

Nozomi Travel Company, LLC



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Koyasan, Kii, and Takayama

October 13 – 25, 2009

Price: \$3589.00
(based on double occupancy)

Tour price includes:

- Airfare from Honolulu to Japan Roundtrip
- Ground transportation as indicated by itinerary
- Admission as indicated by itinerary
- Daily Breakfast and Seven Dinners
- Hotel Accommodations
- Tour Escort

October 13, 2009 Tuesday Day One Honolulu to Kansai

An afternoon flight will take us from Honolulu to Kansai Airport.

October 14, 2009 Wednesday Day Two Kansai

We arrive in Kansai in the late afternoon and will head to our hotel for the evening.

October 15, 2009 Thursday Day Three Kansai to Koyasan

We begin our tour by heading to Koyasan, the headquarters for Shingon Buddhism and settled by the monk Kukai known posthumously as Kobo Daishi. This area is home to 120 temples and one Japan's most famous graveyards. While there we will visit the Daimon, Danjyo Garan, Koyasan Reihokan, Kongobuji, and Okunoin. The Daimon is the great gate entrance to this temple complex. From there we will head to the Danjyo Garan a complex centered around the Kompon Daito, a great Pagoda in brilliant red, originally built Kobo Daishi. Next we will go to the Koyasan Reihokan, a museum that showcases various treasure collected over the centuries. The Kongobuji is our next stop and it is the main temple of Shingon Buddhism. The last stop will be the Okunoin, a massive graveyard with numerous mausoleums dedicated to various historical figures, like Tokugawa Ieyasu and Tokugawa Iemitsu, not to mention the mausoleum of Kobo Daishi himself, where he is said to be meditating for all eternity.

For the evening we will be spending it at one of the temples that lets visitors experience some of temple life. This includes trying shojin ryori, the vegetarian meals that are eaten by the monks daily.

October 16, 2009 Friday Day Four Koyasan to Shirahama Onsen

We leave the tranquility of Koya-san and head to the Shirahama via the Ryujin Skyline, a scenic highway in the mountains. When we pass through Minabe we will visit the Minabe Kishu Umeboshi Hall, where we will see the history of umeboshi production as well as various products made from ume. Our last stop will be the Tore Tore Ichiba, Western Japan's largest seafood market.

October 17, 2009 Saturday Day Five Shirahama Onsen – Katsuura Onsen

After a relaxing evening we will explore the town before heading to Katsuura. Shirahama has a number of beautiful rock formations, the first we will visit is Sandanbeki, a fifty foot cliff that was used as a lookout for passing ships and swarms of fish. From there we will go to Senjo Jiki, a giant rock formation that looks like a tatami mat floor. Our last stop will be to see Engetsuto or Full Moon Island. This nickname comes from the hollow circle in the center of the island when viewed from the mainland. It looks like the rising moon. From there we head to Kushimoto where we will stop at Hashigui iwa. This giant rock formation is a series of large rocks that are in a straight line giving the impression of a bridge into the ocean. According to legend, Kobo Daishi is said to have started constructing this bridge, but was tricked into stopping before finishing it.

October 18, 2009

Sunday

Day Six

Katsuura Onsen

Today we will visit Nachino Taki and Kumano Hongu Grand Shrine. Nachino Taki is a very tall waterfall, said to rival the beauty of Kegon waterfalls. We will also visit one of the three Kumano grand shrines, dedicated to the Kumano river god. Katsuura is also a noted tuna port and we will stop by to see the second largest tuna catch in Japan.

October 19, 2009

Monday

Day Seven

Katsuura Onsen – Takayama

We have a lot of ground to cover today. Luckily we will be enjoying a relaxing ride on Japan's rails from Katsuura to the mountainous town of Takayama. During the Edo period, the town was unable to pay its taxes in rice and was allowed to send instead craftsmen to work on various public work projects. This produced highly skilled artisans who returned to create many crafts that Takayama is noted for.

October 20, 2009

Tuesday

Day Eight

Takayama

Our first stop today will be at the Takayama Yatai Kaikan, where several of the floats used during their festivals are on display along with replicas of the remaining floats. These floats are the pinnacle of the artisans' art that was developed in this area and hidden within the ornately decorated float are katakuri ningyo. We will then visit the Kusakabe Mingeikan, the home of the Kusakabe family that was converted into a museum. They specialize in the smaller handcrafts that Takayama is known for.

From there we go to the Shin Hotaka Ropeway. This is a two part ride with the second phase taking place in a double decker cable car. The view from the top is magnificent as it takes in the neighboring mountains and countryside.

October 21, 2009

Wednesday

Day Nine

Takayama – Tateyama

We move northward for the town of Tateyama at the base of the Japan Alps. Before we leave we will visit the Takayama Morning Market, where we can find products made from the river fish found to local vegetables. You can also find various teas and handcrafts that are made locally. Nearby we will also stop at the Takayama Jinya. This set of buildings was the government offices during the Tokugawa period. They retain their original architecture and show the various facilities that were kept at that time.

Along the way to Tateyama we will stop at Shirakawa-go, a collection of 25 buildings saved from destruction due to the nearby dam construction. These buildings are built in the traditional style of Takayama's distant past when it was known as Hida. These buildings display the unique construction materials and techniques used in the area, as well as demonstrating various skills used in the mountainous region. Buildings were adapted to deal with the cold, with roofs of thick bundled straw to those of wooden slats held down by stones. Traditional craftsmen have set up shop and we can see them practice their craft and purchase products, everything ranging from pottery to woodwork to textiles.

October 22, 2009 Thursday Day Ten Tateyama – Tokyo

Today we embark on our journey through the Kurobe Alpine route. The Japan Alps were named by English missionary Walter Weston and aside from Mount Fuji, the tallest peaks in Japan can be found here. This particular route can only be traversed by the use of public transportation and no less than five different modes of conveyance. It is only thirty-seven kilometers in distance, but we will travel nearly two kilometers high into the mountains. This will require us to ride a bus, a trolley bus, a cable car, a ropeway, and a short walk on the Kurobe dam. Careful attention was paid during its construction so as to preserve the natural beauty of the scenery. Along the way we will see a man-made lake, Japan's highest waterfall, the majestic scenery, and more. From there we continue onward to Tokyo for the remainder of our stay.

October 23, 2009 Friday Day Eleven Free Day

This is a free day in Tokyo, where you may relax, explore the city, and do as you please. Your escort will be on hand to assist you with getting to where you might want to go.

October 24, 2009 Saturday Day Twelve Free Day

This is a free day in Tokyo, where you may relax, explore the city, and do as you please. Your escort will be on hand to assist you with getting to where you might want to go.

October 25, 2009 Sunday Day Thirteen Tokyo to Honolulu

Our flight leaves in the early evening so the morning is free to relax or do any last minute shopping. We will leave the hotel in the afternoon for the airport.



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Tour Reservation Form

Please find enclosed my \$100.00 deposit to reserve space for the following:

Tour: _____ Departing on: _____

Traveller's Legal Name (As shown on photo ID): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone Number (Day/Night/Cel/E-mail): _____

Please list Roommates: (Each tour member must fill out individual form)

For international travel, please include a copy of your passport.

Frequent Flyer Number: _____

Accommodations: Single Double Triple Quad Rollaway
 Smoking Non-Smoking

Special Needs or Requests: Please indicate any additional travel plans that you may have, either before or after the tour. Please give us as much time as possible (30 days or more) so that we can confirm your plans. Please list any medical conditions, including dietary needs that must be taken into account prior to the tour's departure:

AIRCRAFT SEATING: Aisle seats are automatically requested for all single tour members. For parties of two or more, at least one aisle seat is requested. However, seat requests are subject to availability and are not guaranteed.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Tours by Charlie recommends travel and cancellation insurance to all tour members
 Yes, I would like to know more about insurance No, I do not want travel insurance

PAYMENT: Tours by Charlie accepts credit cards only for the air portion. The land portion must be paid cash or check.
 Yes, I wish to use a credit card to pay for my airfare No, I will pay all by cash or check

I, the undersigned, acknowledge receipt of the State of Hawaii Consumer Rights and agreement to the General Tour Conditions. I have also been advised of Travel Insurance and method of payment:

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

In case of emergency, please contact:

Name and Relationship: _____

Phone (Day/Night/Cel): _____

Consumer's Rights

(Chapter 468L, Hawaii Revised Statutes)

As a consumer, you have the following rights regarding the purchase of travel and related services from travel agencies registered in Hawaii:

The right to be informed by the travel agency, prior to the purchase of travel services from the travel agency, of any limitations, conditions, events, circumstances, or other business or commercial factors which may affect the availability of the travel services and your ability to obtain a refund of monies paid for the travel services.

The right to rely on any promises, guarantees, representations, or information provided by the travel agency, regarding travel services. These include, but are not limited to: 1) the availability of travel services offered or sold by the travel agency; 2) the conditions for obtaining a refund of monies paid for the travel services; and 3) the nature or quality of the travel services provided.

The right to have the travel agency fulfill any term or condition of the contract for travel services between you and the travel agency, whether the term or condition was made in writing or otherwise by the travel agency.

The right to have the travel agency fulfill any promises, guarantees, or representations made by the travel agency regarding travel services, whether the promises, guarantees, or representations are made by the travel agency in writing or verbally.

The right to be informed of any conditions upon which the contract between the travel promoter and the entity providing the transportation or related services may be cancelled, and the respective rights and obligations of all parties in the event of cancellation.

The right to obtain the ticket or other similar documentation for travel services from the travel agency, upon making full payment to the travel agency.

The right to a refund within 14 calendar days from the date the refund is requested of all monies paid to the travel agency for travel services which are not performed in accordance with the contract for travel services. However, the travel agency may withhold any amounts for cancellation fees previously disclosed to you, and any amounts held by the ultimate provider of the travel services, or by a representative that the ultimate provider required the travel agency to contract with.

The right to bring legal action against any travel agency that violates these rights.

