

Join Panda Travel in...



# 2023 Kanto & Nikko Cherry Blossom #2

(GP12900)



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reason up to  
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departure date for a  
**FULL REFUND!**

March 28 - April 4, 2023  
6 Nights/ 8 Days

Tokyo - Nikko - Kamakura

**\$100 OFF PER PERSON**  
when you pay with a personal check

**\$3796\***  
per person-triple occupancy

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1017 Kapahulu Ave, Honolulu, HI 96816

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

# Itinerary

## Day 1: (Tue) Mar 28 – Honolulu Depart Honolulu 11:30am via Hawaiian Airlines #821

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

## Day 2: (Wed) Mar 29 – Narita-Tokyo

Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free WiFi)

Arrive Narita at 4:00pm. After clearing customs, our English-speaking local guide will greet us at the arrival lobby. We'll then transfer to our hotel.

There's a 24-hour Family Mart convenience store near the hotel lobby. Within a 5 min walk is Seiyu, a 24-hour supermarket with snacks, bentos, and beverages.

## Day 3: (Thu) Mar 30 – Tokyo-Nikko (B/D)

Nikko Kanaya Hotel (Free WiFi)

After breakfast, please meet in the lobby by 8:30am. **Prepare a small overnight bag** since our larger pieces will remain left at the hotel for when we return.



Day 3 - Ashikaga Flower Park

Our morning begins with a 1 hr 15 min drive to **Ashikaga Flower Park** to celebrate the Spring Flower Festival with vibrant tulips and spirea abound. In addition to the gift and gardening shop, you'll also find seasonal ice cream and snacks.

At nearby Utsunomiya City, an area specializing in gyoza, we'll visit **Kirasse**. With approximately 30 gyoza restaurants in the city, this facility will give us the opportunity to compare the different gyoza recipes from various restaurants. Browse the souvenir section and enjoy lunch on your own.

We'll head to our hotel, **Nikko Kanaya Hotel**, and arrive by **3:00pm** with time to explore the village area. Our guide will arrange a meeting time. A **western style dinner** at the hotel is available starting at 6:30pm.

Perched on a hill above the Sacred Bridge, **Nikko Kanaya Hotel** has an incredibly rich history and is without a doubt, Nikko's most famous hotel. In addition to providing lodging for VIPs like US President Ulysses Grant in 1879, architect Frank Lloyd Wright in 1905, Albert Einstein in 1922, and Helen Keller in 1937, this hotel is centrally located to many spectacular shrines and temples.

## Day 4: (Fri) Mar 31 – Nikko-Tokyo (B)

Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free WiFi)

After breakfast, please meet your guide in the lobby by 9:00am.

Welcome to **Nikko**: an ancient city of moss covered stone walls and brightly lit red lanterns best known for its bountiful nature, sacred sites, and its association with the Tokugawa Shogunate. The Shrines and Temples of Nikko—the area's 103 religious buildings and its surrounding natural settings—are a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.



Day 4 - Toshogu Shrine

Our morning begins with a visit to **Toshogu Shrine**, a grand memorial to legendary samurai leader and founder of the Tokugawa Shogunate, Tokugawa Ieyasu. Set against a forest of green, the shrine's complex includes over a dozen opulently decorated buildings embellished with gold leaf and etched with countless wood carvings.

Particularly notable carvings are the "see no evil, speak no evil, and hear no evil" trio of monkeys, the alluring Sozonozo elephants ("imagined elephants"), and the Nemuri-neko ("Sleeping Cat") wood carving nestled at the top of the Sakashita-mon Gate. Another well known site is the two story Yomeimon Gate ("Sunlight Gate") with over 500 wood carvings.

Next, we'll take a visit to the **Oya History Museum**. Built on an old mining site that once served as a major source of wealth in the area, this museum highlights the history and mining operations of the Oya stone. Visitors can descend below to the museum's vast underground caverns that are likened to the ruins of ancient Rome with large sections of the excavations open to exploration. With halls illuminated by color lights and art installations surrounding, it's no wonder these caverns have often been the site for movies, music videos, and theater performances.

Nearby is **Oyaji Temple**, a 1,200 years old site dedicated to Kannon, the Buddhist goddess of mercy. The temple holds Japan's oldest Buddhist carvings, a small garden, and a treasure hall with ancient relics. Across the street is a colossal statue of Kannon, a statement of peace after WWII.

We'll now head to Tokyo. Will make a stop for lunch on your own. Our arrival in Tokyo will be by 3:30pm and the remainder of the afternoon and evening is free.

## Day 5: (Sat) Apr 1 – Tokyo (B)

Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free WiFi)

After breakfast, please meet in the lobby by 8:30am.

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 all that the outer market has to offer, from seasonal produce and candy tasting to knife-making artisan shops.

Our next stop is Ueno, **Ameyoko Shopping Street**, the absolutely perfect place to get your omiyage. “Ameyoko” is short for “Ameya Yokocho” or “candy shop back alley” since candies were traditionally sold here. Alternatively, it is short for “America,” a callback to the post WWII era when American products were sold there illegally. Now, the street is lined with over 400 shops from cooked street food, snacks like dried squid, and fresh seafood to clothes, bags, accessories, cosmetics, and much more!

We'll then head to **Arcakit Kinshicho** - a shopping complex housing the largest Daiso (7/F) in Tokyo. This train station area offers many more shops (3Coins on 3/F), fashion, eating venues and supermarkets, just to name a few. Spend 2 hrs here to shop and enjoy lunch on your own.

Our arrival to the hotel will be by 3:45pm. The remainder of the day is yours to explore.

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### Day 6: (Sun) Apr 2 – Tokyo (B)

Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free WiFi)

After breakfast, please meet your guide in the lobby by 8:30am.

Our morning begins with an hr drive to **Tachikawa**, a city located in the western portion of Tokyo, to visit **Showa Kinen Park**. With 1,500 sakura trees, canola flowers, and tulips abound, this park has been the site of the annual mid-March to late May flower festival. Enjoy free time here for some **cherry blossom viewing**.

We'll then head to **Chofu City** to visit Jindai Temple and Jindai Botanical Garden.

Built in 733, **Jindai Temple** is not only one of the oldest temples in the region but is also regarded as one of Tokyo's most beautiful temples. Many travelers visit the site to rid themselves of bad luck and pray for success in finding a marriage partner.

In addition to seeing lush greenery, fish-filled streams, and ponds of carp and turtles, visitors may also find the Crowned Amitabha Tathagata statue, the oldest Buddhist statue in East Japan and the only national treasure housed in Tokyo.

Close by is a picturesque street with shaded stores selling souvenirs and good luck charms alongside quick, but delicious **soba noodles** famous to this region. Enjoy lunch on your own in this charming area.

Immediately north of the temple is the **Jindai Botanical Garden**, home to a spectacular display of colorful **sakura cherry trees in bloom**. Enjoy wandering through the seemingly endless fields of flora and greenery.

We'll be back to our hotel by 4:15pm. Take the remainder of the day at leisure.

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### Day 7: (Mon) Apr 3 – Tokyo-Kamakura-Tokyo (B)

Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free WiFi)

After breakfast, please meet your guide in the lobby by 8:15am.

Our morning begins with a 1.5 hour drive to **Kamakura**, the political center of Japan during Minamoto Yoritomo's military government reign in 1192. Even after a century of the Kamakura government rule, it remained the center of Eastern Japan. Nowadays, Kamakura is sometimes referred to as the Kyoto of Eastern Japan with its numerous temples, shrines, and other historical monuments.

Once here, we will visit the **Great Buddha of Kamakura**. This mountainous bronze statue of Amida Buddha, is located on the grounds of the Kotokuin Temple and stands at nearly 38 feet, making it the second tallest bronze Buddha statue in Japan. With its well-kept and gorgeously draped garments, it's hard to believe that the statue has rested in the open air since 1495.

For a small donation, you may enter the Buddha. Take a few moments to enjoy what many have called **Japan's National Treasure** along with **cherry blossoms in bloom**.



Day 7 - Tsurugaoka Hachiman Shrine

Next, we'll pay a visit to the 800 year old **Tsurugaoka Hachiman Shrine**, the most important shrine in Kamakura and the “soul” of the city. Dedicated to guardian deity of the samurai, Hachiman, this sacred shrine was first established in 1063 to express appreciation to the deities for victory in battle. In addition to the **peony garden in spring bloom** at the beautiful Minamoto Pond, you'll also see a grand stone staircase, the Maiden (Lower Worship Hall) for Shinto rituals, a museum, and hundreds of **cherry blossoms** along a 1,640 foot path and around the shrine's ponds.

We'll then spend 2 hrs exploring and grabbing lunch on the **Komachi-dori shopping street**. Be sure to stop by Kamakura's famous cookie store for a sample. They're best known for their dove-shaped butter cookies, which make for a great Kamakura souvenir and omiyage gift.

We'll return to our hotel by 4:30pm. The evening is yours at leisure.

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### Day 8: (Tue) Apr 4 – Tokyo-Narita-Honolulu (B)

After breakfast, please meet in the lobby by 10:00am. It is our last day on tour, but there's still much to see and do before our flight home later this evening.

Our morning begins with a visit to one of Tokyo's most unique shopping streets, **Sugamo Jizo Dori Shopping Street**. Affectionately called "**Grandma's harajuku**," this half a mile arcade hosts over 200 shops that specialize in a variety of goods that seniors will especially appreciate. You'll find comfy shoes and clothes in droves, many at Takeshita-like bargain prices. There are brand-name goods here too!

**Sugamo** is also best-known for aka-pantsu (red underwear). Not only is the red color supposed to improve the wearer's health and vigor, but it's also believed to ward off evil spirits and bring happiness. Stroll around this unique area and experience the city of old in Sugamo.

Next, we're off to the **Antenna Shops in Yurakucho**. Created by local governments, these shops are designed to promote the different Japanese regions through food, souvenirs, and

tourist information. Represented regions include Hokkaido, Kansai, Akita, Aomori, and Okinawa. Enjoy free time here to shop for unique regional omiyage and lunch on your own.

From there, we'll head to **Aeon Mall Narita** to complete some last minute shopping before arriving at Narita Airport.

**Depart Narita 7:55pm via Hawaiian Airlines #822.**

**Arrive in Honolulu at 8:10am.**

**Thank you for traveling with us!**



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*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 27, 2023.**
- **Final payment due by February 8, 2023. Package is non-refundable after this date.**