



Off the Beaten Path: A Different Side of Japan

2022 FALL NORTHERN KYUSHU, IWAKUNI & OSAKA GOURMET TOUR

10 Nights / 12 Days • 25 Meals (10 Breakfasts, 8 Lunches, 7 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • English-Speaking Local Guide
September 23 – October 04, 2022 • Tour Manager: Lana Ige

VISIT:

Fukuoka • Sasebo • Nagasaki • Unzen • Shimabara • Kumamoto
Beppu • Oita • Shimonoseki • Iwakuni • Hiroshima • Osaka

GOURMET HIGHLIGHTS:

Seasonal Multi-Course Kaiseki Dinners • Umegae Sake Brewery Tour and Tasting
Teishoku Lunch with Horse Meat Sashimi • Jigoku-Mushi (Geothermal Steam Cooking) Lunch
Fugu (Puffer Fish) Special Dinner • Okonomiyaki (Savory Pancake) Lunch • Kobe Beef Shabu Shabu Dinner

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Uminonakamichi Seaside Park • Mentaiko Factory • Museum Haku Haku • Tochoji Temple
Fukuoka Tower • Kujukushima National Park Scenic Cruise • Huis Ten Bosch Amusement Park
Glover Garden • Strolling around Chinatown • Dejima • Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum
Nagasaki Peace Memorial Park • Unzen Jigoku • Unzen Ropeway • Shimeiso Garden
Shimabara Bukeyashiki (Samurai Residences) • Kumamoto Ferry Ride • Sakura No Baba • Kumamoto Castle
Suizenji Park • Umi and Chinoike Jigoku – The Hot Spring Hells • TOTO Museum • Akama Shrine
Museum of Japanese Emigration to Hawaii • Kintaiyo Bridge • Orizuru Tower • Shinkansen Bullet Train Ride
Kuromon Ichiba Market • Dotonbori Shopping • Shinsaibashi Shopping • AEON Mall

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES:

Kimono Dress-up

ONSEN HOT SPRINGS:

HOTEL & RESORTS BEPPUWAN: Beppuwan is one of Japan's most famous hot spring towns. The open-air rock bath in Hotel & Resorts BEPPUWAN is sourced by the Nisshutsu Onsen. It is a sodium chloride hot spring with a fountain in the premises. You can enjoy the view of Beppu Bay while soaking yourself in the hot water. For the ladies' onsen, a special rose bath is also available. There are also Japanese-style bathhouses available, equipped with a sauna, and key lockers for your convenience.

IWAKUNI KOKUSAI KANKO HOTEL: Located right in front of Kintaiyo Bridge, enjoy Japanese-style rooms and public indoor/outdoor hot-spring baths.

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Day 1: Fri, Sep 23 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu.

Day 2: Sat, Sep 24 – FUKUOKA. Arrive in Fukuoka. After entry formalities, transfer by coach to the hotel in Fukuoka. THE ROYAL PARK HOTEL FUKUOKA (2 Nights)

Day 3: Sun, Sep 25 – FUKUOKA. Begin the day of tour at **Uminonakamichi Seaside Park**. Enjoy beautiful seasonal flowers all throughout the year, as well as various leisure activities such as “Animal Forest” where you can interact with animals, including squirrels, monkeys, capybaras, and outdoor leisure pools in the urban area. Next, take a tour of a **Mentaiko Factory** and learn about cod ovum and how its processed. While there, explore the **Museum Haku Haku**, and learn about Hakata’s (Fukuoka’s) food and culture. After lunch, stop at **Tochoji Temple** which was dedicated to the Buddhist saint Kukai who built it in 806 and contains the largest seated wooden statue of Buddha in Japan. Visit **Fukuoka Tower**, before returning to the hotel. Walk to Hanamidori for a special Mizutaki dinner. (B, L, D)

*Baggage will be sent from Fukuoka to Kumamoto, skipping Sasebo and Nagasaki. Prepare overnight bag for 2 nights.

Day 4: Mon, Sep 26 – FUKUOKA – SASEBO. Japan is a nation of many islands but most travelers never get beyond the main four. At **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 “kujukuku” 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. If these islands look familiar, chalk it up to the fact that they featured prominently in the opening scenes of the film *The Last Samurai*. After lunch, tour **Umegae Sake Brewery** and **sample some of their products**. Next tour **Huis Tens Bosch** (Hausu Ten Bosu), a theme park in Sasebo, Nagasaki, which recreates the Netherlands by displaying life-sized copies of old Dutch buildings. The name Huis Ten Bosch translates into English as “House at the Woods/bush.” It is named after Huis Ten Bosch in The Hague, one of the three official residences of the Dutch Royal Family. Spend time exploring the park on your own. Enjoy a multi-course seasonal **Kaiseki Dinner** at your hotel. HOTEL NIKKO HUIS TEN BOSCH (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 5: Tue, Sep 27 – SASEBO – NAGASAKI. We start the day exploring **Glover Garden**, a park in Nagasaki built for Thomas Blake Glover, a Scottish merchant who contributed to the modernization of Japan in shipbuilding, coal mining, and other fields. In it stands the Glover Residence, the oldest Western style house surviving in Japan and Nagasaki’s foremost tourist attraction. After lunch, take a stroll around Nagasaki’s **Chinatown**. Visit **Dejima Island** where you will **dress-up in beautiful kimonos** for the ladies and **handsome samurai outfits** for the gentlemen. Later, visit the **Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum** and **Peace Park Memorial**. This evening enjoy dinner at your hotel. INASAYAMA KANKO HOTEL (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 6: Wed, Sep 28 – NAGASAKI – UNZEN – SHIMABARA – KUMAMOTO. First stop this morning is at **Unzen Jigoku** (“Unzen Hell”), where hot water and gases spout out of the earth. **Unzen Ropeway** leads part way up the mountain slope. The lower and upper ropeway stations have observation decks with views over the surrounding mountains and the Ariake Sea all the way to Kumamoto Prefecture on a clear day. Enjoy the spectacular views. After lunch visit **Shimeiso Garden** to view the spring water pond with the numerous carp swimming inside. Then explore **Shimabara Bukeyashiki**, samurai residences. Take a **short ferry ride** from Shimabara to Kumamoto. This evening, dinner suggestions will be made by the local guide. KUMAMOTO HOTEL CASTLE (1 Night) (B, L)

Day 7: Thur, Sep 29 – KUMAMOTO – BEPPU – OITA. After breakfast, explore **Sakura no Baba**, an Edo-themed complex, before visiting the nearby **Kumamoto Castle**. Enjoy a special **Teishoku Lunch with Horse Meat Sashimi**. After lunch, explore **Suizenji Park**, a spacious, Japanese-style landscape garden in Kumamoto, best enjoyed by scrolling along a circular path. It was built by the Hosokawa family in the 17th century. The garden reproduces the 53 post stations of the Tokaido, the important road, which connected Edo with Kyoto during the Edo Period, in miniature form, including a small Mt. Fuji. This evening **enjoy a relaxing soak in one of the open-air or indoor hot spring onsens**. HOTEL & RESORTS BEPPUWAN (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 8: Fri, Sep 30 – OITA – BEPPU – SHIMONOSEKI. Beppu is famous for its “hells” of dramatic pools of bubbling water, mud and geysers. Visit two: **Umi Jigoku** or “Sea Hell” is a pond of boiling blue water and **Chinoike Jigoku** or “Blood Pond Hell” with its bubbling blood red waters. Lunch today is



uniquely prepared using volcanic steam from natural vents, **Jigoku-Mushi**. End the day with a visit to the **TOTO Museum**, famous for their Japanese and World toilet evolution. Enjoy a spectacular **Fugu (puffer fish) course dinner** at a 100 year old restaurant. SHIMONOSEKI GRAND HOTEL (1 Night) (B, L, D)

*Baggage will be sent from Shimono-seki to Osaka, skipping Iwakuni. Prepare overnight bag for 1 night.

Day 9: Sat, Oct 01 – SHIMONOSEKI – IWAKUNI. Start the day with a visit to **Akama Shrine**, with the large white base that supports one of its many red roofs. This shrine was built to commemorate the spirit of the six-year-old Emperor Antoku, who died here during the decisive Battle of Dan-no-Ura between the Minamoto and Taira clans in 1185. After lunch, visit the **Museum of Japanese Emigration to Hawaii**. Explore and learn something new. This evening enjoy a spectacular **Kaiseki Dinner** along with the natural hot springs onsen. IWAKUNI KOKUSAI KANKO HOTEL (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 10: Sun, Oct 02 – IWAKUNI – HIROSHIMA – OSAKA. Explore the **Kintai-kyo Bridge**, which has been Iwakuni’s most distinguished landmark and a subject of admiration for hundreds of years. The elegant, wooden bridge makes five bold arches onto massive stone pillars as it crosses over the Nishiki River. For lunch, **learn how to make your very own Okonomiyaki (savory pancake)**. Then visit **Orizuru Tower** which offers sweeping views of the city of Hiroshima and the Atomic Dome. Board your **Shinkansen Bullet Train** from Hiroshima station to Shin-Osaka station. This evening savor an authentic **Kobe Beef Shabu Shabu Dinner**. HOTEL GRANVIA OSAKA (2 Nights) (B, L, D)

Day 11: Mon, Oct 03 – OSAKA. Full day at leisure. Perfect to visit with family and friends or for **POWER SHOPPING!** Your Japan-based Tour Guide will also offer an optional activity. (B)

Day 12: Tue, Oct 04 – OSAKA – HONOLULU. Full day of shopping! Start 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. A final shopping stop will be made at an **AEON Mall** before transferring to Kansai International Airport for our return flight home. Depart Osaka and arrive Honolulu 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-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” 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: 05/16/22.

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