

Air & Sea Travel Center

Japan ALPS ~ Tateyama Kurobe Alpine Route Feature with Flower Viewing

Cities Covered: Osaka, Komatsu, Kanazawa, Tateyama, Toyama, Nagano & Tokyo

Traveling Dates: May 11 – 19, 2022 (9 Days)

Price per person: \$3,788 Incl. Tax & Fuel Surcharge Single Supp: \$900

The Tateyama Kurobe Alpine Route is known as the "Roof of Japan". The route passes through the dynamic scenery of Mt. Tateyama in the Japan Alps. It is traversed using a variety of vehicles with an elevation change of 2400 meters from Toyama Prefecture to Nagano Prefecture. Experience the stunning vistas and unique landscapes as you travel over, above, and even under majestic Mt. Tateyama. Stop to enjoy a stroll through flower filled meadows and steaming volcanic valleys.

Tour Package Includes:

- International Flight from **HONOLULU** on **Hawaiian Airline**
- Alpine Route: Cable Car, Highland Bus, Tunnel Trolley Bus, Ropeway, and Local Bus
- Impressive **60 feet** High Wall of Snow
- Natural Hot Spring Ryokan (**2** nights)
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites:
 - *The Historic Village of Gokayama
- Hands on Experience doing Crafts
- Open Carriage Style Train at Kurobe Gorge
- "Top 10 World Dream Destinations": Ashikaga Flower Park
- Samurai Museum
- **15** Meals & Admissions as Stated
 - *Onsen Kaiseki
 - *Japanese Sukiyaki
- Gratuity for Tour Guides & Drivers

B: Breakfast | L: Lunch | D: Dinner

Day 1 May 11** **Honolulu → Osaka**

We begin our journey by boarding an international flight to Kansai Airport, the gateway city to Osaka. Meals and snacks will be served on the plane.

Day 2 May 12** **Osaka**

Upon arrival at Kansai International Airport, we will meet with an Air and Sea Travel Representative who will escort us to our hotel in the Osaka area.

Day 3 May 13** **Osaka  Kaga – Komatsu – Kanazawa** **(B, L, D)**

This morning, we will take the **Limited express trains** from Osaka Station to Kagaonsen Sataion. Upon arrival, we will depart for **Yunokuni No Mori**, a crafts village in Komatsu. Komatsu is a city located in the southern portion of Ishikawa Prefecture near the Awazu Onsen amid a massive acreage of preserved forest land. At Yunokuni no Mori, we will enjoy our lunch and also have time to participate in learning crafts and making various Kaga area goods by ourselves. These high quality craft products include: Wajima lacquer ware, Kutani ceramics, gold leaf, Kaga Yuzen (printed silk), and Yamanaka lacquer ware. We will have experience to the **gold leaf products**. Then, we will transfer to **Kanazawa**. This city boasts many historical attractions such as restored residences and districts, as well as modern museums. Upon arrival, we will have dinner before we transfer to the hotel.

Day 4 May 14** **Kanazawa** **(B, L)**

Today, we will explore this historical city. First, we will visit **Kenrokuen**, one of the three famous gardens in Japan. As a strolling style landscape garden, it incorporates fancy designs in every corner, achieving peerless scenery in each season. According to the ancient Chinese book of gardens, six elements contribute to the qualities of the garden: spaciousness and seclusion, artifice and antiquity, water courses and panoramas. We will also visit the **Kanazawa Castle Park**, a large, partially-restored castle in Kanazawa. After lunch, we will enjoy some free time for omiyage (souvenir) shopping at **Kanazawa JR Station** area. Then, we can enjoy the rest of day on our own.

Day 5 May 15** **Kanazawa – Kurobe Gorge (Toyama) ** **(B, L, D)**

In the morning, our journey will take us to **The Historic Village of Gokayama**, one of Japan's UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The site is located in the Shogawa river valley, stretching across the border of **Gifu and Toyama Prefectures** in central Japan. The Gokayama ("Five Mountains") area is divided between the former villages of Kamitaira and Taira in Nanto, Toyama Prefecture. These villages are well known for their houses constructed in the architectural style known as Gassho-zukuri. The **Gassho-zukuri**, "prayer-hands construction" style is characterized by a thatched and steeply slanted roof resembling two hands joined in prayer. The design is exceptionally strong and in combination with the unique properties of the thatching, allows the houses to withstand and shed the weight of the region's heavy snowfalls in winter. Then we will continue driving to the **Northern Alps**. Forget city life – let's see the natural beauty of Japan. The Hida Mountains or Northern Alps are one of the finest areas of natural beauty and the **Kurobe Gorge** is among the most spectacular places in the Hida Mountains. The open carriage style **Train** makes us feel that we are in nature. The view of the gorge changes as the train zigzags its way up. Then we will return to the **Onsen Hotel**.



Day 6 May 16** **Kurobe Gorge – Tateyama Kurobe Alpine – Nagano ** **(B, D)**

After a morning onsen bath and breakfast, we will experience stunning vistas and unique landscapes as we travel on, above, and even under majestic **Mt. Tateyama**. We will stop to enjoy a stroll through flower filled meadows and steaming volcanic valleys. The **Tateyama Kurobe Alpine Route** is known as the "Roof of Japan". It passes through the dynamic scenery of Mt. Tateyama in the Japan Alps and is traversed using a variety of vehicles with an elevation change of 2400 meters from Toyama Prefecture to Nagano Prefecture.

The route is approximately 90 km long and we will be impressed by the variety of scenery that can be seen in different seasons. **First**, we take a **Cable Car** to **Bijodaira** that takes us 500 m up. The average gradient here is 24°, and a site with unique rock formations named “Zaimoku-ishi” (timber rocks) is visible from the cable car. **Second**, we take the **Highland Bus** to **Midagahara** and **Murodo**. We will be captivated by the views as we travel through the range with a 1500 m change in altitude. The large trees in the forests, the highlands, and the mountain ranges are the highlights of the route. **We will be able to get off the bus and walk along the road between 2 walls of snow 18 meters high.** **Third**, we take the **Tunnel Trolley Bus** to **Daikanbo** which is the highest altitude trolley bus in Japan (2450 m). This bus runs inside a tunnel, piercing through the heart of Mt. Tateyama (3015 m high). The bus is powered by electricity, so the bus is “green” and does not produce exhaust fumes. **Fourth**, we take the **Ropeway** to **Kurobedaira**. The cable car here is one of the most unique in the world. It is the only cable car in Japan without pylons along its span. It is like a “moving observatory” giving a full panoramic view of the surrounding nature. **Fifth**, we take another **Cable Car** to **Kurobeko**. This is the only underground cable car in Japan, allowing it to be unaffected by snowfall. We have to do some **walking** before coming to the next station. **Sixth**, we take the **Kanden Tunnel Trolley Bus** from **Kurobe Dam** to **Ogizawa Station**. The tunnel for this trolley bus was originally built to transfer materials needed to build Kurobe Dam. The trolley bus crosses the border between **Toyama** and **Nagano Prefectures**, which was one of the most inaccessible places before the construction of the Kurobe Dam. After today’s exciting excursion we will return to the hotel to enjoy a delicious dinner and relax in the **Onsen Hotel**. Japanese onsens are extremely beneficial for one’s health because of its mineral content. Different minerals provide different health benefits while relaxing our body and mind. ☺

Day 7 May 17** **Nagano – Ashikaga – Tokyo** **(B, L, D)**

After breakfast, we will transfer to the “Top 10 World Dream Destinations” – **Ashikaga Flower Park**. Come and see the great wisteria over 150 years old which spreads over a 600 tatami trellis area. We can also see a Rose Garden here. After visiting this CNN selected dream destination, we will transfer to Tokyo, the capital, political, and commercial center of Japan. After check-in to our hotel, we will have our **Special Farewell Dinner** near to the hotel.

Day 8 May 18** **Tokyo** **(B)**

Full day free at leisure. You can visit Tokyo's most famous upscale market shopping, dining and entertainment district – **The Ginza**, featuring numerous department stores, boutiques, art galleries, restaurants, night clubs and cafes. Or you can enjoy a shopping day at **Shinjuku**, Tokyo’s most vibrant commercial center, with many alleys, nooks, and crannies. Nearby, **Shibuya** is a center for fashion and culture, and its streets are the birthplace to many of Japan’s fashion and entertainment trends.

Day 9 May 19** **Tokyo – Narita → Honolulu** **(B)**

Kichijoji is centered on a compact but very popular commercial area to the north of its train station and to the south a little, with a full range of shops, restaurants, bars, and coffee houses. We can have our own lunch here. Samurai were the hereditary military nobility and officer caste of medieval and early-modern Japan. Today, we will visit **Samurai Museum**. As well as exhibits of samurai swords, armor and other weapons including guns, we can try on samurai armor and try their hands at samurai cosplay. After that, we will transfer to Narita International Airport for our return flight to Honolulu later in the afternoon, taking with us the lasting memories of this wonderful Japan Alps trip with beautiful flower viewings.

☺ *We wish you a safe journey and have many wonderful memories to share with family and friends!* ☺

Remarks:

1. Fares are per person; USD based on double occupancy and includes all airline taxes and fees.
2. Escorted tour with a minimum of 20 passengers
3. Refer to “General Condition of Air & Sea”
4. We reserve the right to modify the itinerary to ensure smooth operation
5. Gratuity for Tour Guides and Drivers is included
6. Tour price is subject to change according to any airfare increase, increase in government taxes, additional fuel charges and fluctuation of the rate of exchange between U.S. and foreign currency
7. It is mandatory to inform Air and Sea Travel of any existing conditions that may require medical attention or accommodations during the trip. You need to provide this information in writing in the Tour Supplemental Information section of the application. If you do not have a travel companion who can help you with your special needs, you need to talk to your agent to determine if this is an appropriate tour for you. Some tours may be too strenuous depending on your condition. Air and Sea Travel reserves the right to reject or cancel your booking. You are responsible for any cancellation penalty that this may incur.

Payment Policy:

CHECK OR CASH PAYMENT ONLY. A deposit of \$ 350 per person is required at the time of application. The balance of payment is due on **Mar. 1, 2022**. In case balance of payment is not made within the required time period, Air and Sea Travel Center reserves the right to cancel reservations and charge a cancellation fee.

Cancellation Policy:

Written notice is required for any cancellation. After **Mar. 1, 2022**, the cancellation fee will be as follow:
** **Mar. 2 – Apr. 3, 2022**, **50%** of total price plus any other service fee caused from the cancellation;
** **From Apr. 4, 2022 to the departure** or withdrawing during the tour shall be regarded as willingly giving up all rights concerned, **100%** of total price, and request for other services as a substitute shall not be accepted.

We strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance when you make a reservation