

Okinawa, Japan

Shurijo Castle & Kokusai Street

Code: OKA-215 (Approx. 4.5 hours) / Price USD 69.00 Per Person (Guide In English)

Code: OKA-218 (Approx. 4.5 hours) / Price USD 65.00 Per Person (Guide In Chinese)

Board your motorcoach for the short drive to Naha City. En route to **Shurijo Castle (首里城)**, you will pass Naminoue Beach, Ryutan Pond, and the Prefectural Government Office, designed by renowned architect Kisho Kurokawa.

Majestic Shuri Castle was built in the late 1300s as the palace of the Ryukyu kings. It was destroyed and rebuilt numerous times over the centuries and was ultimately obliterated in the battle of Okinawa in 1945. Reconstructed on the original location using photos, official records and memory, this vermilion-colored castle reopened in 1992 and is noted for both its architectural detail and its inclusion as a UNESCO World Heritage site. The surrounding area also includes other points of historical interest, including the famed red and gold Shureimon Gate, and the adjacent royal tombs. The castle's hilltop location, accessible by steps, provides gorgeous views over Naha.

Parts of the castle's interior are a modern-style museum, with historical information and artifacts about the history of the area and the castle. The main hall, the Seiden, however, is decorated in the original style of the castle, with lavish décor and a striking red colour that is unique to Shuri Castle, giving you a taste of the original splendor which surrounded the Ryukyu kings. Please note that photography is permitted on the grounds of Shuri Castle but not in the castle museum. Before you leave, you may browse for souvenirs at the Shurijo Castle gift shop.

Other local goods are available on nearby **Kokusai Street (国际大街)**, your next stop. The cosmopolitan heart of Naha, Kokusai has an international flavor and is host to department stores, hotels, restaurants and theaters. Enjoy 50 minutes of free time to stroll down the street and explore the Makishi Public Market? located about halfway down Kokusai, on the main Market Street. Here you will see colorful local produce, fresh fish and meats, and many busy food stalls where sweet and savory snacks are cooked on the spot. This lively and bustling "kitchen of Okinawa" is the perfect place to stop to see and taste some edible wonders!

With your camera full of photos and your belly full of delicious local treats, re-board your motorcoach for the short trip back to port.

Special Noted

Photography is permitted on the grounds of Shurijo Castle but not in the castle museum. Visitors to Shurijo Castle must negotiate steep steps and uneven surfaces. The castle is not wheel chair accessible. Not recommended for passengers with limited mobility. Wear comfortable, sturdy walking shoes. Shoes must be removed during the visit to main hall of Shurijo Castle.

We suggest passengers carry local currency for purchases. Makishi Public Market is closed the 4th Sunday of the month.



Okinawa, Japan

Highlights Of Okinawa

Code: OKA-200 (Approx. 5.5 hours) / Price USD 99.00 Per Person (Guide In English)

Your day of beauty and culture commences the moment your motorcoach begins its scenic journey through Okinawa en route to your first destination of **Ryukyu Mura (琉球村)**.

Ryukyu Mura is a charming re-creation of an ancient Okinawan village where traditional culture and crafts come to life. Immerse yourself in this authentic experience as you visit "living exhibits" showcasing traditional festivals, cuisine and crafts. Twice daily, a parade comes through the village, with costumes, music and dance from various holidays. A range of performances can be seen as well.

Watch villagers create traditional bingata stencil-dyed fabrics, and try your hand at local folk arts in workshops demonstrating such traditional activities as indigo dyeing, pottery, painting and playing the sanshin guitar. You'll delight in your visit to the brown sugar factory, where water buffalo are used to power the sugar cane grinder. Original architecture from all over the region has been re-created here, and Okinawan cuisine is featured in food stands and restaurants. There are opportunities to purchase souvenirs, such as locally produced brown sugar and sea salt.

Then, it's off to the peaceful and delightful **Shikinaen Garden (识名园)**, which dates back to the late 18th century, when the residence was built for royalty. Simple wooden buildings and pavilions with tile roofs are artfully situated among traditionally landscaped grounds, connected by manicured paths that meander over graceful stone bridges, through small forests and around a central pond. The blend of Japanese and Chinese architectural styles and flora in the garden is particularly Okinawan in flavor.

Like much in the area, the garden was badly damaged in the battle of Okinawa in 1945, but was carefully restored after the war. Shikinaen was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000.

After your relaxing stroll, return to the motor coach for a short, peaceful ride back to the ship.



Ishigaki, Japan

Highlights Of Ishigaki

Code: ISG-200 (Approx. 4.5 hours) / Price USD 109.00 Per Person (Guide In English)

Code: ISG-203 (Approx. 4.5 hours) / Price USD 79.00 Per Person (Guide In Chinese)

Start your exploration of some of Ishigaki's most popular sights by boarding your comfortable motorcoach at port and setting off for the first destination, the **Tojin Tomb (唐人墓)**.

This sacred site pays tribute to the tragic events of 1852, when an American/British ship transporting Chinese workers to California wrecked off Ishigaki's rocky coast. The workers were involved in a mutiny and may have lost their lives in an attempt to escape poor conditions. The Chinese influence is seen in the building's architecture, decorative pieces and monuments. This picturesque site is located right near the Kannonzaki viewpoint and Fusaki Beach.

Nearby, there is also a newer monument dedicated to three American soldiers who were shot down and captured in 1945, toward the end of World War II. Erected in 2001 and recently renovated, the monument acknowledges that their deplorable treatment was in violation of the Geneva Convention.

Next door to the monument, a sweet little candy shop, Yashiya, makes and sells its own sugar cane candy. Here you can watch the process of mashing the sugar cane and boiling it into candy, and can sample the brown sugar treats for yourself.

Savor your candy as you travel to the next destination, picturesque **Kabira Bay (川平湾)**, one of the most photographed spots on Ishigaki. Considered the most beautiful spot on the isle, Kabira Bay is not suitable for swimming due to its fast moving current and jellyfish, so it's best appreciated from a glass-bottomed boat tour. Step on board and delight in the clarity of the turquoise waters and the stunning color and formations of the coral reefs. The undersea life is breathtaking!

A short scenic drive takes you to your next site, the **Tamatorizaki Observatory (羽取崎展望台)**, overlooking both the Pacific Ocean and the East China Sea. Located in the northern part of the city, the observatory provides views all the way to Ibaruma Bay and Hirakubozaki on clear days. The picture-perfect vistas are enhanced by the incredible hibiscus flowers, which bloom year round.

At the completion of this wonderful day, relax on your return ride to port.



Miyakojima, Japan

Miyakojima Hop On & Hop Off

Code: MMY-287 (Approx. 4.5 hours) / Price USD 24.00 Per Person (Escorted in Chinese)

Code: MMY-285 (Approx. 4.5 hours) / Price USD 24.00 Per Person

Aeon Shopping Mall

Explore this modern consumer complex, a treasure trove of the latest fashions, souvenirs, cosmetics, electronics and more.

Ueno German Culture Village

This charming theme park commemorates the friendship between Germany and Miyako Island that dates back to 1873, when a shipwrecked German crew was rescued by the people of Miyako Island. Stroll the lovely grounds and admire the village, designed as a replica of Marksburg Castle.

Painagama Beach

Walk along the white-sand shores of one of the top-rated beaches in Japan. The driver will choose based on weather and beach conditions.

Shigira Ougon Onsen

At this natural hot spring resort, the bubbling water from a 1,250-meter underground source generates effervescent waters with therapeutic properties. Soak in the "bath with a view" overlooking picturesque vistas or enjoy the open-air baths surrounded by fragrant gardens and a large "jungle pool" for a unique twist on the hot spring experience.

WHAT YOU SEE ALONG THE WAY

The allure of Miyako Island is its powder-soft beaches, lush sugarcane fields, and luxury beach-resort atmosphere paired with cultural landmarks.

SHOPPING

From Japanese souvenirs to cosmetics, top brand-name apparel and confectionary stores, Aeon Mall is a large, modern center geared to the enjoyment of visitors.

Please note: At Shigira Ougon Onsen, there are two different zones. One is pool zone and the other is onsen zone. It is required to be nude to enter open-air bath zone in onsen zone. Please bring your swim suits as swim suits fee is not included. Tattoo has to be covered before entering Onsen. Children under 8 years old are required to be accompanied by adults. For the beach activity, please bring your own towel and swim suits.



Hiroshima, Japan

Highlights Of Hiroshima

Code: HIJ-999 (Approx. 7.5 hours)/ Price USD 139.00 Per Person (Guide In English)

On this full-day excursion, discover Hiroshima's history and sacred shrine. Visit Peace Memorial Park and its museum. View the **Atomic Bomb Dome (原子弹爆炸圆顶屋)**. Its skeletal dome structure stands as a mute symbol of destruction. View the Children's Peace Monument, inspired by a girl who died of leukemia as a result of the atomic blast. She folded paper cranes, symbol of long life, in hopes that she would get better. The park now receives nearly 10 million paper cranes annually in the name of world peace. See colorful paper cranes hanging throughout your visit.

Enjoy shopping at **Hondori shopping street (本通商店街)** where you can buy variety of goods. Then a Japanese set lunch will be served at local restaurant.

After lunch, proceed to sacred **Miyajima Island (宫岛)** by ferry. Designated a World Heritage Site, a National Treasure and an Important Cultural Property, the Itsukushima Shrine attracts thousands of visitors a year. The shrine's unique architecture called Shinden, is typical of the noble houses in the late Heian Period. Connected by long corridors and cloisters, its graceful red lacquered shrine and supporting buildings span a pier that stands above the tidal flats. At high tide, the sixth century Itsukushima Shrine and its picturesque red Torii gate seem to float on the water. Tour the famed shrine and its serene grounds.

You'll have time to visit the little shops on the island for souvenirs before you board the boat for the transfer to your motorcoach. Relax and sit back as you savor the beauty and tranquility of the day on your ride back to the ship.



Beppu, Japan

Jigokumeguri Tour

Code: BPU-999 (Approx. 3.5 hours) / Price USD 79.00 Per Person (Guide In English)

Marvel at one of Beppu's most celebrated attractions, the **Jigoku Meguri (地府巡遊)** - or "Boiling Hells" hot springs. This half-day excursion begins when you board your comfortable motorcoach for a short drive to Jigoku Meguri. Here, you will have the opportunity to visit three of the most popular springs, all with very distinct mineral properties, colours and functions.

The Jigoku are intended for viewing rather than bathing, and the springs earned their name because it was said that these mysterious, steamy attractions resembled a scene from hell ("jigoku" means "hell"). Seven of the springs are located in the Kannawa district, and two are in the more remote Shibaseki district.

Upon arrival you will be escorted to the Umi (Sea) Jigoku. The water here is a beautiful aquamarine shade, reminiscent of a tropical sea. This "sea hell" includes a special bonus, a delightful foot spa where you may soak your feet in the invigorating waters.

Your next stop is the dramatic Chinoike (Blood) Jigoku, which thrills visitors with its deep crimson color, derived from the red clay particles that swirl through the waters. Chinoike is considered the most photogenic of the springs, so be sure to have your camera ready to capture its beauty. Tatsumaki (Tornado) Jigoku is a geyser that spurts every 20 minutes and has a temperature of 100 degrees centigrade. Souvenir shops and snack vendors have staked out spots near all the pools.

At the completion of your tour, a relaxing motorcoach ride will return you to port.



Beppu, Japan

USA Jingu Shrine & Boiling Hell Hot Springs

Code: BPU-200 (Approx. 5 hours) / Price USD 99.00 Per Person (Guide In English)

Depart port and enjoy a pleasant motorcoach ride to Usa City where you will have a chance to explore the **Usa Jingu Shrine (宇佐神宮)**. The Usa Jingu Shinto shrine in Usa City is the central shrine of more than 40,000 other "Hachimangu" shrines across Japan. Originally built in the 8th century, the current shrine complex was constructed in the 19th century in the characteristic Hachiman style, two parallel structures with interconnected gabled roofs. The Usa Jingu Shrine has come to symbolize the split of Shinto from Buddhism in Japan and is designated as a National Treasure. You'll find important cultural artifacts here, a treat to behold.

After this spiritual journey, your tour continues with a visit to Beppu's visually stunning, natural treasures - the celebrated **Jigoku Meguri (地府巡遊)** ("Boiling Hells"), a series of impressive hot springs. Each spring in this resort town boasts unique colors, minerals and steam. Intended for viewing rather than bathing, the springs were given their name because it was said that these mysterious, steamy attractions resembled a scene from hell. The Chinoike (Blood) Jigoku will thrill you with its deep crimson color, derived from the red clay particles that swirl through the waters. Chinoike is considered the most photogenic of the "hells" and quite stunning to behold. Then, you will marvel at the Oniishibozu Jigoku. Here, in addition to the boiling mud pools that look like the shaven heads of monks, you will find foot bath with clear water.

At the end of your tour enjoy a relaxing journey by motorcoach back to port.



Kagoshima, Japan

Highlights Of Kagoshima

Code: KOJ-200 (Approx. 2 hours) / Price USD 109.00 Per Person

Your half-day narrated tour begins as you board your motorcoach for a short transfer to Kagoshima port. Upon arriving, you'll travel by ferry for nearly 15 minutes to **Sakurajima (櫻島火山)**, one of Japan's most active volcanoes. Considered the symbol of Kagoshima, Sakurajima rises over 3,000 feet above the waters of Kagoshima Bay. The volcano has erupted over 30 times in recorded history and is still mildly active today with minor eruptions taking place multiple times per day. After a visit to Arimura Lava Observatory for sweeping views of the crater and the island's lava fields (weather permitting), you'll hop on board the ferry back to Kagoshima port. Here, you'll board your motorcoach for a drive to Sengan-en (Iso Garden).

Sengan-en (仙岩園)(Iso Garden) was constructed in 1658 by Daimyo Shimazu Mitsuhide, the feudal clan that controlled Kagoshima and the Satsuma-hanto Peninsula from the Feudal Era to the Meiji Restoration of 1868 (Edo period; 17th through mid-19th centuries). With Sakurajima and Kagoshima Bay as its backdrop (weather permitting), Sengan-en boasts cherry blossoms in the spring, and a variety of plants and trees that make for an interesting landscape, as well as small ponds, streams, shrines and a bamboo grove.

Also on the grounds is Shoko Shuseikan Museum. Housed in the first Western-style factory ever built in Japan, the museum chronicles over seven centuries of Shimazu clan history. Among the items exhibited are materials and records of the factories built during the Edo Period to support the modernization of Kagoshima through the manufacturing of cannons, boats and glassware.

You'll have a chance to visit the museum before boarding your motorcoach for a relaxing drive back to the pier.

At the completion of this wonderful day, relax on your return ride to port.



Kagoshima, Japan

Chiran Samurai Houses & Kamikaze Museum

Code: KOJ-260 (Approx. 4 hours) / Price USD 99.00 Per Person (Guide In English)

Your half-day tour begins as you board your motorcoach and travel south to the Satsuma-hanto Peninsula, a mountainous, geothermal wonderland of hot springs. Your first stop is **Chiran (之覧)**, the stronghold of the Shimazu samurai during Japan's Feudal Era.

Upon arriving, you'll stroll down a lane lined by residences of warriors who lived in the Edo period (17th through mid-19th centuries) and their small gardens. You can see provincial samurais' sense of beauty when you enter their properties.

Chiran was also a kamikaze base during World War II. Today, a peace museum dedicated to the pilots, the **Chiran Peace Museum for Kamikaze Pilots (之覧特攻平和会馆)** ("Tokko Heiwa Kaikan"), marks the site. You'll visit the museum and witness its comprehensive collection of recovered aircraft, models, mementoes and photographs of the Special Attack Corps. You'll be awestruck as you view letters to loved ones, final letters before departure, pictures during breaks in training and photos of every single pilot.

Your tour concludes with a relaxing drive back to the pier.



Kochi, Japan

Kochi Castle & Katsurahama Beach

Code: KCZ-200 (Approx. 4 hours) / Price USD 119.00 Per Person (Guide In English)

Board your comfortable motorcoach and be whisked away to an ancient world right in the heart of the city! Kochi Castle, the city's most famed landmark, dominates your views from any vantage point.

Built by Yamanouchi Kazutoyo following the Battle of Sekigahara in 1600, the massive castle took more than 10 years to construct. In 1727, some of the fortress was destroyed in a fire, but later, in 1753, it was reconstructed with the "donjon" and the splendid "Otemon Gate" remaining as originally constructed.

Kochi Castle (高知城) has undergone several preservations over the years, but it has retained its original palace and the integrity of its architectural style. It is the only castle to have all the buildings in its "honmaru," or ring of defense, in their original entirety. When you visit the castle, you may be asked to remove your shoes and put on the slippers provided. Many of the ancient rooms are not accessible to the public, but you will find a small museum filled with cultural artifacts. The "donjon," or main tower, provides celebrated, panoramic views of the whole city, making it well worth the climb to the top. Your tour will take you past the beautifully restored Tsumemon Gate that connects the second citadel of the castle to its inner sanctum, and no visit to Kochi Castle would be complete without seeing the "honmaru," which has retained much of its original shape. All of the structures in the honmaru are designated as Japan's Important Cultural Properties and house both local and historical treasures. Back outside, stroll the castle grounds, now a popular public park, dotted with magnificent statues of the Yamanouchi family, each one suitable for a photo stop.

At the completion of the castle tour, reboard the motorcoach for a 30-minute scenic drive that takes in some of Kochi's popular sights, including Harimayabashi (Harimaya Bridge), a small bridge that is the subject of a popular folksong called "Yosakoi-bushi," and Harimayabashi Shopping District, which sports a wooden arcade and a large mechanical clock. When you reach the shoreline, you'll know you're at your next destination, beautiful **Katsurahama Beach (高知市沙滩)**.

This lovely spot also makes an appearance in the "Yosakoi-bushi" song and is known locally as the best spot to view the moon. The statue of Sakamoto Ryoma, heralded as Kochi's favorite son, stands guard over the surf and sand. One of Japan's most beloved historical figures, he is credited with spearheading a bloodless revolution to transform feudal Japan into a modernized, unified nation. This imposing statue is dressed in a Japanese samurai kimono and wears western-style boots. You'll have plenty of time to explore this picturesque beach area, although swimming is prohibited due to the strong currents. In addition to the beautiful scenery and pleasant walking paths, there is a small aquarium, a small shrine and other attractions.

Before returning pause at the **Sakamoto Ryoma Memorial Museum (高知县立坂本龙马纪念馆)**. Located on the grounds of the Urado Castle Park in Katsurahama, the museum has sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean and built to honor Sakamoto Ryoma who was born in Kochi in 1835. Sakamoto Ryoma greatly contributed to Japan's rapid modernization which marked the end of 700 years of feudal government. The modernized nation he pictured had laws, a parliamentary system and a diplomatic office. The impact he had on the country was such that the people fondly refer to him only by his first name, Ryoma. In 1985 a campaign was organized to build a memorial museum in memory of the 150th anniversary of Ryoma's birth. Six years later in 1991, the museum was opened on November 15. This date marks both his birth and his death. The exhibits here portray the many qualities and contributions of Ryoma.

At the completion of your day, enjoy a pleasant ride back to Kochi Port before you board your ship.



Kochi, Japan

Cape Muroto & Mikurodo Cave

Code: KCZ-120 (Approx. 8.5 hours) / Price USD 155.00 Per Person (Guide In English)

A lovely, picturesque motorcoach drive travels 85 kilometers (53 miles) outside of Kochi City, to **Murotomisaki (室戸岬)**(Cape Muroto) to the eastern part of Kochi Prefecture. The cape's name translates to "blessed with great nature," and you'll understand why when you see the cape jutting out over the Pacific Ocean, dividing the Kii Channel and Tosa Bay.

Murotomisaki has earned the distinction of one of eight "fine views" in Japan. Due to the area's warm temperatures, even in winter, lush subtropical plants, trees and hibiscus flowers blanket the ground. The colorful coastal plants found in this area are considered to be of scientific value, and some of the unusual species of trees are considered Natural Monuments of Japan. At the tip of the cape, you'll find a wonderful white lighthouse, in operation for over 100 years and the largest in Japan. This beacon can be seen from 56 kilometers (35 miles) offshore and has safely guided countless ships through the waters. From here, enjoy a walk along the two-kilometer (1 mile) stretch known as the Ransho Promenade, or Reef Watching Walking Path. Breathtakingly beautiful, the unusual cliffs and reefs were created by the rough, pounding seas of the Pacific Ocean. As you look out onto the water, you might be lucky enough to see frolicking dolphins or migrating sperm whales.

Not far from the cape, discover Mikurodo Cave, thought to have been the place where the 8th century Buddhist monk Kobo-Daishi attained spiritual enlightenment. It is said that the monk was so moved by the sky (Ku in Japanese) and the sea (Kai in Japanese) as viewed from the cave that he renamed himself "Ku-Kai."

You'll no doubt have worked up an appetite by this time, so it's off to a local restaurant to enjoy a traditional Japanese lunch. After lunch climb the sloping trail to **Hotsumisakiji Temple**.

At the completion of this invigorating day, return to port by motorcoach with a camera filled with beautiful memories to share.

