

**MARUKAI NIHON NO AJI TOUR
KYUSHU-KYOTO SAKURA TOUR
Monday, March 26--Thursday, April 5, 2012**






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.

26-Mar Mon	Honolulu	Check in at Honolulu International Airport Departure time:		*	
27-Mar Tues	Kansai	Arrive: Depending on time of arrival, we may sleep over at Kansai. Or we may connect to Kagoshima and sleep over at Kagoshima			
28-Mar Wed	Kagoshima  Ibusuki Onsen	Breakfast at hotel. We have to take a morning flight from Kansai to Kagoshima. If we have enough time, we will visit Sakamoto Kurose, maker of black vinegar, known for its health value. Otherwise, after arriving at Kagoshima, we will go directly to our cooking class. Results are our lunch! We will drive to our onsen; we want to be there early enough so after we check in, we can experience and relax in very unique 'sand bath'. Dinner is kaiseki ryori and enkaijyo.	X	X	X
29-Mar Thurs	Ibusuki Onsen  Kirishima Onsen	Breakfast at hotel. Visit an archeological Museum, learn about ancient artifacts found in the area and interact with some. Pass Lake Ikeda to Kusakizome taiken. Lunch is at local restaurant. With time, we can have shopping stop at Kagoshima. Drive toward Kirishima Onsen. Check in. Dinner is wa-enkai at hotel.	X	X	X
30-Mar Fri	Kirishima Onsen  Kumamoto	Breakfast at hotel. We drive to the wood-working town of former samurai and do a taiken of a traditional craft where we paint our own hana tebako. Lunch is a country stop, where we enjoy an inoshishi nabe lunch under cherry trees (hanami). Then we drive to Kumamoto to see sakura at Kumamoto Castle. Check in at our hotel. Dinner at local restaurant	X	X	X



<p>31-Mar Sat</p>	<p>Kumamoto</p>  <p>Nagasaki</p>	<p>Early morning we hope to visit Regando where Miyamoto Musashi wrote "Book of Five Rings". Then we enjoy a lazy ride down the Yanagawa Canal on boats called Donko Bune. We'll go to Arita, have lunch there, and then go to Arita yaki shop where you will have a unique experience to paint on your own Arita yaki porcelain mug. Then we'll drive to Nagasaki and sighsee at there, seeing the early influence of the Dutch and Portuguese in this city. We also hope to go to Peace Park. Dinner will be unique Chinese ryori. Check in</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>1-Apr Sun</p>	<p>Nagasaki</p>  <p>Fukuoka</p>	<p>Breakfast at hotel. We hope for good tide today so we can do jibiki ami for our lunch! However, the order of the day may change. Drive to Okawachiyama, famous Imari porcelain pottery production area, and we may be in time for their annual sale. Lunch is our 'catch'. Drive to Fukuoka where we hope to check in early enough so you can enjoy the shops/arcade and have dinner on your own.</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	
<p>2-Apr Mon</p>	<p>Fukuoka</p>  <p>Nagato Yumoto Onsen</p>	<p>Breakfast at hotel. Before we pass the Kannon Kaiyko (strait) to go into Honshu, we will take a boat to GannyuJima, the island where Sasaki Kojiro and Miyamoto Musashi had their famous duel. Lunch at local restaurant. Then we see Akiyoshi-Dai (limestone cavern) Drive to Nagato Yumoto and check in. Dinner is wa-enkai at hotel. Pack an overnight bag tonight.</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>3-Apr Tues</p>	<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 we'll take a short ferry boat ride to Miyajima. We'll have lunch and after lunch we take a walk to Itsukushima-jinja, perhaps Japan's most photographed shrine. Free time if any to enjoy browsing among shops. Take our ferry boat back and then we continue our drive to Hiroshima. Take our overnight bags and check in at our hotel. The bus continues Dinner is on your own tonight.</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	



<p>4-Apr Wed</p> 	<p>Hiroshima</p> <p>Kyoto</p>	<p>We wake up early and with only our carry-on bags, we walk to the train station and ride the shinkansen to Osaka Station. We will enjoy eki bento for breakfast on the train. Meet bus, go to Kyoto 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 Check in our hotel. Dinner tonight is our sayonara dinner.</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>5-Apr Thurs</p> 	<p>Kyoto</p>	<p>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 have time to enjoy Nishiki Arcade where you can pick up last minute omiyage before we leave for Kansai Airport. We check in for our return flight. Return flight:</p>	<p>X</p>	<p></p>	<p>*</p>
<p>5-Apr Thurs</p>	<p>Honolulu</p>	<p>We arrive at Honolulu International</p>	<p></p>	<p></p>	<p></p>

*In-flight meals

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

