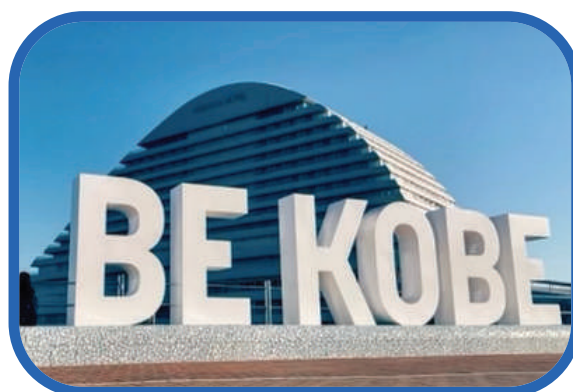


Join Panda Travel in...



2023 Traveling the Tokaido Road Summer Break #3

(GPI2965)



Cancel for any reason up to 60 days prior to departure date for a **FULL REFUND!**

June 10 - 19, 2023
8 Nights/ 10 Days

Kobe - Osaka - Nara -
Kyoto - Tokyo

\$100 OFF PER PERSON
when you pay with a personal check/cash

☐ **\$3,988***

per person-triple occupancy

☐ **\$4,028***

per person-double occupancy

☐ **\$4,398***

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) June 10 – Honolulu Depart Honolulu 2:30pm via Hawaiian Airlines #449

Please meet the Panda Travel representative **3 hours prior to departure** at the Hawaiian Airlines check-in counters located at Terminal 2, Lobby 4.

Day 2: (Sun) June 11 – Kansai-Kobe (D)

Hotel Monterey Kobe (Free WiFi)

Arrive Kansai at 6:45 pm. After clearing customs, our English-speaking local guide will meet us at the airport arrival lobby. We'll then transfer to our hotel in Kobe - a certified UNESCO City of Design. The travel time will be about 1.5 hours. A dinner bento box will be provided for you to enjoy along the drive.

Day 3: (Mon) June 12 – Kobe-Osaka (B/L)

Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free WiFi)

Please meet at the lobby by 8:45 am after breakfast.

Our first visit this morning is to **Meriken Park**, a waterfront park located at the Port of Kobe. At this scenic site, you'll find two symbols of Kobe: the iconic red Kobe Port Tower and the Kobe Maritime Museum. You'll also spot the "Be Kobe" art piece, which was installed in 2017 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Kobe City's port. (photo stop - 9:00-9:30am)

Our next stop will be **Kobe Nunobiki Herb Gardens &**

Ropeway - a Kobe landmark reachable via a 10 minute gondola ride with panoramic views with sweeping views of Kobe, Kyoto, and Osaka. Atop, you'll find the Welcome Garden with flowers in bloom, a recreation area with free play equipment, a hammock section, a souvenir shop selling herbs and other aromatic products, and a veranda with 360 views where you can grab a drink and some snacks while you enjoy the picturesque scenery.

We'll then 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 extraordinarily tender, finely marbled, and full-flavored.



Day 3 - Hakutsuru Sake Brewery Museum

Next, we're off to **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.

From here, we'll venture to **Osaka Castle**, an important landmark in Osaka. Built as a display of power by Toyotomi Hideyoshi after he achieved his goal of unifying Japan, this castle has endured centuries of conflict with battles and war, serving as the battleground for samurai sword fights on several occasions. This led to several reconstructions, with it being reinforced with concrete in 1930 for further preservation. As you walk through, you can spot shadows of past previous renovations and notice the massive stone walls, gold-leaf trim, copper roof, and panoramic views. There is also a fascinating on-site museum that chronicles its turbulent history.

Now, off to our hotel by 5:30 pm and the remainder of the evening is yours at leisure.

Day 4: (Tue) June 13 – Osaka/Full day at leisure (B)

Hotel Monterey Grasmere Osaka (Free WiFi)

Today is yours to explore the wonderful city of Osaka! Here are some notable spots:

Kuromon Market: Known as the “Kitchen of Osaka”. It’s where many of the city’s chefs get their supplies.. It’s made up of one main walking street with about 150 shops selling mostly fresh fish, seafood, meat, fruits, and vegetables.



Day 4 - Dotonbori

Dotonbori district: Best seen at night, this is a must see area to experience Osaka culture and snack on takoyaki, okonomiyaki, and many other well known Osaka street foods. Perhaps what makes this district most iconic is its hundreds of neon lights and mechanized signs, including the famous Glico Running Man sign and Kani Doraku crab sign. This is a great place to enjoy a night out immersed in Osaka’s vibrant craft beer scene too!

Shinsaibashi Shopping Arcade: This shopping arcade and the surrounding Shinsaibashi area is Osaka’s premier shopping center. Approximately 2,000 feet long, this area combines chain retail stores and trendy boutiques with expensive department stores and top designer fashion labels.

Den Den Town: Located in the Nipponbashi area, Den Den Town is an electronics district comparable to Tokyo’s Akihabara where you might be able to bargain a better deal. Nicknamed the “otaku paradise,” Den Den Town also offers numerous manga and anime retailers as well as maid and cosplay cafes.

Amerikamura: Locally known as “Amemura,” this shopping district is considered Osaka’s counterpart to Harajuku and is a popular hang out spot for trendy youths with American-style indie boutiques, international bars, and low prices. It has a lively atmosphere and is a great way to see Japan’s interpretation of Western culture.

Osaka Universal Studios: Ranked Japan’s best theme park, Osaka Universal Studios sets itself apart as ever evolving, but consistent in delivering unique Japanese specific character shows and foods. In February 2021, the park opened the

world’s first ever Super Nintendo World. In addition to Minions, Spider-man, JAWS!, and the Wizarding World of Harry Potter, other character world attractions unique to this park include Snoopy studios, Hello Kitty, Sesame Street.

Day 5: (Wed) June 14 – Osaka-Nara-Kyoto (B/L)

Daiwa Roynet Hotel Kyoto-Ekimae (Free WiFi)

After breakfast, please meet in the lobby by 8:30 am as we’re off to Nara and Kyoto.



Day 5 - Tōdai-ji Temple

Completed in the year 752, **Tōdai-ji Temple** (or “Great Eastern Temple”) once served as Japan’s head Buddhist temple and is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and cultural landmark of Nara. Most notable is Daibutsuden (Big Buddha Hall) which houses one of Japan’s largest Buddha statues, a bronze figure towering at nearly 50 feet and weighing about 121 tons. Inside the hall, you can find a pillar with a large opening carved at its base that’s said to be the size of Daibutsu’s nostril. According to legend, those who are able to squeeze through will be granted enlightenment in their next life.

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

After a **Japanese style lunch** at a local restaurant, we’ll stop at **Aeon Mall Kyoto Katsuragawa**, the 3rd largest Aeon Mall in Kansai, housing fashion, eating venues...just to name a few.

We’ll check in at our hotel by 5 pm. The remainder of the evening is yours at leisure.

Day 6: (Thu) June 15 – Kyoto (B)

Daiwa Roynet Hotel Kyoto-Ekimae (Free WiFi)

After breakfast, please meet in the lobby at 8:30am.

Did you know that Kinkakuji Temple is covered with real gold? Our morning begins with a visit to Kyoto’s eye-catching **Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion)**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Originally built in 1397 as Shōgun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu’s retirement villa but later converted into a

temple. In addition to the gold-leaf on Japanese lacquer that wraps around the 2nd and 3rd floors, a Buddhist era inspired beautiful garden and “Mirror Pond” encircling the Temple reflects the delicate balance between tranquility and the Temple’s grandiose facade.



Day 6 - Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion)

Our next stop will be Kyoto’s stunning **Kiyomizu Temple**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Founded over 1200 years ago, this temple’s veranda 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. Be sure to step out on the large veranda and soak in the beautiful views overlooking the city of Kyoto.

Several other buildings designated as “national treasures” dot the grounds, as do waterfalls and landmarks which have entered 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.

Wishing for love instead? We will also see the **Jishu-jinja Shrine**. Here, people pray to find success in love and secure their wish by walking between two prominent stones with their eyes closed. If they are able to complete this challenge alone, it’s a sign that love is right around the corner.

Next, we’ll go down from Kiyomizu-dera Temple to **Sannen-zaka** and **Ninen-zaka**, 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. You may also spot unique restaurants like one reconstructed from a merchant’s house or ceramic shops standing side by side along the slope. Enjoy some free time to explore and grab some lunch on your own.

After we return to the hotel in the afternoon, continue

exploring the area at your leisure.

Day 7: (Fri) June 16 – Kyoto-Tokyo (B/L)

Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free WiFi)

After breakfast, please meet in the lobby by 9:00 am. Your luggage will be delivered to your hotel in Tokyo on the same day.

We begin our day with a visit to **Arashiyama**, a heavily Buddhist influenced area. Start to visit **Tenryuji Temple**, the head temple of the Tenryu sect of Rinzai Zen Buddhism and official **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Founded in 1339, this temple is best known for its beautiful cultural artwork and tranquil Sogenchi pond and garden, one of the oldest landscape gardens in Kyoto.



Day 7 - Arashiyama Bamboo Grove

Be sure to venture into the internationally recognized cultural and picturesque landmark, **Arashiyama Bamboo Grove**. Rooted in Japanese belief, bamboo has the power to ward off evil and deliver good fortunes, protecting the nearby Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines. When you walk through the tunnels of bamboo, you can feel the energy of the forest. Wander around and marvel at the soaring stalks of bamboo that surround you. Close your eyes and listen to the sound of the rustling bamboo swaying gently in the wind. Don’t miss out on this breathtaking and meditative experience!

Or take 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.

A local Arashiyama specialty - yūdōfu (simmered tofu) that highlights Buddhist vegetarian cuisine will be served for **lunch**. 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!

From here, we’re off to Kyoto Station to board a **bullet train**

to Tokyo. We'll arrive at our hotel by 5pm, for an upcoming 3 nights stay. Enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure.

Our hotel lobby directly connects you to **Sunshine City**, a huge shopping and entertainment complex with 4 towers that include an aquarium, planetarium, solarium, a virtual reality play experience, and a nearly 788 foot high skyscraper with an observation deck.

In addition to the renowned **Pokemon Center Mega Tokyo**, Sunshine City is also home to **Namja Town**, a food and dessert theme park. If you're in the mood to shop, check out Tobu Department Store and Seibu Ikebukuro Flagship Store. Inside Seibu is the **Kit-Kat Chocolatory** -- the world's first Kit-Kat boutique. Don't miss your chance to try special and seasonal Kit-Kat flavors like purple potato, cinnamon cookie, european cheese, bean cake and wasabi-these make for great gifts too!

Alternatively, Ikebukuro station is close by and has rail lines connecting you to other popular areas like Shinagawa, Shibuya, Shinjuku, Ueno, and Akihabara.

There's also a 24-hour Family Mart convenience store right off the lobby for quick food, snack, and beverage pickups. Seiyu, another 24-hour supermarket, is within a 5 min walk if you prefer a light dinner bento to bring back to the room.

Day 8: (Sat) June 17 – Tokyo (B/L)

Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free WiFi)

Please meet in the lobby by 8:30 am after breakfast.



Day 8 - Tsukiji Fish Market

Our morning begins at the iconic **Tsukiji Fish Market**, the largest fish market in the world and renowned bucketlist spot. While the inner auction market relocated in 2018, the charm remains in its outer market. With the 1.5 hours we spend here, be sure to enjoy all that the outer market has to offer, from seasonal produce and candy tasting to knife-making artisan shops.

Our next stop is Ueno, **Ameyoko Shopping Street**, the absolutely perfect place to get your omiyage. "Ameyoko"

is short for "Ameya Yokocho" or "candy shop back alley," a name reminiscent of a post WWII era when candy was a luxury good and was illegally sold there. Now, the street is lined with over 400 shops that sell anything and everything, from cooked street food, snacks like dried squid, and fresh seafood to clothes, bags, accessories, cosmetics, and much more! Enjoy an 1.5 hour here to explore on your own.

After a **Japanese style lunch** at a local restaurant, we'll stop at **Arcakit Kinshicho** - a shopping complex housing the largest Daiso (7/F) in Tokyo. This train station area offers many more shops (3Coins on 3/F), fashion, eating venues and supermarkets, just to name a few.

We'll return to our hotel by 4:30pm. The remainder of the day is yours at leisure. Your local guide is available to assist you with any questions you might have.

Day 9: (Sun) June 18 – Tokyo-Free day at leisure (B)

Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free WiFi)

After breakfast, enjoy your free day!

Day 10: (Mon) June 19 - Tokyo-Haneda-Honolulu (B)

After breakfast, please meet in the lobby by 9:30am. It is our last day on tour, but there's still much to see and do before our flight home later this evening.

Our first visit this morning is **Rikugien Garden** or "Six Poems Garden." Around this ornate landscaped garden, you'll find reproductions of 88 miniature scenes from famous poems. While strolling along the garden, you can trace the many winding paths between the wooded areas and undulating hills. (Hydrangea Festival might be held, TBA)

From here, we'll drive to **Odaiba**. Enjoy lunch on your own & spend some free time to do some last minute shopping at the **Divercity Shopping Center**. Don't forget to get a photo in front of the life-sized Unicorn Gundam Statue, towering at 78 feet!

Next, a stop at **teamLab Planets Toyosu**, an immersive museum that uses technology and perspective to put viewers at a fascinating proximity to digital art. Visitors pass through labyrinth-like rooms where they experience fields of flowers, or look up at walls that appear to be composed of brightly lit geographic shapes.

We'll now head to Haneda Airport, arriving by 5:00pm to begin our check-in process for the flight home.

Depart Haneda Airport 8:15pm via Hawaiian Airlines #864

Arrive in Honolulu at 8:50am.

Thank you for traveling with us!



Need to Know...



Payment Policy

- » **Reserve with \$75 per person deposit. Refundable up to 60 days prior to departure date, April 11, 2023.**
- » **Final payment due by April 23, 2023. 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.
- » Air ticket fare is guaranteed, but taxes, fees, and fuel surcharges are subject to change until tickets are issued, approximately 45 days out.
- » We reserve the right to make changes to the itinerary with or 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.