




**MARUKAI NIHON NO AJI TOUR  
KYUSHU-KYOTO SAKURA TOUR  
Saturday, March 26-Wednesday, April 6, 2011**



Transportation We fly JAL or ANA unless specifically notified. Ground for this tour is by bus & shinkansen.

Meals All meals, except for any 'meal on own' at places where people generally want to shop/browse on own.



Tour length 12 days; 10 nights

26-Mar Sat	Honolulu	Check in at Honolulu International Airport Departure time:		*	
27-Mar Sun	Narita  Kagoshima	Arrive: at Narita Drive to Haneda Airport leave Haneda to Kagoshima, arriving in time for a late dinner at the hotel			
28-Mar Mon	Kagoshima   Ibusuki Onsen	Breakfast at hotel. After breakfast we drive to Sakamoto kurosu, black vinegar and we can learn about its health value. We enjoy a sightseeing drive around Sakurajima (still active volcano) and board ferry back to Kagoshima. We have a cooking class and our results are our lunch Visit a shochu factory and satsuma age factory. Drive to our onsen, check in, and then we relax in very unique 'sand bath'. Dinner is kaiseki ryori and enkaijyo.	X	X	X
29-Mar Tue	Ibusuki Onsen   Kirishima Onsen	Breakfast at hotel. Visit an archeological Museum, learn about ancients artifacts found in the area and interact with some. Pass by Lake Ikeda to our Oshima Tsumugi taiken. Lunch is at Shiroyama and if we have time, enjoy a short shopping stop at Amu Plaza Drive toward the mountain to Kirishima Onsen. Check in. Dinner is wa-enkai at hotel.	X	X	X
30-Mar Wed	Kirishima Onsen   Kumamoto	Breakfast at hotel. We drive to the wood-working town of former samurai and do a taiken where we paint our own hana tebako. Lunch is a country stop, where we enjoy an inoshishi nabe lunch under cherry trees (hanami). We continue to Kumamoto, to Kumamoto Castle, where we hope to see more cherry blossoms. Check in at our hotel. Time to shop/browse at Arcade and have dinner on your own.	X	X	



31-Mar Thur	<p>Kumamoto</p>  <p>Kumamoto</p>	<p>We have to have the right tide to do our jibiki ami. Tide is right this year in the afternoon. We pull--and have fun, and really pull because this year, for the first time, our catch will be our dinner barbecue! In the morning, we will have a taiken learning how to make own sausage. Lunch is at local restaurant. We want to drive to Reigando where Musashi Miyamoto, famous samurai warrior, sat in a cave and practiced zen and wrote "Book of Five Rings." Dinner is a barbecue of our jibiki ami</p>	X	X	X
1-Apr Fri	<p>Kumamoto</p>   <p>Nagasaki</p>	<p>Breakfast at hotel. Drive to Yanagawa.</p> <p>Enjoy a lazy ride down Yanagawa Canal on old boats called Donko Bune. It may also be the right time for the Nagashi Hina Matsuri, so as we go down the canal, we may see Girls Day dolls on display. We visit an Arita Yaki factory and have a special hand craft taiken painting our own designs on Arita Yaki ceramic cups. Drive to Nagasaki and check in at our hotel. Dinner at local Chinese restaurant.</p>	X	X	X
2-Apr Sat	<p>Nagasaki</p>  <p>Kita Kyushu</p>	<p>Breakfast at hotel. Sightsee at Nagasaki, noticing the early influence of the Dutch and Portuguese in this city. With time, visit to Peace Park. Drive to Okawachiyama, famous Imari porcelain pottery production area, and we may be in time for their annual sale. Lunch is at local restaurant with fresh fish/seafood. Continue our drive to Kita Kyushu We stop at Dazaifu Temple for taiken Check in at hotel. Dinner is a French-Japanese dinner.</p>	X	X	X
3-Apr Sun	<p>Kita Kyushu</p>  <p>Nagato Yumoto Onsen</p>	<p>Breakfast at hotel. Pass the Kannon Kaikyo (strait) to Honshu to Akiyoshi-Dai to see largest limestone cavern in Japan. Drive to Hagi At Hagi, enjoy taiken experience with Hagi ceramics Drive to Nagato Yumoto and check in. Dinner is wa-enkai at hotel. Pack an overnight bag tonight.</p>	X	X	X
4-Apr Mon	<p>Nagato Yumoto Onsen</p>  <p>Hiroshima</p>	<p>Breakfast at hotel. We'll stop at Kintai Kyo Bashi and walk across all of the bridges and then enjoy lunch at local restaurant. After lunch, we'll take a short ferry boat ride to Miyajima to see Itsukushima-jinja, perhaps Japan's most photographed shrine. From there, we go to Hiroshima and with time, stop at a sakagura. The bus continues after dropping us off at the hotel. Dinner is on your own tonight.</p>	X	X	



5-Apr Tue	Hiroshima    Kyoto	We wake up early and with only our carry-on bags, we walk to the train station and ride the shinkansen to Kyoto. And we enjoy eki bento for breakfast on the train. At Kyoto, our 'Cinderella Fantasy' begins when we change into our kimono and visit Heian Shrine to see its sakura blossoms landscape and take beautiful sakura/kimono pictures. We have an elegant lunch, dressed in our outfits. In the afternoon we return our kimono and then, with time, spend time shopping at Kyoto, hopefully at a busy shopping arcade. Dinner tonight is our sayonara dinner.	X	X	X
6-Apr Wed	Kyoto  	Breakfast at hotel. Weather permitting, we ride the Hozugawa Kudari all the way to Arashiyama with free time to shop at Arashiyama. If weather is poor we will make alternate plans. Lunch is on your own at Arashiyama. Enjoy walking/shopping around Arashiyama. We hope to visit Kiyomizu Temple (time and traffic permitting) and then get ready to leave for Kansai International Airport. We check in for our return flight. Return flight:	X		*
6-Apr Wed	Honolulu	We arrive at Honolulu International			

\*In-flight meals

Itinerary may have changes to enhance tour or to provide alternative if necessary.

