**, and see the numerous kites on display from Japan and from around the world. After learning about these kites, you'll have the chance to **make your own mini-kite**. You don't even have to wait for the wind outside to pick up to test your creation as the museum is home to a wind tunnel — allowing you to fly it right away. What a great souvenir of this trip! Enjoy a special **Kaiseki Dinner** in Niigata before arriving at the hotel for the evening. ANA CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL NIIGATA (2 Nights) (B, D)

Day 7: Mon, May 18 — NIIGATA. Rice is the heart of sake brewing, and Niigata Prefecture, renowned for its rice cultivation, is home to the largest number of sake breweries in Japan. Begin the day at **Imayo Tsukasa Sake Brewery**, a long-standing producer of sake that started brewing in the mid-Meiji Period (1868–1912). The sake crafted at Imayo Tsukasa boasts a dry yet robust flavor that harmonizes

Plus Tokyo Shopping



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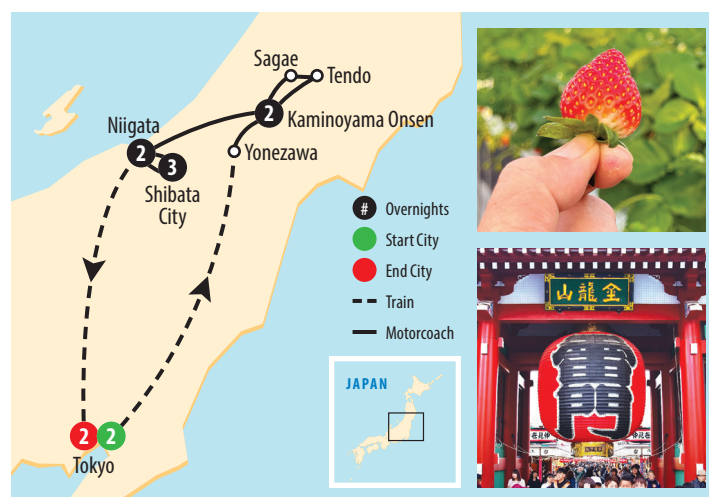
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exquisitely with food. You can find rare sakes, some that are only available in their sake shop. And for those that are not much drinkers, sweet, creamy, non-alcoholic amazake is available as well. And for the “young at heart” try your luck at a special capsule toy “gacha-gacha” machine here that allows everyone to win real sake or amazake based on the color of the coin that they receive from the machine. Next, explore **Minato Marche Pier Bandai**, a food market that offers multiple food options, including fish caught in the Sea of Japan, vegetables and fruit directly delivered from farms, Niigata-produced Koshihikari rice, and a variety of high-quality brand sake from across the prefecture. All kinds of Niigata’s specialties relating to food are here. Enjoy lunch (on your own) here. Then take a tour of the **Northern Culture Museum**, which originally served 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. While there, **learn how to pound mochi**. It’s not as easy as it looks. Return to the hotel for a buffet dinner and an evening of leisure. (B, D)

Day 8: Tue, May 19 – NIIGATA – SHIBATA CITY. After breakfast, depart the hotel for Shibata City. Enroute, stop at **Suwa Shrine**, a prominent Shinto shrine known for its serene atmosphere and historical importance. Surrounded by lush greenery, it features traditional architectural elements that reflect the rich cultural heritage of Japan. The shrine is dedicated to the deities associated with agriculture and prosperity, making it a focal point for local festivals and rituals. Visitors can enjoy the tranquil environment, explore the sacred grounds, and appreciate the intricate details of the shrine’s design. The site also offers insight into the spiritual practices and traditions that are integral to the region’s culture. Today’s lunch will be kamameshi, or “kettle rice,” a Japanese rice dish traditionally cooked in an iron pot called a kama. Many varieties exist, but most consist of rice seasoned with soy sauce or mirin, and cooked with meat and vegetables – and it is often considered a type of takikomi gohan (a mixed rice dish). After lunch, learn about rice storage at a **rice storage facility**, before arriving at the hotel in Shibata City. Relax before another **Kaiseki Dinner** tonight. Don’t forget to try out the **#1 best onsen facility in all of Japan**. You don’t want to miss out. SHIRATAMA NO YU KAHOU (3 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 9: Wed, May 20 – SHIBATA CITY (RICE PLANTING). Today is the day! We join the Sase Family in **planting our very own, organic Koshihikari rice**. Enjoy **cooking local specialties**, like onigiri (rice ball often wrapped in nori) or tonjiru (a savory pork and root vegetable miso soup), with local farmers. Return to the hotel for some leisure time. Businessman and founder of the Okura Zaibatsu (Okura Financial Group), Kihachiro Okura, was born in Niigata as the son of the head of a



big village in the Shibata Clan. He built a guest house in Tokyo which he named **Zoshunkaku**, which was later brought over to Shibata and reassembled. This evening, during a special bento served in this historic building, you will be **entertained by an authentic Geisha**, with dancing, singing, and playing fun games. A Geisha is a highly trained entertainer, who performs in the arena of singing, dancing, and music. (B, L, D)

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

Your organic Koshihikari rice* will be delivered to Honolulu in the fall!

Day 10: Thur, May 21 – SHIBATA CITY. Start the day **picking strawberries** at a local farm. Next, visit **Tonton Ichiba** for a chance to purchase local ingredients from the Shibata area. After lunch, learn more about sake at the **Aumont Sake Brewery**. Return to the hotel for some leisure time before your last **Kaiseki Dinner**. Tonight is your last chance to soak in the healing waters of the **#1 best onsen facility in all of Japan**. (B, L, D)

Day 11: Fri, May 22 – SHIBATA CITY – NIIGATA – TOKYO. After a delicious breakfast buffet, transfer to Niigata station by coach. Transfer to Tokyo by **Shinkansen Bullet Train** with **reserved seating** in the **Green Car**. Upon arrival in Tokyo, transfer to **Asakusa**, the center of Tokyo’s shitamachi (literally “low city”) 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 7th 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. Enjoy free time to shop and explore Sensoji on your own. Enjoy an evening of leisure. Your Local Guide will have recommendations for shopping and dining opportunities near the hotel. KEIO PLAZA HOTEL TOKYO (2 Nights) (B)

Day 12: Sat, May 23 – TOKYO. Enjoy a full day at leisure. Enjoy shopping and dining in the bustling Shinjuku area. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

Day 13: Sun, May 24 – TOKYO – HONOLULU. The day is at your leisure until it is time to depart for the airport in the late afternoon. 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)

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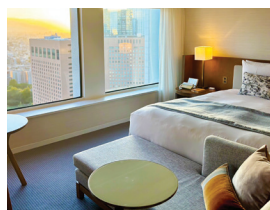
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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS: Imperial Palace East Gardens, TeamLab Borderless – Azabudai Hills, Shinkansen Bullet Train Ride, Toyo Sake Brewery, Takahata Winery, Shirone Kite Museum, Imayo Tsukasa Sake Brewery, Northern Culture Museum, Suwa Shrine, Rice Storage Facility, Zoshunkaku, Geisha Performance, Aumont Sake Brewery & Asakusa Sensoji Temple

SHOPPING OPPORTUNITIES: Toyosu Senkyaku Banrai, Cherryland Sagae, Michi-no-Eki Sekikawa, Minato Marche Pier Bandai, Tonton Ichiba & Nakamise Shopping

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES: Benibana-zome Dyeing, Shogi Piece Painting, Mini-kite Making, Mochi Pounding, Rice Planting, Cooking Local Specialties with Farmers & Strawberry Picking

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:



TOKYO — KEIO PLAZA HOTEL TOKYO (2 NIGHTS + 2 NIGHTS = 4 NIGHTS TOTAL): The Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo is at the perfect location to explore the delights of the city of Tokyo. Just outside the Tochomae Station and only a five-minute walk from Shinjuku Station, the most popular shopping and entertainment spots, this luxury hotel provides stunning experiences which will linger with guests for a long time. Stay in a **Premier Grand Room** (located on the 35th to 41st floors), with stunning views of the city, where you will have **access to the Club Lounge** on the 45th floor.



KAMINOYAMA ONSEN — NIHON NO YADO KOYO (2 NIGHTS): A welcoming ryokan (traditional Japanese inn) with traditional ambience, situated on a lush hill with a sweeping view of the Zao Mountains. Soak in skin-beautifying waters to your heart's content and have a relaxing moment in the public onsen hot springs or in your Japanese-Western style room with its **own private semi-open-air bath**. The ryokan has been elected one of the **top 10** out of "100 Best Ryokans and Hotels Chosen by Professionals" consecutively for 40 years.



NIIGATA — ANA CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL NIIGATA (2 NIGHTS):

Escape to the vibrant city of Niigata and experience a luxurious stay at ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel Niigata. Immerse yourself in the city's rich culture, indulge in delicious seafood, and explore nearby landmarks like CoCoLo Niigata shopping center, Niigata Nippo Media Ship, and Pia Bandai Market. The hotel is conveniently **located just a 10-minute walk from the JR Niigata Station**.



SHIBATA CITY — SHIRATAMA

NO YU KAHOU (3 NIGHTS): Relax in your **Japanese-style room** that includes a wide veranda. The hotel's large public bath is equipped with an indoor bath, large sauna, cold water bath, circular cypress open-air bath, large rock bath, lying bath, and a sitting bath. The outdoor open-air bath and cooling space are equipped with infinity chairs. After getting out of the bath, you can enjoy the hotel's special shrimp miso soup and various drinks in the spacious rest area, and at the back of the large bath, there is the dedicated beauty salon and scrubbing space. It's no wonder the facilities are considered **the #1 best onsen hot spring in ALL of Japan**.



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