

Nozomi Travel Company, LLC



110 Kinoole Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Phone: (808) 961-3464 • Fax: (808) 935-6103
E-mail: washita@hilo.net

Spring Okinawa

March 24 – April 2, 2010

Price: \$2,900.00
(based on double occupancy)

Price Includes:

- Tour Escort from Hawaii
- roundtrip airfare from Honolulu to Japan
- hotel accommodations
- ground transportation as needed
- Daily Breakfast and dinner
- admission to all sites, attractions, and tours as indicated in the itinerary

March 24, 2010 Day One Wednesday Hawaii to Japan

Our flight leaves in the late morning for Japan.

March 25, 2010 Day Two Thursday Japan to Okinawa

We will arrive in mainland Japan in the late afternoon, where we will have a few hours to pass through customs and immigrations. We will then catch an evening flight to Okinawa. Once we arrive in Naha, we have a forty five minute drive to our hotel in Okinawa City.

March 26, 2010 Day Three Friday Free Day

After a long couple of days traveling, our first day will be free to recover from jetlag. A buffet breakfast will be served daily at the hotel beginning at 7 am. You may spend the day visiting with relatives, shopping, or just relaxing. If you require any assistance, your escort will be available to lend a hand. If you are looking for any particular item or goods, please let your escort know in advance.

March 27, 2010 Day Four Saturday Naha City – Shuri Castle

We begin our tour by heading south to explore the rich heritage of the Ryukyu Kingdom Era. In the morning we will visit the Shuri Castle, Tamaudun, and Ryusen. Shuri Castle was the capital of the Ryukyu Kingdom from 1492 until 1872. The current structure was rebuilt after suffering severe damage during World War II, when it served as a base of operations for the Japanese. Archaeological work continues beneath the current structures. Tamaudun is the Okinawan Royal Mausoleum, housing nearly all of the remains of the Ryukyu Kings. This structure is one of the few that survived the war mostly intact. A photo exhibit reveals the contents of the tombs and their elaborate burial urns. Our next stop is Ryusen, a Bingata factory. Bingata is a cloth that is noted for its elaborate hand painted designs.

From here we head to Naha to do some shopping on Kokusai and Heiwa Streets. Together they form an arcade where all kinds of goods may be found. To end our day we will stop at the Okinawan Prefectural Museum. It is home to a wide collection of Okinawan artifacts on local flora, fauna, and most importantly culture. The museum is built in the form of a gusuku or an Okinawan castle.

March 28, 2010 Day Five Sunday Culture Day

Today we will be taking two Okinawan culture classes. The first will be in the morning and will be a Shisa Dog decorating class. The Shisa Dog is an icon synonymous with Okinawa. This one hour class will teach how to decorate a shisa. The second class will be to learn how to make andagi, Okinawa's most famous food. After this class you are free until 7:00 pm when dinner will be served. If you require assistance with meeting your family, please let us know.

March 29, 2010

Day Six

Monday

Gyokusendo and Nanbu Senseki

Our first stop of the day is a visit to the Gyokusendo Kingdom Village. This attraction is built over Japan's largest subterranean cave network. Above the cave are various craftsmen at work making, bingata, an Okinawan cloth, sanshin, the Okinawan shamisen, and glass making. The glass made here is distinctive for its unique cracking. There is also an alcohol bottling display that is noted for its habu or snake sake. If you wish, a white boa is available for those who wish to have their picture taken with it. There will also be a brief Eisa dance performance.

From Gyokusendo we continue on to the Okinawa Prefectural Peace Museum and Heiwa no Ishiji. These two sites are adjacent to each other. Heiwa no Ishiji is a memorial to all who died during the Battle of Okinawa from all sides of the battle, Okinawan, Japanese, and American. The layout of the memorial is based on the rising sun on the day the battle began. The museum presents artifacts from the Battle of Okinawa through the American occupation to Reversion in 1972.

Our last stop will be Himeyuri no to and the Himeyuri Peace Museum. During the Battle of Okinawa 219 high school students and 18 teachers were pressed into service as nurses to tend to the wounded. As the war drew to a close, they were released from service and forced to find shelter on their own. Himeyuri no to marks their last hiding place. Only five survived the battle. The museum shines a light on their experience holding artifacts, survivor accounts, hospital recreations, and more.

Our last stop will be **Higa Shuzo**, an awamori brewery. Here we will see a video on the process to make awamori as well as sample some of their goods for those over 21.

March 30, 2010

Day Seven

Tuesday

Motobu

We head north today for the peninsula of Motobu. We will spend the majority of our day at the Ocean Expo Memorial Park. This facility is actually home to three distinct attractions. The first is Churaumi, the newest of the three and home to Asia's largest aquarium. Opened in 2002, its large tank holds three whale sharks. In addition it has exhibits on turtles, dolphins, manatees, manta rays, and sharks. The second attraction, Okinawa Kyodo Mura, is a collection of Okinawan homes depicting life prior to the 20th century. They are examples of the different social classes existing at the time and various structures also common in Okinawan villages. The last attraction is the Tropical Dream Center, which sits on the site of the 1975 Ocean Expo. The center cultivates over 80,000 varieties of orchids. There is also a lookout where you can see the island where World War II journalist Ernie Pyle died. From there we will visit Goya Park. This facility is a working Goya processing plant with an example of the hydroponic growing technique used for the goya or bitter melon.

March 31, 2010

Day Eight

Wednesday

Free Day

Before we head home we will do some shopping at a wholesale market. If you did not have a chance to pick up omiyage or missed a chance to get something last time, here is your

opportunity. You may spend the rest of the day visiting with relatives, shopping, or just relaxing. If you require any assistance, your escort will be available to lend a hand.

April 1, 2010 Day Nine Thursday Yanbaru

Our day will be spent traveling to the northern most reaches of Okinawa. Our first stop will be Kouri-jima, a small island that is now connected to the main island by bridge. This gives us an opportunity to see Okinawa's natural beauty. Crystal clear waters surround the island, as well as the new bridge to the island.

From there we will stop at Kijoka, the only place where you can purchase bashofu in Okinawa. There are three types of cloth native to Okinawa, bingata, kasuri, and bashofu. Bashofu is unique as it is made from banana leaves. Kijoka is noted for having saved this Okinawan handcraft.

As we head back down we will stop in Nago to see the Nago City Museum, which focuses on the daily life of ordinary Okinawans prior to modern times. It is a small three story facility that recalls the lifestyle of the common Okinawan. We will then tour the Orion Beer Factory, Okinawa's native beer.

Our last stop today will be to Yachimun no Sato, where we may find Okinawan pottery.

April 2, 2010 Day Ten Friday Return Home

We leave the hotel in the late morning to catch our afternoon flight to mainland Japan. From there we have a few hours before our flight back to Honolulu.