

Join Panda Travel in...



2027 Spring Highlights in Japan

(GPI3665)



April 3 - 12, 2027
8 Nights/ 10 Days

Tokyo - Hakone - Nara - Kyoto - Himeji - Okayama
- Kurashiki - Hiroshima - Miyajima - Osaka

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

JAL Economy Class

☐ \$5,188*

pp double/triple occupancy

☐ \$6,488*

single occupancy

JAL Premium Economy Class

☐ \$6,488*

pp double/triple occupancy

☐ \$7,788*

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: (Sat) Apr 3 – Honolulu Depart Honolulu

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

Day 2: (Sun) Apr 4 – Haneda-Tokyo Tokyo Dome Hotel (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Arrive at **Haneda Airport** and meet your guide in the arrival lobby. We will then transfer to the **Tokyo Dome Hotel**, our accommodations for the next 2 nights. Our hotel is conveniently located close to **Tokyo Dome City**, an entertainment complex featuring the iconic Tokyo Dome, home field of the Yomiuri Giants baseball team. There is also a theme park with rides, a variety of shopping and dining options, and the relaxing Spa LaQua hot spring facility.

Day 3: (Mon) Apr 5 – Tokyo (B) Tokyo Dome Hotel (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Breakfast at hotel.

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

→ 9:00am – This morning, we'll visit the legendary **Tsukiji Outer Market**. Once the world's largest fish market, Tsukiji's beloved outer market still buzzes with energy, offering fresh street food, seasonal produce tastings, and artisan knife shops that have supplied Tokyo's top chefs for generations. The inner auction relocated to Toyosu in 2018, but this bucket-list destination's flavor and character are very much alive.

→ 11:30am – Next, we're off to Asakusa's iconic **Sensoji Temple** and **Kaminarimon Gate** (aka "Thunder Gate") with its massive, unmistakable red lantern. This is a "must see" in every guidebook and welcomes over 30 million visitors annually. At the top of the temple steps, follow local custom: clap twice, bow your head, and toss a coin into the offering box to make a wish for good fortune. As you wander the temple grounds, explore the **Nakamise Shopping Arcade** to sample traditional sweets and shop for unique souvenirs.

→ 1:30pm – We wrap up the afternoon at **Ueno & Ameyoko Shopping Street** for one last sweep of Tokyo's best finds. "Ameyoko" is short for "Ameya Yokochō" or "candy shop back alley," a nod to the sweet vendors who once lined its stalls. It's also said to be short for "America," referencing the post-WWII era when American goods were sold there on the black market. Today, over 400 shops pack this vibrant stretch, offering everything from dried squid and cooked street food to clothes, bags, cosmetics, and accessories.

→ 4:00pm – Return to hotel. Enjoy the rest of the evening at Tokyo Dome City!

Day 4: (Tue) Apr 6 – Tokyo-Hakone (B/L/D) Hakone Kowakien Hotel (Free Wi-Fi) - Enjoy onsen

→ Your suitcases will be delivered by courier from Tokyo to Kyoto (2 pieces of luggage per person). Please prepare an overnight bag for 1 night.

→ Breakfast at hotel.

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

→ 10:30am – This morning, our ropeway ride takes us to **Owakudani**, a volcanic valley that resulted from Mount Hakone's last eruption 3,000 years ago. As one of Hakone's most famous landmarks, this site allows visitors to safely observe steaming sulfur vents, bubbling hot springs, and warm rivers set against dramatic natural landscapes. Tip: Be sure to try the on-site "black eggs," believed to extend your life by 7 years when you eat them! The eggs are hard boiled in the area's geothermal springs and its shells blackened from the sulfur.

→ 11:15am – Next, we board the famous **Hakone Ropeway**. Once recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's busiest aerial lift, this must-do journey offers spectacular, panoramic views of the steaming Owakudani valley below, pristine Lake Ashi, and Mount Fuji on a clear day.

→ 12:00pm – We then embark on a leisurely sightseeing cruise across **Lake Ashi** aboard a whimsical pirate ship. Formed in the caldera of Mount Hakone thousands of years ago, the lake offers splendid, uninterrupted views of the forested shoreline, the iconic red torii gate of Hakone Shrine, and on a clear day, a stunning backdrop of Mt Fuji.

→ 12:45pm – Enjoy a **Japanese-style lunch** at a local restaurant.

→ 2:00pm – Step into the world of **Karakuri** (traditional Japanese trick boxes) and **Yosegi-zaiku** (Hakone's famous geometric wood parquetry). At the museum, you will discover the centuries-old craftsmanship of puzzle boxes that require secret sequences to open. Afterward, roll up your sleeves for a **hands-on craft workshop** where you will design and assemble your own wooden coaster to take home.

→ 3:30pm – Check-In at **Hakone Kowakien Hotel**. The rest of the afternoon is yours at leisure or experience **Yunessun**, a unique hot spring theme park. You can relax in the traditional open-air baths or splash into the swimsuit-friendly recreation area featuring specialty baths infused with green tea, red wine, coffee, and sake! Conclude your day with a **buffet dinner** at the hotel.

Day 5: (Wed) Apr 7 – Hakone-Nara-Kyoto (B)

Courtyard by Marriott Kyoto Station (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:45am – Meet your guide in the hotel lobby.** We'll then transfer to Odawara Station to board the **bullet train** to Kyoto.

→ **12:12pm – After arriving at Kyoto Station, we'll head to Nara.**

→ **1:45pm – Welcome to Nara!** Enjoy free time to shop, browse, and have lunch on your own on **Higashimuki Shopping Street**. This covered shopping arcade offers a wide selection of shops and restaurants. A tip: At the entrance of the shopping street, there is Nara's most famous specialty, persimmon leaf sushi. It is bite size rice balls topped with salted mackerel and wrapped in a persimmon leaf.

→ **3:00pm – This afternoon, we'll visit Todaiji Temple**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the crown jewel of Nara. Completed in 752 as the head of all provincial Buddhist temples, its main hall (Daibutsuden) houses the Great Buddha, one of Japan's largest bronze statues, standing nearly 50 feet tall. Don't miss the famous wooden pillar inside with a hole at its base said to be the exact size of the Buddha's nostril. According to legend, anyone who successfully squeezes through will be blessed with good health and fortune!

→ Outside the temple, you can find 1,000 wild deer roaming about at **Nara Deer Park**. Believed to protect the temple grounds as messengers of the gods, the Nara deer can be found sniffing the pockets of passersby for food or happily snacking on shika senbei (deer crackers) that visitors can purchase.

→ **6:00pm – Arrive at Courtyard by Marriott Kyoto Station** (scheduled to open in Autumn 2026), our accommodations for the next 2 nights. Enjoy a prime location with a wide selection of shops and restaurants right at your doorstep.

Day 6: (Thu) Apr 8 – Kyoto (B)

Courtyard by Marriott Kyoto Station (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **9:00am – We begin our day with a visit to Kyoto's stunning Kiyomizu Temple**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Founded over 1200 years ago, this temple has a veranda that extends out to the side of a mountain with 43-foot-high wooden columns supporting its overhanging structure and a priceless statue of Kannon Bodhisattva, the goddess of mercy. Several other buildings designated as "national treasures" dot the grounds, as well as waterfalls and landmarks that have become part of popular lore. According to legend, the water carries therapeutic properties and a sip

from the three different streams confers health, longevity, and success in studies. For this reason, people have flocked to the temple to fill their tin cups with water from the falls.

→ **10:00am – Next, we'll go down from Kiyomizu Temple to Sannen-zaka and Ninenzaka**, a pair of ancient cobblestone paths surrounded with architecture from old Japan that make it feel straight out of a movie scene. Take a stroll along these lanes to sip some tea at Kasagiya, an authentic and well known teashop, or play with trinkets, dolls, and Japanese fans at one of the various souvenir shops selling original handcrafted Kyoto specialty goods.

→ **11:45am – Located on the outskirts of Kyoto, Arashiyama** is a beautiful destination famous for its stunning natural landscapes and peaceful atmosphere. Here are a few suggestions for exploring this tranquil area:

→ Venture into the internationally recognized cultural and picturesque landmark, **Sagano Bamboo Path**. Rooted in Japanese belief, bamboo has the power to ward off evil and deliver good fortunes, protecting the nearby Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines. Wander around and marvel at the soaring stalks of bamboo that surround you.

→ Or make a half an hour uphill hike to reach **Iwatayama Monkey Park**. There, you'll find mischievous monkeys scurrying about in their natural habitat or munching on a bag of apples that visitors can purchase. Another benefit of making this trek is the astounding panoramic views of Kyoto atop.

→ If you want to grab a bite to eat, try **yūdofu** (simmered tofu), a local Arashiyama specialty that highlights Buddhist vegetarian cuisine.

→ If **shopping** is on your to-do-list, there are plenty of shops to collect items like traditional fans, bamboo goods, and specialty snacks. This is also a great opportunity for you to take a break from walking and hitch a ride on a rickshaw!

→ **3:00pm – Perhaps the most important of shrines dedicated to Inari (Shinto god of rice), Fushimi Inari Shrine** is a recognizable network of thousands of brightly colored vermilion torii gates that lead into sacred Mount Inari's wooded forest. Throughout the shrine grounds, you'll notice statues of foxes, animals believed to be Inari's messengers.

→ **5:00pm – Return to hotel.** Enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure.

Day 7: (Fri) Apr 9 – Kyoto-Himeji-Okayama (B/L)

ANA Crowne Plaza Okayama (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Your suitcases will be delivered by chartered truck from Kyoto to Osaka (2 pieces of luggage per person). Please prepare an overnight bag for 2 nights.

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **10:30am** – This morning, we'll visit **Himeji Castle**, one of Japan's few remaining original feudal castles. It is also known as the "White Heron Castle" for its unique white exterior resembles a bird taking flight. Himeji boasts 83 buildings and is adjacent to a beautiful preserved Japanese garden, **Koko-en**, built in the architectural style of the Edo period (1603-1867). A stroll through the nine different gardens within Koko-en will reveal the Garden of Bamboo, the Tea Ceremony Garden, the Garden of Pine Trees, and other gardens designed to highlight Japan's four seasons. It's no wonder Himeji Castle is widely regarded as Japan's national treasure and a UNESCO world heritage site!

→ **1:15pm** – Enjoy a Japanese-style lunch at a local restaurant.

→ **2:15pm** – From here, we'll visit the **Nadagiku Sake Brewery**, considered one of the best breweries in Himeji. After the brewery tour, enjoy sake tasting and time in the gift shop. Some of the sake sold here is not available anywhere else.

→ **3:46pm** – We'll hop on a **bullet train** departing from Himeji Station to Okayama.

→ **4:05pm** – After arriving at Okayama Station, we'll take a short walk to the **ANA Crowne Plaza Okayama** to check in. Enjoy the rest of the evening shopping and dining at your leisure.

Day 8: (Sat) Apr 10 – Okayama-Kurashiki-Hiroshima (B)

ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel Hiroshima (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **10:00am** – Along the way, we'll stop at **Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter**, a 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 around 300 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.

→ **12:30pm** – Enjoy lunch on your own at the **Fukuyama** rest stop before continuing to Hiroshima.

→ **3:00pm** – 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.

→ **5:15pm** – Check in at **ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel Hiroshima**. Spend your evening at leisure exploring the surrounding area.

Day 9: (Sun) Apr 11 – Hiroshima-Miyajima-Osaka (B)

Hotel Granvia Osaka (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:30am** – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby to get ready for our visit to Miyajima Island.

→ **9:30am** – Now, we'll take a 10 min. **ferry ride** to Miyajima, also known as the "Island of Gods," and one of the most gorgeous destinations in Japan.

→ **10:00am** – Once we arrive, we'll stroll along the main street that leads to **Itsukushima Shrine**, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of Japan's most unique shrines. The shrine is dedicated to the god that protects from sea disasters and wars. Most noteworthy are its Torii Gate and the Shaden (shrine pavilion), which are both submerged under the sea at full tide. At low tide, the water recedes completely and it's possible to walk out to the gate.

→ **11:15am** – Shop for souvenirs like Shamoji (a rice scoop) along the **Omotesando shopping street**, and sample Hiroshima delicacies like Momiji manju (buns shaped like maple leaves and filled with a bean-jam filling). Lunch will be at your leisure.

→ **1:10pm** – After returning from Miyajima by **ferry**, we'll transfer to Hiroshima Station to board the **bullet train** to Osaka.

→ **4:43pm** – Upon arrival at Shin Osaka Station, we'll head to **Hotel Granvia Osaka** for our overnight stay.

→ **5:30pm** – **Arrive at the hotel.** Directly connected to JR Osaka Station, our hotel is surrounded by Osaka's shopping complexes and local restaurants.

Day 10: (Mon) Apr 12 – Osaka-Kansai-Honolulu (B)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **12:00am** – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for Osaka.

→ **12:30pm** – Spend lunch on your own at the bustling **Kuromon Ichiba Market!** 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. From a wide variety of fresh and local

produce to sweets, you will find many culinary treasures across its 150-plus vendors.

→ **2:30pm** – Later today, we'll head to **Shinsaibashi & Dotonbori**, Osaka's most famous shopping and entertainment district. Browse the endless retail shops inside the covered Shinsaibashi arcade, or capture photos of the famous neon signs and storefronts along the Dotonbori canal.

→ **Transfer to Kansai International Airport to begin our check-in process for the flight 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 29, 2026**. Any changes made after this date will be subject to additional fees.
- » Final payment is due by **February 3, 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.