

Join Panda Travel in...



2025 Traveling the Tokaido Road Spring Break #2

(GP13261)



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

March 17 - 25, 2025

7 Nights/ 9 Days

Tokyo - Kyoto - Nara - Osaka - Kobe

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

\$3,898*

per person-triple occupancy

\$3,898*

per person-double occupancy

\$4,798*

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: (Mon) Mar 17 – Honolulu Depart Honolulu

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

Day 2: (Tue) Mar 18 – Haneda-Tokyo

Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Arrive at Haneda Airport. Please meet your guide at the arrival lobby. We'll then transfer to Sunshine City Prince Hotel – Our hotel is directly connected to Sunshine City shopping center with many shopping and dining options available to you. Nearby, you'll also find a 24-hour Family Mart convenience store and a Seiyu supermarket for snack, bento, and beverage pickups. We'll be staying here for the next three nights.

Day 3: (Wed) Mar 19 - Tokyo (B)

Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

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

→ 9:00am – Our day begins with a visit to **Tsukiji Outer Market**. A renowned bucketlist spot, Tsukiji is the largest fish market in the world. While the inner auction market relocated in 2018, the charm remains in its outer market. With the 90 mins we spend here, be sure to enjoy all that the outer market has to offer, from seasonal produce and candy tasting to knife-making artisan shops.

→ 11:00am – Next, we're off to **Toyosu Senkyaku Banrai**. Opened in Feb 2024 and inspired by the historic streets of Tokyo, this Edo themed multi-story shopping and entertainment center treats visitors to a variety of boutiques, as well as eateries featuring specialty foods like Toyosu's signature fresh seafood and produce.

→ 1:00pm – Onto our next exciting **Taiyaki making experience!** This iconic golden fish-shaped pastry dates back hundreds of years to the Edo period, with its first iteration being a round-shaped cake filled with azuki bean paste. During this era, tai (sea bream fish) was highly prized seafood and was gifted to esteemed figures like the shogun. Overtime, tai evolved to become symbols of luck, prosperity, and happiness in Japanese culture.

→ 2:15pm – Here we are at **Asakusa's** iconic **Sensoji Temple** and **Kaminarimon Gate** (aka "Thunder Gate") with its massive lantern. This spot is a "must see" in every guidebook and boasts over 30 million annual visitors. Traditionally, once you reach the top of the temple steps, you should clap twice and bow your head as a sign of respect. With the belief that coins trap the dangers of daily life, visitors also customarily make a small offering by tossing coins into a wooden rack, tossing away those dangers as well.

You'll also find the **Five Storied Pagoda** there. Regarded as one of the "Four Edo Pagodas," this nearly 174 foot monument stands to represent Tokyo's few remaining pagodas. As you roam through the temple grounds, you'll come across the **Nakamise Shopping Arcade**, a lively and extensive shopping street lined with good luck charms, traditional goodies, and Japanese snacks.

→ 4:30pm – Return to hotel. Enjoy the evening at leisure!

Day 4: (Thu) Mar 20 - Tokyo-Free day at leisure (B)

Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free Wi-Fi)

→ After breakfast, enjoy your free day to explore Tokyo!

→ If you've already experienced Sunshine City shopping mall, take a visit to Ikebukuro station and hop on a rail line that will connect you to other popular areas like Shinagawa, Shibuya, Shinjuku, Ueno, and Akihabara. Ikebukuro station is also close to our hotel.

Day 5: (Fri) Mar 21 – Tokyo-Kyoto/Arashiyama (B/L)

Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 8:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby as we make our way to Kyoto. We'll transfer by our coach to Tokyo Station and board a bullet train to Kyoto. Your luggage will be delivered to your hotel in Kyoto on the same day.

→ 11:51pm – Once we arrive at Kyoto Station, Japanese style lunch will be followed at a local restaurant.

→ 1:45pm – Today, we'll explore **Arashiyama**. Located in the outskirts of Kyoto and set against the backdrop of mountains, bridges, and ponds, this picturesque destination is teeming with natural beauty and culture. Some suggestions for exploring this tranquil area:

→ Venture into the internationally recognized cultural and picturesque 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 take 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 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!

→ **5:00pm** – Arrive at **Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo**, our accommodations for the next two 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 6: (Sat) Mar 22 – Kyoto (B)

Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **9:15am** – Did you know that **Kinkakuji Temple** (Golden Pavilion) is covered with real gold? This UNESCO World Heritage Site was originally built in 1397 as Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu's retirement villa but later converted into a temple. In addition to the gold-leaf on Japanese lacquer that wraps around the 2nd and 3rd floors, a Buddhist era inspired beautiful garden and "Mirror Pond" encircling the Temple reflects the delicate balance between tranquility and the Temple's grandiose facade.

→ **11:00am** – Here we're at **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 a priceless statue of Kannon Bodhisattva, the goddess of mercy. Several other buildings designated as "national treasures" dot the grounds, as do waterfalls and landmarks which have entered popular lore. According to legend, the water carries therapeutic properties and a sip from the three different streams confers health, longevity, and success in studies. For this reason, people have flocked to the temple to fill their tin cups with water from the falls.

→ **12:00pm** – We'll go down from Kiyomizu Temple to **Ninenzaka and Sannenzaka**, a pair of ancient cobblestone paths surrounded with architecture from old Japan that make it feel straight out of a movie scene. Take a stroll along these lanes to sip some tea at Kasagiya, an authentic and well known teashop, or play with trinkets, dolls, and Japanese fans at one of the various souvenir shops selling original handcrafted Kyoto specialty goods. Enjoy some free time to explore and grab some lunch on your own.

→ **2:30pm** – **Return to the hotel.** Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon and evening on your own for sightseeing and some of Kyoto's best shopping and dining.

Day 7: (Sun) Mar 23 – Kyoto-Nara-Osaka (B/L)

Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **9:00am** – **Meet your guide at the hotel lobby.**

→ **10:15am** – Our morning begins with a visit to **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 Todai-ji Temple, you can find over 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.

→ **11:45pm** – **Enjoy Japanese lunch at a local restaurant.**

→ **2:00pm** – Onto our next adventure: **Osaka Castle**, an important landmark in Osaka. Built as a display of power by Toyotomi Hideyoshi after he achieved his goal of unifying Japan, this castle has endured centuries of conflict with battles and war, serving as the battleground for samurai sword fights on several occasions. This led to several reconstructions, with it being reinforced with concrete in 1930 for further preservation. As you walk through, you can spot shadows of past previous renovations and notice the massive stone walls, gold-leaf trim, copper roof, and panoramic views.

→ **4:00pm** – Arrive at **Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka** for the next two nights. Our hotel is set in a modern high-rise building. It is located a short walk to Osaka's most famous entertainment districts. Enjoy the evening is yours at leisure.

A tip: check out these fun spots unique to Osaka!

Dotonbori district: Best experienced at night, this is a must see area to explore 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 (about 18 mins away on foot from hotel): 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 8: (Mon) Mar 24 – Osaka-Free day at leisure (B)

Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free Wi-Fi)

→ After breakfast, enjoy your free day to explore Osaka!

Day 9: (Tue) Mar 25 – Osaka-Kobe-Kansai-Honolulu (B/L)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 9:45am – Our first visit this morning is the **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.

→ 11:30am – Next, we're off to **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.

→ 1:30pm – Now, we'll 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 massaged with sake and are fed a daily diet that includes large amounts of beer. This process produces meat that is extraordinarily tender, finely marbled, and full-flavored.

→ 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.

→ Transfer to Kansai International Airport 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, January 11, 2025.**
- » **Final payment due by January 23, 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.