

Join Panda Travel in...



2025 Kyushu Memorial Day Weekender

(GP13289)



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

May 20 - 26, 2025
5 Nights/ 7 Days

*Hakata - Hita - Beppu - Arita - Unzen -
Shimabara - Kumamoto - Fukuoka*

\$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

\$3,380*
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: (Tue) May 20 – Honolulu Depart Honolulu

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

Day 2: (Wed) May 21 – Fukuoka-Hakata Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Arrive at Fukuoka Airport.

→ Meet your guide at the arrival lobby and we'll transfer to Hotel Clio Court Hakata – Our hotel is centrally located and adjacent to the JR Hakata Station, offering you access to 230 shops 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 3 nights.

Day 3: (Thu) May 22 – Hakata-Hita-Beppu-Hakata (B/L) Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 8:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for Hita, a city located in Oita Prefecture.

→ 9:45am – Our day begins with a visit to the beloved **Kuncho Sake Brewery**. A well-known producer of high-quality, traditional Japanese sake, this brewery implements locally sourced ingredients and traditional brewing techniques to perfect its brew. Enjoy touring the facility, learning about the brewing process, and sampling a variety of sake products. A tip: try "Ginjo Ice," the original frozen yogurt made with Camargue red rice.

→ 10:30am – Next, off for a stroll in **Mameda Machi**. Known as Kyushu's "little Kyoto," this area was built during a prosperous time in the Edo period. Today, among the beautifully preserved streets and buildings, you'll find traditional shops, houses, cafes, museums, and souvenir stores.

→ From here, we'll drive to Beppu.

→ 12:45pm – 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.

→ 2:00pm – 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**).

→ 5:30pm – Return to hotel. The remainder of the evening is yours at leisure.

Day 4: (Fri) May 23 – Hakata-Free day at Leisure (B) Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi)

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

Day 5: (Sat) May 24 – Hakata-Arita-Unzen (B/L/D) Unzen Sky Hotel (Free Wi-Fi) - Enjoy Onsen

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 8:15am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for Arita & Unzen.

→ 10:00am – Our morning begins with a visit to **Kouraku Kiln**, one of the most renowned kilns in Arita. A 150-year-old historical mainstay, Kouraku Kiln produces unparalleled porcelain ware and has contributed to Arita's success as the center of Japan's porcelain production. At the company's warehouse, we'll embark on a "treasure hunt" experience for your new favorite ceramics and unique omiyage finds.

→ 12:00pm – Enjoy lunch at **China on the Park**, a porcelain and pottery theme park operated by the prestigious Fukagawa Seiji company. Dating back over 120 years, the company first garnered international attention at the 1900 Paris World's Fair when famed ceramicist and company founder, Chuji Fukagawa, earned a gold medal for his intricately designed flower vase (on display here!). Shortly after, the Imperial family chose the Fukagawa Seiji company to furnish porcelain wares to the Imperial household. On the park's grounds, you'll find a treasured collection of pottery at the museum, a shop, a restaurant, and beautiful surrounding greenery.

→ 2:00pm – Now visit the **Yoko Museum**, which is known for its vast collection of beautifully crafted ceramics, porcelain, and jade. Neighboring the museum is **Keishu-En**, a magnificent Japanese garden designed by Kinsaku Nakane, who is regarded as one of the most gifted garden architects. The tranquil garden features a large koi pond,

a traditional teahouse, seasonal flowers, waterfalls, stone formations of over 2,000 intricately arranged stones, and lush Mt. Mifune in the background.

→ From here, we'll drive to Unzen.

→ **5:00pm – Arrive at Unzen Sky Hotel, followed by a Japanese style dinner at 6:30pm.** Situated in the heart of the hot spring region in Unzen National Park, our hotel offers a range of amenities, including both indoor and outdoor natural hot spring baths, a traditional Japanese restaurant, and a souvenir shop.

Day 6: (Sun) May 25 – Unzen-Shimabara-Kumamoto (B/L)

The New Hotel Kumamoto (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a full day tour to Kumamoto, the largest and most influential city in central Kyushu.**

→ **9:00am** – Our day begins with a brief ride on the **Unzen Ropeway**, which climbs to the top of Mount Unzen. In late spring, the mountain's hillside is typically filled with vibrantly colored azaleas that bloom in bright yellow, pink, and deep red. Take in the mountainous and flowering views from the gondola's large windows and at the peak's observation deck.

→ **10:45am** – Next, experience a **fun blueberry picking** activity, famous in Shimabara.

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

→ **1:50pm – Ferry ride (Kyusho Ferry 5) from Shimabara Port to Kumamoto.**

→ **2:20pm** – After arriving at **Kumamoto Port**, we'll make a transfer to our next destination.

→ **3:00pm** – This afternoon, we'll pay 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 part of the castle is still undergoing restoration in the aftermath of the 2016 earthquake—with full restoration estimated to be completed by 2037. While the inner grounds are closed to the public, we can gain access to this cultural landmark and enjoy the majestic scenes of its impressive stone walls and moats from the outside.

→ Afterwards, a stop at **Sakura no Baba Josaien**, a bustling feudal-era castle town with shops, restaurants, and a museum chronicling the history of Kumamoto. This is the place to get Kumamoto's local products like lotus root stuffed with spicy mustard and satellite stores for independent wineries in the prefecture.

→ **5:30pm – Arrive at The New Hotel Kumamoto.** Our hotel is conveniently located in a bustling area with easy access to shopping, dining, and entertainment options.

Day 7: (Mon) May 26 – Kumamoto-Fukuoka-Honolulu (B)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a visit to Nagomi-machi, a town in northwestern Kumamoto Prefecture.** This town has a rich history in traditional papermaking, which flourished from the Edo through Meiji periods. At its peak in 1879, Nagomi-machi was home to around 850 small-scale family-run papermaking operations, comprising 65% of Kumamoto Prefecture's total paper production. Over time, the local papermaking industry declined and had disappeared entirely by 1962 as larger-scale modern paper mills became more dominant. Today, Nagomi-machi preserves the legacy of its papermaking heritage through tourism initiatives that showcase the traditional techniques and products.

→ **9:45am** – Roll up your sleeves and get ready for **your handmade washi paper making experience** at the **Tesuki Washi no Yakata** for this ancient craft.

→ **1:00pm** – From here, an excursion to **Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine**. With over 2 million annual visitors during the first 3 days of the New Year, this sacred site is a Fukuoka must visit. The shrine is dedicated to Sugawara no Michizane, "the god of academic achievements," and is a popular spot for Japanese youths from all over the country to pray for success during exam season. In addition to shops, the shrine's grounds include red-painted and ornate bridges that stretch over a pond designed in the shape of the Japanese character for "heart".

→ **3:30pm** – 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 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, March 16, 2025.**
- » **Final payment due by March 28, 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.