



Off the Beaten Path: A Different Side of Japan

2023 NEW YEARS IN JAPAN: Nagano, Niigata & Tokyo Fukubukuro Shopping

Enjoy a luxury hot spring onsen experience with gourmet Kaiseki Dinners in Nagano and Niigata!

The Japanese title for New Year is Shogatsu, and it has always been one of the liveliest times of the year in this amazing nation. A popular tradition in Japan is referred to as "Hatsumode," which is when the locals visit local temples or shrines for the first time in the new year.



7 Nights / 9 Days • 12 Meals (7 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 4 Dinners)
Escorted From Honolulu • English-Speaking Licensed Local Tour Guide
December 27, 2022 – January 04, 2023 • Tour Manager: Andy Lau

VISIT:

Omiya • Nagano • Niigata • Tokyo

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Shinkansen Bullet Train Ride • Zenkoji Temple • Jigokudani Snow Monkey Park
Daio Wasabi Farm • Echigo Yukikura Kan (Tamagawa Sake Brewery) Tour and Tasting
Teradomari Fish Market • Niigata Furusato Village • Northern Culture Museum
Tokyo SkyTree • Asakusa Sensoji Temple

NEW YEARS HIGHLIGHTS:

Hatsumode at Hakusan Shrine • Mochi Pounding • Chinkin Experience (Gold Inlaid Lacquerware)
"Osechi" (Traditional Japanese New Year's Food) Lunch • Sake-Infused Pork Shabu Shabu Dinner
Fukubukuro Shopping • Nakamise Shopping • Ameyoko Shopping

ENJOY AN ONSEN HOT SPRING BATH:

Biyu-no-Yado: 100% natural hot spring using hot water from three sources for bathing.

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\$4588*

INCLUDES ROUNDTRIP AIRFARE FROM HONOLULU, 7 NIGHTS HOTEL, 12 MEALS, TIPS FOR LOCAL TOUR GUIDES AND BUS DRIVERS & ALL TAXES AND FEES

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Day 1: Tue, Dec 27 — HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #73 at 11:55 am.

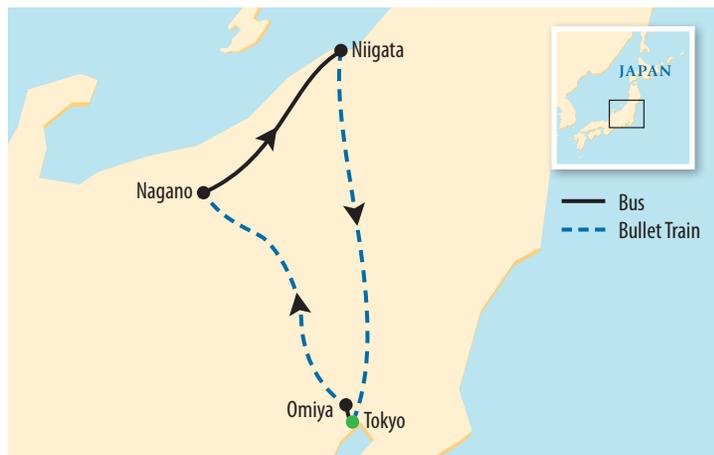
Day 2: Wed, Dec 28 — TOKYO — OMIYA. Arrive in Tokyo at 4:25 pm. After entry formalities, transfer by coach to the hotel in Omiya. The remainder of the evening is at your leisure. The hotel is conveniently located a 5 minute walk from the JR Omiya Station, which is one of the largest stations in the Saitama Prefecture. There will be various choices for shopping and dining at the train station. PALACE HOTEL OMIYA (1 Night)

Day 3: Thur, Dec 29 — OMIYA — NAGANO. After breakfast, walk to the Omiya Station. Ride the **Shinkansen Bullet Train** to Nagano Station. Take a tour of Nagano's **Zenkoji Temple**, one of the most important and popular temples in Japan. Founded in the 7th century, it stores the first Buddhist statue ever to be brought into Japan when Buddhism was first introduced in the 6th century. Enjoy lunch (on your own) there. Our hotel for the evening is located in Yudanaka Onsen, the gateway to Jigokudani Wild Monkey Park and the Shiga Kogen ski area, Biyu-no-Yado prides itself on offering an authentic Japanese cultural experience combined with the **100% natural hot spring mineral water onsen baths**. Enjoy an authentic, seasonal gourmet **Kaiseki Dinner**. BIYU-NO-YADO (2 Nights) (B, D)

Day 4: Fri, Dec 30 — NAGANO. Full-day sightseeing in Nagano by coach. Begin the day with a visit to the **Jigokudani Snow Monkey Park**, home to a very special troop of monkeys. Created in 1964, the park was established as a conservation area in which these monkeys — Japanese macaques — would have a refuge within what was already their natural habitat. The Monkey Park is a unique place where you can observe the wild monkeys going about their daily lives including the unique behavior of bathing in onsens (natural hot springs). They are the only troop known to do so, something that entered the global consciousness in 1970 when *LIFE* magazine profiled the bathing monkeys on its cover. Since that time, visitors from around the world have been coming to the park to spend time with the famous snow monkeys of Jigokudani. After lunch (on your own), visit the **Daio Wasabi Farm**. The farm has multiple large fields with a meticulously maintained network of small streams that constantly provides each wasabi plant with clear, flowing water from the Northern Alps. Only under such pristine conditions is wasabi cultivation possible. Last but not least, the farm features multiple shops and a restaurant. On sale is a wide variety of wasabi related products, including fresh wasabi, wasabi paste, wasabi flavored pickles and crackers, wasabi soba noodles, wasabi curry, wasabi sausages, wasabi dressing, wasabi beer, wasabi juice, wasabi soft cream, and wasabi chocolate. Enjoy dinner at the hotel tonight. (B, D)

Day 5: Sat, Dec 31 — NAGANO — NIIGATA. Full-day sightseeing in Niigata by coach. First stop today is at **Echigo Yukikura Kan (Tamagawa Sake Brewery)**, where you will tour their facilities, learn about sake making, and sample some of their tasty products. Next, visit the **Teradomari Fish Market**. Fresh fish straight from the local Teradomari Bay and Izumozaki Bay, famous for the quality of their fish, can be purchased at reasonable prices here. Enjoy lunch (on own) there. Try the famous hamayaki (fresh seafood grilled at the beach), crab dishes, and kaisen don (sashimi on rice). After lunch, visit the **Niigata Furusato Village**, where there are shops selling Niigata specialties, restaurants serving local cuisine, a Niigata sightseeing information corner and a corner providing Niigata historical and cultural information to visitors. Dinner tonight is a gourmet's delight — a special multi-course **Kaiseki Dinner** at Kappo Hotaru. HOTEL NIKKO NIIGATA (2 Nights) (B, D)

Day 6: Sun, Jan 01 — NIIGATA. Happy New Year!! After a sumptuous breakfast buffet, it's time for **Hatsumode** as we visit **Hakusan Shrine**. We will spend the remainder of New Year's Day at the **Northern Culture Museum** where you're in for a big treat! Traditional **Mochi Pounding** along with a special "**Osechi**" (traditional Japanese New Year's food served on antique dishes) for lunch.



We also have a very auspicious hands-on experience, enjoy **Chinkin (Gold Inlaid Lacquerware)** — a most rewarding experience. Join the fun! This evening enjoy an extra special dinner, **sake-infused pork shabu shabu!** (B, L, D)

Day 7: Mon, Jan 02 — NIIGATA — TOKYO. After breakfast, return to Tokyo via **Shinkansen Bullet Train**. Motorcoach transfer from Tokyo Station to your hotel. You are now in the center of Shinjuku, the hub of shopping and restaurants in Tokyo. The remainder of the day is at your leisure. KEIO PLAZA HOTEL TOKYO (2 Nights) (B)

Day 8: Tue, Jan 03 — TOKYO. Day at Leisure. Enjoy **Fukubukuro Shopping** and dining in the bustling Shinjuku area. Your local guide will be available to assist as needed. Perfect day to relax and/or visit with family and friends in Tokyo. (B)

Day 9: Wed, Jan 04 — TOKYO — HONOLULU. On our last day in Japan, visit **Tokyo SkyTree** for a view of the surrounding city. At just over 2,000 feet tall, it is the tallest tower in Tokyo. Rising 350 meters above the ground, the Tokyo SkyTree Tembo Deck offers a 360° panoramic view of Tokyo. Enjoy lunch (on your own) there. 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 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. Finally spend some time in **Ameyoko**, a busy market street along the Yamanote Line tracks between Okachimachi and Ueno Stations before heading to the airport. Depart Tokyo via Japan Airlines flt #74 at 9:00 pm and arrive Honolulu at 8:40 am the same day. Aloha and Welcome Home! (B)

* 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-cruiseline" 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" 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: 08/19/22.

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