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Takayama and Nagoya

April 10 - 19, 2019

Please contact us for the price.

Land Package Price includes:

- Tour Escort
- Hotel Accommodations
- Ground Transportation as indicated in the itinerary
- Daily breakfast and four dinners
- Admission to all sites, attractions, and tours as indicated in the itinerary

April 10, 2019 **Day One** **Wednesday** **Honolulu to Nagoya**

An afternoon flight will take us to Nagoya.

April 11, 2019 **Day Two** **Thursday** **Nagoya**

We will arrive in Nagoya in the late afternoon. Upon arrival we will pass through customs and immigration formalities before heading to our hotel for the evening.

April 12, 2019 **Day Three** **Friday** **Nagoya to Takayama**

We leave Nagoya for Takayama and along the way will make a couple stops. We will visit the **Seki Hamono Museum**, which specializes in cutlery, both knives and scissors. Here we will learn about knives and their forging.

From there we will go to **Gujo Hachiman**, Japan's fake food capital. Here are many factories where the vast majority of Japan's fake food samples are made. Today we will have a chance to see the process and try our hand at making one ourselves.

We end the day in the mountain town of **Takayama**, where we will be staying for the next few days.

April 13, 2019 **Day Four** **Saturday** **Shirakawago Excursion**

The nearby village of **Shirakawa** is a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is known for its preservation of the particular type of architecture known as gassho-zukuri. The homes have thatched roofs and are three to four stories tall. Their design allows them to withstand heavy snows during the winter. The upper levels of these homes were often used for growing silk worms. Coming to the area is like stepping back in time and seeing the area as it was over a century ago.

April 14, 2019 **Day Five** **Sunday** **Shin Hotaka Excursion and Festival**

Takayama is in a mountainous region of Japan known as the Japan Alps and the third tallest mountain in Japan is found nearby. **Mount Hotaka** has a ropeway or enclosed lift system that will take us to the top to enjoy the view below. The ropeway is actually set up in two stages and the second stage uses a rare double decker car.

In the evening we will return to Takayama for the **Takayama Spring Festival**. The festival's formal name is the Sanno Festival and is held to pray for a good harvest. The festival includes a night parade that features the floats that were crafted over two hundred years ago. This is the first of two annual festivals held in the town. The spring festival is noted for being more serene than its fall counterpart.

April 15, 2019 **Day Six** **Monday** **Takayama**

Today we will tour **Takayama**. First we will go to the **morning market**, where you can purchase items made in the area. We will also walk around the old town district and look at the various buildings. Among them is the **Takayama Jinya**, a government building dating back to the Edo period (1603 - 1868).

During the Edo period, instead of sending rice, Takayama would send skilled artisans to work on various government public work projects. The floats that you will see here showcase their skill and artistry.

In the afternoon we will attend the **Takayama Spring Festival**. One of the highlights of the festival are the katakuri performances. Katakuri or mechanical puppets were built into several of the floats. During the day we can see the floats that will be out for display in the street.

April 16, 2019 **Day Seven** **Tuesday** **Takayama to Nagoya**

We leave our mountain home and head back to Nagoya. Along the way we will stop in **Inuyama** to visit **Inuyama Castle**. It is one of just twelve original castles still in Japan. The first castle built here was for the Oda Clan. It was subsequently replaced at the start of the 17th century by the Naruse clan, who were retainers of the Matsudaira clan. Until 2004, the Naruse clan maintained ownership of the castle before turning it over to an independent body. Here we can enjoy the well preserved architecture and a view of the surrounding area. Nearby is **Urakuen**, a Japanese garden that is famous for one of its tea houses, **Jo-an**. The tea house is considered one of Japan's top three tea houses. It is noted for its more open design compared to other tea houses of its time.

April 17, 2019 **Day Eight** **Wednesday** **Nagoya**

In the morning we will visit **Nagoya Castle**. A reconstructed castle, it was the headquarters for the rulers of the area for centuries. It was previously the home of the Owari branch of the Tokugawa clan. A good portion of the castle is currently being renovated and we will be limited in what we will be able to view.

From there we head to the **Meiji Mura Museum**. This is an outdoor museum and theme park which focuses on preserving original and reconstructed buildings mainly from the Meiji era (1867 – 1912) to the early Showa era (1926 – 1989). In addition to buildings from Japan, there are a handful from overseas such as from Brazil and the United States. There is even a small church from Hilo that was originally led by Jiro Okabe that is on display.

April 18, 2019 **Day Nine** **Thursday** **Nagoya**

Nagoya is Japan's fourth largest city with a long history of industry and culture. Today we will visit three sites that showcase some of that history. Twice a month there is a flea market held at **Osu Kannon**. This is a medium sized flea market selling everything from antiques to second hand goods. Nearby is also the **Osu Shopping Arcade**, where we can do a little local shopping. From there we can go to the **Toyota Techno Museum**. Here we can learn about the company's history from its beginnings as a textile innovator to its beginning of the automotive giant it is today.

We will close the day with a visit to the **Noritake Garden**. Noritake is one of Japan's most famous ceramic manufacturers. For over a hundred years, Noritake has been a producer of fine porcelain. Here we can learn about their techniques as well as their history in one of their former factories.

April 19, 2019

Day Ten

Friday

Nagoya to Honolulu

This morning we will head to the **SCMAGLEV and Railway Park**. This is a museum dedicated to trains used by JR Central, the Japan Railways Group member that runs the most famous bullet trains in the Japan. JR Central is currently developing the next generation bullet train and one of the prototypes is on display along with over thirty retired trains.

From there we will head to the **Mizkan Museum** where we will learn about how Japanese vinegar is made. This area is also known for its production of a special type of vinegar that was used for Edomae sushi, a type of sushi that was served during the Edo period before refrigeration was available.

We will also make a stop in **Tokoname**, an area known for its pottery. Its most famous pottery are maneki neko, waving white cat that is often found at business in Japan and even in Hawaii. Here we will stroll down Maneki Neko street and see the little treasures they have to offer before heading to the airport.

An evening flight will take us back to Hawaii. We will arrive in the morning and upon arrival have to clear customs and immigrations.