

Join Panda Travel in...



2025 Tokyo Spring Flowers and Omiyage Weekender

(GP13278)



April 18 - 24, 2025

5 Nights/ 7 Days

Tokyo - Mt. Fuji

\$75 OFF PER PERSON
on our complete package when you pay
with a personal check/cash

\$2,998*

per person-triple occupancy

\$2,998*

per person-double occupancy

\$3,568*

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: (Fri) Apr 18 – Honolulu Depart Honolulu

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

Day 2: (Sat) Apr 19 – Haneda-Tokyo

Shibuya Excel Hotel Tokyu (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Arrive at Haneda Airport and meet your guide at the arrival lobby. We will then transfer to **Shibuya Excel Hotel Tokyu**, our accommodation for the next 2 nights. Located in the heart of Shibuya, our hotel offers easy access to the vibrant entertainment hub with many shopping and dining options. Enjoy your evening at leisure.

Day 3: (Sun) Apr 20 – Tokyo (B)

Shibuya Excel Hotel Tokyu (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

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

→ 9:45am – Our first stop on today's tour is **Kameido Tenjinjia Shrine**, perhaps most recognizable for the picturesque Drum Bridge arched above a pond in its charming garden. The shrine is also known for its annual "Fuji Matsuri" (**Wisteria Festival**), which is celebrated from mid April to the beginning of May. The shrine's many ponds reflect the 100s of wisteria plants in their full amethyst bloom, multiplying its beauty. Often depicted in art, poetry, family crests, and formal kimonos, wisteria is held closely to the heart of the Japanese as it represents love and longevity. In fact, one of the most famous kabuki dances features the heroine, "Fuji Musume" (the Wisteria Maiden), gripping onto wisteria as a motif for love.

→ 11:15am – Here we are at **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 show of respect, visitors clap twice and bow their heads once they reach 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.

→ 1:15pm – Next, we're off to **Tokyo Solamachi!** Located at the base of Japan's tallest structure—Tokyo Sky Tree—this large shopping, dining, and entertainment complex features over 300 establishments.

→ 3:30pm – Later today, a visit to **Toneri Park**. During this season, many flock here to capture the perfect picture of the *Nemophila* (Baby blue eyes) that blanket the park's hillside in shades of blue and white.

→ 5:15pm – **Return to hotel.** Take the remainder of the day at leisure.

Day 4: (Mon) Apr 21 – Tokyo (B)

Hotel Metropolitan Tokyo Ikebukuro (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 to Toyosu in 2018, the charm remains in its outer market. Be sure to enjoy all that the outer market has to offer, from seasonal produce and candy tasting to knife-making artisan shops.

→ 11:30am – We'll now visit the **Toyosu Senkyaku Banrai**, which opened its doors in Feb 2024. Inspired by the historic streets of Tokyo, this Edo themed multi-story shopping and entertainment center treats visitors to a diverse selection of eateries featuring specialty foods like Toyosu's signature fresh seafood and produce.

→ 1:00pm – Explore the enchanting **Peony Festival at Ueno Toshogu Shrine**, which takes place mid-April until the end of Golden Week in early May. Organized in a maze-like formation, these carefully tended flowers thrive under the protection of dozens of paper umbrellas. To the Japanese, peonies symbolize bravery and honor and are commonly seen in wedding decor for good fortune.

→ 2:15pm – Now a moment at **Ueno & Ameyoko Shopping Street**. This is the absolutely perfect place to get your omiyage. "Ameyoko" is short for "Ameya Yokocho" 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!

→ 4:30pm – **Arrive at Hotel Metropolitan Tokyo Ikebukuro.** The hotel is conveniently located close to the south end of the Ikebukuro Station, providing easy access to shopping and dining options in the area.

Day 5: (Tue) Apr 22 – Tokyo-Mt. Fuji-Tokyo (B/L)

Hotel Metropolitan Tokyo Ikebukuro (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:00am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby as we embark on a full-day tour to Mt. Fuji area.**

→ **10:30am** – This morning, we'll explore the **Fuji Shibazakura Festival**. With its stunning scenery and fragrant beauty, this spring festival is a must see attraction that you won't want to miss! Unlike the classic sakura cherry blossoms that sway above, **Shibazakura** blossoms from the ground, creating a colorful carpet beneath your feet. The flower petals resemble sakura's shape and may even have a striped pattern. Enjoy the luscious fields of color with endless rows of vibrant shades of pink, white, and light purple. There are also a variety of shops that offer specialty goods and local snacks.

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

→ **1:45pm** – Are you ready to join us on the ascent to Mt. Fuji via the **Mt. Fuji Panoramic Ropeway**? This cable car ride will take us to see breathtaking panoramic views of Mt. Fuji and Lake Kawaguchiko. Once there, try to spot the **Bell of Tenjo**. It's been said that this statue grants wishes to those who ring the bell while looking at Mt. Fuji through its heart shaped silver frame.

→ **3:30pm** – Next, we'll visit **Oshino Hakkai**, a village in the Fuji Five Lake region and home to the famous 8 ponds, which are all fed by the snow melt from the slopes of Mt. Fuji. Here, you can drink the clear, fresh snow water trickling down the mountains and filtering through porous layers of lava. The area also has a variety of shops, restaurants, and vendors selling crafts, sweets, and local products. Enjoy a freshly roasted sweet potato or toasted senbei (rice cracker) at this traditional Japanese village with Mt. Fuji in the background.

→ **6:30pm – Return to hotel.** Enjoy the evening at leisure.

Day 6: (Wed) Apr 23 – Tokyo-Full day at leisure (B)

Hotel Metropolitan Tokyo Ikebukuro (Free Wi-Fi)

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

Day 7: (Thu) Apr 24 – Tokyo-Haneda-Honolulu (B)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **10:00am** – This morning, we'll visit **Sugamo Jizo Shopping Street** on a **special festival day**. These festive occasions take place on days ending in a "4," adding to the excitement of our visit. Get ready to explore the lively array of food and

snack vendors lining the street!

Affectionately called "Grandma's Harajuku," this half-mile arcade boasts over 200 shops specializing in goods seniors will love. From brand-name products to comfortable shoes and clothes at Takeshita-like bargain prices, you'll find it all here. The most notable item is aka-pantsu (red underwear), believed to improve health, ward off evil spirits, and bring happiness. Other well-known stores like Sugi Yohoen offer a variety of honeys, jams, juices, and ginger-infused nihonshu (sake). Chirimen features modern takes on furoshiki cloths, yukata, wallets, and other everyday items.

→ **11:45am** – Our next visit is **Nezu Shrine**, a landmark dating back over 1,900 years ago. When spring rolls around, Nezu Shrine bursts with life, teeming with a remarkable crop of 3,000 blooming azaleas alongside a hilly landscape and a torii path. In Japanese culture, azaleas symbolize abundance and success, making them a thoughtful gift to confer good wishes onto someone. The annual **Bunkyo Azalea Festival** is the highlight of the year, attracting visitors from all over to celebrate springtime in Tokyo. Take some free time to explore and enjoy the astonishing scenery.

→ **1:15pm** – Enjoy lunch on your own at **Antenna shops in Yurakucho**. Featuring specialty foods, crafts, and other goodies from regions around Japan, this stop is a great place to do some souvenir shopping.

→ **3:15pm** – We'll stop by **DiverCity Shopping Center** on our way to Haneda airport. Located on the artificial island of Odaiba, this unique and massive landmark is one of the best shopping, dining, and entertainment complexes in Tokyo. Don't forget to take a moment to snap a photo in front of the nearly 80 feet high famous Gundam Statue. Enjoy some last minute shopping!

→ **Transfer to Haneda 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, February 12, 2025.**
- » **Final payment due by February 24, 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.