

Join Panda Travel in...



2023 Traveling the Tokaido Road Fall Foliage

(GPI3019)



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

Nov 14 - 23, 2023
8 Nights/ 10 Days

Tokyo - Mt Fuji - Mishima - Nagoya
- Nagashima - Kyoto - Nara - Osaka

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

\$4,228*

per person-triple occupancy

\$4,228*

per person-double occupancy

\$4,836*

single occupancy

pandaonline.com

(808) 734-1961

1017 Kapahulu Ave, Honolulu, HI

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

Itinerary



Day 1: (Tue) Nov 14 – Honolulu Depart Honolulu via Hawaiian Airlines

→ Meet the Panda Travel representative **3 hours prior to departure** at the Hawaiian Airlines check-in counters.

Day 2: (Wed) Nov 15 – Haneda-Tokyo

Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free WiFi)

→ **Arrive at Haneda Airport.**

→ **Meet your guide at the arrival lobby. Transfer to Sunshine City Prince Hotel.** Our hotel is directly connected to Sunshine City shopping center with many shopping and dining options available to you. Nearby, you'll also find a 24-hour Family Mart convenience store and a Seiyu supermarket for snack, bento, and beverage pickups.

Day 3: (Thu) Nov 16 – Tokyo (B)

Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free WiFi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby.**

→ **9:00am –** This morning begins with a visit to **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 –** Now, a visit to **Ueno & 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!

→ **1:00pm –** This afternoon, we'll explore **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!

→ 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. Enjoy lunch on your own.

→ **3:30pm –** Here we are at **Arcakit Kinshicho**. This shopping complex not only houses one of the largest Daiso (7/F) in Tokyo but also many stores (e.g. 3Coins on 3/F), fashion retailers, eateries, as well as a supermarket.

→ **5:00pm – Return to hotel.** The remainder of the evening is yours at leisure.

Day 4: (Fri) Nov 17 – Tokyo (B)

Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free WiFi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:45am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby.**

→ **9:00am –** Our morning begins with a visit to **Rikugien Garden**, often considered Tokyo's most beautiful Japanese landscaped garden. Built around 1700 for the 5th Tokugawa Shogun, Rikugien means “6 poems garden” and reproduces in miniature 88 scenes from famous poems. The garden is a wonderful example of an Edo Period strolling garden and it features a large central pond surrounded by man made hills and forested areas, all connected by a network of trails. This garden is also famous for being one of Tokyo's best **foliage**

viewing spots as the garden is blanketed in seasonal hues.

→ **10:45am** – Next, we're off to **Shibuya Scramble Square**. There, you'll find **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. You can also pay a visit to the famous **Hachiko Dog statue**.

→ **2:00pm** – **Return to hotel**. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon of shopping and dining on your own.

Day 5: (Sat) Nov 18 – Tokyo-Mt. Fuji-Mishima (B/L/D)

Fujisan Mishima Tokyu Hotel (Free WiFi)

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

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:00am** – **Meet your guide at the hotel lobby.**

→ **10:00am** – Our morning begins with a drive to **Mt. Fuji's 5th station**. Situated 7500 ft above sea level, Mt. Fuji's 5th station is the starting base for hikers and the most popular stop for visitors to soak in gorgeous views and shop for food, drinks, and specialty goods like handheld canned oxygen bottles.

→ **12:00pm** – **Japanese style lunch at a local restaurant near Lake Kawaguchi.**

→ **1:15pm** – Now a moment at **Momiji Corridor**, a picturesque spot located on the northern shore of Lake Kawaguchi, one of the Fuji Five Lakes in Yamanashi Prefecture. The corridor is named after the Japanese maple trees (momiji in Japanese) that line the road leading up to the entrance of the Itchiku Kubota Art Museum. During autumn, the **Momiji leaves turn vibrant shades of red and orange, creating a stunning and colorful tunnel** that attracts visitors from all over the world. The corridor also provides a scenic view of Mount Fuji, making it a popular spot for photography and sightseeing.

→ **2:15pm** – Here we are at **Itchiku Kubota Art Museum**, a gallery space dedicated to textile genius and master of the kimono, Kubota Itchiku. Remembered for reviving the lost art of Tsujigahana silk-dying, Itchiku used the technique to assemble vividly detailed and breath-taking kimonos, creatively playing with colors of Japanese nature and the cosmos. The museum's buildings and gardens are also works of art: the buildings are constructed from Okinawan coral and limestone, the extensive gardens (designed by

Itchiku himself!) make for a scenic stroll, and the museum grounds are dotted with artworks from all across Asia and Africa.

→ **5:00pm** – **Arrive at Fujisan Mishima Tokyu Hotel**, followed by **dinner at 6:30pm**. After dinner, relax beneath the moon and stars in the incredible **open-air rooftop hot spring baths**.

Day 6: (Sun) Nov 19 – Mishima-Nagoya-Nagashima (B/D)

Hotel Nagashima (Free WiFi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel**

→ **9:15am** – **Meet your guide at the hotel lobby and walk to Mishima Station to board a bullet train to Nagoya Station.**

→ **11:01am** – **Arrive at Nagoya Station**. Welcome to Nagoya, a certified UNESCO City of Design and a major metropolitan hub in Japan.

→ **11:45am** – We'll start our tour at **Nagoya Castle**, the first castle in Japan to be designated a National Treasure. Constructed as a seat of one of the three branches of the ruling Tokugawa family, this magnificent palace was one of the largest castles in Japan during the Edo Period. Today, this historical site hosts an annual **Chrysanthemum Festival**, which features festival foods, games, entertainments, as well as life-size dolls of historical figures donning colorful kimonos intricately assembled from 100-150 flowers.

→ Now, we'll make a drive to the buzzing **Sakae area**, where most of the city's entertainment and shopping is concentrated, including: 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.

→ **1:30pm** – Now a stop at the bustling **Osu shopping district** to explore and have lunch on your own. The district has existed for over 400 years and it 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, and 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.

→ **4:00pm** – A visit not to be missed, here we are at the award-winning **Nabana no Sato Flower Park**. Visitors far and wide flock here to not only admire the site's beautiful gardens, but also to walk through the dazzling "Tunnel of Light." During this light illumination event, millions of LED lights are used to decorate the park, creating a magical and enchanting atmosphere.

→ **6:00pm** – Arrive at **Hotel Nagashima**, followed by a **buffet dinner at 7:30pm**. The hotel's onsen, Yuami no Shima, is a great place to unwind after dinner and in the morning before our departure.

Day 7: (Mon) Nov 20 – Nagashima-Kyoto (B)

Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo (Free WiFi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **9:45am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby.**

→ **10:00am-12:30pm** – Seize the moment and explore these local hotspots: **Mitsui Outlet Park Jazz Dream Nagashima** is one of Japan's largest outlet malls, housing over 250 stores from domestic boutiques to international luxury brands to sporting goods. Explore the many dining options and enjoy lunch on your own (A tip: bring your passport so that you can file a tax exemption claim!) OR visit **Nagashima Spa Land** for a thrilling time! Ranking in the top 20 of the most visited amusement parks in the world, this fun filled site features over 40 exhilarating rides, a giant Ferris wheel, and a water park.

→ **1:45pm** – Here we are at **Shigaraki Pottery Village**, a historic pottery-making district that is known for its distinctive pottery style, which is characterized by its rustic and natural appearance, featuring earthy colors, rough textures, and unique shapes. Pottery-making in Shigaraki dates back over 1,200 years, and the village has been a center for ceramics production since the medieval period. Today, it is home to numerous pottery studios and workshops, where visitors can see the process of creating pottery, as well as purchase unique pieces directly from the artisans. Here, we'll test our skills on this **hands-on raccoon dog painting experience**. The raccoon dog, or "tanuki" in Japanese, is a beloved animal in Japanese folklore and is often depicted as a playful and mischievous creature that is supposed to bring good fortune to business.

→ **4:00pm** – 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. A tip: continuing up the path along Mt. Inari rewards visitors with an astounding view of the impressive **fall foliage**.

→ **6:00pm** – Arrive at **Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo**. Our hotel is conveniently located across the street from the Kyoto JR Station and around the corner from the Aeon Mall, you'll find a wide variety of food and shops in every direction.

Day 8: (Tue) Nov 21 – Kyoto (B/L)

Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo (Free WiFi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby.**

→ **9:00am** – Here we are at **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. Enjoy one of the most picturesque **fall foliage viewing spots** in Kyoto.

→ We'll go down from Kiyomizu Temple to **Ninenzaka and Sannenzaka**, 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.

→ **11:30am** – Did you know that **Kinkakuji Temple** (Golden Pavilion) 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. Admire the natural beauty of this **fall foliage viewing season**.

→ **1:00pm – Japanese style lunch at a local restaurant.**

→ **2:00pm** – Today, we'll explore **Arashiyama**. Located in the outskirts of Kyoto, where you can enjoy **fall foliage** set against the backdrop of mountains, bridges, and ponds. Some suggestions for exploring this tranquil area:

→ Venture into the internationally recognized cultural and picturesque landmark, **Sagano Bamboo Path**. Rooted in Japanese belief, bamboo has the power to ward off evil and deliver good fortunes, protecting the nearby Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines. When you walk through the tunnels of bamboo, you can feel the energy of the forest. 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 monkeys scurrying about in their natural habitat or munching on a bag of apples that visitors can purchase. Another benefit of making this trek is the astounding panoramic views of Kyoto atop.

→ If shopping is on your to-do-list, there are plenty of shops to collect items like traditional fans, bamboo goods, and specialty snacks. This is also a great opportunity for you to take a break from walking and hitch a ride on a rickshaw!

→ **5:00pm – Return to hotel.** Enjoy the remainder of the evening on your own of Kyoto's best shopping and dining.

Day 9:(Wed) Nov 22 – Kyoto-Nara-Osaka (B)

Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free WiFi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby.**

→ **9:45am –** Our morning begins with a visit to **Todaiji Temple** (Great Buddha), a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and a cultural landmark of Nara. Completed in the year 752, the temple once served as Japan's head Buddhist temple. Its most notable feature is **Daibutsuden** (Big Buddha Hall), which houses one of Japan's largest Buddha statues: a bronze figure towering at nearly 50 feet and weighing an impressive 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 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 the 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.

Autumn time here is breathtaking. Enjoy walking around the park with the deer as they take cover under the maple and ginkgo trees. The leaves begin to transform and take on a new life, making the park an ideal place for spending some time.

→ **12:30pm –** Welcome to the bustling **Kuromon Ichiba Market!** Also known as the "Kitchen of Osaka," this famous 190 year old market is a popular spot for locals, and an especially go-to destination for many of the city's chefs to gather their supplies. With over 150 vendors, the market offers a wide variety of fresh and local produce, seafood, meats, sweets, and other traditional Japanese foods. Enjoy lunch on your own.

→ **2:30pm –** Our last visit on today's tour is **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 with battles and war, serving as the battleground for samurai sword fights on several occasions. This led to several reconstructions, with it being reinforced with concrete in 1930 for further preservation. As you walk through, you can spot shadows of past previous renovations and notice the massive stone walls, gold-leaf trim, copper roof, and panoramic views. There is also a fascinating on-site museum that chronicles its turbulent history.

→ **4:30pm –** Arrive at **Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka.**

Our hotel is located just a few minutes' walk to Osaka's most famous entertainment districts. The evening is yours at leisure.

A tip: check out these fun spots unique to Osaka!

Dotonbori district (about 12 mins away on foot from hotel): Best experienced at night, this is a must see area to explore 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 (about 18 mins away on foot 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.

Day 10: (Thu) Nov 23 – Osaka-Kansai-Honolulu (B)

→ **After breakfast, enjoy free time to explore Osaka on your own. For your convenience, we've arranged a 4:30pm late checkout for our rooms.**

→ **4:30pm – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby. Transfer to Kansai International Airport for our flight home.**

→ **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, September 15, 2023.**
- » **Final payment due by September 27, 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.