

Join Panda Travel in...



2024 Explore Southern Japan in Autumn: Kyushu, Shikoku and Chugoku

(GP13I86)



Nov 17 - 25, 2024
7 Nights/ 9 Days

*Hakata - Shimonoseki - Yuda
Onsen - Miyajima - Hiroshima -
Imabari - Dogo Onsen - Takamatsu -
Awajishima - Kobe - Osaka*

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

\$3,889*

per person-triple occupancy

\$3,889*

per person-double occupancy

\$4,239*

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: (Sun) Nov 17 – 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: (Mon) Nov 18 – Fukuoka-Hakata Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **6:40pm** – Arrive at Fukuoka Airport. Meet your local English speaking guide at the arrival lobby. We'll transfer to **Hotel Clio Court Hakata** for our 2-night stay. Our hotel is adjacent to the JR Hakata Station, which is just steps from many dining and shopping options. After checking in, the remainder of the evening is free.

Day 3: (Tue) Nov 19 – Hakata (B) Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

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

→ **9:45am** – Start the day with a visit 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”.

→ **12:00pm** – If you're looking for a unique souvenir from Fukuoka, look no further than one of the most beautiful representations of Japanese culture: Hakata Dolls. Known for their soft colors and intricately carved expressions, these unglazed clay dolls are masterfully crafted from 500 year old traditional techniques. Here, we'll test our skills on this **hands-on doll-coloring experience** at the **Hakata Doll Hall Shogetsudo**.

→ **1:15pm** – Next, stop at **Canal City**, also known as “city within the city.” This is a large shopping and entertainment complex in Fukuoka. It has numerous attractions including a canal, local & international brand name shops, a theater, game center, two hotels, and a wide variety of restaurants. If you enjoy eating ramen, you must visit the Ramen Stadium on the 5th floor. There, you will find eight ramen shops with special noodles & soup favors from across Japan including the local specialty Hakata ramen. Enjoy free time to explore and have lunch on your own at Canal City!

→ **3:30pm** – Return to hotel. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Day 4: (Wed) Nov 20 – Hakata-Shimonoseki-Yuda Onsen (B/D) Nishi No Miyabi Tokiwa (Free Wi-Fi) - [Enjoy onsen](#)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

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

→ **10:00am** – In the late 1800s, **Kanmon Straits**, a narrow waterway separating the islands of Honshu and Kyushu—served as a gateway for transportation and international trade. On the Kyushu side of the strait is Moji Ward. As you visit Moji Ward's charming **Mojiko Retro** this morning, 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!

→ **11:30am** – Now, it's time to explore **Karato Market & Kamon Wharf**. Enjoy lunch on your own at this “local kitchen,” a bustling marketplace offering abundant fresh seafood and other regional delights!

→ **2:00pm** – Prepare yourself for a delightful **Mikan picking experience**, a beloved citrus fruit in Japan that is similar to mandarin oranges. Whether enjoyed fresh or incorporated into various culinary creations and desserts, Mikan guarantees to bring a burst of fun-filled flavors to your palate.

→ **3:00pm** – This afternoon, we'll visit the historic **Joeiji Temple Sesshu Garden**, a remarkable site recognized as a Designated Historical Site and Place of Scenic Beauty in 1926. Inspired by the famous artist Sesshu Toyo, this garden has been meticulously preserved to retain its original beauty. As you wander along, you'll be captivated by the winding paths, ornate bridges, stone lanterns, and the reflective ponds. During the **autumn season**, the maple trees steal the show with their vibrant red, orange, and yellow leaves, creating a breathtaking view.

→ **5:30pm** – Arrive at Nishi No Miyabi Tokiwa, followed by a **Japanese-style dinner at 6:30pm**. After dinner, take some time to unwind at the hotel's onsen.

Day 5: (Thu) Nov 21 – Yuda Onsen-Miyajima-Hiroshima (B) Hotel Granvia Hiroshima (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ **8:30am** – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for the full day tour to Miyajima and Hiroshima.

→ **10:30am** – Our morning begins at the **Museum of Japanese Emigration to Hawaii**, which was opened on February 8th, 1999, in commemoration of the arrival of the

first group of Japanese immigrants to Hawaii in 1885. Explore the hardships, contributions, and cultural interactions of these immigrants through artifacts and records in the restored Fukumoto house.

→ **From here, we'll drive to Miyajimaguchi.**

→ **12:55pm** – Next, we'll take a short 10-min. **ferry ride to Miyajima**, also known as the “Island of Gods” and one of the most gorgeous destinations in Japan. You may recognize it from its vermilion Torii Gate (shrine gate) of Itsukushima-jinja, which appears to float on the waves at high tide.

→ **1:30pm** – After the Miyajima ferry ride, we'll walk along **Omote-Sando**, 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. Fall time at Miyajima island is a beautiful season to enjoy viewing the fall foliage. Enjoy lunch on your own and souvenir shopping along the way for items like Shamoji (a rice scoop), or sample Hiroshima delicacies like Momiji manju (buns shaped like maple leaves and filled with a bean-jam filling).

→ **4:25pm** – **Return to Miyajimaguchi by ferry, our bus will take us to Hiroshima.**

→ **5:30pm** – **Arrive at Hotel Granvia Hiroshima**, located adjacent to Hiroshima Station. Explore a variety of shops and dining options just a stone's throw away.

Day 6: (Fri) Nov 22 – Hiroshima-Imabari-Dogo (B/L/D)
Dogo Onsen Chaharu (Free Wi-Fi) - [Enjoy onsen](#)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **9:00am** – Our first stop this morning will be the **Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park**. 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. The park is surrounded by the natural beauty of **fall leaves**.

→ We'll leave Hiroshima and begin our drive to **Imabari City** via the **Simanami Kaido**, a scenic highway that offers ocean and island views.

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

→ **3:30pm** – Now, we'll visit the **Imabari Towel Museum**.

The world's first towel museum dedicated to the art of towel manufacturing and a nod to Imbari's status as the largest towel-producing city in Japan. The museum offers an exhibition showcasing the manufacturing process, as well as a wall with over 1,800 large spools of thread and artworks. You can also shop for fine towels and clothing here.

→ In the early evening, we'll head to **Dogo Onsen**, Japan's oldest (dating back 3,000 yrs!) and most famous hot spring and a frequent destination for the Imperial Family. Perhaps more recognizable is the Dogo Onsen Honkan, its wooden public bathhouse with a maze-like interior that's been said to have inspired scenes from Hayao Miyazaki's film *Spirited Away*.

→ **5:45pm** – **Arrive at Dogo Onsen Chaharu, followed by a Japanese style dinner at 6:30pm.** After dinner, relax at the rooftop open-air onsen beneath the moon and stars.

Day 7: (Sat) Nov 23 – Dogo onsen-Takamatsu (B/L)

Daiwa Roynet Hotel Takamatsu (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:30am** – **Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a full day tour to the city Takamatsu**, a coastal city located on the island of Shikoku. Known for its beautiful gardens and historic landmarks.

→ **9:00am** – Begin our morning with an exciting hands-on experience of **making chestnut tarts**, a cultural heritage of chestnut desserts. Indulge the rich flavors of chestnuts and create sweet memories.

→ **12:00pm** – Next, we'll make a stop at **Nakanoya Kotohira** and try our hand at **making udon noodles** from scratch under the guidance of skilled udon masters. Once our noodles are ready, they will be cooked and served to you in a flavorful broth for **lunch** afterwards. Enjoy the rewards of your labor and the authentic taste of freshly made udon.

→ **3:00pm** – Welcome to **Ritsurin Garden**, which was awarded three stars in the Michelin Green Guide Japan! Originally built as a private retreat for feudal lord Matsudaira, this 400-year-old garden is notable for its teahouse, collection of lotus and iris flowers, ponds, streams and historic trees. The forested Mt. Shiun sits behind the park, creating lush, dramatic views. While flowers and blossoms bloom throughout the year, the **vibrant hues of autumn leaves** add a spectacular touch to the scenery.

→ **4:30pm** – **Arrive at Daiwa Roynet Hotel Takamatsu.** Enjoy the evening of shopping and dining on your own.

**Day 8: (Sun) Nov 24 –
Takamatsu-Awajishima-Kobe (B/L)**

Hotel Crown Palais Kobe (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:15am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a full day tour for Kobe.** Our morning begins with a drive to **Naruto**, where we'll board the famous **Uzushio Kancho Cruise - Wonder Naruto**.

→ **9:40am – Naruto's whirlpools** appear as large, shifting swirls on the surface of the water and occur roughly every 6 hours. It is due to this location's special underwater geography and its narrow strait that we can view this unique phenomenon.

→ The **cruise** will take us out on the water to view the formations from a safe height, and although we'll get right up to the whirlpools, the boats are very stable. If you prefer to stay off the boat, not a problem: the cruise pickup and dropoff point offers a waiting area with food and shopping facilities.

→ Next, we'll drive to Osaka via **Awaji Island**, passing through the island's **Onaruto suspension bridge**, which acts as a vital connection between mainland Honshu and Shikoku.

→ **10:45am** – Here we are at the **Uzu no Oka Onaruto Bridge Memorial Museum**, a multifaceted facility built to honor the completion of the Onaruto Bridge. The complex includes: the Whirlpool Science Center; an observation-deck restaurant where you can savor delectable cuisine made with locally sourced Awaji Island ingredients; and a gift shop, offering a variety of Awaji Island souvenirs and other unique goods for purchase. Don't forget to get a photo in front of the life-sized star agricultural product of Awaji: "Otama Onion."

→ **12:15pm** – Now to **Takosenbei no Sato**, a famous factory and shop specializing in over 40 unique varieties of snacks that incorporate ingredients from the sea. Their thinly-baked Tako-usu Yaki rice crackers (squid, octopus, and shrimp) is the most popular-give it a try!

→ **2:30pm** – **After lunch at a local restaurant**, we'll head over to the picturesque **Awaji Hanasajiki Flower Park**, the site of approx. one million flowers that change with the seasons.

→ **5:00pm** – **Arrive at Hotel Crown Palais Kobe.** Our hotel is located next to Kobe station and close to Harborland and Motomachi shopping areas in addition to a variety of dining options and shops. There is also a supermarket, Gyomu Super, just steps away.

**Day 9: (Mon) Nov 25 –
Kobe-Osaka-Kansai-Honolulu (B)**

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **9:15am** – Start our day with a visit to **Arima Onsen town**, one of Japan's oldest and famous hot spring resorts nestled in the mountains of Hyogo Prefecture, near Kobe. The historic landmark features traditional ryokans, numerous tea houses, and shops selling local crafts, souvenirs, and Japanese sweets. Enjoy the serene ambiance as you listen to the gentle flow of the nearby Arima River and admire the **vivid hues of autumn leaves**, creating a picturesque setting for your morning adventure.

→ **12:00pm** – Explore **Tsutenkaku Tower** this morning. This "Eiffel Tower of Osaka" features a statue of Billiken—a deity believed to bring good luck to those who rub the soles of its feet—and an observatory with sweeping views of the city. When the original Tsutenkaku was constructed in 1912 as a part of Shinsekai Luna Park (Japan's second ever amusement park), it was the tallest structure in Asia and a major attraction in the region. Though the tower was dismantled to supply steel to the wartime economy during WWII, it was rebuilt in 1956 and remains the symbol of Osaka today.

→ Once here, we'll also be visiting **Shinsekai District**, a quaint area 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!

→ **2:00pm** – Our next visit: **Dotonbori district** and **Shinsaibashi Shopping Arcade**, the city's most famous entertainment area offering endless dining and shopping. With our 2 hrs here, enjoy time to shop!

→ **5:00pm** – **Arrive at 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, September 13, 2024.**
- » **Final payment due by September 25, 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 53 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.