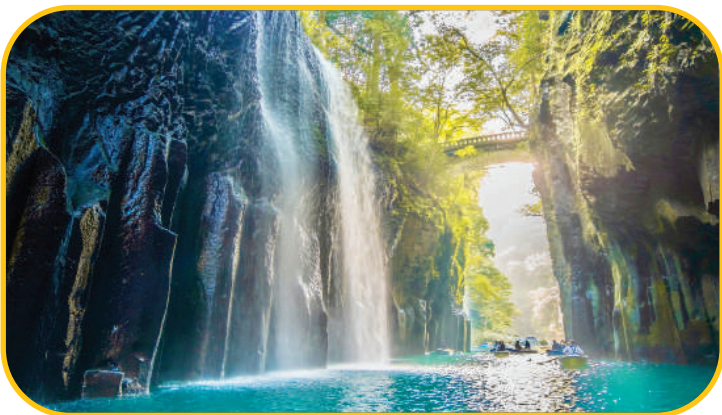


Join Panda Travel in...



# 2025 Kyushu Splendid Spring Tour

(GPI3276)



April 13 - 23, 2025  
9 Nights/ 11 Days

*Hakata - Yufuin - Beppu - Kuju - Mt. Aso  
- Miyazaki - Sakurajima - Kagoshima -  
Kirishima - Kumamoto - Fukuoka*

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

**\$4,598\***

per person-triple occupancy

**\$4,598\***

per person-double occupancy

**\$5,198\***

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) Apr 13 – Honolulu Depart Honolulu via Hawaiian Airlines

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

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## Day 2: (Mon) Apr 14 – 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 then transfer to **Hotel Clio Court Hakata**, our accommodations for the night. Our hotel is centrally located and adjacent to the JR Hakata Station which offers over 230 shops, including major department stores, Kitte shopping mall, and a large Daiso. There are also many restaurant options close by.

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## Day 3: (Tue) Apr 15 – Hakata-Yufuin-Beppu (B/D)

Suginoi Hotel, Sora Tower (Free Wi-Fi) - [Enjoy onsen](#)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **9:00am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby this morning for Yufuin & Beppu.**

→ **9:45am –** Our day begins with a visit to the **Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine**. This shrine is one of Fukuoka's most popular destinations, with over 2 million visitors during the first 3 days of the new year. Dedicated to Sugawara-no Michizane, a famed prodigy in politics, literature, and poetry, this shrine honors Michizane as the god of academic achievements and is an especially sacred spot for Japanese youths from all over the country to pray for academic success during exam season.

→ We'll then take a drive to Yufuin, a picturesque hot spring town in Oita Prefecture.

→ **1:00pm –** Here we are in the enchanting **Yufuin district**, a popular destination for travelers. In addition to a well-preserved collection of ryokans and onsens, Yufuin boasts many enjoyable restaurants, cafes, and snack shops. Take time for lunch on your own and delight in local cuisine like Oita-style chicken and traditional sweets.

→ **2:30pm –** Step into the fairy tale world of **Yufuin Floral Village**. Drawing its inspiration from the quaint villages of the Cotswolds in England, this charming mini theme park has souvenir shops, an Alice in Wonderland-themed cat cafe, an owl forest zoo, and more delightful attractions!

→ **3:30pm –** Now off to **Lake Kinrin**, one of Yufuin's most famous landmarks. Hot spring waters and fresh water flow together naturally to create the unique phenomenon of steam rising from the lake's surface in the early fall and winter mornings. The lake's clear, mirror-like waters and surrounding natural landscapes make for a truly

mesmerizing scene; it's no wonder that legend tells of a dragon that used to reside in this magical lake.

→ **5:00pm – Arrive at Suginoi Hotel**, followed by a **buffet dinner at 6:30pm**. Our hotel features stunning views overlooking Beppu Bay and world-renowned hot springs, which are fed by the region's natural geothermal activity. Spend some time unwinding in the hotel's several indoor and outdoor hot spring baths and soak in the therapeutic benefits of the natural waters. To maximize our stay, we've reserved the newly constructed Sora Tower (opened Jan 2023).

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## Day 4: (Wed) Apr 16 – Beppu-Kuju (B/L/D)

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

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **9:00am –** We'll start our morning at **Beppu Jigoku Meguri**. Despite being known as the "Hells of Beppu" for its unapproachable appearance and thermal temperatures of around 100 degrees, the hot springs hold an official designation as a Place of Scenic Beauty in Japan.

Translated as "Blood Pond Hell," **Chinoike-Jigoku** is the oldest natural "hell pond" in the nation with a distinctive red hue colored by iron oxide. Another onsen sighting is **Umi-Jigoku** or "Sea Hell" for its beautiful cobalt blue.

A tip: Be sure to try the on site onsen eggs (boiled in the hot spring!) and "Jigoku Mushiyaki Pudding" ("pudding steamed in Hell").

→ **11:00am –** Next, a scenic ride on the **Beppu Ropeway**. Along the climb to the top of Mount Tsurumi, soak in the stunning panoramic views of Beppu's renowned hot springs, geothermal activity, and the surrounding Oita Prefecture landscape.

→ **12:30pm –** Time for a one of a kind **culinary experience at Geothermal Tourism Lab ENMA**. Here, chefs cook with geothermal steam and natural hot spring water and create in unique volcanic infused flavored dishes.

→ **3:15pm –** This afternoon, we'll journey across the **Kokonoe Yume Otsuribashi Grand Suspension Bridge**, the longest and highest pedestrian bridges in Japan. Enjoy the breathtaking panoramic sights of Oita's countryside and be on the lookout for two waterfalls along the way.

→ **5:00pm – Arrive at Senomoto Kogen Hotel** and enjoy a **buffet dinner at 6:30pm**. Spend some time at the hotel's onsen, a perfect place to unwind and rejuvenate.

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## Day 5: (Thu) Apr 17 – Kuju-Mt. Aso-Miyazaki (B/D)

Sheraton Grande Ocean Resort (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 8:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby as we'll embark on a full day tour for Mt. Aso (home to a UNESCO Global Geopark) and Miyazaki.

→ 9:15am – Our morning begins with a visit to **Daikanbo Peak**, the highest point of Mt. Aso's northern outer rim. At this famous lookout, you'll see Oita's Kuju Mountain range and the Five Peaks of Aso, a volcanic formation said to resemble the silhouette of a sleeping Buddha.

→ 11:00am – The **Kusasenri Observatory** also treats visitors to panoramic views of stunning natural vistas. Marvel at the vast open grassland of Kusasenri, a scene so magnificent it is listed as a Natural Monument and a national Place of Scenic Beauty.

→ 12:30pm – Next, a stop at **Michinoeki Asobono sato Kugino** roadside station for a little shopping. Enjoy lunch on your own here.

→ 2:45pm – Now a moment at the alluring **Takachiho Gorge**, a natural gem that resulted from the rapid cooling of lava flow thousands of years ago.

→ 5:30pm – Arrive at **Sheraton Grande Ocean Resort**, followed by a **buffet dinner at 6:30pm**. Enjoy your evening at leisure.

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## Day 6: (Fri) Apr 18 – Miyazaki-Sakurajima-Kagoshima (B)

Solaria Nishitetsu Hotel Kagoshima (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

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

→ 9:15am – This morning, we'll visit **Aoshima**. Monikered a "cat island" for its large population of feline residents, this small island is known for its unique geological formations. Such natural marvels include the **Devil's Washboard**, an expansive jagged rock formation that has eroded to look like an old-fashioned washboard.

Upon our arrival, the iconic vermilion torii gate that stands at the water's edge and marks the gateway to the island's **Aoshima Shrine** welcomes us. Aoshima Shrine is a particularly popular site for Shinto wedding ceremonies as it is believed to confer luck in marriage.

→ 11:30am – Grab lunch on your own 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 array 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.

→ 12:45pm – We'll then head to **Sakurajima**, one of Japan's most active volcanoes and the symbol of Kagoshima.

→ 2:15pm – Here we are at **Arimura Lava Observatory**, which sits atop a hill of lava rock created by the great eruption of 1914. Viewing the incredible scenery at a safe distance, we'll spot the volcano to the north, Kagoshima city to the west, and the expansive bay to the south.

→ 3:30pm – Onto our next destination, **Sakurajima Visitor Center**. Here, you can find exhibits on the volcano's history and geographical changes, as well as the transformations of Sakurajima's ecosystem and marine life.

→ 4:45pm – Now a 15-min **ferry ride** on the Sakurajima Ferry across Kagoshima Bay to Kagoshima city. During the crossing, enjoy the scenic views of the volcano and the bay.

→ 5:30pm – Arrive at **Solaria Nishitetsu Hotel Kagoshima**. Our hotel is located adjacent to the Kagoshima Chuo Station, which offers plenty of restaurants and shopping options. We'll be staying here for the next 2 nights.

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## Day 7: (Sat) Apr 19 – Kagoshima (B/L)

Solaria Nishitetsu Hotel Kagoshima (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 8:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for the full day tour in Kagoshima.

→ 9:30am – Our morning begins with a visit to the **Chiran Peace Museum**, where hundreds of young men who joined the Tokko-Tai attack group as Kamikaze pilots for Japan during World War II are memorialized.

→ 10:45am – Travel back in time to the Edo period on our visit to the historic and well-preserved samurai district of Chiran. We'll explore the exquisite **Chiran Samurai Residence Gardens**, which have earned a national Place of Scenic Beauty designation.

→ 12:30pm – Enjoy **Japanese-style lunch** at a local restaurant.

→ 1:45pm – Get ready for an unforgettable experience at **Sand Bath SARAKU**, the largest sand bathing facility in Ibusuki. Once you've changed into a yukata robe, lay on your back and relax as staff members gently cover your body with (up to the neck) sand that has been naturally heated by the hot spring waters that flow beneath the beach. This 300 year old practice also has many health and cosmetic benefits, which include improved blood circulation, alleviated rheumatism and muscle pain, detoxification, and rejuvenated skin.



→ **4:30pm** – Explore **Tenmonkan Shopping Arcade**, a bustling and vibrant shopping street. Here, you'll find a wide variety of shops, boutiques, restaurants, and entertainment venues.

→ **6:15pm** – **Return to hotel.** Enjoy the evening at leisure.

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### **Day 8: (Sun) Apr 20 – Kagoshima-Kirishima (B/L/D)**

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

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:45am** – **Meet your guide at the lobby for a full day tour for Kirishima.**

→ **9:00am** – We start with a visit to **Senganen**, an attraction 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.

→ **10:00am** – Time to get creative with an exciting **hands-on experience**; craft your own **glass accessory** and take home this nice memento of your vacation to Japan!

→ **12:00am** – 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. **At 1pm**, enjoy a **black vinegar lunch** at Kurozu no Sato Kakuida and experience the unique flavors of this ancient Japanese condiment.

→ **3:00pm** – Here we are at **Kirishima Shrine**. 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.

→ **4:30pm** – **Arrive at Kirishima Hotel**, followed by a **Japanese-style dinner at 6:30pm**. The hotel's onsen is a great place to unwind after dinner and in the morning before our departure.

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### **Day 9: (Mon) Apr 21 – Kirishima-Kumamoto-Hakata (B)**

Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **9:45am** – Our morning begins with the lovely **Kuma River Boat Cruise**. On this leisurely ride, skilled boatmen steer a traditional Japanese wooden boat along Kuma River, one of Japan's three major rapid rivers. Enjoy this fun and gentle cruise!

→ **12:00pm** – This afternoon, we'll pay a visit to the magnificent **Kumamoto Castle**. Its massive castle grounds and impressive hilltop design have been aptly described by Japanese statesman and naval engineer, Katsu Kaishu, as there being “no other castle like this castle.” 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 still gain access to this cultural landmark and enjoy the majestic scenes of its impressive stone walls and moats from the outside.

→ Afterwards, a stop at **Sakura no Baba Josaen**. This bustling feudal-era castle town features 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.

→ **3:00pm** – Enjoy a fun **strawberry picking experience!**

→ **6:00pm** – **Arrive at Hotel Clio Court Hakata**, our accommodations for the next 2 nights. Enjoy the evening of shopping and dining on your own.

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### **Day 10: (Tue) Apr 22 – Hakata/Free day at leisure (B)**

Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **After breakfast, enjoy free time to explore the vibrant city of Fukuoka.**

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### **Day 11: (Wed) Apr 23 – Hakata-Fukuoka-Honolulu (B)**

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **10:15am** – Our morning begins with a visit to **Uminonakamichi seaside park**, home to millions of flora that bloom year round. This is considered to be one of Japan's top destinations, as many flock here to admire Fukuoka's urban nature. Stroll along the narrow peninsula across the bay from central Fukuoka and bask in the beauty of the spring flowers.

→ **12:30pm** – 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.

→ **2:00pm** – Next, a visit 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 Ginkgo Tree, and the fountain of youth.

Worshippers also visit the shrine to pray for longevity and business success.

→ **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 (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, February 7, 2025.**
- » **Final payment due by February 19, 2025. 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.