



# Air & Sea Travel Center

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# Shikoku Spring Sakura Discovery



Naruto Whirlpools

**Traveling Dates:**  
**March 24 – April 2, 2026 (10 Days)**

Cities covered: Kobe, Awaji Island, Tokushima, Takamatsu, Kochi, Matsuyama, Okayama, Himeji & Osaka

## Tour Package Includes

- \* International Flight from HONOLULU on Japan Airlines
- \* Awaji Island
- \* Deluxe Hotel Accommodations
- \* Admissions and 17 Meals as Stated
- \* Discover the Beauty of the Japanese Cherry Blossom – Sakura
  - Ritsurin Garden
  - Asahiyama Forest Park
  - Matsuyama Castle
  - Okayama Korakuen
- \* Hands-on Experience:
  - Udon Making
  - Awa Indigo Dyeing Making
  - Washi Paper Making
- \* Japanese Cultural Experience – Tea Ceremony
- \* UNESCO World Heritage Site: Himeji Castle
- \* Whirlpools Sightseeing Boat Ride
- \* Strawberry Picking Experience
- \* Local Fish Market – Hirome Market
- \* Gratuities for Tour Guides & Drivers

**FREE**  
Use of  
Wireless  
Tour Guide System



Ritsurin Garden

**Price per person:**

**from \$4,088**

**Incl: Tax & Fuel Surcharge**

**Single Supp: \$1,075**

**Day 1\*\*Mar 24****Honolulu → Kansai**

We begin our journey by boarding an international flight to Kansai Airport, the gateway to Osaka. Meals and snacks will be served on the plane.

**Day 2\*\*Mar 25****Kansai – Kobe**

Arrive at Kansai International Airport. We will meet with an Air and Sea Travel representative who will escort us to our hotel in Kobe.

**Day 3\*\*Mar 26****Kobe – Awaji Island – Tokushima – Takamatsu****(B, L, D)**

After breakfast, we will drive to Awaji Island, the largest island in the Inland Sea. Upon arrival, we will head to Naruto. The major attraction in Naruto is the Whirlpools in the Naruto Strait. This phenomenon occurs when opposing currents from the Seto Inland Sea and the Kii Channel meet in the Naruto Strait with a water level difference of as much as 1.5 meters made by the ebb and flow of the tide. During high tides from spring through fall, huge whirlpools rotating at 20 kilometers an hour and exceeding 20 meters in diameter occur. A Whirlpools Sightseeing Boat allows us to take in a really spectacular view of the roaring whirlpools and surging currents. We will go to Tokushima in the eastern part of Shikoku. Tokushima is an old castle town known for its passionate Awa-odori dance in the summer. The Awa-odori Dance is a traditional dance with sounds of 'shamisen' (Japanese guitar), gongs, and drums. We can experience this fun atmosphere at Awa-odori Hall. Indigo dyeing is very well known in Tokushima. To ensure that the cloth had been dyed thoroughly it was soaked in a tray for about two minutes then rinsed with water, repeat many times. Then we will enjoy our dinner before transferring to our hotel.

**Day 4\*\*Mar 27****Takamatsu****(B, L, D)**

After breakfast, we will visit Ritsurin Garden, one of the most famous and beautiful historical gardens in Japan. There are various bridges, footpaths and small hills which offer stunning views of the garden and the surrounding scenery. Ritsurin Garden has a total of approximate 350 cherry trees and many beautifully sculpted pine trees. The contrast between the robust pine trees and pale cherry blossoms gives us a different perspective when viewing the flowers. Before lunch, we will have a hands-on opportunity to Make Udon at the Udon School. Awagami washi papers found in this shop are 100% solely made in Tokushima Japan. We will experience washi paper making. The 470 meter long Takamatsu Marugamemachi Shopping Arcades is renowned for its trendy shops, traditional stores, and eateries. We can do some shopping and have our own dinner here before we transfer to our hotel.

**Day 5\*\*Mar 28****Takamatsu – Kochi****(B, L, D)**

After breakfast at our hotel, we will visit the Asahiyama Forest Park, the best place to enjoy the cherry blossoms in Takamatsu. About 2,000 cherry trees, mainly Yoshino cherry trees, will blossom beautifully at the end of March or the beginning of April. There are also various events such as Sakura Festival and Tent Village held at this time. After lunch, we will visit Iya-no-Kazura Bashi, a suspension bridge made of Actinidia auguta (a kind of kiwi vine). This used to be the only access into the mountainous areas. Kazura Bashi over the canyon in this secluded mountain village is also associated with the legend of the fleeting Heike clan that was once the most powerful ruling family. We will visit Oboke and Koboke, valleys located upstream of the Yoshino-gawa River in the western area of Tokushima. For a better look and to enjoy the natural beauty of the valleys, we will take a sightseeing boat ride from Oboke to Koboke. We can also see interesting rocks, like the Komori (bat) Rock and the Shishi (lion) Rock. Then we will transfer to Kochi, the capital of Kochi Prefecture on the southern coast of Shikoku. The city is small and friendly, with a casual atmosphere and a dose of southern flair. After check-in to our hotel, we will enjoy our dinner.

**Day 6\*\*Mar 29****Kochi – Matsuyama** **(B, D)**

After breakfast, we will go to Nishijima Horticultural Park. The park holds strawberry picking from January to early June. It is a strawberry-picking activity where we pick bright red strawberries ourselves and eat them!! Hirome Market is one of Kochi Prefecture's most well-known sightseeing spots. Overflowing with

shopping and entertainment, this market is a fun place to relax, socialize, and enjoy fresh food. Let us enjoy a walking tour and get some fresh seafood for our lunch. Then, we will transfer to Matsuyama, the capital city of Ehime Prefecture on Japan's Shikoku Island. Matsuyama, it's known for its central Dōgo Onsen Honkan bathhouse. We will take the Ropeway to the top for a panoramic view of Matsuyama City, before transferring to Matsuyama Castle, one of Japan's twelve "original castles". The castle was completed in 1627 and is one of the few castles in Japan preserved in its original condition. After walking through the castle, we will check-in to our hotel and enjoy the dinner in the hotel.

**Day 7\*\*Mar 30**

**Matsuyama – Okayama – Himeji**

**(B, L, D)**

This morning, we will transfer to Okayama, the "Sunny Land". Our tour will begin from Kurashiki. The name "Kurashiki" can be roughly translated as "town of storehouses". It is located in Okayama Prefecture next to the prefectural capital of Okayama city. The beautiful streetscape of storehouses and merchant homes south of JR Kurashiki Station was selected as an *Important Traditional Structures Conservation Area* by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, and is still protected today as the "BikanChiku" Historical Area. Korakuen is a beautiful landscape garden and Okayama's main attraction. Along with Kanazawa's Kenrokuen and Mito's Kairakuen, Korakuen is ranked as one of *Japan's three best landscape gardens*. It is located beside Okayama Castle, which can be seen from the garden as "borrowed scenery". Built in 1700 in the Enshu Landscape style of a strolling garden, the 133,000 m<sup>2</sup> grounds has a tea-ceremony kiosk, several ponds, a small waterfall and elegantly designed landscapes. About 280 Yoshino cherry trees are planted within and outside of the garden. They should be blooming from the end of March to early April. After dinner, we will check into our hotel in Himeji.

**Day 8\*\*Mar 31**

**Himeji – Osaka**

**(B, L)**

Himeji, originally a castle town in Japan, is home to Himeji Castle, a *UNESCO World Heritage Site*, also known as the "White Heron" Castle. It is the largest castle in Japan and is famous for its main tower and its highly effective and complicated defense design. After lunch, we will transfer to Osaka. On the way, we will stop at the local Costco Wholesale to find special souvenirs for our family and friends. Upon arrival, we will transfer to the Umeda Sky Building, a spectacular high-rise building in Osaka, also known as the "New Umeda City." The 173-meter-tall building consists of two towers connected by the "Floating Garden Observatory" on the 39th floor. The observatory offers stunning views of the city through its windows and from its open-air deck. After that, we will check-in to our hotel and enjoy the rest of day on our own.

**Day 9\*\*Apr 1**

**Osaka**

**(B)**

Full day free at leisure. You may want to spend time at Shinsaibashi, the largest and best known shopping area in Osaka where many boutiques and specialty shops attract local people and visitors. The Shinsaibashi evolved from the arcaded "Shinsaibashi Shopping Street". With a history of 380 years, it was already an established shopping area in the Edo Period. Shops of all kinds and for all ages line the street, a roofed arcade 600 meters long. **Dōtonbori** is another principal tourist destination in Osaka. One of the area's most prominent landmarks is "The Glico Man", a billboard for confectionery company Glico displaying the image of a runner crossing the finish line and is an icon of Osaka within Japan.

**Day 10\*\*Apr 2**

**Osaka – Kansai → Honolulu**

**(B)**

We can continue to explore the city on our own this morning. The Japanese Tea Ceremony, also called the Way of Tea, is a Japanese cultural activity involving the ceremonial preparation and presentation of matcha, powdered green tea. Tea gatherings can be classified as either informal or formal. Let us have an informal tea gathering before we transfer to the airport. After a long day, we will transfer to Kansai International Airport for our return flight to Honolulu, taking with us lasting memories of this wonderful Cherry Blossom Trip in Shikoku.

*We wish you a safe journey and many wonderful memories to share with family and friends! ☺*

B: Breakfast | L: Lunch | D: Dinner



### **Remarks:**

- ✦ Fares are per person; USD based on double occupancy and includes all airline taxes and fees.
- ✦ Escorted tour with a minimum of 20 passengers
- ✦ Refer to "General Condition of Air & Sea"
- ✦ We reserve the right to modify the itinerary to ensure smooth operation
- ✦ Gratuity for Local Tour Guides and Drivers is included
- ✦ Tour price is subject to change according to any airfare increase, increase in government taxes, additional fuel charges and fluctuation of the rate of exchange between U.S. and foreign currency
- ✦ Tour price includes fuel surcharge & government taxes and fees. The tour price shown is current at time of listing and pricing on **Aug 25, 2025**
- ✦ It is mandatory to inform Air and Sea Travel of any existing conditions that may require medical attention or accommodations during the trip. You need to provide this information in writing in the Tour Supplemental Information section of the application. If you do not have a travel companion who can help you with your special needs, you need to talk to your agent to determine if this is an appropriate tour for you. Some tours may be too strenuous depending on your condition. Air and Sea Travel reserves the right to reject or cancel your booking. You are responsible for any cancellation penalty that this may incur.
- ✦ All travelers, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, are welcome to travel with us and will no longer be required to provide proof of pre-departure testing, except for specific countries where COVID-19 vaccination, testing, or additional documentation are required by law. Please visit or revisit the government site to verify the travel requirements. Fully vaccinated are recommended. Vaccines combined with multi-layered preventative health and safety measures will help us provide a safe and healthy vacation environment.
- ✦ As government regulations evolve, our health and safety protocols will evolve as needed to ensure compliance. This may mean different protocols from state to state and city to city based on local requirements.

### **Payment Policy:**

**CHECK OR CASH PAYMENT ONLY.** A deposit of \$ 350 per person is required at the time of application. The balance of payment is due on **Dec 16, 2025**. In case the balance of payment is not made within the required time period, Air and Sea Travel Center reserves the right to cancel reservations and charge a cancellation fee.

### **Cancellation Policy:**

**Written notice is required for any cancellation. After Dec 16, 2025**, the cancellation fee will be as follow:

- \*\* **Dec 17, 2025 – Feb. 1, 2026**, 50% of total price plus any other service fee caused from the cancellation;
- \*\* **From Feb. 2, 2026 to the departure** or withdrawal during the tour shall be regarded as willingly giving up all rights concerned, **100%** of the total price, and the request for other service as substitute shall not be accepted.

**\*\*We strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance when you make a reservation\*\***