

Join Panda Travel in...



# 2026 Grand Sumo Tournament & Autumn Treasure Hunt in Kyushu

(GPI3576)



Nov 8 - 16, 2026

7 Nights/ 9 Days

*Hakata - Arita - Sasebo - Huis Ten Bosch -  
Nagasaki - Shimabara -  
Kumamoto - Kirishima - Kagoshima*

### *JAL Economy Class*

\$4,088\*

pp double/triple occupancy

\$4,688\*

single occupancy

### *JAL Premium Economy Class*

\$5,288\*

pp double/triple occupancy

\$5,888\*

single occupancy

[pandaonline.com](http://pandaonline.com)

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1017 Kapahulu Ave, Honolulu, HI 96816

A minimum of 16 participants is required for the tour to operate

# Itinerary

## Day 1: (Sun) Nov 8 – Honolulu

### Depart Honolulu

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

## Day 2: (Mon) Nov 9 – HND-Fukuoka-Hakata (D)

Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi) or similar

→ 4:05pm – After arriving at **Haneda Airport**, we'll take a shuttle bus to the domestic terminal. A Japanese-style **bento box** will be provided along the way.

→ 6:40pm – **Depart Haneda to Fukuoka (FUK) via Japan Airlines domestic flight (JL331).**

→ 8:40pm – Upon arrival at **Fukuoka Airport**, meet your local English speaking guide at the arrival lobby. We will then transfer to **Hotel Clio Court Hakata**. The hotel is a short walk from JR Hakata Station, where you'll find major department stores like Hankyu, HANDS, the Kitte shopping mall as well as a large Daiso. There are also many nearby dining options. We'll be staying here for two nights.

## Day 3: (Tue) Nov 10 – Hakata/Grand Sumo Tournament (B)

Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi) or similar

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 9:30am – **Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for the premier Grand Sumo Tournament, the highlight of Japan's sumo calendar.**

→ 9:45am – Our morning begins at the historic **Sumiyoshi Shrine**, one of Japan's oldest and most revered Shinto shrines and a designated National Important Cultural Property. Dedicated to the Sumiyoshi Sanjin (three Shinto deities of the sea), this shrine has served as a spiritual haven to sailors, fishermen, and travelers seeking safe voyage and protection against all misfortunes.

Not to be missed is the shrine's **statue of an ancient sumo wrestler**. It's believed that touching the statue's right hand, which has a crease that resembles the Japanese character for "power," will imbue you with that power. Fun fact: sumo wrestling has deep ties to Shinto traditions as it was originally performed as a ritual to entertain the gods and pray for good harvests.

→ 10:45am – With a history spanning over 130 years, **Nakasu Kawabata dori Shopping Arcade** was the first merchant area in Hakata district. Today the arcade hosts a variety of stores, ranging from traditional to modern, and offers an array of apparel shops, restaurants, and specialty stores.

→ 12:30pm – Onto our next stop: **Bayside Place Hakata**, a bustling waterfront complex near the Fukuoka PayPay Dome. This lively area is a hub for locals and tourists alike, offering a mix of shopping, dining, and entertainment.

→ 2:15-6:00pm – Let's join the locals in cheering on your new favorite athletes: **sumo wrestlers!** Japan's national sport and an emblem of Japanese culture, Sumo is a centuries-old wrestling style that began as a performative ritual for Shinto deities. Some of those traditions are still honored, like the symbolic purification of the wrestling ring with salt. Today, sumo tournaments are held six times a year and draw large crowds. Hope you enjoy this exhilarating celebration of athleticism, tradition, and ceremony!

→ 6:30pm – **Return to hotel.** The remainder of the evening is yours at leisure.

## Day 4: (Wed) Nov 11 – Hakata-Arita-Sasebo-Huis Ten Bosch (B/L/D)

Hotel Den Haag (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 8:15am – **Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for Nagasaki.**

→ 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.

→ 11:30am – **Lunch** will be served at a local restaurant in the heart of Arita, Saga Prefecture. Enjoy a delightful meal in the exquisite ambiance surrounded by Arita porcelain masterpieces.

→ 2:00pm – We'll now embark on a **50-minute sightseeing cruise** through the 208 islands of Kujukushima, part of Saikai National Park. The Kujukushima Cruise dates back to 1914 as one of the country's earliest sightseeing cruises. Renowned for its stunning landscapes and countless small islands, Kujukushima has become a popular tourist destination and a symbol of Sasebo's natural beauty.

→ 3:45pm – **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. Enjoy **dinner** at the hotel tonight!

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### **Day 5: (Thu) Nov 12 – Huis Ten Bosch-Nagasaki-Shimabara-Kumamoto (B/D)**

ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel Kumamoto Newsky (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:00am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for 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.

→ **2:30pm** – Next, check out **Chijiwa Tourist Center**, a fun facility offering locally beloved Jagachan (deep-fried potato balls), famous Nagasaki castella cakes, and Kyushu crafts. The center also houses a large observatory with sweeping views of Tachibana Bay, which has earned a spot on the nation's "100 Best Scenery List."

→ **3:45pm** – Now, a visit to **Unzen Jigoku Valley**. Located in Unzen National Park (Japan's first national park designated in 1934!), this well-known 1,300-year-old hot spring town has become a popular destination for day trippers to refresh and recuperate in its therapeutic geothermal waters.

→ **5:30pm** – From here, we'll take a ferry ride with **Kumamoto Ferry from Shimabara Port to Kumamoto Port.**

→ **6:10pm** – After arriving in **Kumamoto**, the largest city in central Kyushu, we'll head to our hotel, the **ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel Kumamoto Newsky**, followed by a **buffet dinner at 7:30pm.**

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### **Day 6: (Fri) Nov 13 – Kumamoto-Kirishima (B/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 Hakata. Please prepare an overnight bag for a 1-day stay.**

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

→ **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.

→ Afterward, a stop at **Sakura no Baba Josaien**, 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.

→ **12:15pm** – Here we are at **Aeon Mall Kumamoto**, a vibrant shopping destination that offers a diverse range of shops, dining options, and entertainment experiences. Enjoy lunch on your own.

→ **3:00pm** – Next, a fun visit to **Hitoyoshi Craft Park Ishino Park**, a treasure trove of traditional Japanese crafts, beautiful ceramics, and exquisite textiles. Here, you'll enjoy a **hands-on Hana-tebako painting** workshop. In Japanese, "Hana" symbolizes flowers, and "tebako" refers to a small box. These wooden boxes are traditionally made from materials like fir, cedar, and cypress and are adorned with bright red camellias painted. Have fun creating this personalized memento to take home!

→ **5:15pm** – 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 7: (Sat) Nov 14 – Kirishima-Kagoshima-Hakata (B/L)

Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi) or similar

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **9:30am** – Our morning begins with a visit to **Kirishima Shrine**, where you'll be greeted by the hues of **fall foliage**. This sacred site holds a central position in 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** – Next a visit to **Kurozu Kakuida**, a renowned vinegar brewery in Kagoshima known for its premium black vinegar. Kakuida uses traditional fermentation methods to produce its flavorful "kurozu" brew, a cultural gem in the region. Afterwards, enjoy a **black vinegar lunch** at Kurozu no Sato Kakuida and experience the unique flavors of this ancient Japanese condiment.

→ **2:00pm** – Later today, step into **Senganen and the Shoko Assemble Museum**, both recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Senganen is a traditional Japanese garden and residence built by the Shimazu clan in the 17th century. This beautifully landscaped garden offers insights into the family's history and the lifestyle and culture of feudal Japan. During this autumn season, visitors can enjoy the fleeting beauty of the **fall foliage**.

Located adjacent to Senganen, the **Shoko Assemble Museum** focuses on the life and achievements of Saigo Takamori, a prominent figure in Japanese history. He played a pivotal role in the Meiji Restoration, a period marked by significant political and social change in Japan.

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

→ **5:43pm – Upon arriving at Hakata Station, we'll take a short walk to our hotel, Hotel Clio Court Hakata.** Conveniently located next to JR Hakata Station, our hotel provides easy access to many shops and dining options. We'll be staying here for the next 2 nights.

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## Day 8: (Sun) Nov 15 – Hakata (B)

Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi) or similar

→ **After breakfast, enjoy your free day and explore Hakata!**

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## Day 9: (Mon) Nov 16 – Hakata-FUK-HND-Honolulu (B)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **10:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for Hakata.**

→ **11:15am** – Ever wonder how the mouthwatering food displayed in restaurant windows is made to look so lifelike? Let's find out at the interactive **"food sample" making workshop**, where you'll handcraft your very own realistic foods.

→ **12:45pm** – Enjoy some last minute shopping at **Mitsui Shopping Park LaLaport Fukuoka**, a large shopping complex that houses hundreds of stores.

→ **2:30pm – Arrive at Fukuoka Airport.**

→ **5:20pm – Board Japan Airlines flight (JL324) from Fukuoka to Haneda Airport.**

→ **7:00pm – Upon arrival at Haneda, we'll take a shuttle bus to the International Terminal for our flight home (JL74).**

→ **Arrive in Honolulu on the same day.**

Thank you for traveling with us! 



# Need to Know...



## Payment Policy

- » **To secure your reservation, a \$150 per person deposit is required. The deposit can be refunded until August 3, 2026.**
- » **Final payment due by September 7, 2026. 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.