



**Off the Beaten Path:** A Different Side of Japan

## 2021 NEW YEARS IN JAPAN: Ise Grand Shrine, Toba, Shirahama, Mt. Koya, Wakayama Plus Osaka Fukubukuro Shopping

The Japanese title for New Year is Shogatsu, and it has always been one of the liveliest times of the year in this amazing nation. A popular tradition in Japan is referred to as "Hatsumode," which is when the locals visit local temples or shrines for the first time in the new year.



Japan.  
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**8 Nights / 10 Days • 18 Meals (8 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 5 Dinners)**  
**Escorted From Honolulu • English-Speaking Licensed Local Tour Guide**  
**December 26, 2020 – January 04, 2021 • Tour Manager: Gene Miyake**

*Join Pali Ka'ahue as we cruise Japan! We will be taping a few episodes of DOKO GA TV to be aired on KFVE "The Home Team"!*

### VISIT:

Ise • Toba • Mie • Wakayama • Shirahama • Osaka • Kyoto • Nara

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Okage Yokocho Street • Ise Jingu Shrine • Mikimoto Pearl Island • Toba Aquarium  
Hachiman Kamado • Toba Ichibangai • Ganko Wakayama • Kadocho Soy Sauce Factory  
Ota Kyusuke Miso Factory • Umeboshi Factory • Kuroshio Fish Market • Kongobuji  
Wakayama Castle • Nishiki Market • Kuromon Ichiba Market • Todaiji Temple • Nara Deer Park

### NEW YEARS HIGHLIGHTS:

Toshi Koshi Soba • Special "Osechi" Lunch • Hatsumode at Kitano Tenmangu Shrine  
Fukubukuro Shopping • AEON Mall Kyoto • Yatsuhashi-Making Class  
Sushi-Making Class • Mochi Pounding

### ENJOY 2 ONSEN HOT SPRING BATHS:

Toba Hotel International • Shirahama Coganoi Resort & Spa

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## 2021 NEW YEARS IN JAPAN: ISE GRAND SHRINE, TOBA, SHIRAHAMA, MT. KOYA, WAKAYAMA PLUS OSAKA FUKUBUKURO SHOPPING DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

**Day 1: Sat, Dec 26** – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Hawaiian Airlines flt #449 at 1:25 pm.

**Day 2: Sun, Dec 27** – OSAKA. Arrive in Kansai International Airport at 6:45 pm. After entry formalities, walk to the hotel located across from the Kansai Airport. A deluxe welcome buffet dinner has been arranged at the hotel. HOTEL NIKKO KANSAI AIRPORT (1 Night) (D)

**Day 3: Mon, Dec 28** – OSAKA – ISE – TOBA. start sightseeing in Ise with a visit to **Okage Yokochō Street**, a street reproducing the crowded Ise temple town during the end stage of the Edo Period (1603–1868). There are many shops for you to explore and enjoy lunch (on your own) there. Next visit the **Ise Jingu Shrine** (Ise Grand Shrine), the most important Shinto shrine in the country. Dedicated to the sun goddess Amaterasu, Ise Grand Shrine is the ancestral shrine of the emperors of Japan. This evening, enjoy dinner at the hotel. TOBA HOTEL INTERNATIONAL (2 Nights) (B, D)

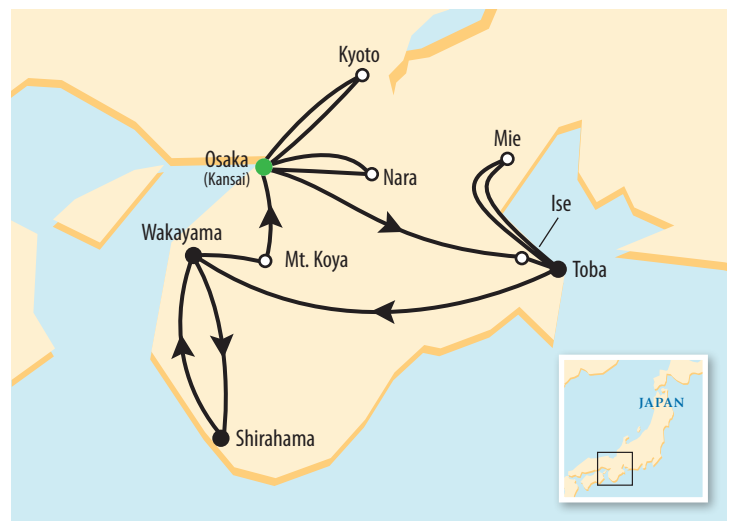
**Day 4: Tue, Dec 29** – TOBA – MIE – TOBA. After breakfast, travel to Mie to learn about pearls and pearl cultivation at **Mikimoto Pearl Island**. Next, visit **Toba Aquarium**, which contains one of the largest number of species of fish and animals in Japan spread out over twelve zones. The Toba Aquarium is also the only aquarium in Japan to have a dugong in captivity. Then learn about ama, the local women who free dive for shellfish, sea vegetables and other marine products. Relax in the **Hachiman Kamado**, the huts used by the ama to warm up between dives. Enjoy some freshly caught seafood for lunch while the ama divers share stories of their adventures. After lunch, spend some time at **Toba Ichibangai**, the largest shopping center in Toba. Return to the hotel for dinner tonight. (B, L, D)

\*Baggage will be sent from Toba to Osaka, skipping Shirahama and Wakayama. Prepare an overnight bag for 2 nights.

**Day 5: Wed, Dec 30** – TOBA – WAKAYAMA – SHIRAHAMA. Depart Toba for Wakayama. For lunch, savor high-quality Japanese-style cuisine at **Ganko Wakayama**, an old Japanese estate with one of Japan's most renowned gardens. Learn about two ingredients essential to Japanese cuisine at the **Kadocho Soy Sauce Factory** and **Ota Kyusuke Miso Factory**. Transfer to the hotel in Shirahama. Enjoy a buffet dinner at the hotel. SHIRAHAMA COGANOI RESORT & SPA (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 6: Thur, Dec 31** – SHIRAHAMA – WAKAYAMA – MT. KOYA – WAKAYAMA. After breakfast explore more of Wakayama. Start with a tour of an **Umeboshi (Salted Plum) Factory**. See how this uniquely Japanese staple is made. Enjoy lunch at **Kuroshio Fish Market**, a bustling seaside fish market offering freshly caught seafood. After lunch, explore Mount Koya (Koya-san), the center of Shingon Buddhism; an important Buddhist sect which was introduced to Japan in 805 by Kobo Daishi (also known as Kukai), one of Japan's most significant religious figures. A small, secluded temple town has developed around the sect's headquarters that Kobo Daishi built on Koyasan's wooded mountaintop. It is also the site of Kobo Daishi's mausoleum and the start and end point of the Shikoku 88 Temple Pilgrimage. Kobo Daishi began construction on the original Garan temple complex in 826 after wandering the country for years in search of a suitable place to center his religion. Since then over one hundred temples have sprung up along the streets of Koyasan. We visit the most important among them. **Kongobuji**, the head temple of Shingon Buddhism. Tonight for dinner, enjoy a special Kaiseki Dinner along with the opportunity to participate in the Japanese New Years' Eve custom of reflecting on the past year and usher in the coming year, all the while enjoying a bowl of hot soba noodles, called **Toshi Koshi Soba**, or year-crossing noodles. HOTEL GRANVIA WAKAYAMA (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 7: Fri, Jan 01** – WAKAYAMA – OSAKA. **Happy New Year!!** Begin the day with a visit to **Wakayama Castle**. Built on the orders of warlord Toyotomi Hideyoshi in 1585. Unfortunately the castle did not survive World War II, and most of the present buildings are a 1958 post-war reconstruction. Only the Okaguchi Gate and stone walls remain from the original castle. Enjoy a special



**"Osechi"** (Traditional Japanese New Years' Food served on antique dishes) for lunch. Now we make way to our hotel in Osaka located in the center of a major shopping and entertainment district. Our tour guide will have many suggestions for dinner and shopping. HOTEL GRANVIA OSAKA (3 Nights) (B, L)

**Day 8: Sat, Jan 02** – OSAKA. Full Day at Leisure. Your hotel is located near department stores, specialty stores, and restaurants. Enjoy **Fukubukuro Shopping** and dining! Your local guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

**Day 9: Sun, Jan 03** – OSAKA – KYOTO – OSAKA. After breakfast, it's time for **Hatsumode** as we visit the **Kitano Tenmangu Shrine**. Explore **Nishiki Market**, a 5 block long shopping street with more than 100 stores and restaurants. Enjoy lunch (on your own) and time for **Fukubukuro Shopping** at an **AEON Mall** in Kyoto. After lunch, learn how to make a local Kyoto treat – **Yatsushashi**, a Japanese confectionery which is made from rice flour, sugar, and cinnamon. Return to the hotel for the remainder of the day at leisure. (B)

**Day 10: Mon, Jan 04** – OSAKA – NARA – HONOLULU. Start the day with a visit to **Kuromon Ichiba Market**, a lively covered market which stretches for 580 meters in Osaka's Chuo Ward. The market is famous for its fresh seafood, fruits and vegetables, meats, dried fish, pickles and confectionery. Many stalls will prepare, cook and serve their food to you right on the spot! An excellent place to stroll, sample, and snack on a delicious variety of fresh market foods. You're in for a big treat for lunch! Traditional **Mochi Pounding** along with a special **Sushi-Making Class**, at Umemori Sushi College Nara. After lunch, visit the **Todaiji Temple** in Nara. Todaiji, the largest wooden building in Japan, houses the largest bronze statue of Buddha at 16.3 meters high. The surrounding **Nara Park** is inhabited by **over 1,000 Shika Deer**. Special crackers are available to purchase in the Park to feed the deer. Transfer to the airport for the flight home. Depart Osaka via Hawaiian Airlines flt #450 at 8:45 pm and arrive Honolulu at 9:05 am the same day. Aloha and Welcome Home! (B, L)

\* Fares are per person, USD based on double occupancy and INCLUDE ALL AIRLINE TAXES AND FEES. Airline fuel supplements, taxes and fees are subject to change and tour member is responsible for any increases. Some airline-imposed personal charges, including but not limited to baggage, priority boarding and special seating, may apply. For details visit [www.tripadvisor.com/AirlineFees](http://www.tripadvisor.com/AirlineFees). After initial deposit, a \$75 per person Non-Stop Travel (NST) Cancellation Fee will apply. Group departures may be cancelled, if there are less than 24 tour members. Final Payment to NST for "non-cruise/line" Air and Land Package must be made by Money Order or Personal Check. NST does not guarantee that all tour members will fly together with Tour Manager. Tour Manager assignments, number of meals offered on tour, tour price, discount, and the "final" tour itinerary are subject to change with/without notice. **NST reserves the right to correct errors or omissions including but not limited to, fares, fees and surcharges at any time.** Deposit: \$500 per person. Final Payment Due: 09/30/20.

† Early Booking Discount is per person. Purchase of Non-Stop Travel's complete Air and Land Package is required.

**Special Assistance:** You must notify NST, at time of reservation, of any disability requiring special attention. NST reserves the right to cancel your booking or terminate your vacation if your special needs or disabilities are not suitable for the vacation or if you are not traveling with a companion who will provide all the assistance you require. **Wheelchair and Electric Scooter access outside of the USA is severely restricted.**

**DOKO GA TV episodes will be taped. A "Video Release Form" will be included with your final payment notice.**

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