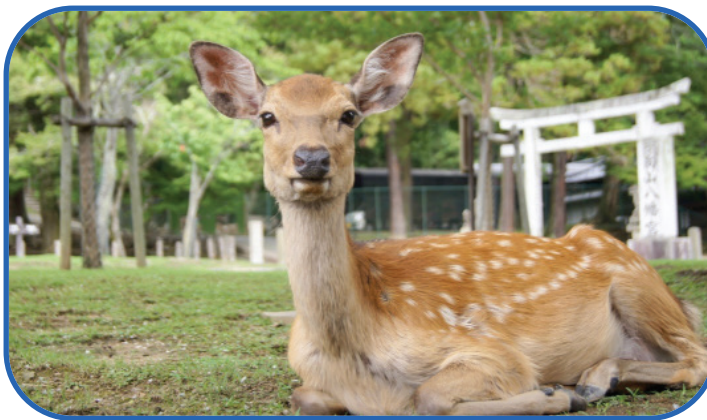


Join Panda Travel in...



2024 Osaka & Kyoto Memorial Day Omiyage Weekender

(GP13087)



May 21 - 27, 2024
5 Nights/ 7 Days

Kyoto - Nara - Osaka - Kobe

\$75 OFF PER PERSON
when you pay with a personal check/cash

\$2,769*

per person-triple occupancy

\$2,769*

per person-double occupancy

\$2,969*

single occupancy

pandaonline.com

(808) 734-1961

1017 Kapahulu Ave, Honolulu, HI 96816

Cancel for any reason up to 65 days prior to departure date for a FULL REFUND!

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

Itinerary

Day 1: (Tue) May 21 – 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) May 22 – Kansai-Kyoto

Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo (Free WiFi)

→ Arrive at Kansai Airport. Meet your local speaking guide at the arrival lobby. We'll transfer to Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo, our accommodations for the next 2 nights. Our hotel is conveniently located across the street from the Kyoto JR Station and around the corner from the Aeon Mall, local hot spots for food and shops.

Day 3: (Thu) May 23 – Kyoto (B)

Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo (Free WiFi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 9:00am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a full day tour around Kyoto.

→ 10:00am – Our morning begins with a visit to the dramatic **Heian-jingu Shrine**. Crafted for Kyoto's 1,100th anniversary in 1895, the shrine is relatively new and has distinct Chinese influences in its architecture. Heian-jingu is also noted for its colorful exteriors and enormous vermilion-colored torii gate, which looms at nearly 25 meters high. As we tour the grounds, you can make wishes at the shrine, buy amulets or fortunes, and observe worshippers practicing their religious rituals. We'll tour the ground's **inner garden**, which is divided into three distinct parts: the East (Byakko), the Middle (Soryu) and the West (Seiho) gardens. The inner garden also features many **water lilies** afloat.

→ 11:30am – Did you know that Kyoto is home to the world's oldest fan or that the majority of fans produced in Japan originate from there? Take part in Kyoto's rich cultural heritage with a **hands-on Japanese fan (sensu) making experience** at Maisendo Nishiki, a haven dedicated to the art of fan-making. Have fun crafting your very own, authentic "Made in Kyoto" fan!

→ 12:30pm – From here, a stop at the bustling **Nishiki Market!** This 400 year old hub for food vendors features over 100 shops and restaurants selling a wide range of traditional Japanese foods and handmade crafts. Sample fresh seafood, matcha, mochi, and other local specialties!

→ 2:30pm – Later today, we'll explore **Arashiyama**. Located in the outskirts of Kyoto, this picturesque destination is teeming with natural beauty and culture. 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 make 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 you want to grab a bite to eat, try **yūdofu** (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 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!

→ 5:30pm – **Return to hotel**. Enjoy the evening of shopping and dining on your own.

Day 4: (Fri) May 24 – Kyoto-Nara-Osaka (B/L)

Agora Place Namba (Free WiFi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 9:00am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a full day tour to Osaka.

→ 9:30am – Perhaps the most important of shrines dedicated to Inari (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.

→ 11:30am – Now a visit to **Kizakura Fushimigura**, a sake and craft beer brewery and museum showcasing the behind-the-scenes makings of high-end quality brews. Kizakura is a prominent Japanese sake brewing company and sets itself apart by consistently evolving its brew to adapt to contemporary palettes. In addition to incorporating quality ingredients like fresh underground spring water local to Kyoto, Kizakura expertly combines its generations-old secret formula with modern brewing techniques to create the perfect brew. Have a taste of their sake and enjoy exploring their bottle shop.

→ 12:45pm – **Enjoy Japanese style lunch at a local restaurant nearby.**

→ Now, we'll embark on a drive to Nara.

→ 2:45pm – This afternoon, we'll visit **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 temple, you can find 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.

→ **6:00pm – Welcome to Osaka**, Japan's third-largest city and the capital of commerce with a bustling street life in its arcades, markets, and byways. Osaka's citizens speak the Kansai dialect and are known for their outgoing nature, as well as for their abiding love of delicious street food. Our hotel, **Agora Place Namba**, is located a short walk from **Dotonbori**, **Kuromon Market** and **Nipponbashi**. Enjoy the evening of shopping and dining on your own.

Day 5: (Sat) May 25 – Osaka-Kobe-Osaka (B)

Agora Place Namba (Free WiFi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby to start a full-day tour of Kobe.**

→ **9:30am** – Our first visit this morning is the **Kobe Nunobiki Herb Gardens & Ropeway**. Reachable via a 10 minute gondola ride, this Kobe landmark features panoramic 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.

→ **12:00pm** – Next, we'll make a stop at this lively 400 year old local fish market and shopping street, **Akashi Seafood Market**. Sample the freshest catches from the famous fishing port of Akashi and keep your eye out for the local specialty: octopus!

→ **2:30pm** – We're now at the **Sannomiya Center Gai Shopping Street**, a large shopping arcade offering a wide variety of retail and food outlets. Enjoy free time here to explore and shop.

→ **5:30pm – Return to hotel.** The remainder of the evening is yours at leisure.

Day 6: (Sun) May 26 – Osaka-Full day at leisure (B)

Agora Place Namba (Free WiFi)

→ **After breakfast, The day is yours to explore the wonderful city of Osaka!**

Day 7: (Mon) May 27 – Osaka-Kansai-Honolulu (B)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **9:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a full day tour around Osaka.**

→ **10:00am** – Ever wonder how the mouthwatering food displayed in restaurant windows is made to look so lifelike? Let's find out at the interactive **"food sample" making workshop**, where you'll handcraft your very own realistic foods. Have fun!

→ **11:45am** – It's now time to explore the enchanting **Spring Rose Festa at The Expo '70 Commemorative Park**, also known as Banpaku Kinen Park. Originally built for the 1970 Japan World Exposition, it now serves as a popular local park filled with lush greenery, beautiful gardens, and various attractions. During the spring season, the park boasts approx. 2,400 roses of around 250 varieties, including vine roses that bloom exclusively in spring.

→ **1:00pm** – Grab lunch on your own at **Lalaport EXPOCITY**, which is part of the Expo City development and showcases various attractions like the Expo '70 Commemorative Park and the Redhorse Osaka Wheel. As one of Japan's largest shopping malls, it offers a wide selection of shops, restaurants, cafes, and entertainment options, making it a beloved destination for shopping, dining, and leisure activities.

→ **3:30pm** – Our next stop at everyone's favorite, **CUPNOODLES Museum Osaka Ikeda**. Here, you'll learn about the history and development of instant ramen noodles and peer into a replica shed of where it all started. Perhaps most thrilling is the **hands-on workshop - My CUPNOODLES experience**, where you become both chef and artist.

→ **Transfer to Kansai International Airport via Hawaiian Airlines 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 65 days prior to departure date, March 17, 2024.
- » Final payment due by April 1, 2024. 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.