



**Japan.**  
Endless  
Discovery.

# 2023 CHERRY BLOSSOMS TREASURES OF SOUTHERN JAPAN

*Featuring an overnight stay at the incomparable Iwaso Inn on Miyajima Island.  
Authentic onsen hot springs experience with included gourmet Kaiseki Dinners.*

10 Nights / 12 Days • 22 Meals (10 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, 6 Dinners)  
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes English-Speaking Local Guide

March 30 – April 10, 2023

## VISIT:

Himeji • Kurashiki • Okayama • Hiroshima • Miyajima • Fukuoka • Nagasaki  
Arita • Beppu • Matsuyama • Dogo • Takamatsu • Kotohira • Naruto • Osaka

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Himeji Castle • Kurashiki Bikan Area • AEON Mall • Koraku-en • Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park  
A-Bomb Museum • Ferry Ride to Miyajima Island • Itsukushima Shrine • Shinkansen Bullet Train Ride  
Fukuoka Tower • Canal City • Dazaifu • Kujukushima Island Cruising • Glover Garden  
Nagasaki Peace Park • Aritayaki Ceramics Kiln • Beppu "Hell" Pools • Ferry Ride to Shikoku Island  
Michi-no-Eki • Ishiteji Temple • Matsuyama Castle • Ritsurin Park • AEON Mall • Uzo no Michi  
Naruto Whirlpool Cruise • Naruto Ohashi Bridge • Awaji Island • Kuromon Ichiba Market  
Dotonbori Shopping • Shinsaibashi Shopping • AEON Mall

## HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES:

Fruit Picking • Udon Noodle Making Lesson • Aizome Handkerchief Dyeing

## UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES:

Himeji Castle • Itsukushima Shrine

**Non-Stop Travel  
Exclusive!**

**DON'T MISS A THING!!  
WHISPER — Wireless Tour Guide System!  
English narration directly to your ear!**

**COMPLETE  
PACKAGE!**

**\$5188\***

**INCLUDES ROUNDTRIP AIRFARE  
FROM HONOLULU, 10 NIGHTS  
HOTEL, 22 MEALS, TIPS FOR  
LOCAL TOUR GUIDES AND BUS  
DRIVERS, ALL TAXES & FEES**

**EARLY BOOKING  
DISCOUNT PER PERSON**

**SAVE \$50  
BOOK BY OCTOBER 31, 2022†**

**Hurry!  
Limited Space!!**



**Locally Owned & Operated  
Since 1985 — Mahalo Hawai'i!**

**615 Piikoi Street, Suite 102  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814**

**593-0700  
or Toll-Free  
1-800-551-1226**

**[www.nonstop.travel](http://www.nonstop.travel)**

\* 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-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: 11/18/22. Cherry blossoms are subject to weather conditions. † Early Booking Discount is per person. Purchase of Non-Stop Travel's complete Air and Land Package is required. †† Earn Rewards Every Time You Refer a Friend. For each "New-to-NonStop Travel" customer you refer, both you and your referral can receive a \$25 discount off your next NST escorted group. 090222



**Day 1: Thur, Mar 30 – HONOLULU.** Depart Honolulu.

**Day 2: Fri, Mar 31 – OSAKA.** Arrive at Kansai International Airport. After entry formalities, walk to the hotel located within the airport. A deluxe Welcome buffet dinner has been arranged at the hotel.  
**HOTEL NIKKO KANSAI AIRPORT** (1 Night) (D)

**Day 3: Sat, Apr 01 – OSAKA – HIMEJI – KURASHIKI – OKAYAMA.** After a sumptuous buffet breakfast we drive to Himeji to visit **Himeji Castle**. It is known as "White Egret Castle" and "White Heron Castle" because of its brilliant white exterior, resembling a bird taking flight. Himeji Castle is the largest and most visited castle in Japan. It is a splendid example of traditional Japanese architecture. After lunch, stroll the **Bikan Area** of Kurashiki, the preserved historic district of the city. In merchant days, this scenic town thrived as a port for rice shipments. Several old rice granaries and examples of historic architecture still remain, in addition to the stone lined canal. Transfer to Okayama where you can enjoy shopping and dining (on your own) at one of the largest **AEON Shopping Malls**.  
**HOTEL GRANVIA OKAYAMA** (1 Night) (B, L)

\*Baggage will be sent from Okayama to Fukuoka, skipping Miyajima. Prepare an overnight bag for 1 night.

**Day 4: Sun, Apr 02 – OKAYAMA – HIROSHIMA – MIYAJIMA.** After breakfast, take a stroll around Okayama's **Koraku-en**, one of the "Three Great Gardens of Japan," along with Kenroku-en and Kairaku-en. Depart Okayama for Hiroshima. In Hiroshima visit the **Peace Memorial Park** and **A-Bomb Museum**. After a short **ferry ride** arrive on the island of Miyajima, considered sacred by many. Miyajima has been selected as one of Japan's three most scenic places (nihon sankei). At high tide, the vermilion torii gate of **Itsukushima Shrine** looks like it's floating in the middle of the sea. This evening soak in the relaxing atmosphere of the **onsen, hot spring baths**. This evening enjoy a traditional, multi-course **Kaiseki Dinner** featuring Hiroshima's local and seasonal ingredients including fresh seafood from the Seto Inland Sea. **IWASO INN** (1 Night) Onsen and Kaiseki Dinner (B, L, D)

**Day 5: Mon, Apr 03 – MIYAJIMA – HIROSHIMA – FUKUOKA.** After breakfast explore Miyajima Island. Morning at leisure. **Ferry ride** back to Hiroshima. From Hiroshima, we take a ride on the top speed **Shinkansen Bullet Train** to Hakata (Fukuoka). Our local tour guide will have many suggestions for shopping and dinner tonight. **THE ROYAL PARK HOTEL FUKUOKA** (2 Nights) (B)

**Day 6: Tue, Apr 04 – FUKUOKA.** After breakfast at your hotel depart for a full day of sightseeing. First visit **Fukuoka Tower**. Next we stop at **Canal City**, a large shopping and entertainment complex, calling itself a "city within a city". Attractions include about 250 shops, cafés, and restaurants, a theatre, game center, cinemas, two hotels and a canal running through the complex. The fifth floor consists of the "Ramen Stadium", which has eight ramen shops with noodle dishes from across Japan, including the local specialty Hakata Ramen. Then **pick some fresh fruit**. Finally, **Dazaifu** was established in the late 7<sup>th</sup> century and served as the administrator center of the entire island of Kyushu for over 500 years. Nowadays, Dazaifu is a small, quiet city on the outskirts of the large city of Fukuoka. Where there are a number of temples and shrines, the most famous of which is the Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine. Return to the hotel for an evening of leisure. (B)

**Day 7: Wed, Apr 05 – FUKUOKA – NAGASAKI.** Japan is a nation of many islands but most travelers never get beyond the main four. In **Kujukushima National Park** near Sasebo in Nagasaki Prefecture, however, you can up your island quotient by taking a **scenic cruise of the region's waters**. The word "kujuku" literally means "99" but has come to refer to a vast number or something uncountable. In truth, there are 208 islands off the coast of Sasebo, the largest concentration of islands anywhere in Japan. Next, visit **Glover Garden**, an open air museum, exhibiting mansions of former Western residents of Nagasaki and the **Nagasaki Peace Park**, which commemorates the atomic bombing of Nagasaki on August 09, 1945 which destroyed wide parts of the city and killed ten thousands of inhabitants. Enjoy a special **Kaiseki Dinner** at the hotel tonight. **INASAYAMA KANKO HOTEL** (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 8: Thur, Apr 06 – NAGASAKI – ARITA – BEPPU.** We visit Arita, where one of the most famous styles of "**yakimono**" (**Japanese Pottery**) called **Aritayaki** originates. Visit a **kiln** while in Arita. We now drive east to a bather's paradise – the celebrated hot spring resort of Beppu. **Beppu** is famous for its dramatic pools of bubbling water, mud, and geysers "of hell." View **four of the nine hells** of Beppu, hot springs ideal for viewing rather than bathing. Tonight, enjoy dinner at the hotel. **HOTEL & RESORTS BEPPUWAN** (1 Night) (B, L, D)

\*Baggage will be sent from Beppu to Osaka, skipping Dogo & Takamatsu. Prepare an overnight bag for 2 nights.



**Day 9: Fri, Apr 07 – BEPPU – MATSUYAMA – DOGO.** After breakfast at the hotel, we will board a **ferry to Shikoku Island**. Upon arrival on Shikoku, a brief stop will be made at a **Michi-no-Eki**, for the opportunity to rest and shop for souvenirs, before heading towards Matsuyama to explore the **Ishteiji Temple**. This impressive temple is number 51 on the "88 Temple Pilgrimage," the most famous religious pilgrimage route in Japan. Tonight, relax in the **onsen hot springs** of the world-famous Dogo Kan Onsen area. Don't forget to check out the nearby **shopping arcade** full of shops selling local products of the area. If you time your visit right, you can watch the **Botchan Karakuri Clock**, located at the entrance of the shopping arcade, come to life like a cuckoo clock (every hour between 8:00 am and 10:00 pm). There is also a **free foot bath** at the base of the clock. Enjoy dinner at the hotel. **DOGO KAN** (1 Night) (B, D)

**Day 10: Sat, Apr 08 – DOGO – MATSUYAMA – TAKAMATSU.** Begin the day with a visit to **Matsuyama Castle**, one of the 12 original wooden castles in Japan that survived wars, fires, and the Meiji restoration. Take a **udon making lesson** and enjoy your delicious creation for lunch. Next, visit **Ritsurin Park**, a masterpiece of Japanese landscape 100 years in the making. This sprawling park features beautiful ponds and pavilions with a backdrop of the majestic Mt. Shiun. Enjoy some time shopping at the **AEON Mall** in Takamatsu before arriving at the hotel for an evening of leisure. **JR HOTEL CLEMENT TAKAMATSU** (1 Night) (B, L)

**Day 11: Sun, Apr 09 – TAKAMATSU – NARUTO – OSAKA.** In the morning, visit **Aiome Kogekian** and learn how to **aizome (indigo) dye a handkerchief**. A great momento of your trip to Japan! Next, view the Naruto whirlpool from the **Uzu no Michi**, an enclosed walkway that extends under the Onaruto Bridge and overlooks the Naruto whirlpool. Then, view the whirlpool from a different perspective on the **Naruto Whirlpool Cruise**. The whirlpool, which occur along the Shikoku coast of the Naruto Strait, are created by the large volumes of water moving between the Seto Inland Sea and the Pacific Ocean between high and low tide, combined with the unique underwater geography of the narrow strait. Enroute to Osaka, pass through the **Naruto Ohashi Bridge** and **Awaji Island**. This evening, savor a delicious pot of Kobe Beef Shabu Shabu at a local restaurant. **HOTEL GRANVIA OSAKA** (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 12: Mon, Apr 10 – OSAKA – HONOLULU.** Morning at Leisure. After hotel checkout, start the day with a visit to **Kuromon Ichiba Market**, a lively covered market which stretches for 580 meters in Osaka's Chuo Ward. The market is famous for its fresh seafood, fruits and vegetables, meats, dried fish, pickles, and confectionery. Many stalls will prepare, cook and serve their food to you right on the spot! An excellent place to stroll, sample, and snack on a delicious variety of fresh market foods. Next, visit **Dotonbori**, one of Osaka's most popular tourist destinations, this street runs parallel to the Dotonbori canal. It is a popular shopping and entertainment district and is also known as a food destination. **Shinsaibashi Shopping Arcade** and the surrounding area is Osaka's premier shopping center. Approximately 600 meters long, this area is unique as it combines chain retail stores and trendy boutiques with expensive department stores and top designer fashion labels. We then make a final shopping stop at an **AEON Mall**, before returning to Kansai International Airport for our return flight home. Depart Osaka and arrive Honolulu the same day. Aloha and Welcome Home! (B)

**UNESCO World Heritage Sites:** Himeji Castle (1993), Itsukushima Shrine (1996).

**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.** 090222