

**Affordable Luxury — Small Group Tours**



Japan.  
Endless  
Discovery.



**JAPAN  
AIRLINES**



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

# 2025 SHIBATA CITY ORGANIC RICE HARVEST, NAGANO, 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 brand new "Sakura Lounge — Hale" for Business class.

**Harvest 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  
September 12 – 24, 2025 • Tour Manager: Mia Frey

**VISIT:** Tokyo, Nagano, Yudanaka, 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

### JAPAN AIRLINES: CHOICE OF CABINS

*Treat yourself to a better vacation!*

JAL ECONOMY CLASS

**\$7,888\***

JAL PREMIUM ECONOMY CLASS

**\$9,288\***

**HURRY! Only 6 Seats Available at this Price!**

JAL BUSINESS CLASS

**\$10,988\***

**HURRY! Only 6 Seats Available at this Price!**

### EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT PER PERSON

Book by 04/15/25 & **SAVE \$100<sup>+</sup>**

Book by 05/30/25 & **SAVE \$50<sup>+</sup>**

# 2025 Shibata City Organic Rice Harvest, Nagano, Niigata



**Day 1: Fri, Sept 12** – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #71 at 4:35 pm.

**Day 2: Sat, Sept 13** – TOKYO. Arrive at the Haneda International Airport at 7:45 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: Sun, Sept 14** – TOKYO. After a delicious breakfast buffet, depart the hotel for a full day of sightseeing and activities. Begin at **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 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. Enjoy free time to shop and explore Sensoji on your own. 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: Mon, Sept 15** – TOKYO – NAGANO – YUDANAKA – After a delicious breakfast buffet, transfer to Tokyo station by coach. Transfer to Nagano by **Shinkansen Bullet Train** with **reserved seating** in the **Green Car**. Upon arrival in Nagano, take a tour of **Zenkoji Temple**, one of the most important and popular temples in Japan. It 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. The original statue is hidden while a copy of it is shown to the public every six years for a few weeks. The next opportunity to see the statue is in 2027. Similarly to Sensoji, Zenkoji is also 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. You'll have free time to shop and enjoy lunch (on your own) here. Transfer to the hotel. Soak in the soothing **onsen hot springs** and enjoy an authentic **Kaiseki Dinner**. The onsen facilities – which are divided for men and women – and allow you to enjoy the onsens whether indoors or outdoors.



The high-quality service and facilities are sure to become some of your fondest memories of your visit to Japan. ISSA NO KOMICHI “BIYU NO YADO” (2 Nights) (B, D)

**Day 5: Tue, Sept 16** – YUDANAKA – NAGANO – YUDANAKA. After breakfast, depart the hotel for a full day of touring. Begin the day in **Obuse**, a small town in northern Nagano, renowned for Edo Period (1603–1867) woodblock painter, Katsushika Hokusai (1760–1849). Best known for his ukiyo-e woodblock print *The Great Wave off Kanagawa*, Hokusai spent the later years of his life in Obuse after being invited there by Takai Kozan, a wealthy farmer and merchant. During his stay, Hokusai painted several masterpieces including *Dragon and Phoenix* for the ceiling of the Higashimachi Festival Float, *Masculine Waves and Feminine Waves* for the ceiling of the Kanmachi Festival Float, and *Phoenix* for the ceiling of the main hall at Gansho-in temple. Several of the town's highlights are related to the artist. Enjoy free time to explore the many craft shops and stores that litter this town. After lunch, visit **Oyaki Farm**, a new factory, café, and store by Irohado to showcase their oyaki. Irohado's popular oyaki are prepared one at a time by hand, the wheat and buckwheat flour dough stuffed with local farm and mountain vegetables, mushrooms, and other fillings. Oven baked rather than steamed, Irohado's oyaki have an addictively crisp crust. You can easily make a meal out of these tasty snacks. Return to the hotel for another **Kaiseki Dinner**. (B, L, D)

**Day 6: Wed, Sept 17** – YUDANAKA – NIIGATA. After breakfast, depart the hotel for Niigata. Take a short break from the bus ride at **Yoneyama SA**, to stretch your legs, pick up a snack or two, or shop for local souvenirs. Once in Niigata, you'll have free time to get lunch (on your own) and shop at **AEON MALL Niigata Kameda Inter**. The Shirone area of Niigata has a long and colorful history with kites. 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! Continue to the hotel in Niigata. Enjoy a little leisure time, before departing for dinner at a local restaurant. ANA CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL NIIGATA (2 Nights) (B, D)

**Day 7: Thur, Sept 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.



## Plus Tokyo Shopping



Japan.  
Endless  
Discovery.



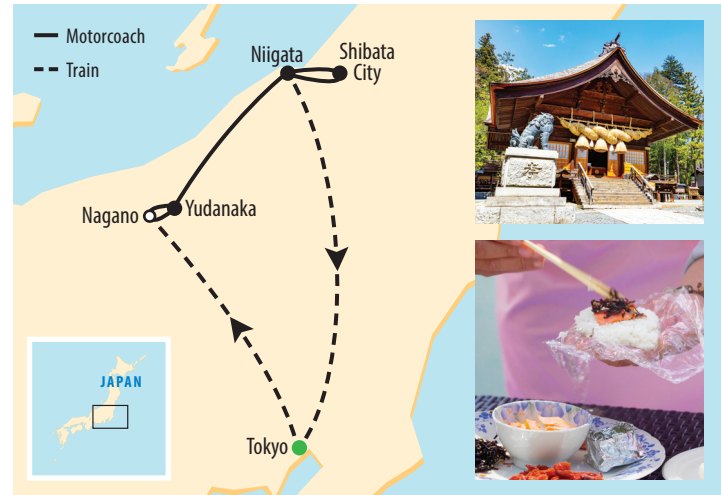
JAPAN  
AIRLINES



Begin the day at **Imayo Tsukasa Sake Brewery**, a longstanding 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 exquisitely with food. You can find some rare sakes, some that are only available in their sake shop. And for those that are not much of a drinker, 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 a multiple of food options, including fish caught in the Sea of Japan, to vegetables and fruit directly delivered from farms, Niigata-produced Koshihikari Rice, a variety of high-quality brand sake from across the prefecture, and all kinds of Niigata’s specialties relating to food are here. Enjoy lunch (on your own) here. Then take a tour 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. While there, **learn how to pound mochi**. It’s not as easy as it looks. Return to the hotel for dinner and an evening of leisure. (B, D)

**Day 8: Fri, Sept 19** – NIIGATA – SHIBATA CITY. After breakfast, depart the hotel for Shibata City. En route, stop at **Suwa Taisha Shrine**, one of Japan’s oldest shrines, known for its unique festival that happens once every seven years – in which onbashira (sacred wooden pillars) are replaced and the trees selected are towed/ridden down the mountain before being erected with the shrine. 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 dinner. Don’t forget to try out the **2<sup>nd</sup> best onsen facilities in all of Japan**. You don’t want to miss out. SHIRATAMA NO YU KAHOU (3 Nights) (B, L, D)

**Day 9: Sat, Sept 20** – SHIBATA CITY – RICE HARVESTING. Today is the day! We join the Sase Family in **harvesting our very own organic Koshihikari Rice**. Enjoy **onigiri making and cooking local specialties** with local farmers. 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 you will be treated to a **special banquet with Geiko Performances** in this historic building. (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: Sun, Sept 21** – SHIBATA CITY. Start the day **picking fruit** at a local farm. Next, visit **Tonton Ichiba** for a chance to purchase local ingredients from the Shibata Area. After lunch, learn about sake at the **Aumont Sake Brewery**. Return to the hotel for some leisure time before dinner. Tonight is your last chance to soak in the healing waters of the **2<sup>nd</sup> best onsen** facilities in all of Japan. (B, L, D)

**Day 11: Mon, Sept 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, 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 8<sup>th</sup> floor and relax at the foot bath garden – which is free of charge to all visitors. 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: Tue, Sept 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: Wed, Sept 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 Haneda International Airport for the flight home. Depart Tokyo on Japan Airlines flt #74 at 9:05 pm and arrive in Honolulu at 9:45 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B)

# Affordable Luxury — Small Group Tours



**TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:** Asakusa Sensoji Temple, TeamLab Borderless – Azabudai Hills, Shinkansen Bullet Train Ride, Zenkoji Temple, Shirone Kite Museum, Imayo Tsukasa Sake Brewery, Northern Culture Museum, Suwa Taisha Shrine, Rice Storage Facility & Zoshunkaku

**SHOPPING OPPORTUNITIES:** Nakamise Shopping, Obuse Area, Oyaki Farm, Yoneyama SA, AEON MALL Niigata Kameda Inter, Minato Marche Pier Bandai, Tonton Ichiba, Aumont Sake Brewery & Toyosu Senkyaku Banrai

**HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES:** Mini-Kite Making, Mochi Pounding, Rice Harvesting, Onigiri Making and Cooking Local Specialties with Farmers & Fruit 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 35<sup>th</sup> to 41<sup>st</sup> floors), with stunning views of the city, where you will have **access to the Club Lounge** on the 45<sup>th</sup> floor.



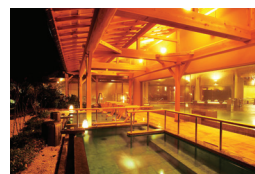
**YUDANAKA — ISSA NO KOMICHI “BIYU NO YADO” (2 NIGHTS):** Located within reach of the Japanese Alps, the famed Jigokudani Monkey Park, and the hot springs of Yudanaka Onsen, Biyu no Yado is an **authentic Japanese-style ryokan** and a great addition to your tailor-made tour of Japan. Two public baths make the most of the area’s fascinating volcanic geography, filled with **100% natural onsen hot spring mineral water**.



**NIIGATA — ANA CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL NIIGATA (2 NIGHTS):** Escape to the vibrant city of Niigata and experience a **luxurious stay** at ANA Crowne Plaza 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. 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 cypress open-air bath, large sauna, cold water bath, circular lying bath, and a sitting bath. The outdoor 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 2<sup>nd</sup> best onsen hot springs in ALL of Japan**.



## NON-STOP TRAVEL EXCLUSIVE!

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

## NON-STOP TRAVEL SHIBATA CITY EXCLUSIVE!

**ZOSHUNKAKU —**  
*Guest House in Shibata City!*



Locally Owned & Operated Since 1985 — Mahalo Hawai‘i!  
Great Memories Never End with Non-Stop Travel!

615 Piikoi Street, Suite 102, Honolulu, HI 96814

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

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-cruise-line” 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: 05/05/25. 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.



032125