

Join Panda Travel in...



2025 Blooming Cherry Blossoms Along Tokaido Road

(GP13268)



March 28 - April 5, 2025

7 Nights/ 9 Days

*Tokyo - Hakone - Izu - Numazu -
Kyoto - Osaka - Nara*

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

\$4,398*

per person-triple occupancy

\$4,398*

per person-double occupancy

\$5,298*

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: (Fri) Mar 28 – Honolulu Depart Honolulu

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

Day 2: (Sat) Mar 29 – Haneda-Tokyo

Shibuya Excel Hotel Tokyu (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Arrive at Haneda Airport.

→ Meet your guide at the arrival lobby. We'll transfer to Shibuya Excel Hotel Tokyu, our accommodations for 2 nights. Located in the heart of Shibuya, our hotel offers convenient access to one of Tokyo's finest shopping, dining, and entertainment complexes, all available for your enjoyment.

Day 3: (Sun) Mar 30 – Tokyo (B)

Shibuya Excel Hotel Tokyu (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

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

→ 9:00am – This morning, we'll visit **Ueno Park**, renowned for its stunning cherry blossoms spread across 133 acres. With its approx. 1,200 cherry trees flourishing in pink and white, it's no wonder an estimated 2 million people come annually here to enjoy **cherry blossom viewing** and admire the natural beauty along the paths.

→ 10:15am – Now, we'll make a stop at **Ameyoko Shopping Street**. This is the absolutely perfect place to get your omiyage. "Ameyoko" is short for "Ameya Yokochō" or "candy shop back alley" since candies were traditionally sold there. Alternatively, it is short for "America," a callback to the post-WWII era when American products were sold there illegally. Now, the street is lined with over 400 shops from cooked street food, snacks like dried squid, and fresh seafood to clothes, bags, accessories, cosmetics, and much more!

→ 12:15pm – This afternoon, we'll explore **Asakusa**, a famous district that melds the culture and traditions of ancient Tokyo with the metropolitan styles of modern Japan. It's also home to Japan's first cinema!

→ Widely regarded as the most important temple in Japan, Asakusa's iconic **Sensoji Temple** and **Kaminarimon Gate** (aka "Thunder Gate") with its massive lantern, are a "must see" in every guidebook, boasting over 30 million annual visitors. Traditionally, as a sign of respect, visitors clap twice and bow their heads at the top of the temple steps. 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. The temple grounds also include the **Nakamise Shopping Arcade**, a lively and extensive shopping street lined with good luck charms, traditional goodies, and Japanese snacks. Take a leisurely stroll through the temple grounds and relish the **beauty of cherry blossoms**.

→ 2:30pm – Return to hotel. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Day 4: (Mon) Mar 31 – Tokyo-Hakone-Izu (B/D)

Izu Marriott Hotel Shuzenji (Free Wi-Fi) – Enjoy onsen

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ Please leave your suitcases (2 pcs per person) at the hotel and prepare an overnight bag for 1 night. Your suitcase(s) will be delivered by courier service from Tokyo to your hotel in Kyoto.

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

→ 10:00am – This morning, we'll visit Hakone's **Mt. Komagatake Ropeway**. This 7-min ride brings us to stunning panoramic views of Lake Ashi to Mt. Fuji, the Pacific Ocean, and the historical mountain top shrine.

→ 12:00pm – Explore and enjoy lunch on your own at **Atami Heiwa-dori Shopping Arcade**, a historic district featuring a mix of contemporary stores and long-established shops from the 60s and 70s. Teeming with nostalgia, this shopping street offers cafes, sushi stalls, speciality items from the Izu Peninsula, and more! Tip: sample their famous onsen manju (hot spring bun).

→ 2:00pm – Perched on a mountaintop overlooking Atami city, **Atami Castle** tells an interesting origin story. Constructed using concrete in 1959 to serve as a learning center, this complex features an exhibition detailing various Japanese castles, a game hub, a top floor with sweeping panoramic views of the city and Sagami Bay, Edo period Ukiyo-e (woodblock prints), and other historical attractions. In spring, the castle grounds come alive with the vibrant **blooms of cherry trees**, adding a touch of enchantment to the picturesque setting for visitors to enjoy.

→ 3:45pm – Our afternoon continues with an exciting visit to **Kuraya Narusawa**, a mixed use facility that houses a tea plantation, a famous brewery, a restaurant, and a souvenir hall. Kuraya Narusawa also offers fantastic views of two World Heritage sites: Mt. Fuji and the Nirayama Hanshō (Nirayama Reverberatory Furnaces).

→ **5:30pm** – Arrive at **Izu Marriott Hotel Shuzenji**, followed by a **western dinner at 6:00pm**. Soak in the views of Mt. Fuji and the Amagi mountains and breathe in the fresh air from the woodlands that surround our hotel. Take some time before and/or after dinner to unwind in the hotel's onsen.

Day 5: (Tue) Apr 01 – Izu-Numazu-Kyoto (B/D)

Hilton Garden Inn Kyoto Shijo Karasuma (Free Wi-Fi) – *Enjoy onsen*

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **9:30am** – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for **Shizuoka**.

→ **10:00am** – Our morning begins with the scenic **Shuzenji Niji no Sato**. This expansive flower park is sectioned into several themed gardens, each highlighting the flowers, attractions, and architecture emblematic of different local and international regions. Here, you can step into a medieval English townscape in the British Village, take a relaxing stroll in the Canada Village, wander around the Fairy Garden, and more! The many gardens also house museums, restaurants, cafes, and shops. To travel within the theme park, visitors can board a British modeled bus or the Romney Railroad locomotive. Tip: on clear days, you can also enjoy Mt. Fuji from the park's observation deck!

→ **11:45am** – Now a visit to **Michinoeki Izu no Heso**. Not your average roadside station, this multi-complex facility features a food theme park, a strawberry specialty store, and more.

→ **1:00pm** – We now venture to **Numazu Port**, the gateway to the Izu Peninsula. This fishing harbor is famous for its seafood, reeling in plentiful catches from Suruga Bay, Japan's deepest bay. Adjacent to the harbor is the **Numazu Fish Market**, a central location for restaurants and vendors selling fresh & dried fish. Enjoy exploring and having lunch on your own here.

→ **3:46pm** – From here, we'll hop on a bullet train departing from **Mishima Station to Kyoto**.

→ **5:37pm** – Once we arrive at **Kyoto Station**, we'll head to a local restaurant for a Japanese-style dinner.

→ **8:15pm** – Arrive at **Hilton Garden Inn Kyoto Shijo Karasuma**, our accommodations for the next 2 nights. The hotel is located just a short walk to Shijo and Karasuma station.

Day 6: (Wed) Apr 02 – Kyoto (B)

Hilton Garden Inn Kyoto Shijo Karasuma (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **9:00am** – Our morning begins with 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.

→ **10:00am** – Now, we'll 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.

→ **12:30pm** – **Return to hotel.** Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Day 7: (Thu) Apr 03 – Kyoto-Osaka (B)

Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **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. The Golden Pavilion is a must visit during this **cherry blossom viewing season**.

→ **11:00am** – Today, we'll explore **Arashiyama**. Located in the outskirts of Kyoto, where you can enjoy **cherry trees** 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 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!

→ **3:00pm** – 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.

→ **5:30pm** – **Arrive at Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka**. Welcome to Osaka, Japan's third-largest city and the capital of commerce with a bustling street life in its arcades, markets, and byways. Osaka's citizens speak the Kansai dialect and are known for their outgoing nature, as well as for their abiding love of delicious street food. Our hotel is located just a few mins' walk to Osaka's famous entertainment districts. Enjoy the evening of shopping and dining on your own.

Day 8: (Fri) Apr 04 – Osaka-Free day at leisure (B)

Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free WiFi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **The day is yours to explore the wonderful city of Osaka!**

Day 9: (Sat) Apr 05 –

Osaka-Nara-Kansai-Honolulu (B/L)

Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free WiFi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:30am** – **Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a full day tour in 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. During this season, the park's **4,000 cherry trees** typically

bloom into one of the largest congregations of cherry blossoms in Japan— adding even more drama to one of the city's most photogenic destinations.

→ **11:30am** – Onto our next adventure: **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.

→ Surrounding the temple are beautiful lush **cherry blossoms** hanging in abundance. Outside, 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.

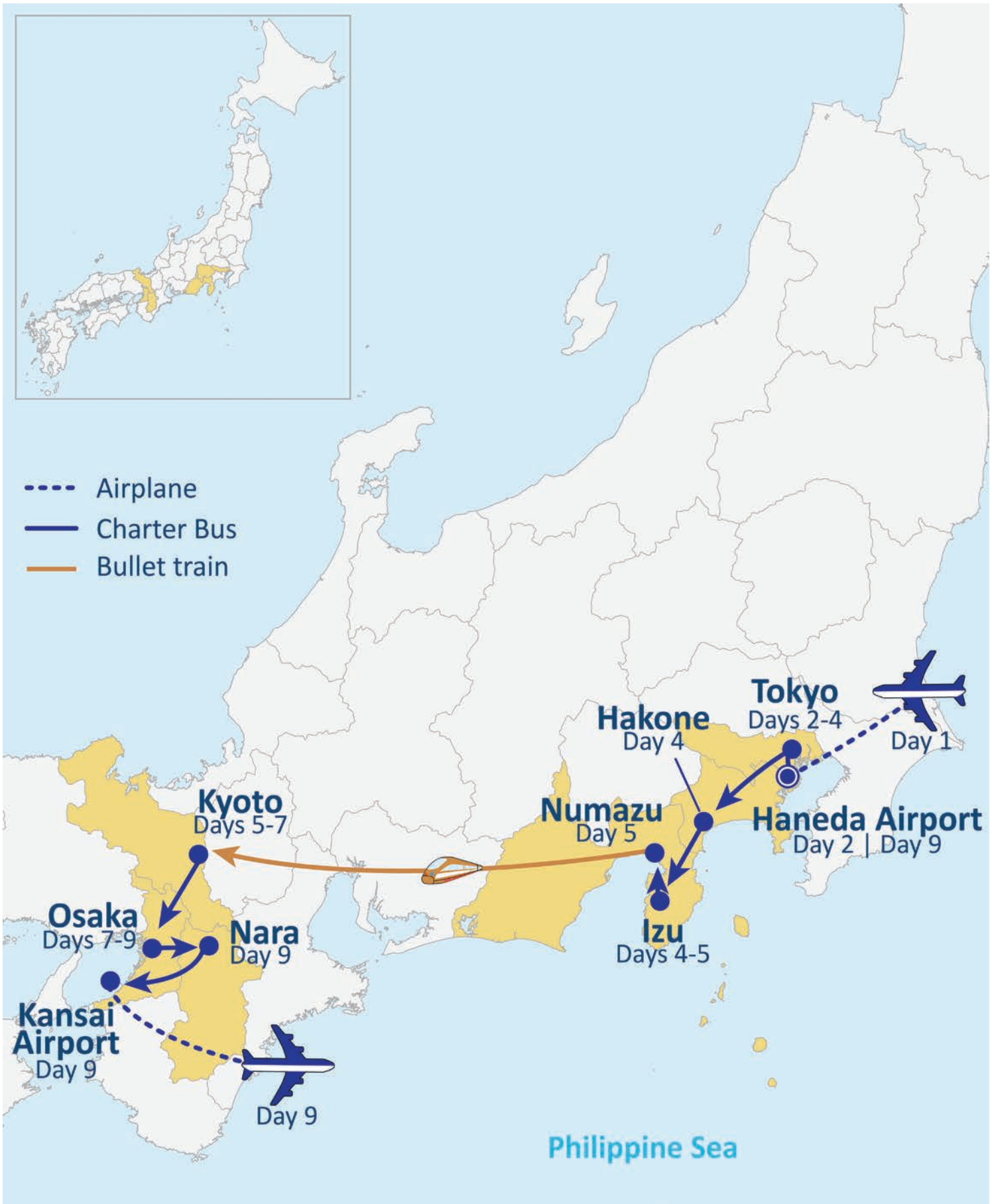
→ **1:00pm** – **Enjoy Japanese style lunch at a local restaurant.**

→ **3:30pm** – 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.

→ **Transfer to Kansai International Airport 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, January 22, 2025.**
- » **Final payment due by February 3, 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.