

Join Panda Travel in...



2027 Kyushu Highlights & Festival Celebrations

(GP13679)



February 14 - 22, 2027

7 Nights/ 9 Days

Haneda - Hakata - Yame - Arita - Huis Ten Bosch - Kashima - Nagasaki - Hita - Beppu

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

JAL Economy Class

\$4,488*

pp double/triple occupancy

\$5,488*

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) Feb 14 – Honolulu Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines 73

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

Day 2: (Mon) Feb 15 – HND-FUK-Hakata (D)

Oriental Hotel Fukuoka Hakata Station (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 arrival lobby for your transfer to **Oriental Hotel Fukuoka Hakata Station**, our accommodations for the next 2 nights. Our hotel is conveniently located across the street from Hakata Station with many dining and shopping options.

Day 3: (Tue) Feb 16 – Hakata (B)

Oriental Hotel Fukuoka Hakata Station (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 be 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** – Now, we'll head to the **Hakata Machiya Folk Museum** to learn some of this ancient city's history. Hakata is one of Japan's oldest cities and once 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 beautiful artifacts that help illuminate the history of this fascinating city.

→ **11:30pm** – With a history spanning over 130 years, **Nakasu Kawabata Shopping Arcade** was the first merchant area in Hakata district. Today, it hosts over 130 stores, ranging from traditional to modern and offering a vibrant array of apparel shops, restaurants, and specialty stores. Explore the area and enjoy lunch on your own.

→ **1:30pm** – **Return to hotel.** Enjoy the remainder of the day shopping and dining at leisure.

Day 4: (Wed) Feb 17 – Hakata-Yame-Arita-Huis Ten Bosch (B/L/D)

Hotel Den Haag (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:00am** – **Meet your guide at the hotel lobby this morning for Yame**, a historic cultural hub where ancient traditions and world-renowned craftsmanship live on.

→ **9:15am** – Roll up your sleeves and get ready for a hands-on masterclass at the **Yame Traditional Crafts Center**, Kyushu's oldest paper producer! Yame is well-known for its pliable and durable products, thanks to the pure Yabe River waters and local mulberry fibers. While here, experience the art of **Japanese washi papermaking!**

→ **10:45am** – Next stop: the **Yame Bonbori Matsuri**, where a town with deep roots in hina doll making opens its doors for the Dolls Festival season. As you stroll the Fukushima District's old white-walled storehouses, look for the pink paper lanterns called "bonbori," hung outside more than 100 homes and shops as a friendly signal that the owners have opened their doors to share family heirlooms and local craftsmanship with the community. The displays span generations, from the town's cherished Hakobina (traditional boxed dolls) brought out for the occasion to more contemporary pieces.

→ **1:30pm** – **Lunch** will be served at a local restaurant in the heart of Arita, the cradle of Japanese porcelain. Enjoy a delightful meal in an exquisite setting, surrounded by Arita porcelain masterpieces.

→ **3:00pm** – Onto our next adventure: **Huis Ten Bosch**, a spectacular recreation of a 17th-century Dutch town. Spanning an area as large as Monaco, this charming destination was built in 1992 to honor the deep historical ties between Japan and the Netherlands, complete with winding canals, windmills, and cobblestone streets.

True to its moniker as the "City of Flowers and Lights," the park features a European cityscape carpeted in vibrant seasonal blooms and illuminated by millions of colorful LED lights after dusk. Depending on the time of year, you may find yourself wandering through the "One Million Tulip Festival" in spring or the award-winning "Kingdom of Lights" in winter. From a 3-story carousel to cutting-edge augmented reality adventures, there is no shortage of wonder to explore.

→ After checking in at **Hotel Den Haag**, use your Huis Ten Bosch park pass to experience this unique theme park and catch a showing of the famous **Takarazuka Kagekidan** musical theater troupe. Enjoy your **dinner** at the hotel tonight!

Day 5: (Thu) Feb 18 – Huis Ten Bosch-Kashima-Nagasaki (B)

Hilton Nagasaki (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **9:00am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a drive to Kashima, Sage.**

→ **10:45am – We'll start our tour at Hizenya Sake Brewery.** Located in the beautifully preserved Hizen Hamashuku district, this brewery is the heart of a centuries-old brewing tradition. Here, you'll discover the art of "Sake Tourism," seeing firsthand how local rice and pure spring water become award-winning spirits. We'll finish our tour by tasting refined labels inside a nostalgic kura (storehouse) while soaking in the atmosphere of old-world Japan.

→ **12:00pm – Our next stop is Michi-no-Eki Kashima,** a popular roadside station renowned for its premium Nori, harvested from the nearby Ariake Sea. Due to the bay's unique tidal shifts, the seaweed here is tender and flavorful. It's the perfect spot to pick up unique coastal delicacies found only in the Saga region.

→ **1:00pm – Arrive at the Yutoku Inari Shrine.** Ranked as one of Japan's top 3 Inari shrines, it is famous for its crimson architecture built directly into the steep mountainside. Its massive main hall sits high on wooden stilts, creating a grand "stage" reminiscent of Kyoto's iconic Kiyomizudera. Afterward, explore the **Monzen Shopping Street** at the shrine's base. This traditional pedestrian path is lined with eateries and souvenir shops. Enjoy lunch on your own before we depart for Nagasaki.

→ **4:30pm – Experience the vibrant glow of the Nagasaki Lantern Festival** in Nagasaki Chinatown. Originally established in 1994 by local Chinese residents, this event has grown from a small neighborhood tradition into a massive city-wide symbol of peace and cultural unity. The festival honors Nagasaki's deep historical connection with China through a spectacular display of over 15,000 lanterns. As you explore the area, you'll see the streets come alive with designs featuring Chinese mythology and zodiac animals, illuminating the city in a magical atmosphere.

→ **6:15pm – Check in at the Hilton Nagasaki** for our 2-night stay. Our hotel is conveniently located next to Nagasaki Station, surrounded by plenty of shopping and eateries, and is just a short walk from Amu Plaza Shopping Center.

Day 6: (Fri) Feb 19 – Nagasaki (B)

Hilton Nagasaki (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **9:00am – Our 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.

→ **11:30am – We'll continue to Glover Garden,** a hillside open-air museum featuring the historic homes of Western residents from Nagasaki's trading days. Walk through the Glover House (the oldest Western-style wooden building in Japan) and enjoy the views that inspired the opera Madame Butterfly. While browsing the shops along **Glover Street**, keep an eye out for two hidden "heart stones" in the cobblestones; finding them is said to bring good luck in love and fulfill romantic wishes when touched.

→ **1:15pm – Return to hotel.** Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Day 7: (Sat) Feb 20 – Nagasaki-Hita-Beppu (B/D)

Suginoi Hotel, Sora Tower (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **11:00am – Step back in time at Hita Mameda-machi,** affectionately known as the "Kyoto of Kyushu." Once a prosperous district under the Shogun's rule, its beautifully preserved streets still capture the timeless spirit of old-world Japan. As you wander the historic lanes, look up to spot the unique, L-shaped firewalls lining the roofs, which were once a proud status symbol for the town's wealthiest merchants. Be sure to try the famous "crunchy" Hita Yakisoba, or a scoop of refreshing Ginjo sake ice cream. Don't miss a photo with the world's largest wooden geta sandals; standing 13 feet tall and weighing over 2,000 pounds. This magnificent monument honors the town's deep-rooted traditional footwear industry.

→ **1:15pm – Uncover the secrets of award-winning plum liqueur at the Umeshu Gura Oyama distillery.** This facility transforms local fruit into world-class spirits through a specialized aging process in total darkness, a technique that perfectly preserves the plum's delicate aroma. During our visit, sample several unique varieties of this local specialty.

→ **2:15pm – Celebrate the arrival of early spring at the Hita Oyama Plum Tree Festival.** Admire the breathtaking sight of 6,000 trees blanketing the valley in fragrant pink and white blossoms. The Oyama area became a leader in plum

farming in the 1960s under the slogan “Let’s plant plums and chestnuts to go to Hawaii!” as Hawaii was the symbol of success and luxury. It was a successful mission to help local farmers gain financial independence and travel the world. Keep an eye out for “Ume-musubi,” special festival rice balls flavored with local plums that are a favorite seasonal snack.

→ **4:30pm** – Arrive at **Suginoi Hotel**, followed by a **buffet dinner at 7:00pm**. 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) Feb 21 – Beppu (B/L/D)

Suginoi Hotel, Sora Tower (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **9:30am** – Our morning begins with a visit to Beppu’s most famous thermal wonders, the Hells of Beppu (**Jigoku Meguri**). Despite being known as “Hells” for their unapproachable temperatures, often reaching nearly 100°C (212°F), these hot springs are nationally designated as a “Place of Scenic Beauty.”

Translated as “Blood Pond Hell,” **Chinoike-Jigoku** is the oldest natural “hell pond” in Japan with a striking red hue caused by iron oxide-rich clay. Another onsen sighting is **Umi-Jigoku** or “Sea Hell,” known for its beautiful cobalt blue. A tip: be sure to try the on site Onsen Tamago (eggs boiled in the springs) and Jigoku Mushi-yaki (pudding steamed by the natural volcanic vapors).

→ **11:45am** – Next, we’ll explore the iconic Shonin Park for a “**Sunayu**” **experience**, a century-old cornerstone of Beppu’s thermal heritage. Rather than a standard soak, you will be enveloped in warm, onsen-heated sand right along the coastline. This signature treatment is highly recommended for its detoxifying benefits and its serene views of the ocean.

→ **1:30pm** – Time to enjoy **lunch** at a local restaurant.

→ **2:45pm** – Learn about the art of Oita’s bamboo craftsmanship at the Beppu City Traditional Bamboo Crafts Center. While there, we’ll participate in a “**Take-Suzu**” (**bamboo bell**) **workshop**. This hands-on experience involves weaving 5 colored bamboo strips into a traditional bell shape, creating a melodic and personal souvenir.

→ **4:30pm** – **Return to hotel**, followed by a **buffet dinner at 6:30pm**.

Day 9: (Mon) Feb 22 - Beppu-FUK-HND-Honolulu (B)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **9:30am** – **Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for Fukuoka.**

→ **11:15am** – Along the way, we’ll stop at **Michinoeki Ukiha**, which has become known as the “King of Roadside Stations” after being ranked No. 1 in Kyushu for 9 years straight. Reopened in 2025 after a full renovation, this modern, spacious facility is a great spot to browse local goods.

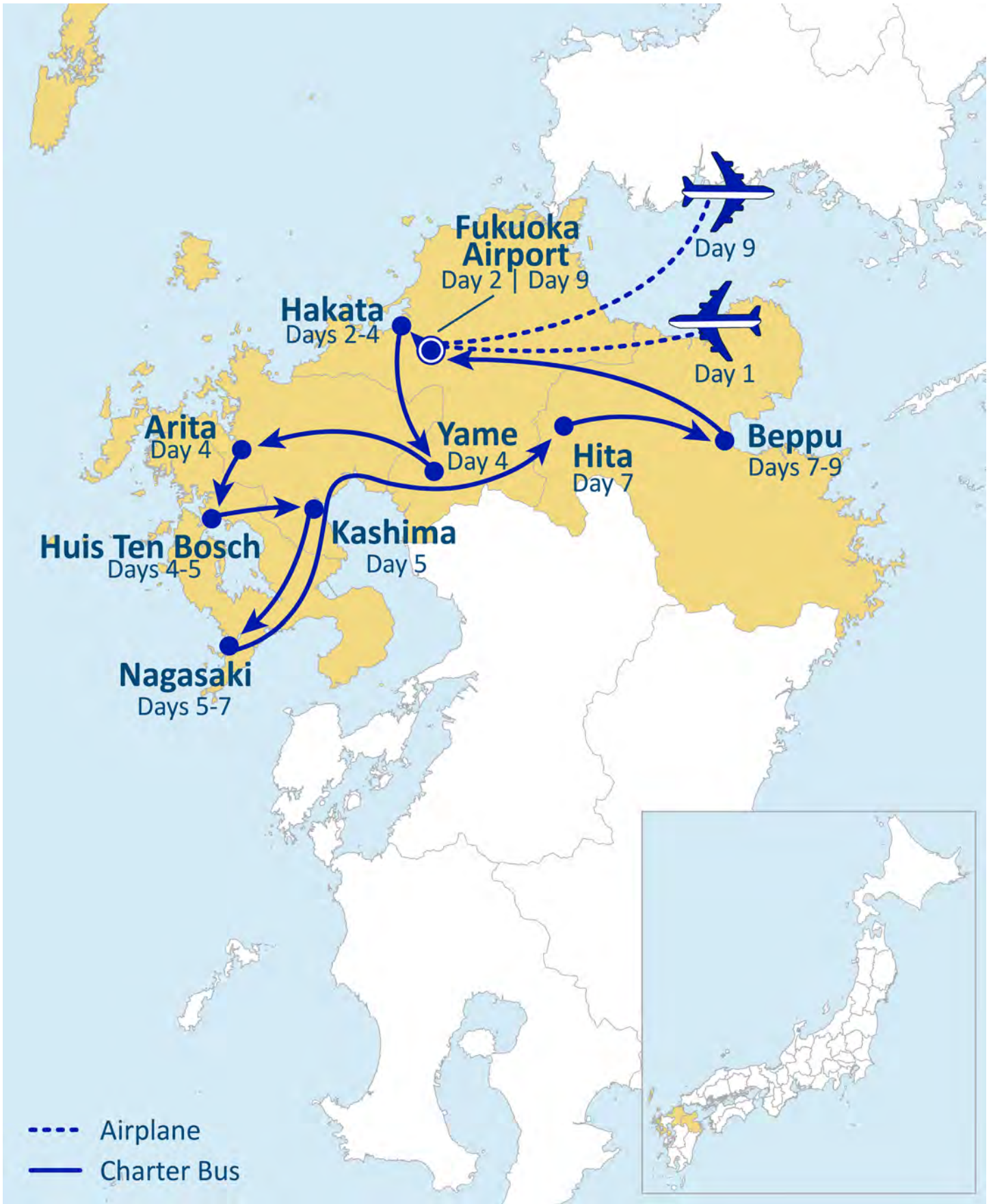
→ **1:00pm** – **Arrive at Fukuoka Airport (FUK).**

→ **3:55pm** – **Depart on JAL Domestic Flight 320 to Haneda Airport (HND).**

→ **5:35pm** – **Upon arrival at Haneda, we’ll transfer by shuttle to the International Terminal for JAL Flight 74 departing at 9:00pm.**

→ **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 **November 14, 2026**. Any changes made after this date will be subject to additional fees.
- » Final payment is due by **December 14, 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.
- » 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.