



# SOUTHERN JAPAN

## 2024

JUNE 25 - JULY 8

*This trip will make you feel like you've visited two countries, not one! Explore the secluded wonders in Kyushu, Japan's southern island shrouded in legend & mystery with its active volcanoes, beaches and natural hot springs. Pay your respects at Nagasaki's Atomic Bomb Museum and enjoy a sand bath in Kagoshima. Midway through the tour, fly over to Okinawa, formerly the land of the Ryukyuan Kingdom. Visit the Shuri Castle, a UNESCO Heritage Center. Lastly, fly to Ishigaki, an island far to the south near Taiwan, to see their unique architecture, as well as riding a cart pulled by a water buffalo!*

### DAY 1 • • • •

Meet at Fukuoka Airport. Rest and dine at hotel. *Stay in Fukuoka City for 2 nights.*

### DAY 2 • • • •

Sightsee the Fukuoka City and Dazaifu, the historic administrative center for the entire island of Kyushu. Eat Fukuoka's famous yatai ramen on the boardwalk.

### DAY 3 • • • •

Travel to Nagasaki by train. Visit the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum. Go up the Mt. Inasayama to see the million-dollar view at nighttime. *Stay in Nagasaki for 2 nights.*

### DAY 4 • • • •

Walk around Nagasaki, visiting the Urakami Cathedral which partially survived the bombing. Stop by Glover Garden and Dejima Island to see where and how the first foreigners in Japan lived.

### DAY 5 • • • •

Travel to Kagoshima by bullet train. Meet deaf locals over some local liqueur made from potatoes, 'shochu.' Learn about the legendary hero of feudal Japan, Saigo Takamori. *Stay in Kagoshima for 2 nights.*

### DAY 6 • • • •

Day trip to the warm Ibusuki Peninsula to sweat in a sand onsen, where you will be covered by sand up to your necks! Visit the Chiran Museum to see the kamikaze planes used in World War II. Eat some local soba in a unique way.

#### DAY 7 • • •

Fly to Naha, Okinawa, an island that used to be its own country. Visit the Shuri Castle, a UNESCO Heritage Center to learn a bit about the history of the Ryukyu Kingdom that reigned in this island country before Japan took over. *Stay in Naha for 2 nights.*

#### DAY 8 • • •

Visit the Himeyuri Peace Museum south of Naha, to see how native Okinawans suffered during the WW2. Visit the Sefa Utaki, a mystical place for the ancient Okinawans. Enjoy sightseeing the beaches on the way.

#### DAY 9 • • •

Go to the northern part of the island, the wild Yanbaru region. If you're lucky, you might be able to spot the rare flightless bird only found in this region, the Yanbaru Kuina (Okinawa rail). Take a short hike up the rocky Daisekirinzan for majestic views. Sleep in a resort hotel near the beach. *Stay in Yanbaru for 2 nights.*

#### DAY 10 • • •

Sightseeing around the central part of Okinawa, do some shopping for ceramics, and meet a Deaf potter and learn how to make a ceramic shishi, a traditional Okinawan mythical creature.

#### DAY 11 • • •

Fly to Ishigaki, an island far to the south, near Taiwan. Take a trip around the island and see their unique architecture, as well as riding a cart pulled by a water buffalo! *Stay in Ishigaki for 2 nights.*

#### DAY 12 • • •

Enjoy the last full day in Okinawa by swimming, shopping and dining in Ishigaki.

#### DAY 13 • • •

Fly to Fukuoka. Do some last-minute sightseeing and shopping in Fukuoka. *Stay in Fukuoka for 1 night.*

#### DAY 14 • • •

Departure day.

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\$500 deposit per person is required to reserve space. The availability of space is based on a first come, first serve basis. 100% of the balance is required 90 days before the first day of the tour.

**\$3,850**  
per person /double occupancy

**14 DAYS**

**GROUP MAX: 8 people**

**TOUR LEADER:** Martin Dale-Hench • [martin@handson.travel](mailto:martin@handson.travel)

## WHAT'S INCLUDED??

- 13 nights in 3-star accommodations.
- 15 meals: Breakfast (13), Dinner (2)
- Services of a deaf Tour Leader on call 24 hours a day.
- Services of local deaf and/or hearing guides.
- All transportation expenses.
- All admission fees for attractions and museums mentioned in the itinerary.
- Most tips, except for your Tour Leader.
- Informative travel preparation packet.
- \$100 discount per person on your next regular tour.

## WHAT'S EXCLUDED?

- Domestic and/or international airfares.
  - 3 domestic flights (approximate total: \$400)
- All other meals not mentioned in the itinerary and personal expenses.
- Any COVID-19 related tests.
- Travel insurance.

## WHAT TO EXPECT?

- Tour will be confirmed when we meet the minimum number of participants.
- When the tour is confirmed, additional deposits/payments may be required.
- There will be limited airport pick up and drop off windows at the start and end of the tour. Early/late arrivals and early/late departures outside of pick up or drop off windows are not included.
- Substantial amount of walking expected during the tour. Appropriate physical fitness is necessary.
- Please consult the most recent version of the HOT terms and conditions.  
<https://handson.travel/resources/terms/>
- Hands on Travel recommends that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. To learn more, please view the following link:  
<https://handson.travel/resources/protection/>
- **Tour itinerary and price are subject to change.**