



2022 FALL ULTIMATE TOKAIDO ROAD WITH MIYAJIMA & HIROSHIMA TOUR #1

*Luxury hot spring onsen experience with gourmet Kaiseki Dinners
in Hakone & Miyajima! Travel to Tokyo and return from Osaka!*

9 Nights / 11 Days • 19 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, 4 Dinners)

Escorted from Honolulu • English-Speaking Local Guide

November 08 – 18, 2022 • Tour Managers: Dean & Annette Mizumura

OVERVIEW:

The Tokaido (East Sea Road) was the most important of the Five Routes of the Edo period – connecting Edo (modern-day Tokyo) to Kyoto in Japan. Unlike the inland and less heavily traveled Nakasendo, the Tokaido traveled along the sea coast of eastern Honshu, hence the route's name.

VISIT:

Tokyo • Mt. Fuji • Hakone • Miyajima • Hiroshima
Okayama • Kurashiki • Himeji • Kyoto • Nara • Osaka

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Harajuku Shopping • Asakusa Sensoji Temple • Nakamise Shopping • Ameyoko Shopping
Mt. Fuji • Lake Ashi Cruise • Hakone Ropeway • Owakudani • JR Super Express Train Ride
Ferry to Miyajima Island • Itsukushima Shrine • Peace Memorial Park • A-Bomb Museum
A-Bomb Dome • Children's Memorial • AEON Mall • Kurashiki Bikan Area • Himeji Castle
Kiyomizu Temple • Heian Jingu Shrine • Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion)
Fushimi Inari Shrine • Todaiji Temple • Nara Park

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES:

Sushi Making Class • Yuzen Table Mat Dyeing • Traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES:

Mt. Fuji • Itsukushima Shrine • A-Bomb Dome • Himeji Castle
Kiyomizu Temple • Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion) • Todaiji Temple

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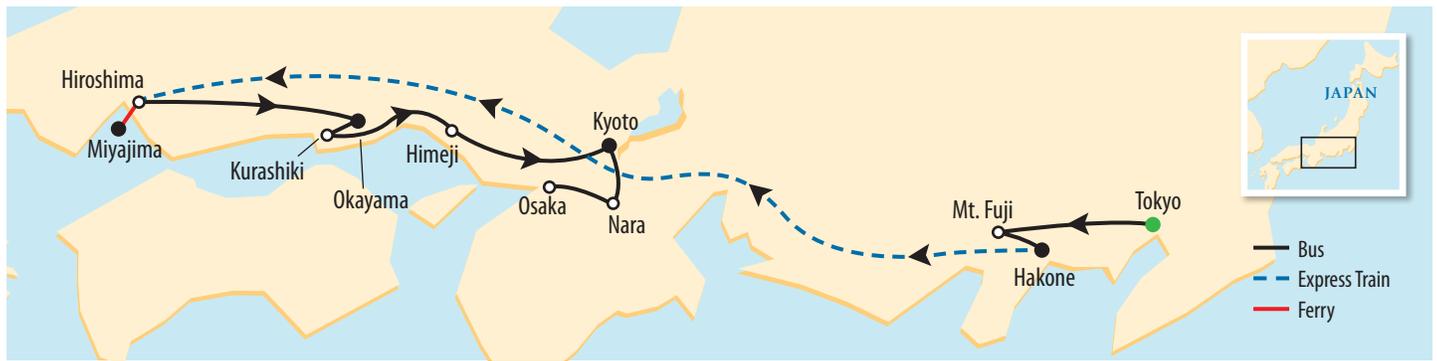
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Day 1: Tue, Nov 08 – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu.

Day 2: Wed, Nov 09 – TOKYO. Arrive Tokyo. After entry formalities, transfer by coach to your hotel in Tokyo. GRAND NIKKO TOKYO DAIBA (3 Nights)

Day 3: Thur, Nov 10 – TOKYO. After a sumptuous buffet breakfast, embark on a full day of discovery! First visit the visually stimulating **Harajuku Shopping District**. Today's highlight will be a hands-on **sushi making session**, which will yield your delicious lunch. After lunch, head 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. Next visit **Ameyoko**, a busy market street along the Yamanote Line tracks between Okachimachi and Ueno Stations. The name "Ameyoko" is a short form for "Ameya Yokocho" (candy store alley), as candies were traditionally sold there. Alternatively, "Ame" also stands for "America," because a lot of American products used to be available there when the street was the site of a black market in the years following World War II. Today, various products such as clothes, bags, cosmetics, fresh fish, dried food, and spices are sold along Ameyoko. Return to the hotel and walk to a nearby Izakaya restaurant for dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 4: Fri, Nov 11 – TOKYO. Day at Leisure. Perfect day to relax and/or visit with family and friends in Tokyo. (B)

Day 5: Sat, Nov 12 – TOKYO – MT. FUJI – HAKONE. We now make way to **Mt. Fuji** – we will **ascend to the 5th station** (weather permitting) at an elevation of 7,500 feet above sea level. Continue to Hakone, where much of the area is considered an active volcanic zone since its creation from the eruption of Mount Hakone some 3,000 years ago. Enjoy a **boat ride on beautiful Lake Ashi**. View the surrounding countryside from the **Hakone Ropeway** and visit **Owakudani** (Hell Valley), the source of the hot spring waters of Hakone. Then transfer to the hotel to savor an authentic multi-course, seasonal, gourmet **Kaiseki 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. HAKONE SENGOKUHARA PRINCE HOTEL (1 Night) (B, L, D)

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

Day 6: Sun, Nov 13 – HAKONE – HIROSHIMA – MIYAJIMA. Transfer to Odawara Train Station where we will board a **JR Super Express Train** to Hiroshima. After a short **ferry ride** arrive on the island of Miyajima, considered sacred by many. 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) Japanese-Style Room with Onsen and Kaiseki Dinner (B, D)

Day 7: Mon, Nov 14 – MIYAJIMA – HIROSHIMA – OKAYAMA. After a delicious breakfast explore **Itsukushima Shrine**. At high tide, the vermilion torii gate looks like it's floating in the middle of the sea. The shrine complex has been selected as one of Japan's three most scenic places (nihon sankei). Now board the **ferry back to Hiroshima**. In Hiroshima visit the **Peace Memorial Park, A-Bomb Museum, A-Bomb Dome, and Children's Memorial**. Upon arrival to Okayama enjoy an evening of shopping and dining (on your own) at the **Super AEON Shopping Mall**. HOTEL GRANVIA OKAYAMA (1 Night) (B, L)

Day 8: Tue, Nov 15 – OKAYAMA – KURASHIKI – HIMEJI – KYOTO. Visit **Kurashiki** and it's beautiful, **Bikan area**. 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. Next 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. Transfer to Kyoto. MIYAKO HOTEL KYOTO HACHIGO (3 Nights) (B, L)

Day 9: Wed, Nov 16 – KYOTO. After a sumptuous Japanese/Western buffet breakfast at the hotel, embark on a full day of sightseeing beginning with a visit to **Kiyomizu Temple** (literally "Pure Water Temple"). Next, visit **Heian Jingu Shrine** which has a relatively short history, dating back just over a hundred years to 1895. The shrine was built on the occasion of the 1100th anniversary of the capital's foundation in Kyoto and is dedicated to the spirits of the first and last emperors who reigned from the city, Emperor Kammu (737–806) and Emperor Komei (1831–1867). Heian is the former name of Kyoto. Then we visit **Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion)**, a Zen Temple whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. Today's hands-on experience is "**Surikomi Yuzen (brush dyed Yuzen)**." Since the patterns are dyed by placing a paper stencil over a table mat you can make an authentic piece, even if this is your first time. Return to the hotel for a buffet dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Thur, Nov 17 – KYOTO. Full Day at Leisure. Your hotel is surrounded by department stores, specialty stores, and restaurants. A perfect day to fulfill your shopping list. Your local guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

Day 11: Fri, Nov 18 – KYOTO – OSAKA – HONOLULU. On our way to Osaka experience a **traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony**. Then visit the stunning vermilion colored **Fushimi Inari Shrine**, whose 4km long tunnel of scarlet torii gates was featured on the film *Memoirs of a Geisha*. Next visit the **Todaiji Temple**, the largest wooden building in Japan, which houses the largest bronze statue of Buddha at 16.3 meters high. The surrounding **Nara Park** is inhabited by **over 1,000 deer**. Transfer to Kansai International Airport for our return flight home. Depart Osaka and arrive Honolulu the same day. Aloha and Welcome Home! (B, L)

UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Mt. Fuji (2013), Itsukushima Shrine (1996), A-Bomb Dome (1996), Himeji Castle (1993), Kinkakuji Temple (1994), Kiyomizu Temple (1994), Todaiji Temple (1998).

* 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: 07/01/22.

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