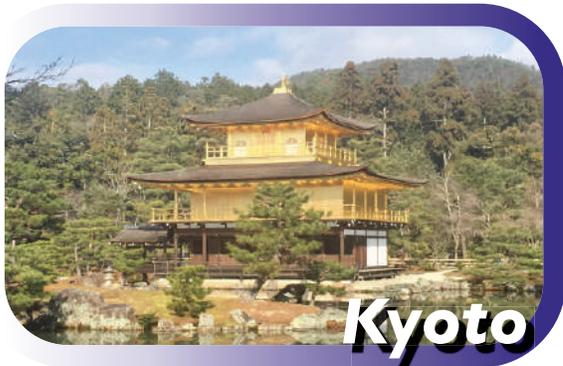


Join Panda Travel in...

2023 Spring Break Tokaido Road!



(GPI2862)



March 11-19, 2023
7 Nights/9 Days

*Tokyo - Kyoto - Nara -
Kobe - Osaka*

\$4069*
per person-triple occupancy

\$4109*
per person-double occupancy

\$4549*
single occupancy

pandaonline.com
(808) 734-1961

1017 Kapahulu Ave, Honolulu, HI 96816

**Cancel for any reason
up to 60 days prior to
departure date for a
FULL REFUND!**

**A minimum of 16 participants is required for
the tour to operate**

Itinerary

Day 1: (Sat) March 11 Depart Honolulu - 12:10pm via HA5390

Please meet the Panda Travel representative 3 hours prior to departure at the Hawaiian Airlines check-in counters located in Terminal 2, Lobby 4.

Day 2: (Sun) March 12 Haneda - Tokyo Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free WiFi)

We'll arrive at Haneda airport at 4:25pm. After clearing customs, our English-speaking local guide will meet us at the airport arrival lobby. Transfer to our hotel for the next 3 nights. With our anticipated early afternoon arrival, be sure to explore Ikebukuro, one of Tokyo's main subcenters.

There's a 24-hour Family Mart convenience store and Seiyu supermarket close by for food and beverage pickups.

Day 3: (Mon) March 13 Tokyo (B) Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free WiFi)

Please meet your guide in the lobby at 8:30am after breakfast. Our morning begins at the iconic *Tsukiji Fish Market*, the largest fish market in the world and renowned bucketlist spot. While the inner auction market relocated in 2018, the charm remains in its outer market. With the 1.5 hours we spend here, be sure to enjoy the seasonal produce, candy tasting, knife-making artisan shops, a fresh seafood and sushi breakfast or other culinary options including ramen and donburi.



Day 3 - Tsukiji Fish Market

Next, we'll head over to *Arcakit Kinshicho* - a multi-level shopping arcade where you'll find Daiso (7/F),

3Coins (3/F), plenty of fashion retailers, eateries, and supermarkets. We'll stay here for 2 hours and lunch will be on your own. Happy Shopping!

Then, we'll stop at *Shibuya Scramble Square* for the next 2 hours. This 755 foot mixed use tower opened in November 2019 and is the tallest building in the Shibuya area. There, you'll find *Shibuya Sky*, an observatory (there's a special spot to see Mt. Fuji on a clear day!) and over 200 commercial outlets with restaurants, cafes, and shopping. The tower also overlooks the famous and ever busy intersection, *Shibuya Scramble Crossing*. With giant video screens and neon signs as a backdrop to several hundreds of people walking in all directions at every light change, this "scramble" of people is surely a site to witness.

Pay a visit to the famous *Hachiko Dog statue*, honoring Tokyo's most beloved pooch, Hachiko. This obedient Akita dog patiently waited at Shibuya Station daily for his owner, a professor, to return home from work. When the professor tragically died while at work in 1925, Hachiko continued to go to the station every day until his own passing nearly 10 years later. The statue in front of Shibuya Station memorializes his unwavering loyalty, love, and perseverance.

After our anticipated 4:30pm arrival back to the hotel, the rest of the day is at leisure. Your local guide is available to assist you with any questions you might have.

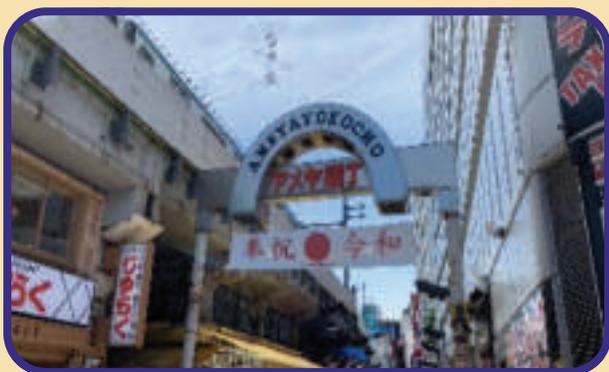
Conveniently for us, the hotel lobby connects to *Sunshine City*, a huge shopping and entertainment complex with 4 towers that include an aquarium, planetarium, solarium, a virtual reality play experience, and a 240-meter-high skyscraper with an observation deck-no wonder it's been called a "city within a city!" You can also find the Pokemon Center Mega Tokyo here, a mega shop with arcade games and limited-edition items like Pokemon-themed ramen and curry, stationary, and cookware. Recharge from all the fun with a visit to Namja Town, where you can snack on famous gyozas from around Japan at the Namja Gyoza Stadium food theme park or experiment with 50 flavors of ice cream including avocado, crab, beef tongue at Dessert Alley. Namja town has various carnival attractions too like a haunted house, merry-go-round, and arcade games.

In addition to Sunshine City, there's *Tobu Department Store* and *Seibu Ikebukuro Flagship Store*. While Tobu offers apparel stores like UNIQLO along with over 40 restaurants, Seibu houses high-end brands like Hermes

and specialty goods stores like Loft and MUJI. In 2015, the *Kit-Kat Chocolatory* opened its doors at Seibu and became the world's first Kit-Kat boutique. It only took 2 hours to sell out all 500 available bars on opening day! Don't miss your chance to try special and seasonal flavors like purple potato, cinnamon cookie, european cheese, bean cake and wasabi-these make for great gifts too!

Day 4: (Tue) March 14
Tokyo (B/L)
Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free WiFi)

After breakfast, please meet your guide at the hotel lobby at 8:45 am. Location/activity TBA.



Day 4 - Ameyoko

Our next stop is *Ameyoko Shopping Street*. “Ameyoko” is short for “Ameya Yokocho” or “candy shop back alley,” a name reminiscent of a post WWII era when candy was a luxury good and was illegally sold there. Now, the street is lined with over 400 shops selling anything and everything, from cooked street food, snacks like dried squid, and fresh seafood to clothes, bags, accessories, cosmetics, and much more! Enjoy an 1.5 hour here to explore on your own.



Day 4 - Ueno Zoological Gardens

After *lunch*, we'll visit *Ueno Zoological Gardens*,

founded in 1882 and is the oldest zoo in Japan. It's a sanctuary to over 3,000 animals including elephants, Japanese macaques, and of course celebrity giant panda cub, Xiang Xiang! Born onsite in 2017, Xiang Xiang was the zoo's first baby panda and became Ueno Zoo's symbol of adorableness (kawaii!). Often seen munching on bamboo, this bright-eyed cub has been the object of major media attention, with visitors clad in panda gear flocking to see her since her first public appearance. Most recently in June 2022, Ueno Zoo welcomed the birth of darling giant panda cub twins, brother Xiao Xiao and sister Lei Lei. Enjoy 2 hours to explore all of the zoo's many exhibits.

We'll return to the hotel at around 4:30pm. The remainder of the evening is free to explore! Feel free to reach out to your local guide with any questions you might have.

Day 5: (Wed) March 15
Tokyo – Kyoto (B/L)
Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo (Free WiFi)

After breakfast, please meet your guide in the lobby by 8:30am as we make our way to Kyoto. We'll transfer by our coach to Tokyo Station. From there, you'll board a **bullet train** to Kyoto. Your luggage will be delivered to your hotel in Kyoto on the same day.

We'll head to *lunch* after we arrive at Kyoto Station.



Day 5 - Arashiyama Bamboo Grove

Then, we'll visit *Arashiyama*, a heavily Buddhist influenced area. Start with a visit to *Tenryuji Temple*, head temple of the Tenryu sect of Rinzai Zen Buddhism and official *UNESCO World Heritage Site*. Founded in 1339, this temple is best known for its beautiful cultural artwork and tranquil Sogenchi pond and garden, one of the oldest landscape gardens in Kyoto.

Spend an hour at leisure this late afternoon. Be sure to venture into the internationally recognized cultural

landmark, *Arashiyama Bamboo Grove*. Rooted in Japanese belief, bamboo has the power to ward off evil and deliver good fortunes. Wander around and marvel at the soaring stalks of bamboo that surround you. Close your eyes and listen to the sound of the rustling bamboo swaying gently in the wind. Don't miss out on this breathtaking and meditative experience!

Or take a half an hour uphill hike to reach *Iwatayama Monkey Park*. There, you'll find mischievous wild monkeys scurrying about or munching on a bag of apples that visitors can purchase for 100 Yen. Another benefit of making this trek is the astounding panoramic views of Kyoto atop.

If you want to grab a bite to eat, try *yūdo*fu (simmered tofu), a local Arashiyama specialty that highlights Buddhist vegetarian cuisine. If shopping is on your to-do-list, there are plenty of shops to collect traditional fans, bamboo goods, and specialty snacks.

We'll check into the hotel at 5:30pm. Enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure.

Day 6: (Thu) March 16 Kyoto (B)

Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo (Free WiFi)



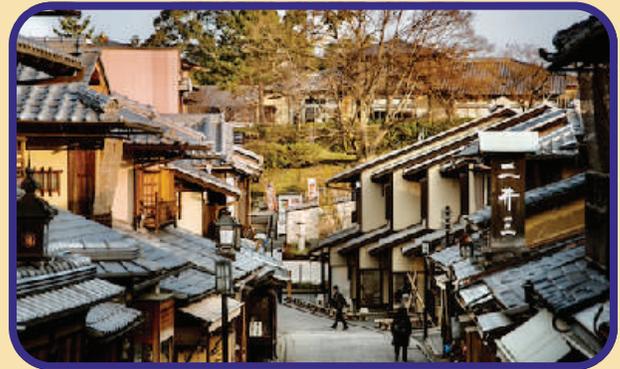
Day 6 - Kiyomizu Temple

After breakfast, please meet in the lobby at 8:30am and prepare to visit 2 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Kyoto.

Our morning begins with a visit to *Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion)* - the eye-catching landmark, *UNESCO World Heritage Site*, originally built in 1397 as Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu's retirement villa but later converted into a temple. In 1955, the Temple underwent reconstruction to restore the original design with the lower floors refurbished with real gold-foil after its near fatal destruction from a fire that a young monk set ablaze in the 1950s. In addition to the gold-leaf on Japanese

lacquer that wraps around the 2nd and 3rd floors, a Buddhist era inspired beautiful garden and "Mirror Pond" encircling the Temple reflects the delicate balance between tranquility and the Temple's grandiose facade.

Our next stop will be Kyoto's stunning *Kiyomizu Temple*, our 2nd *UNESCO World Heritage Site* of the day. Founded over 1200 years ago, this temple has a veranda that extends out to the side of a mountain with 43-foot-high wooden columns supporting its overhanging structure and a priceless statue of Kannon Bodhisattva, the goddess of mercy. Several other buildings designated as "national treasures" dot the grounds, as do waterfalls and landmarks which have entered popular lore. According to legend, the water carries therapeutic properties and a sip from the three different streams confers health, longevity, and success in studies. For this reason, people have flocked to the temple to fill their tin cups with water from the falls.



Day 6 - Sannen-zaka and Ninen-zaka

Wishing for love instead? We'll also see the *Jishu-jinja Shrine*. Here, people pray to find success in love and secure their wish by walking between 2 prominent stones with their eyes closed. If they're able to complete this challenge alone, it's a sign that love is right around the corner.

Next, we'll go down from Kiyomizu Temple to *Sannen-zaka* and *Ninen-zaka*, a pair of ancient cobblestone paths surrounded with architecture from old Japan that make it feel straight out of a movie scene. Take a stroll along these lanes to sip some tea at Kasagiya, an authentic and well known teashop, or play with trinkets, dolls, and Japanese fans at one of the various souvenir shops selling original handcrafted Kyoto specialty goods. Enjoy some free time to explore and grab some lunch on your own.

After we return to the hotel in the afternoon, explore the area at your leisure.

Day 7: (Fri) March 17
Kyoto - Nara - Osaka (B/L)
Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free WiFi)

After breakfast, please meet your guide in the lobby by 8:30am as we are off to *Nara* and *Osaka*.

Completed in the year 752, *Todai-ji Temple* (or “Great Eastern Temple”) once served as Japan’s head Buddhist temple and is a *UNESCO World Heritage Site* and cultural landmark of Nara. Most notable is *Daibutsuden* (Big Buddha Hall), a bronze figure towering at nearly 50 feet and weighing 121 tons. Inside the hall, you can find a pillar with a large opening carved at its base said to be the size of Daibutsu’s nostril. According to legend, those who are able to squeeze through will be granted enlightenment in their next life.



Day 7 - Nara Park

Outside the temple, you can find over 1,000 wild deer roaming about at *Nara Park*. Believed to protect the temple grounds as messengers of gods, the Nara deer can be found sniffing the pockets of passersby or happily munching on shika senbei (deer crackers) that visitors can purchase for 150 Yen.

After a *Japanese lunch*, we’ll venture to *Osaka Castle*, an important landmark in Osaka. Built as a display of power by Toyotomi Hideyoshi after he achieved his goal of unifying Japan, this castle has endured centuries of conflict, serving as the battleground for samurai sword fights on several occasions. There’s also a fascinating on-site museum that chronicles its turbulent history.

Will arrive at the hotel at 4:30pm. Our hotel is conveniently located in Namba, central Osaka, and is surrounded by plentiful restaurants, shopping, and sites to explore. Close by you can find:

Doguyasuji Shopping Street (15 min walk from hotel): a lively 150-meter-long open air shopping arcade lined

with endless specialty shops including cookware, kitchen utensils, and restaurant supplies.

Kuromon Market (20 min walk from hotel): Stretching 1,900 feet, this long strip of stores has been coined the “Gastronome” and “Osaka’s Kitchen.” Rooted in 190 years of culture, this market is a popular spot for locals and visitors alike to find anything from fresh seafood, specialty snacks, and confectionery to clothes, shoes, and a variety of household items and gadgets.

Your local guide is available to assist you with any questions you might have.

Day 8: (Sat) March 18
Osaka/ Full day at leisure (B)
Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free WiFi)

Today is yours to explore the wonderful city of Osaka! Here are some notable spots:

- *Dotonbori district*: (20 min walk from hotel) Best seen at night, this is a must see area to experience Osaka culture and snack on takoyaki, okonomiyaki, and many other well known Osaka street foods. Perhaps what makes this district most iconic is its hundreds of neon lights and mechanized signs, including the famous Glico Running Man sign and Kani Doraku crab sign. This is a great place to enjoy a night out immersed in Osaka’s vibrant craft beer scene too!



Day 8 - Dotonbori District

- *Shinsaibashi Shopping Arcade*: (20 min walk from hotel) This shopping arcade and the surrounding Shinsaibashi area is Osaka’s premier shopping center. Approximately 2,000 feet long, this area combines chain retail stores and trendy boutiques with expensive department stores and top designer fashion labels.

- **Den Den Town:** Located in the Nipponbashi area, Den Den Town is an electronics district comparable to Tokyo's Akahabara where you might be able to bargain a better deal. Nicknamed the "otaku paradise," Den Den Town also offers numerous manga and anime retailers as well as maid and cosplay cafes.

- **Osaka Universal Studios:** In February 2021, the park opened the world's first ever Super Nintendo World, which has easily become one of the biggest attractions in Asia. In addition to Minions, JAWS!, and the Wizarding World of Harry Potter, other character world attractions unique to this park are Snoopy Studios, Hello Kitty, and Sesame Street.

Day 9: (Sun) March 19
Osaka – Kobe - Kansai - Honolulu (B/L)

After the hotel checkout, we'll meet in the lobby at 9am to start our tour.

Our first visit is the **Kobe Nunobiki Herb Gardens & Ropeway** - a Kobe landmark reachable via a 10 minute gondola ride with sweeping views of Kobe, Kyoto, and Osaka. Atop, you'll find the Welcome Garden with flowers in bloom, a recreation area with free play equipment, a hammock section, a souvenir shop selling herbs and other aromatic products, and a veranda with 360 views where you can grab a drink and some snacks while you enjoy the

picturesque scenery.

We'll then head to **lunch** (included) at a local restaurant and try one of Kobe's most significant culinary exports—**kobe beef** – a special grade of beef from Wagyu cattle raised in Kobe, Japan. These cattle are massaged with sake and are fed a daily diet that includes large amounts of beer. This produces meat that is extraordinarily tender, finely marbled, and full-flavored.

Next, we are off to **Hakutsuru Sake Brewery Museum** on the outskirts of Kobe. There, we'll learn more about Japan's national beverage and discover how sake is manufactured from grains of rice into its final sweet, fermented form. This brewery is inside an old sake kura and unlike a modern museum, the interior's unique smell and look will transport you to a brewery from the old-world, reflective of the building itself. As we wander through the various stages of sake-making, you'll have the opportunity to sip on freshly pressed sake.

Before we make our way to the airport, we'll stop at **Aeon Mall Rinku Sennan**, a large shopping mall with everything you need to round up any last minute shopping. You can even find snacks and freshly made bentos to take along to the airport and enjoy while waiting on our flight.

Depart 8:45pm via Hawaiian Airlines #450. Arrive in Honolulu 9:05am

Thank you for traveling with us! 

Please note the following:

- ***Fares and fees** (priced in USD) are subject to change in light of fuel supplements, taxes, and fees. Tour members are responsible for any differences in costs. Additionally, we reserve the right to make changes to the itinerary with or without notice.
- **Travel insurance:** We highly recommend the purchase of trip insurance. Please ask our representatives for more information.
- **Special Assistance:** You must inform us of any disability/impairment that requires special attention at the time of your making the reservation. We reserve the right to cancel the reservation(s) if the disability/impairment is unsuitable for the tour. You are also responsible for any costs and/or accommodations related to your disability/impairment, such as providing your own travel companion.
- All U.S. citizens must hold a valid passport at the time of travel, which includes a passport that will not expire at least within 6 months from the return tour date. Non-U.S. passport holders must check with the Japanese Consulate to see if a visa is required.
- You are expected to abide by domestic and international government and accommodation policies related to health, safety, and welfare.
- Land Tour Operator is Nippon Travel Agency.
- Land Tour costs are based on current currency conversion rates, which are subject to change. We will notify tour members of any substantial changes to the costs.
- Not Included in the tour: Gratuities for local English speaking guide; additional baggage fee charges from the airlines; alcohol and soft drinks with meals.
- A **minimum of 16 participants** are required for the tour to operate.

Booking requirements/Payment policy/Cancellation policy:

- **Reserve with \$75 per person deposit. Refundable up to 60 days prior to departure, January 10, 2023.**
- **Final payment due by January 25, 2023. Package is non-refundable after this date.**