

Join Panda Travel in...

2024 Summer Highlights in Japan

(GPI3078)



June 3 - 12, 2024
8 Nights/ 10 Days

*Tokyo - Mt. Fuji - Nara - Kyoto -
Kurashiki - Okayama - Miyajima -
Hiroshima - Himeji - Osaka*

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

\$4,278*

per person-triple occupancy

\$4,278*

per person-double occupancy

\$4,698*

single occupancy

pandaonline.com

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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: (Mon) Jun 03 – Honolulu Depart Honolulu via Hawaiian Airlines

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

Day 2: (Tue) Jun 04 – Haneda-Tokyo

Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Arrive at Haneda Airport and meet your guide at the arrival lobby. We'll transfer to Sunshine City Prince Hotel**, our accommodation for the next 2 nights. 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-hr Family Mart convenience store and a Seiyu supermarket for snack, bento, and beverage pickups. Enjoy your evening at leisure.

Day 3: (Wed) Jun 05 – Tokyo (B)

Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **9:30am** – This morning, travel back in time to the Edo period (1603-1867) and meander through the alleys and streets of old Japan in a life-size reproduction of Tokyo at **Fukagawa Edo Museum**.

→ **11:00am** – Now, a visit to the brand new **Toyosu Senkyaku Banrai**. Scheduled to open its doors in Feb 2024 and inspired by the historic streets of Tokyo, this Edo themed multi-story shopping and entertainment center treats visitors to a diverse selection of boutiques, as well as eateries featuring specialty foods like Toyosu's signature fresh seafood and produce.

→ **1:00pm** – Here on the grounds of Asakusa's iconic **Sensoji Temple** and **Kaminarimon Gate** (aka "Thunder Gate") with its massive lantern. This spot is a "must see" in every guidebook and boasts over 30 million annual visitors. Traditionally, once you reach the top of the temple steps, you should clap twice and bow your head as a sign of respect. 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. As you roam through the temple grounds, you'll come across the **Nakamise Shopping Arcade**, a lively and extensive shopping street lined with good luck charms, traditional goodies, and Japanese snacks.

→ **2:45pm** – Next, we'll make a stop at **Tokyo Solamachi**. Located at the base of Japan's tallest structure, Tokyo Sky Tree, this large shopping, dining, and entertainment complex features over 300 establishments.

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

Day 4: (Thu) Jun 06 – Tokyo-Mt. Fuji (B/L/D)

Hotel Mystays Fuji Onsen Resort (Free Wi-Fi) - [Enjoy onsen](#)

→ **Please leave your suitcases (2 pcs per person) at the hotel and prepare an overnight bag for 1 day. Your suitcase(s) will be delivered by courier service from Tokyo to your hotel in Kyoto the following day.**

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **8:30am** – Today begins at the iconic **Tsukiji Outer Market**. A renowned bucketlist spot, Tsukiji is the largest fish market in the world. While the inner auction market relocated to Toyosu in 2018, the charm remains in its outer market. Be sure to enjoy all that the outer market has to offer, from seasonal produce and candy tasting to knife-making artisan shops.

→ **From here, we'll drive to Mt. Fuji.**

→ **11:45am – Lunch will be served at Oshino Shinobi no Sato (Ninja Village)**. With the stunning backdrop of Mt. Fuji, this ninja-themed village offers the ideal setting for both relaxation and excitement. Visitors can engage in interactive exhibits, live demonstrations, and immerse themselves in the world of ninjutsu, showcasing their ancient arts and skills in a tranquil and educational setting.

→ **3:15pm** – Are you ready to join us on the ascent to Mt. Fuji via the **Mt. Fuji Panoramic Ropeway**? This cable car ride will take us to see breathtaking panoramic views of Mt. Fuji and Lake Kawaguchiko. Once there, try to spot the **Bell of Tenjo**. It's been said that this statue grants wishes to those who ring the bell while looking at Mt. Fuji through its heart shaped silver frame.

→ **4:30pm – Arrive at Hotel Mystays Fuji Onsen Resort, followed by a buffet dinner at 6:00pm.** Located at the foot of Mt. Fuji, our hotel boasts gorgeous views and is central to World Heritage shrines and lakes. Take some time before and/or after dinner to unwind in the hotel's onsen.

Day 5: (Fri) Jun 07 – Mt. Fuji-Kyoto-Nara-Kyoto (B)

Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:00am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby. We'll then proceed by charter coach to Mishima Station, where we'll board a bullet train to Kyoto.**

→ **11:37am** – After arriving at **Kyoto Station**, we'll transfer to our next destination.

→ **1:00pm** – Welcome to Nara! Enjoy free time to shop, browse, and have lunch on your own on **Higashimuki Shopping Street**. This covered shopping arcade offers a wide selection of shops and restaurants. A tip: At the entrance of the shopping street, there is Nara's most famous specialty, persimmon leaf sushi. It is bite size rice balls topped with salted mackerel and wrapped in a persimmon leaf.

→ **2:30pm** – 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.

→ **3:30pm** – 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.

→ **5:30pm** – Arrive at **Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo**, our accommodations for the next 2 nights. 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 6: (Sat) Jun 08 – Kyoto (B)

Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:30am** – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a full day tour around Kyoto.

→ **9:00am** – Begin the day with a visit to Kyoto's stunning **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 well as waterfalls and landmarks that have become part of 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.

→ **10:00am** – Next, 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.

→ **11:45am** – Here we are at **Arashiyama**, an area heavily influenced by Buddhism. Situated on the outskirts of Kyoto, this picturesque destination boasts an abundance of natural beauty and a wealth of cultural heritage. 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!

→ **3:00pm** – 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.

→ **5:00pm** – Return to hotel. Enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure.

Day 7: (Sun) Jun 09 – Kyoto-Kurashiki-Okayama (B)

Hotel Granvia Okayama (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:30am** – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby. This morning, we'll catch a bullet train to Okayama Station.

Your luggage(s) (2 pcs per person) will be delivered to your hotel in Osaka. Please prepare an overnight bag for 2 days.

→ **10:05am – Upon arrival at Okayama, we'll proceed to our next destination.**

→ **11:00am** – Explore & enjoy lunch on your own at **Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter**, a beautifully preserved historical area converted from the former city's rice storehouses with modern eateries, souvenir shops, and museums woven in. Immaculately preserved from the Edo period, this old rice-merchant quarter consists of around 300 old houses and granaries, with the oldest being 300 years old. Some families who have lived here for generations are still there! Today's old Kurashiki consists of dozens of characteristic whitewashed, black-tiled kura (rice granaries) centered around a willow-lined transport canal, making for a beautiful picturesque scene. It is a "must see traditional neighborhood" that blends the past with the present.

→ **2:45pm** – Spend the afternoon at **Okayama Korakuen Garden**, one of the three Great Gardens of Japan. It was established by the feudal lord Ikeda Tsunamasa in 1687 during the Edo period. This garden is well known for its exquisite design, meticulous landscaping, and its status as a Special Place of Scenic Beauty in Japan.

→ **4:15pm** – **Arrive at Hotel Granvia Okayama.** Enjoy the evening of shopping and dining at your leisure.

Day 8: (Mon) Jun 10 – Okayama-Miyajima-Hiroshima (B)
Hotel Granvia Hiroshima (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:15am** – **Meet your guide at the hotel lobby. We'll take a short walk to Okayama station to hop on a bullet train to Hiroshima Station.**

→ **9:17am** – **Arrive at Hiroshima and prepare for our excursion to Miyajima Island.**

→ **10:25am** – Now, a 10 min. **ferry ride to Miyajima**, also known as the "Island of Gods," and one of the most gorgeous destinations in Japan. You might recognize it from its oft-photographed vermilion Torii Gate (shrine gate) of Itsukushima-jinja, which seems to float on the waves at high tide.

→ **11:00am** – Once we arrive, we'll stroll along the main street that leads to **Itsukushima Shrine**, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of Japan's most unique shrines. The shrine is dedicated to the god that protects from sea disasters and wars. Most noteworthy are its Torii Gate and the Shaden (shrine pavilion), which are both submerged under the sea at full tide. At low tide, the water recedes completely and it's possible to walk out to the gate.

→ **12:00pm** – Shop for souvenirs like Shamoji (a rice scoop) along the **Nakamise shopping street**, and sample Hiroshima delicacies like Momiji manju (buns shaped like maple leaves and filled with a bean-jam filling). Lunch will be at your leisure.

→ **1:55pm** – **Leaving Miyajima by taking a ferry ride back to Hiroshima.**

→ **3:00pm** – This afternoon, a visit to **Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum/Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park/A-Bomb Dome**. After WWII, Japanese architect Kenzo Tange spearheaded the design of this park to commemorate the lives lost on August 6, 1945. The A-Bomb Dome, the only remaining structure in the area from the first atomic bomb, was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996.

→ **5:30pm** – **Arrive at Hotel Granvia Hiroshima.** Our hotel is conveniently connected to Hiroshima JR Station. Explore shopping and dining on your own this evening.

Day 9: (Tue) Jun 11 – Hiroshima-Himeji-Osaka (B/L)
Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:30am** – **Meet your guide at the hotel lobby. This morning, we'll take the bullet train ride from Hiroshima JR Station to Himeji.**

→ **9:52am** – **After arriving at Himeji Station, we will transfer to begin our tour by chartered coach.**

→ **10:30am** – Widely regarded as one of Japan's national treasures and designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, **Himeji Castle** is one of the last surviving feudal castles. It is also affectionately known as 'White Heron Castle' due to its distinctive white exterior, which resembles a bird in flight.

→ **12:15pm** – **Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.**

→ **1:30pm** – We'll now visit **Nadagiku Sake Brewery**, one of the best in Himeji. After the brewery tour, enjoy sake tasting and time in the gift shop. Some of the sake sold here is not available anywhere else.

→ **2:45pm** – Now, **enjoy a hands-on experience** crafting Japanese sweets and taking part in a tea ceremony. During the **wagashi making session**, you'll learn how to create beautiful and delicious sweets using traditional techniques. Afterwards, savor a **tea ceremony** where you'll observe the art of preparing matcha tea and learn about Japanese tea culture and etiquette.

→ **From here, we'll head to Osaka.**

→ **6:00pm** – **Arrive at Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka for our overnight stay.** 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 is located a short walk from **Dotonbori** and **Shinsaibashi shopping streets**. Enjoy the evening to explore the wonderful city of Osaka for shopping and dining on your own.

Day 10: (Wed) Jun 12 – Osaka-Kansai-Honolulu (B)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 11:00am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby to start our tour around Osaka.

→ 11:30am – 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.

→ 12:45pm – Let's visit the bustling **Kuromon Ichiba Market!** Known as the "Kitchen of Osaka," this famous 190-year-old market is a popular spot for locals and a 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.

→ 2:45pm – 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!

→ 5:30pm – Reach Kansai International Airport to begin our check-in process for the flight home.

→ Depart from Kansai 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 30, 2024.**
- » **Final payment due by April 14, 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.