

Join Panda Travel in...



# 2025 Kyushu Fall Break Discovery

(GPI3373)



October 21 - 29, 2025  
7 Nights/ 9 Days

*Hakata - Arita - Saga -  
Yanagawa - Yame - Kumamoto -  
Aso - Kirishima - Kagoshima*

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

**\$3,898\***

per person-triple occupancy

**\$3,898\***

per person-double occupancy

**\$4,398\***

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: (Tue) Oct 21 – Honolulu Depart Honolulu

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

## Day 2: (Wed) Oct 22 – Fukuoka-Hakata Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Arrive at Fukuoka Airport. Meet your local English speaking guide at the arrival lobby. We'll transfer to Hotel Clio Court Hakata, our accommodations for the night.

## Day 3: (Thu) Oct 23 – Hakata-Arita-Saga (B/L) Hotel New Otani Saga (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 8:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby. Our day begins with a drive to Sage, known for traditional ceramics made in its northwestern towns of Arita, Imari and Karatsu.

→ 10:00am – Along the way, we'll visit **Okawachiyama Village**, a quaint, photogenic village just outside of Imari. Often referred to as the "Village of Secret Kilns," it was once an exclusive pottery hub that produced porcelain for Japan's elite. Okawachiyama's stunning mountains and the trickling sound of the river set the scene as you roam the shops and kilns that line the village's narrow streets. Take notice of the many porcelain pieces embedded in ordinary infrastructure throughout the village, including in its bridges and signs.

→ 11:45am – Lunch will be served at **Gallery Arita**, an art gallery nestled in the heart of Arita, Saga Prefecture. Enjoy a delightful meal in the exquisite ambiance surrounded by Arita porcelain masterpieces.

→ 1:00pm – Our next visit is **Arita Porcelain Park**, a captivating destination for porcelain enthusiasts and those seeking a glimpse into the rich history of Japanese ceramics. The park features stunning displays of Arita porcelain, highlighting its exquisite designs, intricate patterns, and timeless beauty. Admire the artisans' skill as you participate in live demonstrations of porcelain-making techniques, gaining insight into the meticulous process. There is also a shopping area where you can browse and purchase authentic Arita porcelain pieces, ranging from traditional to contemporary designs.

→ 2:30 pm – Here we are at **Mifuneyama Rakuen**, a flower-laden park dating back to 1845. The park is popular for azalea in spring and red leaves in autumn. Nestled at the base of Mt. Mifune's dramatic rocky face, the gardens make for an incredible sight. Enjoy walking through the vast grounds at your leisure.

→ 4:30 pm – Arrive at **Hotel New Otani Saga**, located along

the riverway with a picturesque view of the Saga Castle moat.

## Day 4: (Fri) Oct 24 – Saga-Yanagawa-Yame-Kumamoto (B/L) The New Hotel Kumamoto (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 8:15am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby to get ready for our journey to Yanagawa.

→ 9:00am – 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 70 min cruise, our bamboo hatted boatmen will guide us around the many interesting sights of Yanagawa.

→ 10:45am – Now visit the **Yame Traditional Crafts Center**. Roll up your sleeves and get ready for a hands-on experience in **making Japanese washi paper and uchiwa** at the center. Yame has a rich history of producing handmade washi paper for over 400 years, making it the oldest paper producer in Kyushu. The unique quality of Yame paper lies in its pliability and durability, thanks to the purity of the Yabe River's waters and the long fibers found in Kyushu mulberry. Have fun trying out this ancient craft!

→ 12:30am – Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

→ 2:45pm – Later today, we'll visit the magnificent **Kumamoto Castle**, known for its massive castle grounds and impressive hilltop design. Japanese statesman and naval engineer, Katsu Kaishu, aptly described it as "no other castle like this castle." While it is currently undergoing a complete restoration, we can still marvel at this cultural landmark from the outside and enjoy the majestic scenes.

→ 4:30pm – 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.

→ 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 5: (Sat) Oct 25 – Kumamoto-Aso-Kirishima (B/L/D) Kirishima Hotel (Free Wi-Fi) - Enjoy onsen

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ Your luggage (2 pcs per person) will be delivered by courier services to your hotel in Fukuoka. Please prepare

**an overnight bag for a 2-day stay.**

→ **8:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby as we'll embark on a full day tour for Kirishima.**

→ **10:15am** – The morning begins with a visit to the highest peak of Mt. Aso northern outer rim, **Daikanbo Peak**. At 936-meters high, the outlook offers stunning views of the towns and fields of Aso Valley below. Daikanbo, which means large observatory, is named for its panoramic views of the five central peaks of Mt. Aso, and Oita's Kuju Mountain range. This grand view is known as the Nehan-zo, or Nirvana Buddha, referencing the image of Buddha in repose. There is also a gift shop in the observatory to explore.

→ **11:45am** – Welcome to **Aso Farm Land**, a captivating resort nestled in the breathtaking Aso region. Known for its lush greenery, stunning landscapes, and a commitment to environmental sustainability, this resort features charming cottages and buildings, unique accommodations, wellness facilities, and a wide range of recreational activities. It is the perfect retreat for nature enthusiasts seeking relaxation. Enjoy a delicious farm-to-table **buffet lunch** at 12:30pm, prepared using fresh, locally sourced ingredients from the region.

→ **3:30pm** – Next, a visit to **Hitoyoshi Craft Park Ishino Park**, a treasure trove of traditional Japanese crafts. Explore the delicate ceramics and exquisite textiles, each creation tells a story of craftsmanship and attention to detail. Try your hand at **making Kiji-guruma**, the beloved wooden toys of Kyushu, believed to bring blessings of good fortune, harmonious marriages, and blissful households.

→ **5:30pm** – Arrive at **Kirishima Hotel**, followed by a **Japanese-style dinner at 6:00pm**. The hotel's onsen is a great place to unwind after dinner and in the morning before our departure.

---

### **Day 6: (Sun) Oct 26 – Kirishima-Kagoshima (B/L)**

Daiwa Roynet Hotel Kagoshima Tenmonkan Premier (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **9:30am** – 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.

→ **11:30am** – Now, a visit to **Kurozu Kakuida**, a renowned vinegar brewery in Kagoshima known for its premium black vinegar called "kurozu." Using traditional fermentation

methods, Kakuida produces a flavorful and healthful vinegar with a long history and cultural significance. We'll sample different types of kurozu and experience the unique flavors of this ancient Japanese condiment. Afterwards, enjoy a **black vinegar lunch** at Kurozu no Sato Kakuida.

→ **2:00pm** – Next, we are at **Senganen & Shoko Assemble Museum**, recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Senganen is a traditional Japanese garden and home built by the Shimazu clan in the 17th century. It features beautiful landscaping and showcases the family's history to gain insight into the lifestyle and culture of feudal Japan. Shoko Assemble Museum is located adjacent to Senganen. It focuses on the life and achievements of Saigo Takamori, a prominent figure in Japanese history. Saigo Takamori was a samurai from Kagoshima who played a pivotal role in the Meiji Restoration, a period of significant political and social change in Japan.

→ **4:00pm** – Arrive at **Daiwa Roynet Hotel Kagoshima Tenmonkan Premier**. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

---

### **Day 7: (Mon) Oct 27 – Kagoshima-Hakata (B/L)**

Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:15am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby as we are off on another full day of touring and circling back to where we began, Hakata.**

→ **9:30am** – Our morning starts with a visit to **Satsuma Shuzo Meijigura Sake Brewery**. With a rich history dating back over a century, this esteemed brewery stands as a testament to the artistry and craftsmanship of traditional Japanese sake production.

→ **10:30am** – Next, experience the **hands-on bonito flakes shaving** at Katsuichi. Bonito flakes are a traditional Japanese ingredient made from dried, fermented, and smoked skipjack tuna, known for their unique umami flavor. Learn the art of shaving bonito flakes using a specialized tool, guided by skilled artisans. It's a unique opportunity to delve into Japanese culinary traditions and take home your own freshly shaved bonito flakes.

→ **11:30am** – Enjoy a **Japanese-style lunch** at Makurazaki Osakana Center, a hub for seafood enthusiasts.

→ **1:15pm** – This afternoon, we will visit **Chiran**, a renowned tea-growing region in Japan. Here, we'll learn about tea cultivation from local farmers, **experience picking tea leaves** in picturesque fields, participate in a traditional tea ceremony, and sipping on the brew as new tea sommeliers!

→ **3:45pm** – Now, arrive at **Kagoshima Chuo Station for our bullet train ride to Hakata Station.**

→ **5:43pm** – Upon arriving at **Hakata Station**, we'll take a few minutes walk to our hotel, **Hotel Clío Court Hakata**. Our hotel is centrally located and adjacent to the JR Hakata Station. Nearby, you can find Kitte shopping mall (directly linked to the Hakata Station) and a large Daiso. There are also many shops and restaurant options close by. We'll be staying here for the next 2 nights.

---

### **Day 8: (Tue) Oct 28 – Hakata (B)**

Hotel Clío Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **9:00am** – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a half day tour in Fukuoka.

→ **9:15am** – Our morning begins a short drive to the **Kushida Shrine**, said to have been founded in 757, it is one of the oldest shrines in Fukuoka. While not extensive, there are a few notable things to look out for, a towering ginkgo tree, said to be over 1,000 years-old and some unusual Tengu masks.

→ **10:00am** – From here, a visit to the **Hakata Machiya Folk Museum**, to learn some of this ancient city's history. Hakata is one of Japan's oldest cities and served as a link to continental Asia in pre-modern times. While the museum is small, it is well worth the visit. See a sample of traditional architecture and an exhibition hall with all beautiful artifacts that help illuminate the history of this fascinating city.

→ **11:15am** – With a history spanning over 130 years, **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.

→ **1:30pm** – **Return to hotel.** The remainder of the afternoon is yours at leisure.

---

### **Day 9: (Wed) Oct 29 – Hakata-Fukuoka-Honolulu (B)**

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **11:00am** – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby.

→ **11:45am** – Start the day with a visit 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".

→ **2:30pm** – On the way to the airport, we'll stop by a popular spot in Fukuoka: **Mitsui Shopping Park LaLaport Fukuoka** (opened in Apr 2022), a large shopping complex. Enjoy some last minute shopping at this popular destination for locals and visitors.

→ **Transfer to Fukuoka Airport to begin our check-in process 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, August 18, 2025.**
- » **Final payment due by August 29, 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.
- » 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.