

Join Panda Travel in...



2024 Leisure Wakayama & Osaka Tour

(GPI3247)



Cancel for any reason up
to 65 days prior to departure
date for a FULL REFUND!

Oct 11 - 18, 2024

6 Nights/ 8 Days

Wakayama - Shirahama -
Osaka - Kobe

\$100 OFF PER PERSON
on our complete package when you pay
with a personal check/cash

\$3,789*

per person-double occupancy

\$4,239*

single 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: (Fri) Oct 11 – Honolulu Depart Honolulu via Hawaiian Airlines

Please meet the Panda Travel representative 3 hours prior to departure at the Hawaiian Airlines check-in counters.

Day 2: (Sat) Oct 12 – Kansai-Wakayama

Hotel Granvia Wakayama (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **6:45pm** – Arrive at **Kansai International Airport** and meet your local English speaking guide at the arrival lobby. We will be transferring to **Hotel Granvia Wakayama**, where we will be staying for the next 3 nights. Our hotel is conveniently connected to Wakayama Station, offering easy access to restaurants and shopping malls, as well as numerous dining and shopping options.

Day 3: (Sun) Oct 13 – Wakayama (B)

Hotel Granvia Wakayama (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **9:30am** – This morning begins with a visit to **Wakayama Castle**, a symbol of the region. Originally built in the 16th century, this majestic castle prominently sits atop a hill and dazzles with panoramic views of the city and the surrounding landscape. The castle grounds feature beautiful gardens, traditional architecture, and a museum that showcases artifacts and exhibits that offer a glimpse into Japan's feudal era and architectural prowess.

→ **11:00am** – Travel back in time to Wakayama's prehistoric past at the **Kii-fudoki no Oka Museum**. The museum chronicles the region's cultural heritage, from ancient burial practices to traditional arts. Among its prized collection are the revered Iwase Senzuka burial mounds, a designated Special National Historic Site; Edo period folk houses, two of which are designated Important Cultural Properties; restored pit dwellings; and more.

→ **1:15pm** – Next, a stop at **Aeon Mall Wakayama**, a vibrant shopping destination that offers a diverse range of shops, dining options, and entertainment experiences. Enjoy some free time to explore and grab some lunch on your own.

→ **4:00pm** – We'll now visit **Awashima Shrine**, the birthplace of the beloved Dolls Festival. The shrine receives thousands of dolls annually, many of which are displayed onsite. The shrine is also highly regarded as a "power spot" for women's wellbeing, attracting worshippers who seek blessings for their health, fertility, and love.

→ **5:30pm** – **Return to hotel.** Enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure.

Day 4: (Mon) Oct 14 – Wakayama-Shirahama-Wakayama (B)

Hotel Granvia Wakayama (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:00am** – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby. Our morning begins with a drive to Shirahama, a popular coastal town known for its stunning white sand beaches and natural hot springs.

→ **9:45am** – Known as **Engetsu** ("full moon") **Island** for its distinctive circular archway, this stunning natural monument boasts prestigious titles for its awe-inspiring scenic landscape and has become the symbol of Shirahama.

→ **10:30am** – Another notable attraction in Shirahama: **Senjojiki**, a grand rock plateau that literally translates to "one thousand tatami mats" in reference to its flat and multi-tiered, yet smooth rock formations.

→ **11:15am** – Here we are at **Sandanbeki Cave**, a captivating natural wonder that gained prominence during the Edo period as a hideout for local pirates who took advantage of its secluded location and intricate network of tunnels. Today, visitors can meander through the cave's well-lit paths and explore its underground world of stalactites, stalagmites, and intricate limestone formations.

→ **12:30pm** – Following the day's aquatic theme, we'll now make our way to the bustling seafood market of **Tore Tore Ichiba**. Along your stroll through the many stalls, you'll spot fresh daily catches on full display and local specialty and souvenir shops. Enjoy lunch on your own at the food court, with items unique to the region, or at the barbeque space on the outdoor terrace.

→ **3:15pm** – Next, we'll visit the iconic **Yuasa Soy Sauce Factory**. Located in Yuasa-town, the birthplace of soy sauce and a registered Japan Heritage Site, the factory stands out for its quality brews and its founder, one of the most well-known soy sauce makers in the nation. The exciting factory tour will also provide a fascinating glimpse into this age-old culinary tradition.

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

Day 5: (Tue) Oct 15 – Wakayama-Osaka (B)

Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **9:00am** – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby before we set out for a full day tour.

→ **9:30am** – We begin our day at the historic **Kimiidera Temple**. The name Kimiidera refers to the three springs on the temple grounds, which include the Well of Purity,

the Well of Healing, and the Well of Good Fortune. This spiritual site also houses several registered Important Cultural Properties including the Sakuramon (vermillion Cherry Blossom gate), the main hall's Buddhist images, and the Bell Tower. Beyond its famous trees and beautifully crafted statues, the temple also features incredible views of the surrounding Wakanoura coastline, which had attracted poets, writers, and artists for centuries. To reach the temple grounds, we'll take the **Kimiidera Cable Car**, which whisks visitors up the steep hillside in just 70 seconds. This scenic journey covers a distance that would otherwise require climbing over 170 steps.

→ **11:00am** – Welcome to **Wakayama Marina City!**

Designed to resemble Mediterranean coastal towns, this paradise resort island features attractions like **Porto Europe**, an amusement park with medieval European townscapes (tickets for attractions and events are not included); **Kinokuni Fruits Village**, a collection of fresh produce and yummy regional snacks; and more!

For lunch on your own, delight in **Kuroshio Market**– a bustling fish market with the freshest catches from all across Japan. And at **12:30pm**, a must-see highlight of the market: **the Maguro cut show**. Here, a professional fishmonger demonstrates how to expertly filet freshly caught fatty tuna and teaches spectators about the different cuts of fish. Spend some time perusing the many market stalls and savoring the delectable foods and local specialities that can only be found in this market!

→ **3:30pm** – We'll drive to Osaka.

→ **5:00pm** – Arrive at **Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka**.

Set in a modern high-rise building, our hotel for the next 3 nights is conveniently located a short walk to Osaka's most famous entertainment districts. Here's a glimpse of some nearby places to explore at leisure:

Kuromon Market: Known as the "Kitchen of Osaka," is a bustling walking street lined with about 150 shops offering an array of fresh seafood, meat, produce, and more - a favorite among the city's chefs.

Dotonbori district: Best seen at night, this is a must visit area to experience Osaka culture and snack on takoyaki, okonomiyaki, and many other well known Osaka street foods. Perhaps what makes this district most iconic is its hundreds of neon lights and mechanized signs, including the famous Glico Running Man sign and Kani Doraku crab sign. This is a great place to enjoy a night out immersed in Osaka's vibrant craft beer scene too!

Shinsaibashi Shopping Arcade: This shopping arcade and the surrounding Shinsaibashi area is Osaka's premier shopping center. Approximately 2,000 feet long, this area combines chain retail stores and trendy boutiques with expensive department stores and top designer fashion

labels.

Day 6: (Wed) Oct 16 – Osaka-Kobe-Osaka (B/L)

Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **9:30am** – Our first visit this morning is the **Kobe Nunobiki Herb Gardens & Ropeway**. Reachable via a 10 minute gondola ride, this Kobe landmark features panoramic views of Kobe, Kyoto, and Osaka. Atop, you'll find the Welcome Garden with flowers in bloom, a recreation area with free play equipment, a hammock section, a souvenir shop selling herbs and other aromatic products, and a veranda with 360 views where you can grab a drink and some snacks while you enjoy the picturesque scenery.

→ **11:45am** – Time to try one of Kobe's most significant culinary exports: **kobe beef**, a special grade of beef from Wagyu cattle raised in Kobe. These cattle are pampered with sake massages and a diet that includes beer, resulting in exceptionally tender, marbled, and flavorful meat.

→ **1:00pm** – We're now at the **Sannomiya Center Gai Shopping Street**, a large shopping arcade offering a wide variety of retail and food outlets. Enjoy free time here to explore and shop.

→ **3:15pm** – Next, we're off to **Hakutsuru Sake Brewery Museum** on the outskirts of Kobe. There, we'll learn more about Japan's national beverage and discover how sake is manufactured from grains of rice into its final sweet, fermented form. This brewery is inside an old sake kura and unlike a modern museum, the interior's unique smell and look will transport you to a brewery from the old-world, reflective of the building itself. As we wander through the various stages of sake-making, you'll have the opportunity to sip on freshly pressed sake.

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

Day 7: (Thu) Oct 17 – Osaka/Free day at leisure (B)

Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **After breakfast, the day is yours to explore the wonderful city of Osaka!**

Day 8: (Fri) Oct 18 – Osaka-Kansai Airport-Honolulu (B)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 8:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby to start our tour around Osaka.

→ 9:00am – 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.

→ 11:00am – 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.

→ 12:30pm – 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!

→ 3:00pm — Now a moment 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.

→ 5:00pm – Arrive at **Kansai International Airport** and begin our check-in process for the flight home.

→ Depart from Kansai via Hawaiian Airlines.

→ 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 7, 2024.**
- » **Final payment due by August 19, 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.