

Join Panda Travel in...



2025 Osaka, Sumo Tournament & Beyond: Spring Break Getaway

(GP13259)



March 16 - 22, 2025
5 Nights/ 7 Days

Kyoto - Nara - Osaka - Wakayama

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

\$3,498*

per person-triple occupancy

\$3,498*

per person-double occupancy

\$3,998*

single occupancy

pandaonline.com

(808) 734-1961

1017 Kapahulu Ave, Honolulu, HI 96816

Cancel for any reason
up to 65 days prior to
departure

A minimum of 16 participants is
required for the tour to operate

Itinerary

Day 1: (Sun) March 16 – Honolulu Depart Honolulu

→ Meet the Panda Travel representative 3 hours prior to departure at the airline's check-in counters.

Day 2: (Mon) March 17 – Kansai-Kyoto (D)

Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Arrive at Kansai Airport. Meet your local speaking guide at the arrival lobby. We'll transfer to Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo, our accommodations for the next 2 nights. Conveniently located across the street from the Kyoto JR Station and around the corner from the Aeon Mall, you'll find a wide variety of food and shops in every direction.

Day 3: (Tue) March 18 – Kyoto (B)

Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 8:15am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby. We begin our day with a visit to the picturesque Arashiyama. Located in the outskirts of Kyoto, this destination is teeming with natural beauty and culture.

→ 9:00am – Unlock the ancient art of Japanese amulet making this morning. During this exciting hands-on experience, we'll practice traditional techniques to create a personalized good luck charm.

→ 9:45am – Next, we'll explore Arashiyama. Some suggestions for exploring this tranquil area.

→ Venture into the internationally recognized cultural and gorgeous landmark, Sagano Bamboo Path. Rooted in Japanese belief, bamboo has the power to ward off evil and deliver good fortunes, protecting the nearby Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines. When you walk through the tunnels of bamboo, you can feel the energy of the forest. Wander around and marvel at the soaring stalks of bamboo that surround you. Close your eyes and listen to the sound of the rustling bamboo swaying gently in the wind. Don't miss out on this breathtaking and meditative experience!

→ Or make a half an hour uphill hike to reach Iwatayama Monkey Park. There, you'll find mischievous monkeys scurrying about in their natural habitat or munching on a bag of apples that visitors can purchase. Another benefit of making this trek is the astounding panoramic views of Kyoto atop.

→ If you want to grab a bite to eat, try yūdofu (simmered tofu), a local Arashiyama specialty that highlights Buddhist vegetarian cuisine.

→ If shopping is on your to-do-list, there are plenty of shops

to collect items like traditional fans, bamboo goods, and specialty snacks. This is also a great opportunity for you to take a break from walking and hitch a ride on a rickshaw!

→ 12:45pm – Now, a visit to Kiyomizu Temple – A UNESCO World Heritage Site. Founded over 1200 years ago, this temple has a veranda that extends out to the side of a mountain with 43-foot-high wooden columns supporting its overhanging structure and houses a priceless statue of Kannon Bodhisattva, the goddess of mercy. The grounds also feature several "national treasure" buildings, as well as waterfalls and landmarks steeped in legend.

→ 1:30pm – Let's venture down the ancient cobblestone paths of Ninenzaka and Sannenzaka. These well-preserved lanes are lined with traditional Japanese architecture that make it feel straight out of a movie scene. As we stroll along these historic streets, stop to sip authentic Kyoto tea at the Kasagiya tea shop or browse the array of trinkets, dolls, and handcrafted fans on display at the various souvenir shops selling original Kyoto specialty goods.

→ 4:00pm – Return to the hotel. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Day 4: (Wed) March 19 – Kyoto-Nara-Osaka (B)

Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

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

→ 9:00am – Perhaps the most important of shrines dedicated to Inari (Shinto god of rice), Fushimi Inari Shrine is a recognizable network of thousands of brightly colored vermilion torii gates that lead into sacred Mount Inari's wooded forest. Throughout the shrine grounds, you'll notice statues of foxes, animals believed to be Inari's messengers.

→ 11:30am – Welcome to Nara! From here, we'll visit Todaiji Temple (Great Buddha), a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a cultural landmark of Nara. Completed in the year 752, the temple once served as Japan's head Buddhist temple. Its most notable feature is Daibutsuden (Big Buddha Hall), which houses one of Japan's largest Buddha statues: a bronze figure towering at nearly 50 feet and weighing an impressive 121 tons. Inside the hall, you can find a pillar with a large opening carved at its base that's said to be the size of Daibutsu's nostril. According to legend, those who are able to squeeze through will be granted enlightenment in their next life.

→ Outside the temple, you can find 1,000 wild deer roaming about at Nara Deer Park. Believed to protect the temple grounds as messengers of the gods, the Nara deer can be found sniffing the pockets of passersby for food or happily

snacking on shika senbei (deer crackers) that visitors can purchase.

→ **1:30pm** – Enjoy free time to shop, browse, and have lunch on your own on **Higashimuki Shopping Street**. This covered shopping arcade offers a wide selection of shops and restaurants. A tip: At the entrance of the shopping street, there is Nara’s most famous specialty, persimmon leaf sushi. It is bite size rice balls topped with salted mackerel and wrapped in a persimmon leaf.

→ **4:00pm** – Arrive at **Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka**. Our hotel is located just a few mins’ walk to Osaka’s famous entertainment districts. The rest of the evening is yours to enjoy at leisure.

Day 5: (Thu) March 20 – Osaka (B)

Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **9:00am** – Begin our day 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.

→ **11:15am** – Now, we’re at the **Expo ‘70 Commemorative Park**, also known as Banpaku Kinen Park, where you can enjoy approximately 5,000 cherry trees that might be in bloom. Originally built for the 1970 Japan World Exposition, it now serves as a public park with lush greenery, beautiful gardens, and various attractions, making it popular among locals and tourists. During the cherry blossom season, food stalls and hanami picnics dot the grounds and enhance the beautiful atmosphere.

→ **12:30pm** – As one of Japan’s largest shopping malls, **Lalaport ExpoCity** provides a wide selection of shops, restaurants, cafes, and entertainment options. This expansive development is home to a variety of attractions, including the Redhorse Osaka Wheel.

→ **2:15pm** – Our next visit: **Umeda/Osaka Station**. This major transportation hub is home to multiple train lines, as well as an extensive network of underground shopping malls and retail outlets. The area is also characterized by towering skyscrapers, bustling department stores, and a vibrant array of street-level shops and restaurants.

→ **4:30pm** – **Return to hotel.** The remainder of the evening is yours at leisure.

Day 6: (Fri) March 21 –

Osaka: 1/2 day at leisure & Sumo Tournament (B)

Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **After breakfast, enjoy the morning to explore Osaka!**

→ **1:30pm** – **Meet your guide at the hotel lobby. We’ll walk to Edion Arena Osaka for the Sumo Tournament (about a half-mile, 15-min stroll).**

→ **2:00pm** – 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.** Enjoy the evening at leisure!

Day 7: (Sat) March 22 –

Osaka-Wakayama-Kansai-Honolulu (B)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **9:30am** – **Meet your guide at the hotel lobby before we set out for Wakayama**, a destination renowned for its exceptional seafood.

→ **10:30am** – We begin our day at Kuroe town’s **Uruwashikan**, the traditional Kishu Lacquerware Industry Center, to discover the magic behind one of Japan’s finest artisanal and cultural treasures: lacquer. The town is famous for its lacquerware production, and the Uruwashikan hosts the annual Kishu Lacquerware Festival, a popular attraction that draws thousands of visitors. Uruwashikan also houses a museum and specialty shop with beautiful lacquered kitchenware, tools, and more. Excitingly, during our **hands-on experience**, an expert craftsman will guide us through designing our own lacquered tray with gold and silver powered colors and paints. How fun!

→ **12:00pm** – Welcome to **Wakayama Marina City!**

Designed to resemble Mediterranean coastal towns, this paradise resort island features attractions like an amusement park with European townscapes, a marina, and **Kuroshio Market**– a bustling fish market with the freshest catches from all across Japan.

And at **12:30pm**, a must-see highlight of Kuroshio 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 specialties that can only be found in this market!

→ **3:45pm** – Here we're 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.

→ **Arrive at Kansai International Airport to begin our check-in process for the 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, January 10, 2025.**
- » **Final payment due by January 22, 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.