

Join Panda Travel in...



2025 Thanksgiving Kyushu Experiences and Onsen Tour

(GP13391)



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

Nov 23 - Dec 1, 2025

7 Nights/ 9 Days

Hakata - Kitakyushu - Arita - Huis Ten Bosch - Nagasaki - Shimabara - Kumamoto - Mt. Aso - Beppu - Fukuoka

\$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

☐ **\$4,898***

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) Nov 23 – Honolulu Depart Honolulu

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

Day 2: (Mon) Nov 24 – Fukuoka-Hakata

Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Arrive at Fukuoka Airport and meet your local English speaking guide at the arrival lobby. We'll transfer to **Hotel Clio Court Hakata**, our accommodations for 3 nights. Conveniently located close to JR Hakata Station, our hotel provides easy access to a variety of shops and dining options nearby.

Day 3: (Tue) Nov 25 – Hakata-Kitakyushu-Hakata (B)

Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

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

→ 10:15am – We begin our day at the historic **Nakamura Soy Sauce Factory**, a cornerstone of Munakata's culinary tradition since 1850. The factory is most famous for its bread soy sauce, an exceptional brew that is best enjoyed spread over toast with butter.

→ Now, a drive to **Kokura**, a city located on the northern tip of Kyushu, which played a significant role during World War II as one of the original target cities for the atomic bomb. However, it was ultimately spared when the bomb was dropped on Nagasaki instead due to poor visibility. The historic Kokura Castle, built in the 17th century, stands as a testament to the city's rich cultural heritage and samurai history.

→ 12:30pm – Enjoy lunch on your own and savor the flavors of Kitakyushu in the **Kokura Central Shopping District**. This bustling commercial hub is known for its lively atmosphere and diverse offerings, featuring a wide array of shops, from popular international brands to unique local boutiques, catering to every shopping preference.

→ 2:15pm – Renowned for its traditional Japanese architecture, **Kokura Castle** stands as one of Japan's finest castles. Today, it serves as a museum, highlighting the history of the castle, samurai culture, and the local region. The castle's surroundings are adorned with beautiful cherry blossoms in spring and **stunning ginkgo trees in autumn**.

→ 3:45pm – Next, we'll visit the **TOTO Museum**, a leading manufacturer of bathroom fixtures. Here, we will learn more about the company's legacy and witness how they are shaping the future of bathrooms.

→ 6:00pm – Return to hotel. Enjoy the rest of the evening

at leisure and be sure to check out the dazzling Christmas Market and holiday illumination at JR Hakata Station Plaza.

Day 4: (Wed) Nov 26 – Hakata/Free day at leisure (B)

Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ The day is yours to explore the exciting Hakata!

Day 5: (Thu) Nov 27 – Hakata-Arita-Huis Ten Bosch (B/L)

Hotel Den Haag (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 8:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for Huis Ten Bosch.

→ 10:30am – 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.

→ 12:30pm – **Lunch** will be served at a local restaurant in the heart of Arita, Saga Prefecture.

→ 2:45pm – Now a visit to **Umegae Sake Brewery**, housed on a property with several buildings designated as tangible cultural properties in Japan. A famous Edo period establishment, this historic brewery has won numerous awards for its high quality brews.

→ 4:00pm – **Arrive at 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—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 and millions of colorful LED lights that illuminate the town after dusk. As the seasons change, so does the beauty of Huis Ten Bosch; spring's "One Million Tulip Festival," summer's "Greatest Rose Festival" and sunflower attraction, fall's "Autumn Roses," winter's orchid display, as well as the award winning night time illuminations and dazzling light shows are brilliant seasonal spectacles that make for many repeat visitors throughout the year. Huis Ten Bosch also offers several restaurants, shops, live entertainment, and attractions like a three-story carousel, adventures with augmented reality, and much more.

→ Check in at Hotel Den Haag. With our Huis Ten Bosch

park pass, experience one of Japan's largest and most unique theme parks and catch a showing of the famous Takarazuka Kagekidan musical theater troupe.

Day 6: (Fri) Nov 28 – Huis Ten Bosch-Nagasaki-Shimabara-Kumamoto (B)

One Station Hotel Kumamoto (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:00am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby to get ready for Nagasaki and Kumamoto.**

→ **9:30am** – 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 vibrant **autumn foliage** added beauty and calm to this historic space.

→ **12:00pm** – Take some time to explore and enjoy lunch on your own at the rich heritage of **Nagasaki Chinatown**, which has significantly contributed to the historical and cultural development of Nagasaki over the years.

→ **3:15pm** – Next, take a scenic ride on the **Unzen Ropeway** to the summit of Mount Unzen. During this time of the year, the mountainside bursts with vibrant **fall foliage**—brilliant reds, oranges, and golds. Enjoy the picturesque landscape from the gondola's expansive windows and the observation deck at the peak.

→ **5:30pm** – We'll now take a ferry ride with **Kumamoto Ferry from Shimabara Port to Kumamoto Port**.

→ **6:10pm** – Upon arriving in **Kumamoto**, we'll head to our hotel.

→ **6:45pm** – **Check in at One Station Hotel Kumamoto**. Our hotel is conveniently located in a bustling area with easy access to shopping, dining, and entertainment options.

Day 7: (Sat) Nov 29 – Kumamoto-Mt. Aso-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 for Beppu**, a renowned hot spring resort city.

→ **9:00am** – This morning, we'll pay a visit to the magnificent **Kumamoto Castle**. Its massive castle grounds and 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 stone walls and moats from the outside.

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

→ **12:45pm** – Welcome to **Aso Farm Land**, a captivating resort nestled in the breathtaking Aso region. Enjoy a delicious farm-to-table **buffet lunch**, prepared using fresh, locally sourced ingredients from the region.

→ **3:00pm** – Our next stop brings us to **Daikanbo Peak**, the highest point on the northern outer rim of Mt. Aso. Standing at 936 meters, this lookout offers breathtaking views of the towns and fields of Aso Valley below. The name "Daikanbo," which translates to "large observatory," reflects its panoramic vistas of the five central peaks of Mt. Aso and the Kuju Mountain range in Oita. This magnificent scenery is known as Nehan-zo, or Nirvana Buddha, evoking the serene image of Buddha in repose. Be sure to explore the gift shop located in the observatory as well.

→ **5:30pm** – **Arrive at Suginoi Hotel, followed by a buffet dinner at 6:30pm**. Our hotel features stunning views overlooking Beppu Bay as well as world-renowned hot springs, which are fed by the region's natural geothermal activity. Take some time to unwind 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 most recently constructed Sora Tower.

Day 8: (Sun) Nov 30 – Beppu (B/L/D)

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

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **9:00am** – **Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for Oita**, known for its rich cultural heritage and natural beauty.

→ **9:30am** – Our morning begins with a visit to **Beppu Jigoku Meguri**. 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. Another onsen sighting is Umi-Jigoku or "Sea Hell" for its beautiful cobalt blue.

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

in Hell).

→ **11:45am** – 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.

→ After lunch, we'll drive to **Yufuin**, a picturesque onsen town.

→ **1:30pm** – Here we are in the enchanting **Yufuin district**. In addition to its well-preserved ryokans and onsens, Yufuin features charming streets lined with cafes, art galleries, and boutiques. The stunning mountain views also make it an ideal spot for leisurely strolls and relaxation.

→ **4:30pm** – **Return to hotel , followed by a buffet dinner on-site.**

Day 9: (Mon) Dec 1 – Beppu-Fukuoka-Honolulu (B)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **10:00am** – Start our day at **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.

→ **10:45am** – Time for a stroll in **Mameda Machi**, known as Kyushu's "little Kyoto." This area, built during the prosperous Edo period, features beautifully preserved streets and buildings. Explore traditional shops, cafes and souvenir stores.

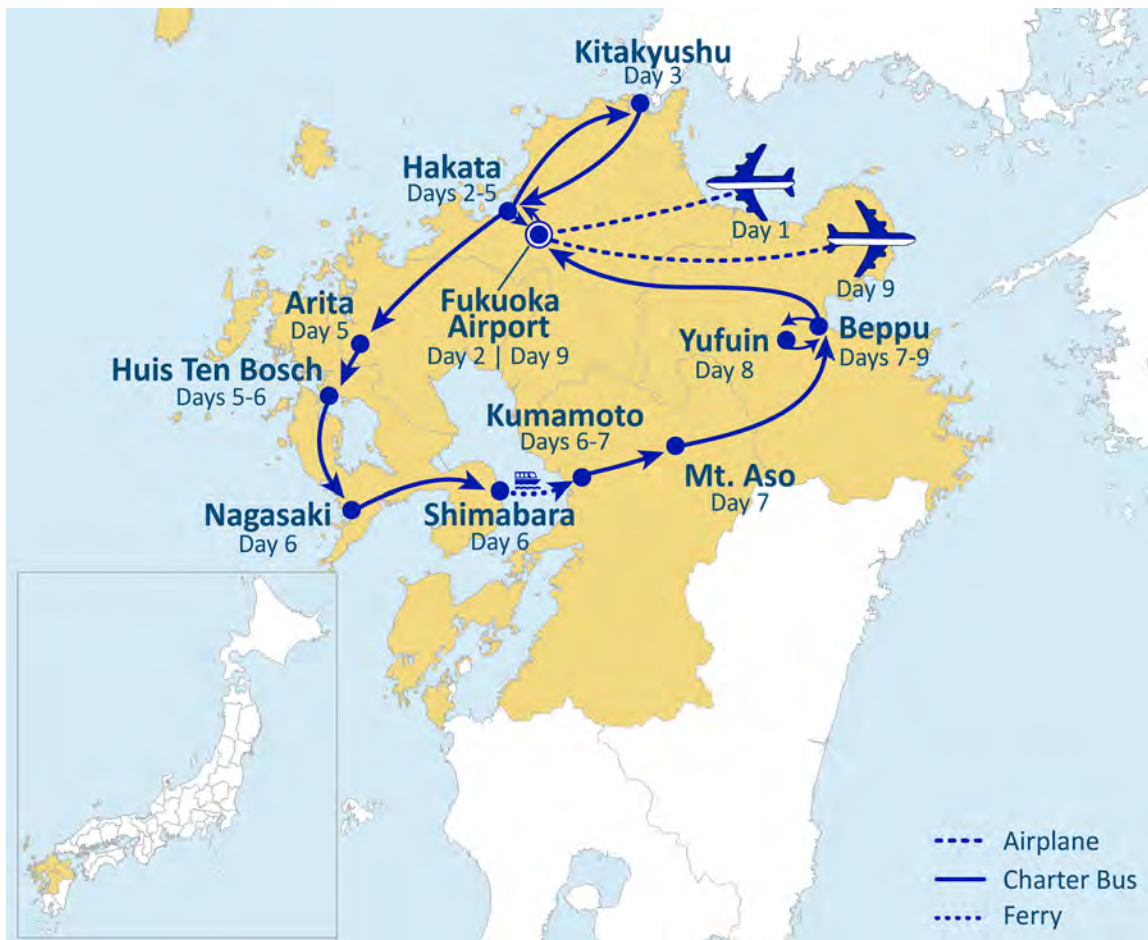
→ **1:00pm** – This afternoon, a visit to **Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine**, one of Fukuoka's top destinations with over 2 million visitors during the first three days of the new year. Dedicated to Sugawara-no Michizane, a famed prodigy in politics, literature, and poetry, this shrine honors Michizane as the god of academic achievements and a sacred site for students praying for academic success. Enjoy lunch on your own and the beauty of the surroundings as you stroll along the grounds.

→ **3:15pm** – On our way to the airport, we'll stop at a hot spot in Fukuoka: **Mitsui Shopping Park LaLaport Fukuoka**, home to hundreds of shops. Take advantage of this opportunity for some last minute shopping.

→ **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 September 19, 2025.**
- » **Final payment due by October 1, 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.