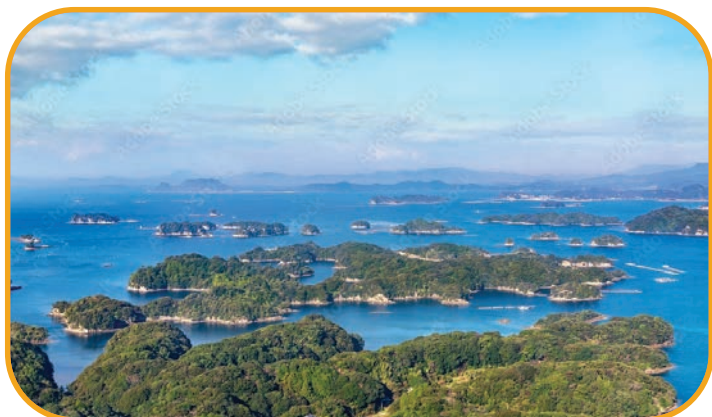


Join Panda Travel in...



2024 Autumn Foliage & Grand Sumo Tournament in Kyushu

(GP13188)



Nov 12 - 20, 2024
7 Nights/ 9 Days

*Hakata - Sasebo - Huis Ten Bosch -
Shimabara - Kumamoto -
Kirishima - Kagoshima*

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

\$3,898*

per person-triple occupancy

\$3,898*

per person-double occupancy

\$4,388*

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: (Tue) Nov 12 – 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: (Wed) Nov 13 – Fukuoka-Hakata Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Arrive at Fukuoka Airport. Meet your local English speaking guide at the arrival lobby. We'll transfer to Hotel Clio Court Hakata, our accommodations for the night.

Day 3: (Thu) Nov 14 – Hakata-Sasebo-Huis Ten Bosch (B) Hotel Nikko Huis Ten Bosch (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 8:00am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a full day tour for Nagasaki.

→ 9:30am – Our morning begins with a visit to **Mifuneyama Rakuen**, a flower-laden park dating back to 1845. The park is popular for azalea in spring and **red leaves in autumn**. Nestled at the base of Mt. Mifune's dramatic rocky face, the gardens make for an incredible sight. Enjoy walking through the vast grounds at your leisure.

→ 11:00am – Next, a visit to **Arita Porcelain Park**. This captivating destination features stunning displays of exquisitely designed Arita porcelain. Live demonstrations of porcelain-making reveal incredible artisans' skills and offer a behind the scenes look into the meticulous process of crafting these timeless beauties. There's also a shopping area where you can browse and purchase authentic traditional and contemporary Arita porcelain pieces.

→ 12:45pm – Enjoy shopping and lunch on your own at **Saruku City 403 Arcade**, the longest shopping arcade street in Japan.

→ 3:00pm – We'll now embark on a **50-minute sightseeing cruise** through the 208 islands of Kujukushima, part of Saikai National Park. The Kujukushima Cruise dates back to 1914 as one of the country's earliest sightseeing cruises. Renowned for its stunning landscapes and countless small islands, Kujukushima has become a popular tourist destination and a symbol of Sasebo's natural beauty.

→ 4:45pm – **Arrive at Huis Ten Bosch**. This charming recreation of a 17th century Dutch town is completed with canals, windmills, gardens, and cobblestone streets, as large as Monaco—was constructed in 1992 to commemorate the rich history shared between Japan and the Netherlands.

True to its moniker as the "City of Flowers and Lights," the park features vibrant seasonal flowers that carpet the authentic European cityscape and millions of colorful LED lights that illuminate the town after dusk. As the seasons change, so does the beauty of Huis Ten Bosch; spring's "One Million Tulip Festival," summer's "Greatest Rose Festival" and sunflower attraction, fall's "Autumn Roses," winter's orchid display, as well as the award winning night time illuminations and dazzling light shows are brilliant seasonal spectacles that make for many repeat visitors throughout the year. Huis Ten Bosch also offers several restaurants, shops, live entertainment, and attractions like a three-story carousel, adventures with augmented reality, and much more.

→ **Check in at Hotel Nikko Huis Ten Bosch**. With our Huis Ten Bosch park pass, you can enjoy Japan's largest and most unique theme park the rest of the day here with dinner on your own tonight.

Day 4: (Fri) Nov 15 – Huis Ten Bosch/Free day at leisure (B) Hotel Nikko Huis Ten Bosch (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **After breakfast, enjoy your free day to explore Huis Ten Bosch!**

Day 5: (Sat) Nov 16 – Huis Ten Bosch-Shimabara-Kumamoto (B/L) Daiwa Roynet Hotel Kumamoto Ginzadori Premier (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 8:00am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby to get ready for our journey to Kumamoto.

→ 10:30am – Our day begins with a scenic ride on the **Unzen Ropeway**, which climbs to the top of Mount Unzen. During this time of year, the mountainside is adorned with the rich hues of **fall foliage**: brilliant shades of red, orange, and gold. Admire the picturesque landscape and the blossoming beauty from the gondola's expansive windows and the observation deck at the peak.

→ 12:00pm – **Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.**

→ 1:50pm – **Now, we'll take a 30-minute ferry ride with Kumamoto Ferry from Shimabara Port to Kumamoto Port.**

→ 2:20pm – After arriving at **Kumamoto**, the largest and most influential city in central Kyushu, we'll make a transfer to our next destination.

→ 3:30pm – 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.

→ **4:30pm** – 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 a great place to get Kumamoto local products like lotus root stuffed with spicy mustard. It also features the satellite stores for independent wineries in the prefecture.

→ **5:30pm** – Arrive at **Daiwa Roynet Hotel Kumamoto Ginzadori Premier**. Our hotel is conveniently located in a bustling area with easy access to shopping, dining, and entertainment options.

Day 6: (Sun) Nov 17 – Kumamoto-Kirishima (B/L/D)

Kirishima Hotel (Free Wi-Fi) - [Enjoy onsen](#)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **Your luggage (2 pcs per person) will be delivered by courier services to your hotel in Hakata. Please prepare an overnight bag for a 1-day stay.**

→ **8:30am** – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby as we’ll embark on a full day tour to Kirishima.

→ **9:00am** – The morning begins with a visit to **autumnal beauty: Suizenji Park**, a famed Japanese-style garden built in the 17th century by the Hosokawa Family. Uniquely, this spacious landscaped garden reproduces the historic Tokaido Road, complete with 53 replicated post stations and a charming mini Mt. Fuji. Along the stroll, you’ll see a vermilion colored shrine, pine trees, and a flower-laden park dating back to 1845. With Mt. Mifune in the background, the garden makes for an unforgettable display of vivid fall foliage.

→ **11:30am** – Next, a fun visit to **Hitoyoshi Craft Park Ishino Park**, a treasure trove of traditional Japanese crafts, beautiful ceramics, and exquisite textiles. Here, you’ll enjoy a **hands-on Hana-tebako painting** workshop. In Japanese, “Hana” symbolizes flowers, and “tebako” refers to a small box. These wooden boxes are traditionally made from materials like fir, cedar, and cypress and are adorned with bright red camellias painted. Have fun creating this personalized memento to take home!

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

→ **3:15pm** – Here we are at **Kirishima Factory Garden**, a fantastic garden park surrounding the Kirishima Shuzo factory, the leading producer of shochu (traditional

Japanese distilled spirit). Visitors can expect an incredible collection of facilities like a museum, a famous bakery, authentic shochu and craft beer breweries, eateries, shops, and spaces that host cultural and sporting events. Some of the more notable attractions include the popular shochu ice cream and the eco factory visit where guests can learn about the shochu production process.

→ **5:00pm** – Arrive at **Kirishima Hotel**, followed by a **Japanese-style dinner at 6:00pm**. The hotel’s onsen is a great place to unwind after dinner and in the morning before our departure. By

Day 7: (Mon) Nov 18 – Kirishima-Kagoshima-Hakata (B/L)

Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:30am** – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for Kagoshima.

→ **9:00am** – Our morning begins with a visit to **Kirishima Shrine**, where you’ll be greeted by the hues of **fall foliage**. This sacred site holds a central position in the ancient mythology of Japan and is dedicated to the deity, Ninigi-no-Mikoto. Legend has it that Ninigi-no-Mikoto descended from heaven, married a princess, and began the lineage of Japanese emperors. He’s claimed to be the great-grandfather of Japan’s first emperor, Emperor Jimmu.

→ **11:00am** – Now a visit to **Kurozu Kakuida**, a renowned vinegar brewery in Kagoshima known for its premium black vinegar. Kakuida uses traditional fermentation methods to produce its flavorful “kurozu” brew, a cultural gem in the region. Afterwards, enjoy a **black vinegar lunch** at Kurozu no Sato Kakuida and experience the unique flavors of this ancient Japanese condiment.

→ **1:30pm** – Here we are at **Senganen & Shoko Assemble Museum**, attractions recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Constructed in the 17th century by the Shimadzu clan, one of the most powerful and prestigious samurai families during the Edo period, **Senganen** features a beautifully landscaped Japanese-style garden and the former Shimadzu residence. Located just outside the garden stands the **Shoko Assemble Museum**. Its 150 year old stone building once operated as one of Japan’s first earliest Western-style machinery factories but now serves as a museum showcasing Japan during the industrial revolution and highlighting the Shimadzu clan’s pivotal role in launching the nation into a new, modern era: the Meiji period.

→ **4:30pm** – Arrive at **Kagoshima Chuo Station** for our **bullet train ride to Hakata Station**.

→ **6:43pm – Upon arrival at Hakata Station, we'll take a few minutes to walk to our hotel, Hotel Clio Court Hakata.** Our hotel is centrally located and adjacent to the JR Hakata Station, which offers over 100s of stores, including major department stores like Hankyu and Tokyu Hands. Nearby, you can also find Kitta 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 2 nights.

Day 8: (Tue) Nov 19 – Hakata/Grand Sumo Tournament (B)

Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **After breakfast at the hotel, explore Hakata at your leisure.**

→ **2:00pm – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for the Grand Sumo Tournament (Chair Seat).**

→ **2:30-6:00pm – Let's join the locals in cheering on your new favorite athletes: **sumo wrestlers!**** Japan's national sport and an emblem of Japanese culture, Sumo is a centuries-old wrestling style that began as a performative ritual for Shinto deities. Some of those traditions are still honored, like the symbolic purification of the wrestling ring with salt. Today, sumo tournaments are held six times a year and draw large crowds. Hope you enjoy this exhilarating celebration of athleticism, tradition, and ceremony!

→ **6:30pm – Return to hotel.** The remainder of the evening is yours at leisure.

Day 9: (Wed) Nov 20 – Hakata-Fukuoka-Honolulu (B)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **9:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a full day tour around Hakata.**

→ **10:00am –** Our morning begins with a visit to **Maizuru Park**, a landmark built around the remains of Fukuoka castle and home to many maple trees that transform into brilliant shades of red and orange during this **autumn foliage season**.

→ **12:00pm –** Next, a short drive to the guardian shrine of Hakata: **Kushida Shrine**. The site of the famous and UNESCO recognized Hakata Gion Yamakasa Festival, Kushida Shrine is also home to Japan's largest Otafuku mask, a sacred 1,000 year old Gingko Tree, and the fountain of youth. Worshippers also visit the shrine to pray for longevity and business success.

→ **12:45pm –** With a history spanning over 130 years, **Nakasu Kawabata dori Shopping Arcade** was the first merchant area in Hakata district. Today the arcade hosts over 130 stores, ranging from traditional to modern, and

offers an array of apparel shops, restaurants, and specialty stores. Enjoy lunch on your own at one of the many eateries.

→ **3:00pm –** On the way to the airport, we'll stop by a popular 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.

→ **5:30pm – Arrive at 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, September 8, 2024.**
- » **Final payment due by September 20, 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.