

Join Panda Travel in...



2023 Osaka & Kyoto Memorial Day Omiyage Weekender

(GP12902)



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

May 25 - 31, 2023
5 Nights/ 7 Days

*Kyoto, Shiga, Nagoya,
Nara, Osaka & Kobe*

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

\$3158*

per person-triple occupancy

\$3189*

per person-double occupancy

\$3582*

per single occupancy

pandaonline.com

(808) 734-1961

1017 Kapahulu Ave, Honolulu, HI 96816

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

Itinerary

Day 1: (Thu) May 25 – Honolulu

Depart Honolulu 2:05pm via Hawaiian Airlines #449

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: (Fri) May 26 – Kansai-Kyoto

Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo/premier floor (Free WiFi)

Arrive Kansai at 6:45pm. After clearing customs, our English-speaking local guide will greet us at the arrival lobby. We'll then transfer to our hotel in Kyoto where we'll be staying for the next 3 nights.

Day 3: (Sat) May 27 – Kyoto-Shiga-Kyoto (B)

Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo/premier floor (Free WiFi)

After breakfast, please meet in the lobby by 8:30 am as we're off to **Shiga**.

We'll begin our day at **Sanzenin Temple**, located on a rural strip an hour outside Kyoto. Founded by the revered monk Saicho, who introduced Tendai Buddhism to Japan in 804, Sanzenin is composed of a series of interconnected temple buildings. Amble through the moss garden and enjoy the amusing sculptures placed throughout as you take in the view of Ojo Gokuraku-in Hall through the trees.

Nestled in Kyoto's eastern mountains, our next visit is **Hieizan Enryakuji Temple**, a **UNESCO World Heritage site** and one of the most important monasteries in Japanese history. As the headquarters of the Tendai sect of Japanese Buddhism, many influential monks studied at Enryakuji (including the founders of other sects, like Zen and Nichiren). Today, its stunning red exterior welcomes visitors to wander through the forest and the temple's shrines to worship. As you walk the grounds, be sure to take note of the statue of the Yakushi Buddha, which has an eternal light placed in front of it that has not gone out in 1200 years.

We're now off to the **Sakamoto cable car**, which offers views of the forest between the temple and the Sakamoto area. Relax and enjoy the scenic ride!

In the afternoon, we will enjoy time for omiyage shopping at **Michinoeki Biwako Ohashi Kome Plaza**.

We'll return to our hotel by 3:15pm. The remainder of the day is yours at leisure.

Day 4: (Sun) May 28 – Kyoto-Nagoya-Osaka (B)

Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free WiFi)

After breakfast, please meet in the lobby by 8:30am. We'll walk to Kyoto Station to board a **bullet train** to Nagoya.

Welcome to **Nagoya**, a certified **UNESCO City of Design** and a major metropolitan hub in Japan. We'll make a drive to the

buzzing **Sakae area**, where most of the city's entertainment and shopping is concentrated; **Oasis 21**, a modern glass center for food, shopping and transportation; **Nagoya TV Tower**, modeled after Paris' Eiffel Tower and destroyed (fictionally!) in a classic Godzilla movie; and **Hisaya Odori Park**, a plaza area with dozens of destinations to shop and eat.



Day 4 - Nagoya Castle

We'll start our tour at **Nagoya Castle**, which dates back to the early Edo period, when the palace was constructed as a seat of one of the three branches of the ruling Tokugawa family. Most of the castle was destroyed during the air raids of 1945 and was reconstructed in the 1950s. As you walk the grounds, note the castle's striking blue-green roof and delicately replicated interior paintings, which help make it one of the finest examples of Shoin architecture in all of Japan.



Day 4 - outside Nagoya Castle

At midday we'll visit **Tokugawaen Garden**, which, despite its location in the center of the city, is an oasis of green and one of the best representations of a classic Japanese garden. Flowers bloom year round (peonies and irises are expected in late spring), and beautiful tiered waterfalls are on display in the garden and its evergreen forest. Enjoy a cup of tea at the samurai teahouse or check out the garden's gift shop for souvenirs to take home.

Next, we'll head to the bustling **Osu shopping district** to explore. The district has existed for over 400 years and hosts hundreds of shops, restaurants, Buddhist temples and

entertainment options. It's also home to many subcultural gatherings, including the popular World Cosplay Summit. Try fried chicken at Enshidajipai, and keep an eye out for Aichi specialties like hitsumabushi (grilled eel over rice), miso katsu or smoky red miso soup. Stop in at Banshoji or Kannon Temples for a timed karakuri puppet show, or just lose yourself among the endless shops.

From here, **express train** ride to Osaka Namba station. Enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure.

Day 5: (Mon) May 29 – Osaka-Nara-Osaka (B)

Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free WiFi)

After breakfast, please meet in the lobby by 8:15am as we are off to Nara.

This morning, we'll venture to **Tōdai-ji Temple** (or "Great Eastern Temple"), a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and cultural landmark of Nara. Completed in the year 752, it 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 about 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.

Outside the 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.

Spend 1.5 hours exploring and grabbing lunch on **Higashimuki Shopping street**. Check out the persimmon leaf wrapped sushi, which is a Nara specialty.

In the afternoon we'll stop at **Imaicho Town**, a large preserved historic district that began as a temple town centered around Shonenji Temple during the Edo period. The thin streets are lined with manicured trees and white and dark wood buildings, many of which have tile roofs from when Imaicho was a wealthy merchant town. Stop in at Shonenji Temple or other preserved buildings, like the Imanishi Residence, which was once home to the town's most powerful family. Enjoy a stroll along the photogenic streets and the many local cafes for a cup of tea.

From here, we'll head to Osaka's Namba area, to explore one of the eye-catching destinations in the neighborhood—**Namba Yasaka Shrine**. The shrine is famous for its enormous lion-shaped stage, believed to swallow evil spirits and bring good luck, especially for school and work-related woes.

Now, off to our hotel for the next two nights, **Hotel Monterey**

Grasmere Osaka, set in a modern high-rise building. The hotel is located just a few minutes' walk to Shinsaibashi, Osaka's most famous entertainment district and Dotonbori, where you can sample many of Osaka's most famous dishes.



Day 5 - Dotonbori

Our arrival will be by 4:30pm and the evening is yours at leisure.

Day 6: (Tue) May 30 – Osaka- Free 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:

Kuromon Market: (15 min walk from hotel) Known as the "Kitchen of Osaka". It's where many of the city's chefs get their supplies.. It's made up of one main walking street with about 150 shops selling mostly fresh fish, seafood, meat, fruits, and vegetables.



Day 6 - Kuromon Market

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!

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 7: (Wed) May 31 – Osaka-Kobe-Kansai-Honolulu (B/L)

After breakfast, please meet in the lobby by 8:45am as we're off to **Kobe** - a certified **UNESCO City of Design**.



Day 7

We'll start our day at a particularly delightful destination—**Glicopia Kobe**, the facility that produces Pocky and Pretz.!

We'll view the Pocky production process, learn the history of the founder, and also an exhibition of 1,500 small toys. Anyone with a sweet tooth is in for a true treat!

We'll then head to **lunch** 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**. 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 find freshly made bentos to take along to the airport and enjoy while waiting on our flight.

Depart Kansai Airport 8:45pm via Hawaiian Airlines #450.

Arrive in Honolulu at 9:50am.

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, March 24 2023.**
- » **Final payment due by April 5, 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.