

Join Panda Travel in...



2024 Kyushu Memorial Day Weekender

(GP13065)



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

May 21 - 27, 2024
5 Nights/ 7 Days

Hakata - Shimonoseki - Arita - Unzen - Shimabara - Kumamoto - Yame

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

\$2,898*

per person-triple occupancy

\$2,898*

per person-double occupancy

\$3,098*

single occupancy

pandaonline.com

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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) 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 – Fukuoka-Hakata Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Arrive at Fukuoka Airport.

→ Meet your guide at the arrival lobby. Transfer to **Hotel Clio Court Hakata** – Our hotel is centrally located and adjacent to the JR Hakata Station, offering you access to 230 shops including major department stores like Hankyu and Tokyu Hands. Nearby, you can also find Kitte shopping mall (directly linked to the Hakata Station) and a large Daiso. There are also many restaurant options close by. We'll be staying here for the next 3 nights.

Day 3: (Thu) May 23 – Hakata-Shimonoseki-Hakata (B) Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 9:00am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby.

→ 10:15am – Our day begins with a visit to the beloved **Mizokami Sake Brewery**. Established in 1844, this historic brewery expertly combines locally sourced rice with pristine regional waters to produce. In particular, its signature “Tenshin” brand has garnered mass attention for its fruity fragrance and mellow flavor.

→ 12:00pm – Now, we are at **Karato Market**. Enjoy lunch on your own at this “local kitchen,” a bustling marketplace of fresh seafood and other regional delights!

→ 2:00pm – **The Kanmon Straits**, a narrow waterway that separates Honshu and Kyushu islands, served as a gateway for transportation and international trade routes in the late 1800s.

On the Kyushu side of the strait is Moji Ward. As you visit Moji Ward's charming **Mojiko Retro**, you'll notice a perfect blend of old renaissance style and modern Western inspired architecture, reminiscent of its past as a preposterous international trading area. Mojiko Retro even earned a spot on the Japanese government's “Japan's 100 Best City Landscapes” list!

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

Day 4: (Fri) May 24 – Hakata-Free day at Leisure (B) Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi)

→ After breakfast, enjoy your free day to explore the vibrant Hakata!

Day 5: (Sat) May 25 – Hakata-Arita-Unzen (B/L/D) Unzen Sky Hotel (Free Wi-Fi) - [Enjoy Onsen](#)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 8:15am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby.

→ 10:00am – Our morning begins with a visit to **Kouraku Kiln**, one of the most renowned kilns in Arita. A 150-year-old historical mainstay, Kouraku Kiln produces unparalleled porcelain ware and has contributed to Arita's success as the center of Japan's porcelain production. At the company's warehouse, we'll embark on a “**treasure hunt**” experience for your new favorite ceramics and unique omiyage finds.

→ 12:00pm – Enjoy lunch at **China on the Park**, a porcelain and pottery theme park operated by the prestigious Fukagawa Seiji company. Dating back over 120 years, the company first garnered international attention at the 1900 Paris World's Fair when famed ceramicist and company founder, Chuji Fukagawa, earned a gold medal for his intricately designed flower vase (on display here!). Shortly after, the Imperial family chose the Fukagawa Seiji company to furnish porcelain wares to the Imperial household. On the park's grounds, you'll find a treasured collection of pottery at the museum, a shop, a restaurant, and beautiful surrounding greenery.

→ 2:00pm – Now visit the **Yoko Museum**, which is known for its vast collection of beautifully crafted ceramics, porcelain, and jade. Neighboring the museum is **Keishu-En**, a magnificent Japanese garden designed by Kinsaku Nakane, who is regarded as one of the most gifted garden architects. The tranquil garden features a large koi pond, a traditional teahouse, seasonal flowers, waterfalls, stone formations of over 2,000 intricately arranged stones, and lush Mt. Mifune in the background.

→ Now, we'll drive to Unzen.

→ 5:00pm – Arrive at **Unzen Sky Hotel**, followed by a **Japanese style dinner at 6:30pm**. Situated in the heart of the hot spring region in Unzen National Park, our hotel offers a range of amenities, including both indoor and outdoor natural hot spring baths, a traditional Japanese restaurant, and a souvenir shop.

Day 6: (Sun) May 26 – Unzen-Shimabara-Kumamoto (B/L)

The New Hotel Kumamoto (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 8:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a full day tour to Kumamoto, the largest and most influential city in central Kyushu.

→ 9:00am – Our day begins with a brief ride on the **Unzen Ropeway**, which climbs to the top of Mount Unzen. In late spring, the mountain's hillside is typically filled with vibrantly colored azaleas that bloom in bright yellow, pink, and deep red. Take in the mountainous and flowering views from the gondola's large windows and at the peak's observation deck.

→ 10:45am – Next, experience a fun blueberry picking activity, famous in Shimabara.

→ 12:20pm – Now, we'll take a ferry ride (Kyusho Ferry 5) from Shimabara Port to Kumamoto. A lunch bento box will be provided for you to enjoy along the ride.

→ 1:20pm – After arriving at Kumamoto Port, we'll make a transfer to our next destination.

→ 2:15pm – This afternoon, we'll pay a visit to the magnificent **Kumamoto Castle**. Its massive castle grounds and impressive hilltop design has been aptly described by Japanese statesman and naval engineer, Katsu Kaishu, as there being "no other castle like this castle." Although part of the castle is still undergoing restoration in the aftermath of the 2016 earthquake—with full restoration estimated to be completed by 2037. While the inner grounds are closed to the public, we can gain access to this cultural landmark and enjoy the majestic scenes of its impressive stone walls and moats from the outside.

→ 4:00pm – Afterwards, a stop at **Sakura no Baba Josaien**, a bustling feudal-era castle town with shops, restaurants, and a museum chronicling the history of Kumamoto. This is the place to get Kumamoto's local products like lotus root stuffed with spicy mustard and satellite stores for independent wineries in the prefecture.

→ 5:30pm – Arrive at The new Hotel Kumamoto. Enjoy a free evening to shop and explore. Located just a brief walk from Kumamoto Station, you can indulge in local delicacies like ikinari dango (a red bean and sweet potato confection wrapped in sweet dough) and garlicky Kumamoto ramen!

Day 7: (Mon) May 27 – Kumamoto-Yame-Fukuoka-Honolulu (B)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 9:00am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby.

→ 10:30am – Roll up your sleeves and get ready for your handmade washi paper uchiwa making experience at the **Yame Traditional Craft Center**. Yame's handmade washi paper dates back over 400 years, making Yame the oldest paper producer in Kyushu. Uniquely, Yame paper is pliable, yet durable thanks to the purity of the Yabe River's waters and the long fibers found in Kyushu mulberry. Have fun trying out this ancient craft!

→ 1:00pm – From here, an excursion to **Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine**. With over 2 million annual visitors during the first 3 days of the New Year, this sacred site is a Fukuoka must visit. The shrine is dedicated to Sugawara no Michizane, "the god of academic achievements," and is a popular spot for Japanese youths from all over the country to pray for success during exam season. In addition to shops, the shrine's grounds include red-painted and ornate bridges that stretch over a pond designed in the shape of the Japanese character for "heart".

→ 3:15pm – On the way to the airport, we'll stop by a new hot spot in Fukuoka: **Mitsui Shopping Park LaLaport Fukuoka** (opened in Apr 2022), a large shopping complex that houses over 200 shops. Enjoy some last minute shopping at this popular destination for locals and visitors.

→ Transfer to Fukuoka Airport via Hawaiian Airlines for our flight home.

→ Arrive in Honolulu on the 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 50 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.