

Join Panda Travel in...



2025 Charms of Shikoku & Kansai Cherry Blossom Tour

(GPI3266)



March 27 - April 4, 2025

7 Nights/ 9 Days

*Kansai - Miyajima - Hiroshima -
Imabari - Dogo - Kochi - Takamatsu -
Awajishima - Osaka*

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

\$3,998*

per person-triple occupancy

\$3,998*

per person-double occupancy

\$4,568*

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: (Thu) Mar 27 – Honolulu Depart Honolulu

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

Day 2: (Fri) Mar 28 – Kansai Hotel Nikko Kansai Airport (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Arrive at Kansai International Airport. Meet your local English speaking guide at the arrival lobby. Our accommodation tonight is the **Hotel Nikko Kansai Airport**, which is on the airport grounds and just a short walk away.

Day 3: (Sat) Mar 29 – Kansai-Miyajima-Hiroshima (B/L) ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel Hiroshima (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 8:45am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby. This morning, we'll transfer from Kansai International Airport to Hiroshima Station via express train & bullet train. Your suitcase will be delivered to your hotel in Hiroshima on the same day. A lunch bento box will be provided for you along the ride.

→ 12:02pm – Arrive at Hiroshima Station. From here, off to Miyajima Island.

→ 1:25pm – We'll take a short 10 min. ferry ride to Miyajima Island, also known as the "Island of Gods" and one of the most gorgeous destinations in Japan. You might recognize it from its oft-photographed vermilion Torii Gate (shrine gate) of Itsukushima-jinja, which seems to float on the waves at high tide.

→ 2:00pm – As we stroll down **Omote-Sando**, the main street that leads to **Itsukushima Shrine**, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of Japan's most unique shrines. The shrine is dedicated to the god that protects from sea disasters and wars. Most noteworthy are its Torii Gate and the Shaden (shrine pavilion), which are both submerged under the sea at full tide. At low tide, the water recedes completely and it's possible to walk out to the gate. Fall time at Miyajima island is a beautiful season to enjoy viewing the fall foliage.

→ Enjoy lunch on your own and souvenir shopping along the way for items like Shamoji (a rice scoop), or sample Hiroshima delicacies like Momiji manju (buns shaped like maple leaves and filled with a bean-jam filling).

→ 4:25pm – Return to Miyajima by ferry and our bus will take us to Hiroshima.

→ 5:15pm – Arrive at ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel Hiroshima. Enjoy the evening at leisure.

Day 4: (Sun) Mar 30 – Hiroshima-Imabari-Dogo (B/L/D) Dogo Onsen Chaharu (Free Wi-Fi) - Enjoy onsen

→ Breakfast at hotel.

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

→ 8:45am – Our first stop will be the **Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park**. After WWII, Japanese architect Kenzo Tange spearheaded the design of this park to commemorate the lives lost on August 6, 1945. The **A-Bomb Dome**, the only remaining structure in the area from the first atomic bomb, was designated a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1996. The park's **hundreds of cherry trees** bring added beauty and calm to this historic space.

→ We'll leave Hiroshima and begin our drive to **Imabari City** via the **Simanami Kaido**, a scenic highway that offers ocean and island views.

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

→ 3:00pm – This afternoon, we'll explore the **Imabari Towel Museum**. The world's first towel museum dedicated to the art of towel manufacturing and a nod to Imbari's status as the largest towel-producing city in Japan. The museum offers an exhibition showcasing the manufacturing process, as well as a wall with over 1,800 large spools of thread and artworks. You can also shop for fine towels and clothing here.

→ In the early evening, we'll head to **Dogo Onsen**, Japan's oldest (dating back 3,000 yrs!) and most famous hot spring and a frequent destination for the Imperial Family. Perhaps more recognizable is the Dogo Onsen Honkan, its wooden public bathhouse with a maze-like interior that's been said to have inspired scenes from Hayao Miyazaki's film Spirited Away.

→ 5:15pm – Arrive at **Dogo Onsen Chaharu**. After checking in to our ryokan, our guide will take us to walk around the Dogo Onsen area. Perhaps take a stroll along Dogo shopping arcade, where you'll find a variety of shops, cafes, and restaurants. Consider taking a rickshaw as an easy tour of the area.

→ 6:30pm – We'll meet back at our ryokan to enjoy a **Japanese style dinner**. After dinner, relax at the rooftop open-air onsen beneath the moon and stars.

Day 5: (Mon) Mar 31 – Dogo-Kochi (B/L/D) Mercure Kochi Tosa Resort & Spa (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 9:00am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a full day tour to Kochi.

→ 9:30am – This morning, enjoy a fun-filled time learning

the traditional techniques of **making chestnut tarts**, a cultural heritage of chestnut desserts. Create sweet memories while savoring their rich flavors.

→ Now, drive to **Kochi** - a scenic city known for its skipjack tuna and yuzu citrus. We'll make a stop along the way including a **Japanese style lunch** at Michi-no-Eki Nangoku Furari, a popular roadside attraction filled with shops and restaurants.

→ **2:45pm** – Now, stop at a replica of **Monet's Garden**, located in the rural **village of Kitagawa**. Delightful and peaceful, the garden appears just like a scene from one of Monet's paintings: colorful lilies float on still water, and blooming flowers wind up photogenic trellises. Approximately 70,000 plants are grown on the premises, earning the garden status as a museum of plants.

→ **5:00pm** – **Arrive at Mercure Kochi Tosa Resort & Spa, followed by a buffet dinner at 6:00pm.** During our stay, take some time to enjoy the relaxing onsite onsen.

Day 6: (Tue) Apr 01 – Kochi-Takamatsu (B)

Daiwa Roynet Hotel Takamatsu (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **8:45am** – This morning begins with a visit to **Katsurahama**, a nearly 45 ft tall bronze statue memorializing **Sakamoto Ryoma**, who is most recognized for his success in toppling the Tokugawa regime with peace and without war.

→ **10:00am** – Here we are at the **Ino-cho Paper Museum**. Opened in 1985, the museum showcases the 1,000-year-old history of the colorful Tosa washi paper making tradition, which was designated an Intangible Cultural Property by the Japanese government. Roll up your sleeves and get ready for our **hands-on paper making experience**.

→ **12:15pm** – Next, off to **Hirome Market**, a friendly indoor market of 65 stalls and izakaya. This is the ideal place to try a variety of Kochi specialties, and there are sure to be plenty of friendly folks chatting, eating, and sipping some of Kochi's smooth dry sake. Enjoy lunch on your own while discovering local delicacies like Katsuo no tataki (seared bonito). Catch chefs searing the filets over piles of burning straw and keep an eye out for packs of inaka-sushi (country-style sushi) and crunchy aonori (laver seaweed) tempura.

→ **1:30pm** – This afternoon, we'll head to the stately **Kochi Castle**, one of just 12 Japanese castles to have survived several catastrophes. One of the city's top destinations, Kochi Castle is remarkable for its intricate sea creature statues that peer down from the castle's roof. In springtime, blush-colored **cherry blossoms** frame Kochi Castle's dramatic views and its elegant tower.

→ **Now, drive to Takamatsu**, a coastal city located on the

island of Shikoku. Known for its beautiful gardens and historic landmarks.

→ **4:45pm** – Here we're at **Ritsurin Garden**, which was awarded three stars in the **Michelin Green Guide Japan!** Formerly feudal lord Matsudaira's retreat, this 400-year-old garden is notable for its teahouse, collection of lotus and iris flowers, ponds, streams and historic trees. The forested Mt. Shiun sits behind the park, creating lush, dramatic views. Flowers and blossoms bloom throughout the year, but the **cherry blossom season** in springtime is remarkable.

→ **6:00pm** – **Arrive at Daiwa Roynet Hotel Okayama Ekimae.** Enjoy the evening of shopping and dining on your own.

Day 7: (Wed) Apr 02 – Takamatsu-Awajishima-Osaka (B/L)

Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:00am** – **Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a full day tour.** Our morning begins with a drive to **Naruto**, where we'll board the famous **Uzushio Kancho Cruise - Wonder Naruto**.

→ **9:40am** – **Naruto's whirlpools** appear as large, shifting swirls on the surface of the water and occur roughly every 6 hours. It is due to this location's special underwater geography and its narrow strait that we can view this unique phenomenon.

→ The **cruise** will take us out on the water to view the formations from a safe height, and although we'll get right up to the whirlpools, the boats are very stable. If you prefer to stay off the boat, not a problem: the cruise pickup and dropoff point offers a waiting area with food and shopping facilities.

→ Next, we'll drive to Osaka via **Awaji Island**, passing through the island's **Onaruto suspension bridge**, which acts as a vital connection between mainland Honshu and Shikoku.

→ **10:45am** – Now visit the **Uzu no Oka Onaruto Bridge Memorial Museum**, a multifaceted facility built to honor the completion of the Onaruto Bridge. The complex includes the Whirlpool Science Center, an observation-deck restaurant where you can savor delectable cuisine made with locally sourced Awaji Island ingredients, and a gift shop, offering a variety of Awaji Island souvenirs and other unique goods for purchase. Don't forget to get a photo in front of the life-sized star agricultural product of Awaji: "Otama Onion".

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

→ **1:45pm** – After lunch, we'll head over to **Awaji Hanasajiki Flower Park**, a picturesque park that offers a stunning display of colorful flowers, approximately one million

blooms that change with the seasons. From March to mid-April, the park comes alive with fields of rapeseed, purple flowers, and linaria, creating a breathtaking sea of yellow and purple hues that welcome the arrival of spring.

→ **3:45pm** – Here at **Hakutsuru Sake Brewery Museum**, 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.

→ **5:15pm** – **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 a short walk from Dotonbori and Shinsaibashi shopping streets. Enjoy the evening of shopping and dining on your own.

Day 8: (Thu) Apr 03 – Osaka (B)

Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free Wi-Fi)

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

Day 9: (Fri) Apr 04 – Osaka-Kansai-Honolulu (B)

→ **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.

→ **11:00am** — Now visit the bustling **Kuromon Ichiba Market!** Also known as the “Kitchen of Osaka,” this famous 190 year old market is a popular spot for locals, and an especially go-to destination for many of the city's chefs to gather their supplies. With over 150 vendors, the market offers a wide variety of fresh and local produce, seafood,

meats, sweets, and other traditional Japanese foods. Enjoy lunch on your own.

→ **1:15pm** — This afternoon, we'll explore the **Expo '70 Commemorative Park**, also known as Banpaku Kinen Park, which is yet another breathtaking location to observe approximately **5,000 cherry trees** 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.

→ **2:30pm** – 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.

→ **Transfer to 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 21, 2025.
- » Final payment due by February 2, 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.