

Join Panda Travel in...



2023 Traveling the Tokaido Road Fall Break

(GPI2978)



Oct 7 - 15, 2023
7 Nights/ 9 Days

Tokyo - Mt. Fuji - Shizuoka -
Kyoto - Nara - Osaka

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

\$4,180*
per person-triple occupancy

\$4,180*
per person-double occupancy

\$4,708*
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) Oct 7 – Honolulu Depart Honolulu 12:25pm 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: (Sun) Oct 8 – Narita-Tokyo

Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free WiFi)

→ **4:00pm HA 821 Arrives at Narita Airport**

→ **5:00pm Meet guide at arrival lobby/transfer to hotel**

→ **6:30pm Arrive at Sunshine City Prince Hotel** – Enjoy your stay here for the next 3 nights. 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 pickups.

Our hotel lobby directly connects you 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 nearly 788 foot high skyscraper with an observation deck.

In addition to the renowned Pokemon Center Mega Tokyo, Sunshine City is also home to Namja Town, a food and dessert theme park. If you’re in the mood to shop, check out Tobu Department Store and Seibu Ikebukuro Flagship Store. Alternatively, Ikebukuro station is close by and has rail lines connecting you to other popular areas like Shinagawa,

Shibuya, Shinjuku, Ueno, and Akihabara.

Day 3: (Mon) Oct 9 – Tokyo (B)

Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free WiFi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel**

→ **9:00am Meet guide at lobby**

→ **9:30am** – The morning begins with a visit to **Meiji Jingu Shrine**, a Shinto shrine built in 1920 to honor Emperor Meiji, the first emperor of modern Japan, and his wife, Empress Shoken. Nestled in a forest with muffled sounds of the bustling city in the near distance, Meiji Jingu Shrine first welcomes visitors with an enormous wooden torii gate.

As you journey through its massive grounds, you’ll spot over 200 traditional sake and wine barrels neatly piled together, which famous sake breweries across Japan donated as a sacred offering to Emperor Meiji. The display also exhibits wine barrels imported from France as an ode to the emperor’s love of wine and his dedication to spreading Western culture throughout Japan during the Meiji period.

You may also come across the Couple Camphor Trees. This pair of gigantic 100 year old trees is bound together with a shimenawa, a sacred rope, and represents lovebirds, Emperor Meiji and his wife. Many people visit this sacred spot for good luck, safety, and stability in their romantic relationships.

→ **11:00am** – We’ll visit the iconic **Harajuku** and its vibrant **Takeshita-dori**, the heart of all things trendy and eccentric. More than just its colorful street art and its youth-driven quirky fashion culture, this area is also a haven for sweets like gigantic cotton candy, crepes, and cream puffs. There is also a multi-story Daiso nearby.

→ **1:30pm Shibuya Sky** – An observatory offering a 360-degree view of Tokyo (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**. This obedient Akita patiently waited at Shibuya Station daily for his owner to return from work. When his owner tragically died while at work in 1925, Hachikō continued to wait at the station every day for the next 10 years, never giving up hope. Hachikō is a Japanese icon and his statue memorializes his unwavering loyalty and love.

→ **4:30pm Return to hotel** – Enjoy your evening at leisure.

Day 4: (Tue) Oct 10 – Tokyo (B/L)

Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free WiFi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel**

→ **8:30am Meet guide at lobby**

→ **9:00am Tsukiji Outer Market** – A renowned bucketlist spot, Tsukiji is the largest fish market in the world. While the inner auction market relocated in 2018, the charm remains in its outer market. With the 90 mins 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.

→ **11:00am Ameyoko Shopping Street** – This is the absolutely perfect place to get your omiyage. “Ameyoko” is short for “Ameya Yokocho” or “candy shop back alley” since candies were traditionally sold there. 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!

→ **12:45pm Japanese style lunch at a local restaurant**

→ **2:15pm Asakusa** – A famous district that melds the culture and traditions of ancient Tokyo with the metropolitan styles of modern Japan. It’s also home to Japan’s first cinema!

→ **Sensoji Temple** – Widely regarded as the most important temple in Japan, Asakusa’s iconic Sensoji Temple and **Kaminarimon Gate** (aka “Thunder Gate”) with its massive lantern, are a “must see” in every guidebook, boasting over 30 million annual visitors. Traditionally, as a sign of respect, visitors clap twice and bow their heads at the top of the temple steps. With the belief that coins trap the dangers of daily life, visitors also customarily make a small offering by tossing coins into a wooden rack, tossing away those dangers as well. You’ll also find the **Five Storied Pagoda** there. Regarded as one of the “Four Edo Pagodas,” this nearly 174 foot monument stands to represent Tokyo’s few remaining pagodas. The temple grounds also include the **Nakamise Shopping Arcade**, a lively and extensive shopping street lined with good luck charms, traditional goodies, and Japanese snacks.

→ **4:30pm Return to hotel**

Day 5: (Wed) Oct 11 – Tokyo-Mt. Fuji (B/L/D)

Highland Resort Hotel and Spa (Free WiFi)

→ **Please prepare an overnight bag for 1 night. Courier services will deliver the luggages (2 pieces per person) from Tokyo to Kyoto.**

→ **Breakfast at hotel**

→ **8:30am Meet guide at lobby** - Full day tour for Mt. Fuji

→ **10:15am Yamanashi Prefectural Maglev Exhibition Center** – A preview into the future of transportation, this exhibition center showcases the science, history, and magic of the next-generation magnetic levitating (maglev) trains. Running at approx 310 mph, these revolutionary trains will officially debut in 2027 and be used for the Chuo Shinkansen, a new train line running between Tokyo and Nagoya. At this museum, you can experiment with maglev technology or take a ride on a miniature maglev train!

→ **12:30pm Japanese style lunch at a local restaurant**

→ **1:45pm Photo stop at Lake Kawaguchi**

→ **3:00 pm Oshino Hakkai** – A village in the Fuji Five Lake region and home to the famous 8 ponds, which are all fed by the snow melt from the slopes of Mt. Fuji. Here, you can drink the clear, fresh snow water trickling down the mountains and filtering through porous layers of lava. The area also has a variety of shops, restaurants, and vendors selling crafts, sweets, and local products. Enjoy a freshly roasted sweet potato or toasted senbei (rice cracker) at this traditional Japanese village with Mt. Fuji in the background.

→ **4:30pm Arrive at Highland Resort & Spa** – Located at the foot of Mt. Fuji, our hotel boasts gorgeous views and is central to World Heritage shrines and lakes. Enjoy the incredible onsen, soothe away all your stress while gazing out on Mt. Fuji.

→ **6:30pm Buffet dinner at hotel**

Day 6: (Thu) Oct 12 – Mt. Fuji-Shizuoka-Kyoto (B)

Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo (Free WiFi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel**

→ **9:00am Meet guide at lobby** – This morning, we’ll head to Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan’s largest producer of green tea leaves and home to 40% of Japan’s total tea plantations.



Day 6 - Clean Tea Matsuno

→ **11:00am** We’ll visit **Clean Tea Matsuno**, a tea processing factory with a vast green tea field. During our factory tour, we’ll learn about green tea’s numerous health benefits, its leaf life cycle, its harvesting and manufacturing process, and we’ll even get to pick our own leaves. We’ll also sample

their organically grown green tea, sipping on the brew as new tea sommeliers!

→ **12:45pm Yaizu Fish Market** – A vibrant local gathering place with a retro feel famous for its seafood and green tea. Located in Yaizu—one of Japan’s major fishing ports—you can find approximately 60 shops and eateries with animated vendors selling their freshest catch, packaged foods, and local specialty items like black soft serve ice cream infused with real squid ink. Since Yaizu boasts the largest catches of tuna and bonito in the country, be sure to grab a bite of those too! Enjoy lunch on your own with this wide selection of goodies!

→ **2:45pm Arrive at Shizuoka Station** to board a bullet train to Kyoto Station.

→ **4:37pm Arrive at Kyoto Station**

→ **5:00pm Check in at Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo** – The remainder of the evening is yours at leisure. Our hotel is located a short walk to Kyoto Station. There’re many choices for shopping and dining available to you.

Day 7: (Fri) Oct 13 - Kyoto (B)

Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo (Free WiFi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel**

→ **8:30am Meet guide at lobby**

→ **9:00am –Kiyomizu Temple** – A UNESCO World Heritage Site. 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.

→ **10:30am** – We’ll go down from Kiyomizu Temple to **Sannenzaka** and **Ninenzaka**, 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.

→ **12:45pm Kinkakuji Temple** (Golden Pavilion) – Did you know that Kinkakuji Temple is covered with real gold? This UNESCO World Heritage Site was originally built in 1397 as Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu’s retirement villa but later converted into a temple. 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.



Day 7 - Kinkakuji Temple

→ **2:30pm Return to hotel** – The remainder of the day is yours at leisure.

Day 8: (Sat) Oct 14 - Kyoto-Nara-Osaka (B)

Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free WiFi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel**

→ **8:30am Meet guide at lobby**

→ **9:00am Fushimi Inari Shrine** – Perhaps the most important of shrines dedicated to Inari, the Shinto god of rice, Fushimi Inari Shrine is a recognizable network of thousands of brightly colored vermilion torii gates that lead into sacred Mount Inari’s wooded forest. Throughout the shrine grounds, you’ll notice statues of foxes, animals believed to be Inari’s messengers.

→ **10:30am Drive to Nara**

→ **11:30am Tōdai-ji Temple (Great Buddha)** – A UNESCO World Heritage Site and cultural landmark of Nara, Tōdai-ji Temple was completed in the year 752 and once served as Japan’s head Buddhist temple. Most notable is Daibutsuden (Big Buddha Hall) which houses one of Japan’s largest Buddha statues, a bronze figure towering at nearly 50 feet and weighing approx. 121 tons. Inside the hall, you can find a pillar with a large opening carved at its base that’s 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.

→ **12:30pm Nara Deer Park** – Outside the Tōdai-ji Temple, you can find over 1,000 wild deer roaming about at Nara Deer Park. Believed to protect the temple grounds as messengers of gods, the Nara deer can be found sniffing the pockets of passersby for food or happily snacking on shika senbei (deer crackers) that visitors can purchase.

→ **1:30pm Higashimuki Shopping Street** – This covered shopping arcade offers a wide selection of shops and

restaurants. Enjoy free time here to shop, browse, and have lunch on your own. At the entrance of the shopping street, there is Nara's most famous specialty, persimmon leaf sushi. It is basically bite size rice balls topped with salted mackerel and wrapped in a persimmon leaf. Each piece is then put into a wooden box and pressed with a heavy stone to ferment for a few days. The persimmon leaf adds a distinctive flavor to the sushi, so you can eat it as it is without any soy sauce. Persimmon leaf sushi is a perfect dish to casually eat outdoors.

→ **4:00pm Arrive at Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka**
 – Our hotel is located a short walk from Dotonbori and Shinsaibashi shopping streets. Enjoy the evening of shopping and dining on your own.



Day 8 - Dotonbori

Dotonbori district: 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!

Shinsaibashi Shopping Arcade: 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.

Day 9: (Sun) Oct 15 - Osaka-Kansai-Honolulu (B)

→ **Breakfast at hotel**

→ **10:00am Meet guide at lobby**

→ **10:30am Osaka Castle** – 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.



Day 9 - Shinsekai District

→ **12:30pm Shinsekai District** – Adorned with lanterns and glowing neon lights, the iconic Shinsekai ("New World") District is a gateway into Osaka's early 20th Century past. Seemingly frozen in time, this retro playground of amusement arcades, shops, and eateries is a nostalgic experience you won't forget!

→ **3:00pm 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.

→ **5:30pm Arrive at Kansai International Airport**

→ **8:45pm Depart from Kansai International Airport by HA450 for Honolulu**

→ **9:40am Arrive in Honolulu (same day)**

Thank you for traveling with us! 🐼

Need to Know...



Payment Policy

- » Reserve with **\$75 per person deposit. Refundable up to 60 days prior to departure date, August 8, 2023.**
- » **Final payment due by August 20, 2023. Package is non-refundable after this date.**

* Fares and Fees (Priced in USD)

- » Are subject to change in light of fuel supplements, taxes, and differences in costs.
- » Air ticket fare is guaranteed, but taxes, fees, and fuel surcharges are subject to change until tickets are issued, approximately 45 days out.
- » We reserve the right to make changes to the itinerary with or without notice.



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.



Travel Insurance

- » We highly recommend the purchase of trip insurance. Please ask our representatives for more information.



Travel Documents

- » A valid passport is required for all U.S. citizens and must be valid and not expire at least 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.



Land Tour Operator & Costs

- » Land Tour Operator is Nippon Travel Agency.
- » Land Tour costs are based on current currency conversion rates, which are subject to change.



Other remarks

- » 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.
- » You are expected to abide by domestic and international government and accommodation policies related to health, safety, and welfare.