



A tour division of Kobayashi Travel Service

2025 TOHOKU OHANAMI

Traveling through the six prefectures of Tohoku:
Fukushima, Miyagi, Iwate, Aomori, Akita, and Yamagata

April 12 – 23, 2025 (12 Days & 10 Nights)

\$100 EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT

(\$100 deposit per person
received by 10/31/2024)

Twin Rate: \$4,795 per person

Single Supplement: \$1,100

(Includes group air arrangements on
Japan Airlines from Honolulu)

Land Only Rate: \$3,795 per person

(Individual arrangements to meet group
are not included)

Included Features

Haneda
Hitachi Seaside Park
Fukuroda Falls
Iwaki
Spa Hawaiians Resort
Miharu Takizakura
Akiu
Miyagi Zao Kokeshi Museum
Kokeshi Doll Hands-on-Activity
Matsushima Bay
Genbukei Gorge
Chusonji Temple
Kitakami Tenshochi Park
Morioka
Morioka Tezu-kuri Mura
Indigo-dyeing Hands-on-Activity
Ishiwariizakura
Towada-ko
Oirase River Valley
Hakkoda-Towada Snow Corridor
Sannai Maruyama Archaeological Site
Aomori
Goshogawara Tachineputa no Yakata
Hirosaki Castle
Kiritanpo Hands-on-Activity
Akita
Kakunodate
Kasumigajo Park
Matsugasaki Koen
Aizu Wakamatsu
Tsuruga-jo
Iimoriyama
Koriyama
Nikko Toshogu Shrine
Tobu World Square
Kinugawa Onsen
Ashikaga Flower Park
Tsutsujigaoka Park
Tokyo
Haneda

For more information,
Contact your travel agent:
KOBAYASHI TRAVEL SERVICE
650 Iwilei Road; Suite 410
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
Phone: (808) 593-9387
Website: www.ktshawaii.com

Saturday, April 12 (Day 01)

HONOLULU TO HANEDA

Our tour to Japan commences this morning when we assemble at the airport for baggage check-in procedures for our flight to Haneda International Airport. Lunch and a snack will be served on board the flight.

Sunday, April 13 (Day 02)

ARRIVE HANEDA (D)

We'll arrive Haneda Airport in the afternoon and after completion of entry and customs formalities, we'll walk to our hotel located within Haneda Airport to check-in for the night. Dinner will be provided for you this evening at the hotel.

Accommodations at HOTEL VILLA FONTAINE GRAND HANEDA or similar

Monday, April 14 (Day 03)

TOKYO - HITACHI SEASIDE PARK - DAIGO - IWAKI (B)(D)

This morning, we'll travel to visit **Hitachi Seaside Park**, a beautiful flower paradise featuring "*Miharashi No Oka*", a hillside of delicate *nemophilas* (translucent-petaled blue flowers also known as baby-blue-eyes) creating an unforgettable sight (weather permitting). A large variety of colorful tulips spread-out in various gardens throughout the park are also in bloom. We'll continue on to the town of Daigo to enjoy a view of the breathtaking **Fukuroda Falls** - ranked as one of the three most beautiful waterfalls in Japan. The falls drop down in four cascades to the bottom from a giant cliff dashing against the rocks, creating a spectacular sight. We'll continue on to spend the night at the Spa Hawaiians Resort - formerly known as the Joban Hawaiian Center located in the city of **Iwaki**, a coal mining town. The film "*Hula Girls*" was based on the true story of the founding of the resort. Dinner will be provided for you at our onsen resort hotel. After dinner, as an option, enjoy an evening of entertainment of Hawaiian dance performances including spectacular fire dancers held in the main showroom.

Accommodations at SPA RESORT HAWAIIANS or similar 🏨

Tuesday, April 15 (Day 04)

IWAKI - AKIU - MATSUSHIMA (B)(D)

We'll continue on to the town of Miharu - home of **Miharu Takizakura** (waterfall cherry tree), an ancient cherry tree said to be over 1,000 years old. Weather permitting, enjoy a view of this giant weeping cherry tree with its light pink flowers spread-out in all directions from the branches, like a huge umbrella. Designated as a national treasure in 1922, this tree is classified as one of the five great cherry trees in Japan. **Kokeshi dolls** are one of the most popular as a traditional folk craft product in the Tohoku area. These dolls are handmade from wood with a simple trunk and an enlarged head with no arms or legs. We'll visit the **Miyagi Zao Kokeshi Museum** to enjoy a **hands-on activity** of drawing your own creation on a blank kokeshi doll to take home as a souvenir. We'll continue on to Shiogami Pier and board a ferry to enjoy a relaxing **cruise** on picturesque **Matsushima Bay**, designated as one of the three most scenic sights in Japan - *nihon sankei*. Enjoy the view of hundreds of pine-studded islets in the bay - each one with a name relating to a Japanese legend. We'll arrive in **Matsushima** to spend the night in an onsen hotel in the city. Enjoy a delicious dinner and relax in the soothing hot springs this evening.

Accommodations at MATSUSHIMA HOTEL TAIKANSO or similar 🏨

Wednesday, April 16 (Day 05)

MATSUSHIMA - ICHINOSEKI - KITAKAMI - MORIOKA (B)

We'll travel on to the city of Ichinoseki in Iwate Prefecture to visit picturesque **Genbikei Gorge** - shaped by the rapid flowing water of Iwai River that carved the rocks, resulting in smooth and interwoven rock faces. One of the highlights at the gorge is to enjoy some delicious **kakko dango** (flying dumplings). For a small fee, hit the wooden board with a mattock, then send the basket swinging on the wire across the river to a teahouse. A gentleman in the teahouse will send the basket back to us with a box of dumplings and hot tea across the river on the wire for you to enjoy. We'll continue on to visit **Chusonji Temple** featuring its main attraction - **Konjiki-do (Golden Hall)** - designated as one of the National Treasures by the government in 1951. The hall was constructed to house the remains of three generations of the Fujiwara family and received its name from the unique golden walls covered in gold leaf and inlaid with mother-of-pearl. We'll make a stop in Kitakami, a city famous for its cherry trees growing alongside the Kitakami River in **Tenshochi Park**. Weather permitting, the cherry blossoms should be in bloom to form a beautiful tunnel of **sakura**, earning a spot as one of the three best cherry blossom viewing sites in Tohoku. We'll continue on to spend the night in **Morioka**, capital city of Iwate-ken - noted for its cast-ironware. On arrival, we'll visit the **Morioka Tezukuri Mura (Morioka Handi-Works Village)**, an activity center featuring various workshops offering hand-crafted traditional goods such as cast ironware, pottery, wooden toys, and more. Enjoy a **hands-on-activity to make your own indigo dyeing handkerchief** at one of the workshops to take home for your souvenir. We'll drive to the heart of Morioka City to view the grounds of the district courthouse to view the 400-year old **Ishiharizakura (stone-splitting cherry blossom tree)** growing through a huge boulder (weather permitting). Dinner will be on your own this evening to try some local cuisine at one of the restaurants located around the area.

Accommodations at HOTEL METROPOLITAN MORIOKA or similar

Thursday, April 17 (Day 06)

MORIOKA - TOWADA - AOMORI (B)(L)(D)

We'll continue our journey to scenic **Towada-ko**, the third deepest caldera lake in Japan located in the Towada-Hachimantai National Park. Enjoy a relaxing and scenic drive along the picturesque **Oirase Gorge**, one of the most beautiful river valleys in Japan. The crystal-clear Oirase Stream runs through a beautiful forest of trees and a number of interesting rock formations and cliffs. Plunging waterfalls add to the beauty of the gorge, creating a breathtaking sight. Subject to weather conditions, relax and enjoy the beauty of the mountains with its snow-covered trees as we drive through the snow-walled corridor of the **Hakkoda-Towada Gold Line**. We'll continue on to Aomori, to visit the **Sannai Maruyama Ruins**, a Jomon-period archaeological site designated as a Special National Historical Site of Japan in 2000. This special historical site features the artifacts that reveal how people lived in this settlement including excavated items such as pottery, stone artifacts, clay figures, earthenware and more. We'll spend the night at an elegant onsen hotel in **Aomori**. Enjoy a delicious dinner and relax in the soothing hot springs this evening.

Accommodations at HOTEL NANBUYA KAISENKAKU or similar ㉫

Friday, April 18 (Day 07)

AOMORI - HIROSAKI - HACHIROGATA - AKITA (B)(D)

We'll continue on to Goshogawara city, famous for its Tachineputa Festival held annually during the summer. Enjoy a visit of **Tachineputa no Yakata**, an interesting museum featuring exhibits of three massive **tachi neputa** parade floats including a video footage of the festival. We'll travel to the castle town of Hirosaki, visiting the ruins of **Hirosaki Castle**, the city's most famous landmark. Weather permitting, enjoy a spectacular view of cherry blossoms in bloom all around the castle grounds in the surrounding **Hirosaki Park**. The park is designated as one of Tohoku's most famous flower viewing '**ohanami**' sites featuring thousands of cherry trees creating an awesome sight. Enjoy a **hands-on-activity to make kiritanpo**, a popular and traditional cuisine of Akita. We'll form cooked rice around a stick, toast it on a grill, then spread some miso sauce on it to enjoy. We'll continue on to spend the night in **Akita**, the capital city of Akita prefecture. Dinner will be provided for you this evening at our hotel.

Accommodations at ANA CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL AKITA or similar

Saturday, April 19 (Day 08)

AKITA - KAKUNODATE - YOKOTE - TENDO (B)(D)

Our journey continues on to the town of **Kakunodate**, noted as one of Tohoku's most popular **ohanami** sites where hundreds of **shidare-zakura** (weeping cherry trees) line the central avenue of the town. Weather permitting, we may also be able to view delicate **somei yoshino** cherry blossoms in bloom lined along the left bank of the Hinokinai River that flows through the town. Kakunodate is also famed for its well-preserved **bukeyashiki** (samurai houses) and gardens located behind wooden fences and gates along the main avenue. Among one of the most interesting mansions open to the public is the **Ishiguro Samurai House** - the former residence of Kakunodate's highest ranked family. A visit to this house and garden offers a fine example of traditional samurai house architecture. Kakunodate is also noted for their traditional **kaba-zaiku** (wooden craft-ware) using the bark of wild cherry trees. Several of these intricate pieces are displayed in the **Kakunodate Cherry-Bark Craft Museum**. We'll continue on to overnight in **Tendo**, a town noted for the manufacture of **shogi** (Japanese chess pieces). Enjoy dinner at our elegant hotel spring hotel this evening

Accommodations at TAKINOYU HOTEL or similar ㉫

Sunday, April 20 (Day 09)

TENDO - YAMAGATA - YONEZAWA -INAWASHIRO (B)(D)

Our drive this morning takes us through Yamagata prefecture to view beautiful cherry blossoms in bloom at **Kasumiga-jo Park** noted as one of the 100-best cherry blossom viewing spots in Japan (weather permitting). Enjoy a leisure stroll to view more cherry blossoms in bloom on the grounds of **Matsugasaki Koen**, the former residence of the Date and Uesugi clan. We'll proceed to the castle town of Aizu Wakamatsu in Fukushima prefecture to visit **Tsuruga-jo**, a traditional castle noted as an important Tokugawa stronghold in the Tohoku region. We'll visit **Imoriyama**, the site where twenty young Aizu soldiers of the Byakkotai (White Tiger Corps) committed seppuku or ritual suicide when they presumed that their castle Tsuruga-jo was on fire and all was lost. On the top of the hillside are several monuments including the nineteen tombs for the Byakkotai soldiers. Along the pathway down the hillside are several monuments, statues, and other buildings of interest devoted to the Byakkotai. We'll spend the night at an onsen hotel in **Inawashiro town**, Fukushima prefecture. Dinner will be provided for you this evening at our hotel.

Accommodations at HOTEL LISTEL INAWASHIRO or similar 

Monday, April 21 (Day 10)

INAWASHIRO - NIKKO - KINUGAWA (B)(D)

We'll travel south to Kinugawa, a popular hot spring resort town in Tochigi Prefecture. Enjoy a visit to **Toshogu Shrine**, a Shinto shrine established to enshrine Tokugawa Iyeyasu, founder of the Tokugawa Shogunate. The lavishly decorated shrine complex consists of many buildings set in a beautiful forest - including a five-story pagoda located in front of the main entrance gate. Many elaborate wood carvings decorate some of the buildings, including the most famous "see no evil, speak no evil, and hear no evil" monkeys. We'll continue on to visit **Tobu World Square**, a theme park that exhibits replicas of famous buildings from all around the world. Models include ancient monuments, cultural treasures, and UNESCO World Heritage Sites reproduced with detailed cars, trains, gardens, and miniature people. Tobu World Square is divided into zones based on regions of the world: Japan Zone, Asia Zone, Europe Zone, Egypt Zone, and America Zone (featuring the White House and a section of downtown New York City). We'll spend the night at an elegant onsen hotel in **Kinugawa**. Enjoy a delicious *kaiseki* dinner and relax in the soothing hot springs this evening.

Accommodations at KINUGAWA GRAND HOTEL YUME NO TOKI or similar 

Tuesday, April 22 (Day 11)

KINUGAWA - ASHIKAGA - TATEBAYASHI - TOKYO (B)(D)

The Japanese people love flowers and wisteria (*fuyi*) are among one of their favorites. One of the best places to view these elegant flowers is at the **Ashikaga Flower Park** in the city of Ashikaga in Tochigi Prefecture. This spacious park features several tunnels or trellises of breathtaking blue and white wisteria in bloom throughout the park and yellow laburnum (*kingusari*) that looks like yellow wisteria flowers. The highlight of the park is to view a large 100-year-old tree with its branches spread-out, creating a huge umbrella of blue wisteria flowers (weather permitting). We'll continue on to the city of Tatebayashi to enjoy a visit of **Tsutsujigaoka Park**, the largest azalea park in Japan. Enjoy strolling through the park featuring hundreds of colorful azalea plants representing over 50 varieties of flowers in bloom (weather permitting). We'll continue on to spend our last night in Odaiba, an artificial island in Tokyo Bay across the Rainbow Bridge from central Tokyo. Dinner will be provided for you this evening at the hotel.

Accommodations at HOTEL GRAND NIKKO TOKYO DAIBA or similar

Wednesday, April 23 (Day 12)

TOKYO - HANEDA TO HONOLULU (B)

The morning is free at your leisure for your own activities. In the afternoon, we will transfer to Haneda International Airport to check-in for our evening flight home to Honolulu, arriving on the same day due to the crossing of the International Date Line. A meal will be served on board the flight.

The tour price is based on double occupancy and a minimum group size of 20 passengers. Fare adjustment may apply for groups of 20 or under. The rate is based on tariffs and exchange rates effective 6/30/2024. Tour fare is subject to change according to any airfare increase, additional fuel surcharges and fluctuation of the rate of exchange between U.S. and foreign currency. In the event of revaluation, the land portion of the tour price may be adjusted prior to your final statement. We reserve the right to revise content of the itinerary – if necessary due to unforeseen issues, weather, & safety concerns.

Land portion based on 145 Yen = \$1.00 U.S.

TOHOKU OHANAMI

