

Join Panda Travel in...



2024 Autumn Wonders along the Tokaido Road

(GPI3I65)



**Exciting Offer:
Private, in room onsen
during your stay!**

Oct 13 - 21, 2024
7 Nights/ 9 Days

*Tokyo - Hakone - Shuzenji - Shizuoka
- Kyoto - Nara - Osaka*

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

\$4,269*
per person-triple occupancy

\$4,269*
per person-double 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: (Sun) Oct 13 – 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: (Mon) Oct 14 – Haneda-Tokyo

Hotel Groove Shinjuku (Free WiFi)

→ Arrive at Haneda Airport, meet your English-speaking local guide at the arrival lobby, and then we'll transfer to Hotel Groove Shinjuku, where you'll be staying for the next 2 nights. Our hotel is located with many shopping and dining options available to you.

Day 3: (Tue) Oct 15 – Tokyo (B)

Hotel Groove Shinjuku (Free WiFi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

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

→ 9:00am – Our day 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 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.

→ 11:00am – Now, we'll make a stop at **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.

→ 3:45pm – Return to hotel. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Day 4: (Wed) Oct 16 – Tokyo-Hakone-Shuzenji (B/L/D)

Sora Togetsuso Kinryu (Free WiFi) - Enjoy your own open-air onsen

→ Breakfast at hotel.

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

→ 8:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a full day tour to Shuzenji.

→ 10:45am – This morning, we'll visit Hakone's **Mt. Komagatake Ropeway**. This 7-min ride brings us to stunning panoramic views of Lake Ashi to Mt. Fuji, the Pacific Ocean, and the historical mountain top shrine.

→ 1:20pm – After **Japanese-style lunch** at a local restaurant, begin the afternoon with a leisurely sightseeing **pirate boat cruise** on **Lake Ashi**, a caldera lake created from Mount Hakone's last eruption thousands of years ago. Enjoy the splendid, uninterrupted views of the surrounding natural landscapes and on a clear day, spot Mt. Fuji!

→ 3:00pm – Next, we'll visit the scenic **Shuzenji Niji no Sato**. This expansive flower park is sectioned into several themed gardens, each highlighting the flowers, attractions, and architecture emblematic of different local and international regions. Here, you can step into a medieval English townscape in the British Village, take a relaxing stroll in the Canada Village, wander around the Fairy Garden, and more! The many gardens also house museums, restaurants, cafes, and shops. To travel within the theme park, visitors can board a British modeled bus or the Romney Railroad locomotive. Tip: on clear days, you can also enjoy Mt. Fuji from the park's observation deck!

→ 4:30pm – Arrive at **Sora Togetsuso Kinryu**, followed by a **6:00pm Japanese-style dinner** at the hotel. **Enjoy your own open-air onsen in the privacy of your room.**

Day 5: (Thu) Oct 17 – Shuzenji-Shizuoka-Kyoto (B)

Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo (Free WiFi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:45am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby.** This morning, we'll head to Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan's largest producer of green tea leaves and home to 40% of Japan's total tea plantations, a picturesque region renowned for its stunning natural landscapes, including the iconic Mount Fuji, and vibrant coastal communities.

→ **10:00am** – Start the day with a visit to a **tea processing factory** situated in a vast green tea field. During our factory tour, we'll learn about green tea's numerous health benefits, its leaf life cycle, its harvesting and manufacturing process, and we'll even get to **pick our own leaves**. We'll also sample their organically grown green tea, sipping on the brew as new tea sommeliers!

→ **12:30pm** – Next, explore **Yaizu Fish Market**, a vibrant local gathering place with a retro feel famous for its seafood and green tea. Located in Yaizu—one of Japan's major fishing ports—you can find approximately 60 shops and eateries with animated vendors selling their freshest catch, packaged foods, and local specialty items like black soft serve ice cream infused with real squid ink. Since Yaizu boasts the largest catches of tuna and bonito in the country, be sure to grab a bite of those too! Enjoy lunch on your own with this wide selection of goodies!

→ **3:07pm** – We'll catch a bullet train from **Shizuoka Station to Kyoto**.

→ **4:37pm** – After arriving at **Kyoto Station**, we will take a short walk to our hotel, where we will be staying for the next 2 nights.

→ **5:00pm** – Arrive at **Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo**. The remainder of the evening is yours at leisure. Our hotel is located a short walk from Kyoto Station. There're many choices for shopping and dining available to you.

Day 6: (Fri) Oct 18 – Kyoto (B)

Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo (Free WiFi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **9:00am** – We begin our 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** – 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.

→ **1:30pm** – 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!

→ **4:45pm – Return to hotel.** Enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure.

Day 7: (Sat) Oct 19 – Kyoto-Nara-Osaka (B)

Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free WiFi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:30am — Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a full day tour from Kyoto to Osaka.**

→ **9:00am** – 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.

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

→ **11:30am** – From here, 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.

→ **1:15pm** – 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.

→ **3:30pm** – **Arrive at Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka for the next 2 nights.** 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 close to Osaka’s most famous entertainment

districts. Enjoy the rest of the day shopping and dining on your own.

Day 8: (Sun) Oct 20 – Osaka (B)

Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free WiFi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

Day 9: (Mon) Oct 21 – Osaka-Kansai-Honolulu (B)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **9:00am** – **Meet your guide at the hotel lobby to start our tour around Osaka.**

→ **9:30am** – Our morning begins at one of Osaka’s most culturally significant destinations: **Osaka Castle**. After unifying Japan in the 16th century, military leader Toyotomi Hideyoshi proudly built the castle as a display of power. The castle has endured centuries of conflict (including as a battleground for samurai sword fights) and has subsequently gone through several reconstructions. As you walk through the grounds, take note of the castle’s massive stone walls, striking gold-leaf trim, copper roof, and panoramic views.

→ **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** – Now 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.

→ **3:30pm** – Here we’re at **AEON Mall Rinku Sennan**, a large shopping mall with everything you need to round up any last minute shopping before the drive out to Kansai International Airport.

→ **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, August 9, 2024.**
- » **Final payment due by August 21, 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.