

Join Panda Travel in...



# 2025 Splendid Kyushu Cherry Blossoms & Explorer

(GP13273)



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

March 30 - April 7, 2025

7 Nights/ 9 Days

*Hakata - Yanagawa - Huis Ten Bosch  
- Nagasaki - Shimabara - Kirishima -  
Kagoshima - Kumamoto - Beppu*

**\$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

**\$4,525\***

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: (Sun) March 30 – Honolulu Depart Honolulu

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

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## Day 2: (Mon) March 31 – Fukuoka-Hakata Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Arrive at Fukuoka Airport.

→ Meet your guide at the arrival lobby. Transfer to **Hotel Clio Court Hakata** — Our hotel is centrally located and adjacent to the JR Hakata Station which offers over 100s of stores, including major department stores like Hankyu and Tokyu Hands. Nearby, you can also find Kitte shopping mall (directly linked to the Hakata Station) and a large Daiso. There are also many restaurant options close by. We'll be staying here for the next 2 nights.

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## Day 3: (Tue) April 1 – Hakata-Yanagawa-Hakata (B/L) Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 9:00am — Meet your guide at the hotel lobby to get ready for our journey to Yanagawa.

→ 10:30am — Our morning begins with a visit to **Yanagawa**, a traditional castle town built in 1588 that is known for its wide canals. Sit back and relax as we meander through the watery boulevards of the “Venice of Kyushu” on a **donkobune**, a traditional flat river boat steered with a 6.5 ft pole. During this 60 min cruise, our bamboo hatted boatmen will guide us around the many interesting sights of Yanagawa with **cherry blossoms in bloom**.

→ 11:30am — Now, we're at **Yanagawa Tachibana-tei Ohana**, the former residence of the Tachibana family—a clan of feudal lords during the Sengoku and Edo periods. Designated as a national site of natural beauty, its garden boasts hundreds of 300 year old pine trees, 1500 garden stones, and 14 stone lanterns centered around a pond.

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

→ 3:00pm — Return to hotel. The remainder of your day is free. Our local guide will show our tour members to Hakata Station, a shopping and entertainment area, if you're interested to visit.

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## Day 4: (Wed) April 2 – Hakata-Huis Ten Bosch-Nagasaki (B) Hotel New Nagasaki (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

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

→ 10:00am — Our morning begins with a visit to **Huis Ten Bosch**. This charming recreation of a 17th century Dutch town is completed with canals, windmills, gardens, and cobblestone streets, as large as Monaco. It was constructed in 1992 to commemorate the rich history shared between Japan and the Netherlands. True to its moniker as the “City of Flowers and Lights,” the park features vibrant seasonal flowers that carpet the authentic European cityscape. The mix of European-style surroundings and the beautiful **cherry blossoms** makes it an unforgettable place to appreciate the splendor of both cultures. The park also offers several restaurants, shops, and much more. Enjoy lunch on your own.

→ 2:15pm — Overlooking Hario Strait, **Saikaibashi Park** is a scenic destination with about **1000 cherry trees**. It provides a vantage point to witness the mesmerizing whirlpools formed by the tidal currents, creating a picturesque backdrop for photography enthusiasts.

→ 4:15pm — This afternoon, off to visit **Glover Garden**, a famous sightseeing **cherry blossoms spot** and an open-air museum, exhibiting mansions of former Western residents of Nagasaki. This is where English tradesmen who came to the trading port of Nagasaki settled. During the cherry blossom season, the garden transforms into a captivating spectacle as the cherry trees burst into vibrant hues of pink and white.

→ 5:30pm — Arrive at **Hotel New Nagasaki** with the remainder of the evening at leisure. Our hotel is located a short walk from the Nagasaki Station as well as many shopping and dining options.

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## Day 5: (Thu) April 3 – Nagasaki-Shimabara-Kumamoto-Kirishima (B/L/D) Kirishima Hotel (Free Wi-Fi) - Enjoy Onsen

→ Breakfast at hotel.

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

→ 8:15am — The morning begins with a visit to **Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum** and **Nagasaki Peace Memorial Park**. Constructed in remembrance of the tragic devastation during WWII, this solemn, commemorative space seeks to serve as a reminder to strive for world peace. The

surrounding Peace Park features the famed 32 ft tall Peace Statue. With Buddhist influenced themes of love and mercy in mind, Nagasaki native Seibou Kitamura, sculpted the statue with its right hand pointing to the sky from where the atomic bombs fell and its left hand gesturing to its side to represent peace. The park's **hundreds of cherry trees** bring added beauty and calm to this historic space.

→ **11:00am** — Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

→ **1:40pm** — Now, take a 30 min ferry ride with **Kumamoto Ferry from Shimabara Port to Kumamoto Port**.

→ **2:10pm** — From here, we'll head to our hotel for the evening.

→ **5:00pm** — 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 6: (Fri) April 4 – Kirishima-Kagoshima-Kumamoto (B)**

Kumamoto Hotel Castle (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **Please prepare a small overnight bag for 1 night in Kumamoto.**

→ **8:30am** — Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for **Kagoshima**.

→ **9:00am** — Our morning begins with a visit to **Kirishima Shrine**. This holy place is central to 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.

While volcanic eruptions have repeatedly destroyed this shrine, it has always been rebuilt. The bright red, ornately decorated buildings you see now were built in the early 18th century and are usually decked in **cherry blossoms** around late March.

→ **11:15am** — Next, we'll head to **Senganen Garden**, recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. With a history spanning over 350 years, the garden offers visitors a captivating glimpse into Japan's feudal past and the beauty of traditional historic buildings, landscaping, stone pathways, lush greenery, and varieties of cherry trees. Enjoy the fleeting beauty of **cherry blossoms** during this spring season.

→ **12:45pm** — Then, a visit to **Tenmonkan Shopping Arcade** – a bustling and vibrant shopping street with approximately 1.2 kilometers for locals and tourists, offering a wide variety of shops, boutiques, restaurants, and entertainment venues.

→ **3:45pm** — From here, off to the **Kagoshima Chuo Station** for our **bullet train ride to Kumamoto Station**.

→ **4:41pm** — Once we arrive in Kumamoto, we'll transfer to our hotel, **Kumamoto Hotel Castle**. You can also explore a variety of shops and dining options just a stone's throw away. Enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure.

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### **Day 7: (Sat) April 5 – Kumamoto-Beppu (B/L/D)**

Suginoi Hotel, Sora Tower (Free Wi-Fi) - **Enjoy Onsen**

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:45am** – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby.

→ **9:00am** — Our morning begins with a visit to the magnificent **Kumamoto Castle**. Its massive castle grounds and impressive hilltop design has been aptly described by Japanese statesman and naval engineer, Katsu Kaishu, as there being “no other castle like this castle.” Although it is currently undergoing a complete restoration, we can marvel at this cultural landmark from the outside and enjoy the majestic scenes with **600 cherry trees** surrounding.

→ **10:15am** — Just below the castle hill is **Sakura no Baba**, a bustling feudal era castle town with shops, restaurants, and a museum chronicling the history of Kumamoto.

→ **12:30pm** — Enjoy buffet lunch at a local restaurant.

→ **2:45pm** – Next, a visit to the famous sakura tree at **Isshingyo no Ozakura Park**. The Ozakura (“big cherry tree”) was planted in memory of feudal warlord, Nakamura Hokinokami Korefuyu, who perished while valiantly defending Yazaki Castle. At 400 years old, this gargantuan tree towers at approximately 46 ft. in height and has a trunk circumference of 23 ft. The park is also considered to be one of Japan's top spots for **cherry blossom viewing**. Enjoy some free time here to explore.

→ **5:30pm** — Arrive at **Suginoi Hotel**, followed by **dinner at 6:00pm**. 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 8: (Sun) April 6 – Beppu-Hakata (B/L)**

Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:30am** — Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for **Fukuoka**.

→ **9:00am** — Our first visit this morning is the **Beppu Ropeway**, a remarkable attraction that takes visitors

on a captivating journey up the mountainside, offering panoramic views of Beppu city and the surrounding landscape. Don't miss the opportunity to immerse yourself in the picturesque scenery of **cherry blossom season!**

→ **10:30am** — Now, a visit to 2 bubbling and steaming hot springs from a family of 8 Beppu onsens in the **Jigoku Meguri** ("Hell Tour").

Our first onsen sighting is **Umi-Jigoku** or "Sea Hell" for its beautiful cobalt blue. Despite being known as the "Hells of Beppu" for its unapproachable appearance and thermal temperatures of around 100 degrees, the hot springs are nationally acclaimed as a "place of scenic beauty."

Translated as "Blood Pond Hell," **Chinoike-Jigoku** is the oldest natural "hell pond" in Japan with a distinctive red hue colored by iron oxide.

Be sure to try the on site **onsen eggs** (boiled in the hot spring!) and "Jigoku Mushi-yaki Pudding" (**Pudding steamed in Hell**).

→ **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, resulting in unique volcanic infused flavored dishes.

→ **1:30pm** — After a **Japanese style lunch**, we'll head out to **Hakata** with a stop at **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 famed prodigy in politics, literature, and poetry, Sugawara-no Michizane, 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.

→ **5:45pm** — **Arrive at Hotel Clio Court Hakata**. The remainder of the evening is yours at leisure.

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## Day 9: (Mon) April 7 – Hakata-Fukuoka-Honolulu (B)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **9:30am** — **Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a full day tour before we head to the airport.**

→ **10:00am** — The morning begins with a visit to **Maizuru Park**. The park was built around Fukuoka castle ruins and is home to 1,000 cherry trees and other seasonal flora. Admire the natural beauty of this **cherry blossom viewing spot** while strolling along a tunnel of flowers!

→ **11:45am** — 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.

→ **12:30pm** — With a history spanning over 130 years, **Nakasu Kawabata Shopping Arcade** was the first merchant area in Hakata district which now hosts over 130 stores, ranging from traditional to modern, offering a vibrant array of apparel shops, restaurants, and specialty stores.

→ **3:00pm** – On the way to the airport, we'll stop by a hot 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.

→ **Transfer to Fukuoka 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 24, 2025.**
- » **Final payment due by February 5, 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.