

Join Panda Travel in...



# 2027 Discover Japan in Spring

(GPI364I)



March 12 - 19, 2027

6 Nights/ 8 Days

*Haneda-Hakata - Shimonoseki - Iwakuni -  
Miyajimaguchi - Hiroshima  
- Kurashiki - Himeji - Kobe - Osaka*

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

## *JAL Economy Class*

**\$3,988\***

pp double/triple occupancy

**\$4,488\***

single occupancy

## *JAL Premium Economy Class*

**\$5,088\***

pp double/triple occupancy

**\$5,588\***

single occupancy

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: (Fri) Mar 12 – Honolulu Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines 73

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

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## Day 2: (Sat) Mar 13 – HND-FUK-Hakata (D)

Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi)

→ 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 for Fukuoka (FUK)** on Japan Airlines flight JL331.

→ 8:40pm – Upon arrival at **Fukuoka Airport**, meet your English-speaking guide at the arrivals lobby for your transfer to **Hotel Clio Court Hakata**. Located just steps from JR Hakata Station, the hotel offers easy access to Hankyu, HANDS, KITTE Hakata, Daiso and many dining options nearby. We will be staying here for the next 2 nights.

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## Day 3: (Sun) Mar 14 – Hakata (B)

Hotel Clio Court Hakata (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

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

→ 9:30am – The morning begins with a visit to **Kushida Shrine**, which is believed to have been established in 757, making it one of Fukuoka's oldest shrines. While not extensive, there are a few notable things to look out for, including a towering ginkgo tree rumored to be over 1,000 years old, and some intriguing Tengu masks.

→ 10:15am – From there, we step into 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.

→ 11:45am – If you're looking for a unique souvenir from Fukuoka, look no further than one of the most beautiful representations of Japanese culture: Hakata Dolls. Known for their soft colors and intricately carved expressions, these unglazed clay dolls are masterfully crafted from 500 year old traditional techniques. Here, we'll test our skills on this **hands-on doll-coloring experience** at the Hakata Doll Hall Shogetsudo.

→ 1:00pm – With a history spanning over 130 years, **Nakasu 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. Explore the area and enjoy lunch on your own.

→ 3:00pm – Return to hotel. Enjoy the remainder of the day shopping and dining at leisure.

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## Day 4: (Mon) Mar 15 – Hakata-Shimonoseki-Iwakuni-Miyajimaguchi (B/D)

Grandvrio Hotel Miyajima Wakura - Ocean view room (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

→ 8:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby. This morning we cross over to Honshu on the spectacular **Kanmon Bridge**, a 1,068 meter suspension span that linked Kyushu and Honshu across the strait.

→ 10:00am – Perched on a hill overlooking the sea in Kitakyushu City, the **Shirano Botanical Garden** showcases **kanzakura (winter cherry blossoms)**, which bloom as early as February. Home to around 800 cherry trees in 60 varieties, the garden also features a tapestry of azaleas, peonies, all set against the backdrop of a wetland and aquatic garden. Amidst this natural splendor stands the Shirano Japanese cherry tree, a beloved symbol of the prefecture's heritage and a designated natural monument.

→ 11:15am – Have you ever walked between islands? At the undersea **Kanmon Tunnel for pedestrians**, you'll complete this remarkable feat and journey between Honshu and Kyushu islands. On your 0.5 mile stroll along the bottom of the sea, enjoy the adorable wall illustrations of aquatic life and take notice of the Fukuoka-Yamaguchi prefectural boundary marker halfway through the tunnel (a popular photo spot). What a unique way to travel between two prefectures and the two main islands of Japan! \*Those who prefer not to walk can board the bus to cross the Kanmon Bridge.

→ 12:00pm – Next, a stop at **Karato Market**. Enjoy this "local kitchen," a bustling marketplace of fresh seafood and other regional delights!

→ This afternoon, we'll drive to Iwakuni with a quick rest stop along the way.

→ 3:30pm – Here we are at **Kintaikyo Bridge**, ranked as one of Japan's three great bridges, a 2 star awardee of the Michelin Green Guide to Japan, and the pride of Iwakuni City. With origins dating back to 1673, the bridge's dramatic and recognizable five arches were designed to slow the attack of invading armies as they struggled to sustain their energy after crossing each arch to reach Iwakuni Castle. This historic structure, originally crafted without nails, is

supported by six types of interwoven joined wood, standing as a testament to Japanese architectural ingenuity and craftsmanship.

→ **5:00pm** – Arrive at **Grandvrio Hotel Miyajima Wakura**, followed by a **6:30pm Japanese dinner at the hotel**. Our hotel is located on a shoreline opposite a World Heritage Site, Miyajima Island. During your stay, enjoy the hotel's hot springs with stunning waterfront views.

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### **Day 5: (Tue) Mar 16 – Miyajimaguchi-Hiroshima (B)**

Hotel Granvia Hiroshima (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **9:00am** – **Meet your guide at the hotel lobby**. This morning we set sail for Miyajima Island!

→ **9:25am** – A 10 min. **ferry ride** takes us to **Miyajima Island**, the magical “Island of Gods” and one of Japan’s most unforgettable destinations. You’ll recognize it instantly from its vermilion Torii gate, which appears to float on the waves at high tide.

→ **10:00am** – Upon arrival, we’ll wander the main street to **Itsukushima Shrine**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that honors the deities who protect against sea disasters and war. At high tide, the Torii gate and the Shaden pavilion appear to float on the water, and at low tide the sea pulls back so you can walk right out to the gate.

→ **11:00am** – Enjoy lunch on your own, shop along **Omotesando Shopping street** for souvenirs like Shamoji (a rice scoop), and sample Hiroshima delicacies like Momiji manju (buns shaped like maple leaves and filled with a bean-jam filling).

→ **12:55pm** – We’ll take the **ferry** back to the pier to continue to our next destination.

→ **2:00pm** – This afternoon, a visit to **Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum/Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park/A-Bomb Dome**. After WWII, Japanese architect Kenzo Tange spearheaded the design of this park to commemorate the lives lost on August 6, 1945. The A-Bomb Dome, the only remaining structure in the area from the first atomic bomb, was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996.

→ **4:30pm** – Arrive at **Hotel Granvia Hiroshima**. Enjoy the evening at leisure.

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### **Day 6: (Wed) Mar 17 – Hiroshima-Kurashiki-Himeji (B)**

Hotel Nikko Himeji (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:30am** – **Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for Himeji.**

→ **10:45am** – Once here, we’ll visit **Kurashiki Bikan**

**Historical Quarter**, a beautifully preserved historical area converted from the former city’s rice storehouses with modern eateries, souvenir shops, and museums woven in. Immaculately preserved from the Edo period, this old rice-merchant quarter consists of hundreds of old houses and granaries, with the oldest being 300 years old. Some families who have lived here for generations are still there! Today’s old Kurashiki consists of dozens of characteristic whitewashed, black-tiled kura (rice granaries) centered around a willow-lined transport canal, making for a beautiful picturesque scene. It is a “must see traditional neighborhood” that blends the past with the present. Enjoy lunch on your own and explore the local shops for souvenirs.

→ **2:45pm** – Next, **Himeji Castle and Kokoan Gardens!** Locals nickname Himeji the “White Heron Castle” for its brilliant white plaster and soaring silhouette that resembles a bird taking flight, and UNESCO added this last surviving feudal fortress to its World Heritage list in 1993. The complex boasts 83 structures with five National Treasures among them. Next door, Kokoan (which opened in 1992 for Himeji’s 100th anniversary) invites you to wander 9 Edo style gardens including the Tea Ceremony Garden, the Bamboo Garden, and the Pine Tree Garden, each designed to spotlight Japan’s four seasons.

→ **4:45pm** – After checking in at **Hotel Nikko Himeji**, the rest of the evening is at leisure. Consider popping over to Piolo Himeji, the city’s largest shopping mall and is just a few blocks away from our hotel.

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### **Day 7: (Thu) Mar 18 – Himeji-Kobe-Osaka (B/L)**

Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **10:00am** – This morning we stroll into the lively **Akashi Seafood Market**, a 400 year old fish market and shopping street (Uonotana) where roughly 100 shops dish up the freshest catches from Akashi’s famed fishing port. Keep your eyes peeled for the true local hero: octopus!

→ **12:00pm** – Time to try one of Kobe’s most significant culinary exports: **kobe beef**, a special grade of beef from Wagyu cattle raised in Kobe. These cattle are massaged with sake and are fed a daily diet that includes large amounts of beer. This process produces meat that is tender, marbled, and full-flavored.

→ **1:30pm** – Next, we’ll explore the **Hakutsuru Sake Brewery Museum** in Kobe’s Nada district, Japan’s premier sake producing region. The museum occupies a former working brewhouse that ran until 1969, and it walks you through every stage of sake making before rewarding you with a tasting of freshly pressed sake.

→ **3:15pm** – We arrive at **Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka**. Welcome to Osaka, Japan’s 3rd largest city and a historic capital of commerce! Bustling arcades, vibrant markets, and winding alleyways reveal a famously outgoing, street food loving Kansai culture. Spend the rest of the day exploring Osaka for shopping and dining.

### Day 8: (Fri) Mar 19 - Osaka-KIX-Honolulu (B)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **11:00am** – Ever wondered how the mouthwatering dishes displayed in restaurant windows look so unbelievably real? Find out at an interactive **“food sample” making workshop**, where you’ll craft your very own lifelike replicas!

→ **12:15pm** – Now, visit the bustling **Kuromon Market!** Also known as the “Kitchen of Osaka,” this famous 190 year old market is a popular spot for locals, and a go-to destination for many of the city’s chefs to gather their supplies. With

over a hundred vendors, the market offers a wide variety of fresh and local produce, seafood, meats, sweets, and other traditional Japanese foods. Enjoy lunch on your own.

→ **4:00pm** – Now a moment at **AEON Mall Rinku Sennan**, a large shopping mall with everything you need to round up any last minute shopping before the drive out to Kansai International Airport.

→ **6:00pm** – Arrive at **Kansai International Airport** to begin our check-in process for our flight (JL790) home.

→ Arrive in Honolulu (same day).

Thank you for traveling with us! 🐼



# Need to Know...



## Payment Policy

- » To secure your reservation, a **\$200 per person** deposit is required. The deposit can be refunded until **December 10, 2026**. Any changes made after this date will be subject to additional fees.
- » Final payment is due by **January 15, 2027**. 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.
- » We reserve the right to change any part of the itinerary, including payment schedules, at any time and 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.