Join Panda Travel in...

2027 Discover Japan in Summer & an Overnight Ferry Adventure

(GP13701)

May 29 - June 6, 2027

7 Nights/ 9 Days

Osaka - Beppu - Yufuin - Hakata - Shimonoseki - Iwakuni - Miyajimaguchi - Hiroshima - Kurashiki - Himeji - Kobe

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

JAL Economy Class:

☐ **$4,188***
per person-double/triple occupancy

☐ **$4,988***
single occupancy

JAL Premium Economy Class:

☐ **$5,588***
per person-double/triple occupancy

☐ **$6,388***
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) May 29 – Honolulu
Depart Honolulu

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

Day 2: (Sun) May 30 – KIX-Osaka
Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free Wi-Fi)

→ Arrive at Kansai Airport. Meet your English-speaking local guide at the arrival lobby, and we'll transfer to **Monterey Grasmere Osaka**, where we'll be staying for the night.

Day 3: (Mon) May 31 –
Osaka-Overnight Ferry stay to Beppu (B/D)
Shosen Mitsui Sunflower - Western-style room with windows

→After breakfast, enjoy your free day to explore Osaka. Our hotel is just a short walk from the city's most famous entertainment districts, as well as popular local spots for food and shopping.

→ 4:15pm – Following **late check-out at 4pm**, meet your guide at the hotel lobby for Osaka Port.

→ 5:00pm – Arrive at Osaka Port. Enjoy a unique and relaxing overnight cruise- like experience on the newest-generation Sunflower ferry, inaugurated in 2023.

→ 7:05pm – The 12-hr journey on the Sunflower ferry, **Shosen Mitsui Sunflower**, operates between Osaka and Beppu. This route connects Osaka South Port on the main island of Honshu with Beppu International Tourist Port on Kyushu, offering a comfortable way to travel through the Seto Inland Sea. Enjoy **buffet dinner** at the Ferry Restaurant, hotel-like amenities, including public baths, before arriving in Beppu, Kyushu's renowned hot spring city.

Day 4: (Tue) Jun 1 – Beppu-Yufuin-Hakata (B)
Oriental Hotel Fukuoka Hakata Station

→ Breakfast at Ferry Restaurant.

→ 6:55am – Arrive at Beppu Port.

→ 7:30am – Meet your guide at the ferry for Beppu and begin our exploration of the city's famous hot springs and scenic attractions.

→ 8:00am – The morning begins with a visit to **Chinoike-Jigoku**, translated as "Blood Pond Hell," is the oldest natural "hell pond" in the nation 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 Mushiyaki Pudding" (Pudding steamed in Hell).

→ 10:15am – Next, a scenic ride on the **Beppu Ropeway**. Along the climb to the top of Mount Tsurumi, soak in the stunning panoramic views of Beppu's renowned hot springs, geothermal activity, and the surrounding Oita Prefecture landscape.

→ Afterwards, we'll drive to **Yufuin**, another picturesque hot spring town.

→ 12:00pm – Here we are in the enchanting **Yufuin district**, a popular destination for travelers. In addition to a well-preserved collection of ryokans and onsens, Yufuin boasts many enjoyable restaurants, cafes, and snack shops. Take time for lunch on your own and delight in local cuisine like Oita-style chicken and traditional sweets.

→ Later on, step into the fairy tale world of **Yufuin Floral Village.** Drawing its inspiration from the quaint villages of the Cotswolds in England, this charming mini theme park has souvenir shops, an Alice in Wonderland-themed cat cafe, an owl forest zoo, and more delightful attractions!

→ 5:00pm – Arrive at Oriental Hotel Fukuoka Hakata Station, our accommodations for the next 2 nights. Our hotel is conveniently located across the street to Hakata Station with many dining and shopping options.

Day 5: (Wed) Jun 2 – Hakata (B)
Oriental Hotel Fukuoka Hakata Station

→ Breakfast at hotel.

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

→ 9:15am – 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.

→ 10:00am – From here, a visit to 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.

→ 11:15am – 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.**

→ 12:30pm – 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 this area and enjoy lunch on your own.

→ **2:30pm – Return to hotel.** Enjoy the remainder of the day shopping and dining on your own.

Day 6: (Thu) Jun 3 – Hakata-Shimonoseki-Iwakuni-Miyajimaguchi (B/D)

Aki Grand Hotel (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:00am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby.** This morning, we'll drive to Main island via Kanmon Bridge, a key attraction in Shimonoseki, spanning 1068 meters with six car lanes, connecting Honshu and Kyushu across the strait.

→ **9:30am –** 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 Fukoka-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.

→ **10:15pm –** Ready to eat like a local? Enjoy **Karato Market**, also known as "local kitchen," piled high with fresh seafood and regional delights!

→ Afterward, we'll continue to Suo-Oshima, pausing at **Sabagawa** (rest stop) for a lunch break on your own.

→ **2:45pm –** Next, a visit to the **Museum of Japanese Emigration to Hawai'i.** Commemorating the first group of Japanese migrants to Hawai'i in 1885, the museum explores their hardships and triumphs and preserves their cultural legacy.

→ **4:45pm –** Here we're at **Kintai-kyo 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.

→ **6:00pm –** Arrive **at Aki Grand Hotel, followed by a Japanese style dinner at 7:00pm.** Our hotel is located on a shoreline opposite a World Heritage Site, Miyajima Island. During your stay, enjoy the hotel's sauna, swimming pool, indoor bath, or open air outdoor bath with stunning waterfront views.

Day 7: (Fri) Jun 4 – Miyajimaguchi-Hiroshima (B)

Rihga Royal Hotel Hiroshima (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **9:00am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby.** This morning, we are off to Miyajima Island.

→ **9:25am –** Now a 10 min. **ferry ride** to **Miyajima Island**, also known as the "Island of Gods," and one of the most gorgeous destinations in Japan. You might recognize it from its oft-photographed vermilion Torii Gate (shrine gate) of Itsukushima-jinja, which seems to float on the waves at high tide.

→ **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.

→ **11:00am –** 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 a **ferry** from Miyajima to the mainland, then continue our journey to Hiroshima.

→ **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 **Rihga Royal Hotel Hiroshima.** Enjoy your evening at leisure.

Day 8: (Sat) Jun 5 – Hiroshima-Kurashiki-Himeji (B)

Hotel Nikko Himeji (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

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

→ **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 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. Have lunch on your own and take some time to browse the local shops.

→ **2:45pm –** As one of the last surviving feudal castles, **Himeji Castle** is famously known by the name "White Heron Castle" for its striking white exterior and resemblance to a bird in flight. This magnificent structure features 83 buildings and is complemented by the beautifully preserved **Kokoen Gardens**, designed in the architectural style of the Edo period (1603-1867).

As you stroll through the nine distinct gardens within Kokoen, you'll encounter the Garden of Bamboo, the Tea Ceremony Garden, the Garden of Pine Trees, and several others, each crafted to showcase Japan's four seasons. It's no wonder that Himeji Castle is celebrated as Japan's national treasure and recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site!

→ **4:45pm –** Arrive at **Hotel Nikko Himeji –** After check-in, the remainder of the evening is free. Perhaps a visit to Piole Himeji, the biggest shopping mall in Himeji, located a few blocks away from our hotel.

Day 9: (Sun) Jun 6 – Himeji-Kobe-KIX-Honolulu (B/L)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **9:00am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for Kobe & Kansai Airport.**

→ **10:00am –** This morning, a visit to this lively 400 year old local fish market and shopping street, **Akashi Seafood Market.** Sample the freshest catches from the famous fishing port of Akashi and keep your eye out for the local specialty: octopus!

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

→ **1:30pm –** Then, explore **Hakutsuru Sake Brewery Museum** on the outskirts of Kobe. There, we'll learn more about Japan's national beverage and discover how sake is manufactured from grains of rice into its final sweet, fermented form. This brewery is inside an old sake kura and unlike a modern museum, the interior's unique smell and look will transport you to a brewery from the old-world, reflective of the building itself. As we wander through the various stages of sake-making, you'll have the opportunity to sip on freshly pressed sake.

→ **3:30pm –** Now a moment at **AEON Mall Rinku Sennan**, a large shopping mall with everything you need to round up any last minute shopping.

→ **Arrive at Kansai International Airport to begin our check-in process for the flight home.**

→ **Arrive in Honolulu (same day).**

Thank you for traveling with us!

Fukuoka Airport
Hakata
Shimonoseki
Iwakuni
Miyajimaguchi
Hiroshima
Kurashiki
Himeji
Kobe
Osaka
Kansai Airport
Airplane
Charter Bus

Need to Know...

Payment Policy

- To secure your reservation, a **$200 per person** deposit is required. The deposit can be refunded until **February 24, 2027.** Any changes made after this date will be subject to additional fees.
- Final payment is due by **March 29, 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.