

Join Panda Travel in...



2024 Explore & Discover Okinawa #1

(GP13204)



October 21 - 30, 2024

8 Nights/ 10 Days

*Naha - Itoman - Nanjo - Uruma -
Onna - Kunigami - Nago - Yomitan -
Nakagami - Tomigusuku*

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

\$4,289*
per person-triple occupancy

\$4,289*
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: (Mon) Oct 21 – Honolulu Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines

- 12:30pm – Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines 73
- Meet the Panda Travel representative 3 hours prior to departure at the Japan Airlines check-in counters.

Day 2: (Tue) Oct 22 – Haneda-OKA(Naha Airport)-Naha (D) Hotel Collective (Free Wi-Fi)

- 3:55pm – Arrive at Haneda Airport. Meet your English speaking assistant at the arrival lobby. We'll shuttle to Terminal 1 for our OKA (Naha Airport) flight.
- A bento box will be provided at the departure gate of the flight.
- 7:55pm – Depart Haneda to Naha Airport (OKA) via Japan Airlines 925.
- Welcome to Naha, the capital of the Okinawa Prefecture. The city is characterized by a blend of modernity and traditional Ryukyuan influences, offering an unrivaled experience with diverse shopping, dining, and cultural attractions. Naha is also a gateway to exploring the scenic

beauty and distinctive culture of the Okinawa islands.

- 10:35pm – Upon arriving at Naha, meet your local English speaking guide at the arrival lobby. We'll transfer to **Hotel Collective**, our accommodations for the next 2 nights and the last 3 nights. Our conveniently located hotel provides easy access to **Kokusai Dori**, Okinawa's lively shopping district with stalls, boutiques, and eateries.

Day 3: (Wed) Oct 23 – Naha-Itoman-Nanjo-Naha (B/L) Hotel Collective (Free Wi-Fi)

- Breakfast at hotel.
- 9:00am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a full day tour around the southern part of Okinawa.
- 9:45am – This morning we'll visit **Himeyuri no Tou** and **Himeyuri Peace Museum**, prominent and culturally significant Okinawan landmarks honoring the valiant group of high school girls and teachers who were drafted to serve as nurses during WWII.
- 11:15am – Now a visit to Nanjo's iconic **Okinawa World**, where visitors are treated to: the incredible 3,000 year old natural limestone **Gyokusendo Caves**; a reconstructed replica of a Ryukyu village with workshops featuring traditional arts and crafts; and a snake themed section dedicated to the infamous local Habu snake. At 12:30pm, we'll catch the **Super Eisa Show**, which features traditional Okinawan Eisa dancing and drumming. At 1:30pm, a small theater snake demonstration at the **Habu Snake Show**. We'll also enjoy a **buffet lunch**.

- 3:00pm – Now a step into what nature has seemingly created to be an otherworldly realm of caves, rivers, and trees at the **Valley of Gangala**. It is here that archaeologists discovered the world's oldest fish hook (23,000 years old!). Excavations are still underway to verify whether the "Minatogawa Men," a human race dating back 23,000, once called this place home. Enjoy meandering through this treasure trove of mystery!

- 4:45pm – Return to hotel. Enjoy the evening of shopping and dining on your own.

Day 4: (Thu) Oct 24 – Naha-Uruma-Onna (B/L/D) Sheraton Okinawa Sunmarina Resort - ocean view rooms (Free Wi-Fi)

- Breakfast at hotel.
- 9:00am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby. This morning, we'll drive to the central part of Okinawa.
- 10:00am – Today begins with an exciting **Water Buffalo Cart Ride** at the **Hill of the Bios** tropical forest park.

→ **12:00pm** – Enjoy your Japanese-style lunch at a local restaurant.

→ **1:00pm** – Onto our next adventure: **Ryukyu Village**, a theme park that transports you back in time to the Ryukyu Kingdom of old Okinawa. Here, let your creativity run wild during a **Shisa painting experience**. A mix between a dog and a lion, Shisas are Okinawa's guardians. You'll often see a pair of these fanged creatures at the entrances of buildings and stores dutifully warding off evil spirits.

→ **3:30pm** – Arrive at **Sheraton Okinawa Sunmarina Resort**, our accommodations for the next 3 nights. Specially designed in a fan-shape, this beachfront hotel treats **all rooms with an ocean view**. Enjoy the hotel's **buffet dinner at 6:00pm**.

Day 5: (Fri) Oct 25 – Onna-Kunigami-Nago-Onna (B/L/D)

Sheraton Okinawa Sunmarina Resort (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:30am** – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby. This morning, we'll visit the northern part of Okinawa.

→ **9:45am** – Now a visit to what has been widely considered the biggest and best aquarium in the world: **Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium**. Initially built for the Okinawa International Ocean Expo in 1975, the aquarium features an impressive 740 species of sea creatures and tanks so large that even enormous whale sharks can be seen on full display. The aquarium is also a pioneer in developing successful marine life breeding programs and has achieved several scientific feats, including the facilitation of an artificial birth of a luminescent deep-sea shark!

→ **12:00pm** – Soak in breathtaking panoramic views at **Kouri Ocean Tower**. Here you'll find the Kouri Island Museum, indoor observation areas, a rooftop deck, and subtropical gardens.

→ **1:00pm** – Time for a Japanese-style lunch at a nearby local restaurant.

→ **2:45pm** – This afternoon we make a trip to exciting **Nago Pineapple Park**, home of Japan's first pineapple winery! While there, browse the various pineapple products in the souvenir shop and keep your eye out for pineapple decorated vehicles zipping about.

→ **5:00pm** – Return to hotel, followed by dinner at 6:00pm.

Day 6: (Sat) Oct 26 – Onna-Nago-Onna (B/L/D)

Sheraton Okinawa Sunmarina Resort (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **9:00am** – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a full

day tour around the northern part of Okinawa.

→ **9:45am** – Begin the day with a visit to **Busena Marine Park**. Aboard a whale-shaped **glass bottom boat**, we'll have an up close view of aquatic life that many have likened to snorkeling or diving without needing the gear. The park also has an **Underwater Observatory**, offering 360-degrees of the marine world through 24 windows.

→ **12:00pm** – Enjoy your Japanese-style lunch at a local restaurant.

→ **1:00pm** – Next, we're off to **Okashigoten Onna**, a well-known Okinawan specialty confectionery in one of Okinawa's top-tier resort areas, Onna Village. In addition to its famous purple yam tarts, the store offers a wide selection of regional sweets and specialty souvenirs. What a perfect time to shop for omiyage!

→ **1:45pm** – Here we are at **Cape Manza**, one of the most popular and scenic attractions in Okinawa.

→ **3:00pm** – Return to hotel and enjoy some downtime.

→ **5:45pm** – Meet at the hotel lobby and make our way to enjoy your Japanese-style dinner with a musical performance on the **sanshin**, a traditional three stringed snakeskin covered instrument with royal roots. In the Ryukyu Kingdom, the sanshin was the primary instrument played in the royal court and its music is now regarded as Okinawan treasure.

→ **8:15pm** – Return to hotel. Enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure.

Day 7: (Sun) Oct 27 – Onna-Yomitan-Nakagami-Naha (B)

Hotel Collective (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **9:30am** – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a full day tour before returning to Naha.

→ **10:00am** – Welcome to **Yachimun no Sato** ceramics village, a collection of kilns, small houses, shops, and galleries. Yachimun pottery is traditional earthenware unique to Okinawa, specially crafted with "climbing kilns." See skilled artisans at work and marvel at their incredible creations during your time in this remarkable world of pottery.

→ **11:45am** – Explore and enjoy lunch on your own at **Mihama American Village**, an expansive shopping mall and entertainment complex featuring an eclectic mix of Okinawan and post-WWII American sights, shops, and sounds. Proximate to U.S. military bases, this popular site is frequented by military personnel and locals alike.

→ **2:15pm** – Spend the afternoon at **AEON MALL Okinawa Rycom**, the largest shopping complex in Okinawa. With over

200 specialty stores, 60 restaurants, a cinema, an aquarium, and entertainment stages, this mall is more akin to a small city. Its 7,700 seat food court is even the largest in the world!

→ **5:00pm – Arrive at Hotel Collective.** Enjoy the evening of shopping and dining at your leisure.

Day 8: (Mon) Oct 28 – Naha (B/L)

Hotel Collective (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **9:15am** – This morning we'll visit **Makishi Local Market**, Naha's bustling central marketplace for fresh seafood, meat, produce, and traditional Okinawan delicacies.

→ **10:30am** – Now aboard a chartered coach to the southern part of Okinawa.

→ **11:00am** – Our first stop is the **Shikina-en Royal Gardens**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Constructed as a villa for the Ryukyu Kingdom's royal family in 1799, this intricately designed garden features vibrant seasonal flora, a tranquil pond, and Chinese and Japanese inspired architecture. Historically, this garden holds cultural significance as the main venue for hosting foreign emperors and envoys visiting for diplomatic purposes.

→ **2:00pm** – After **lunch at a local restaurant**, we'll channel our inner artist for a **coral dyeing experience** at **Shuri Ryusen**. Believed to bring happiness, prosperity, and longevity, coral has played a fundamental role in Okinawan culture. Enjoy this memorable activity with skilled local artisans!

→ **3:30pm** – We'll now explore the historic **Shuri Castle**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Shuri was the former capital of Okinawa and Shuri Castle served as the kings' royal residence for centuries. Its striking red brick tiled roofs are a distinctive feature among Japanese castles and its facade has become a historical emblem of Okinawa. In the aftermath of a 2019 fire, significant continued efforts have been made to reconstruct the site's many buildings.

→ **5:30pm – Return to hotel.** Enjoy your evening.

Day 9: (Tue) Oct 29 – Naha/Free day at leisure (B)

Hotel Collective (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **The day is yours to explore the vibrant city of Okinawa!**

Day 10: (Wed) Oct 30 –

Naha-Tomigusuku-OKA-Haneda-Honolulu (B)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **11:15am** – After checking out of your hotel room, meet your guide at the hotel lobby to start our tour.

→ **12:00pm** – Here we are at the renowned **Chuko Gura Awamori Brewery**, the homebase for expertly crafted quality **Awamori** (Okinawan distilled spirit). What makes Chuko stand out is its not-so-secret brewing process: preserving and aging the awamori in special handmade ceramic vessels. The brewery even has its own pottery studio!

→ **1:15pm** – Time to visit **Okinawa Outlet Mall Ashibinaa!** Check off some last minute items from your shopping list with the mall's diverse catalog of international and local brands and enjoy lunch on your own at the many available eateries.

→ **3:45pm – Arrive at Naha Airport.**

→ **6:05pm – We'll take flight JL916 with Japan Airlines from Naha to Haneda Airport.**

→ **8:15pm – Upon arrival at Haneda**, you will be greeted by your local English-speaking assistant at the arrival lobby. We'll shuttle to Terminal 3 for our flight home.

→ **9:55pm – Depart Haneda via Japan Airlines 72 for Honolulu.**

→ **9:55am – 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 95 days prior to departure date, July 17, 2024.**
- » **Final payment due by July 29, 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 82 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.