

Dold World Journeys presents

Tohoku with Sado Island **12 Days**

Tokyo - Kusatsu - Nagano - Sado Island - Akita - Tsunagi - Sendai - Nasu Kogen



Dates & Prices

Leave **Fri. Mar. 31** – Return **Tue. Apr. 11, 2017** - **\$4,785**

Single Room Supplement - \$650 / Land Only - \$4,070 / Travel Insurance – fr. \$37

Save Up To \$100 with our Sign-up Discounts. *First Come, First Save!*

Highlights

- 10 nights in First or Superior First Class hotels. **Custom First Class Bobby Chinen / Nippon Travel Agency.** 10 (B) Buffet-style breakfasts, 1 (L) Lunch, and 6 (D) Dinners, including a Sayonara Dinner in Tokyo.
- Escorted by **Alex Dold**. Specially selected professional host/guide in Japan. Twin-bedded rooms with private bath or shower, hotel taxes, service charges and tips for baggage handling at hotels.
- **United Airlines** from Honolulu. Roundtrip Hydrofoil to Sado Island, Tarai Bune (Tub Boat) ride, Inaho Limited Express Train up Japan Sea Coast, Matsushima Bay Cruise. Private motorcoach with air - conditioning.
- Overnights in Kusatsu, Nagano, Sado Island, Akita, Tsunagi, Sendai, Nasu Kogen, and Tokyo.
- Unique experiences like the Daimonya Workshop (*Wooden Dolls*), Takagai Workshop (Soba making), Yumomi Show, and Edo Wonderland.
- Highlights included Yubatake (*Hot Water Field*), Matsumoto Castle, Sado Kinzan (*Gold Mine*), Chusonji Temple, Tsuruga (Wakamatsu) Castle, Byakkotai Memorial Hall, Tokyo Tower, Tsukiji Outer Marker, Asakusa Kannon Temple, Edo-Tokyo Museum, and more.
- Scenic highlights include Japan Sea Coast, Kakunodate's Weeping Cherry Trees, Sapphire-blue Lake Tazawa, Lake Goshoko, Tsunagi Hot Springs, Genbikei Gorge, Matsushima Bay and Tohoku's countryside.
- Onsen in Kusatsu, Sado Island, Tsunagi Hot Springs, and Nasu Kogen.

Itinerary

Day 1. Honolulu Departure. Our Tohoku journey begins today with a late morning departure for Narita, Japan. We lose one day crossing the International Date Line. Once the preliminary flight schedule is ready it will be displayed online at doldworldjourneys.com under the journey's page.

Day 2. Arrival in Narita, Japan. A comfortable flight brings us to the Narita International Airport in the mid-afternoon. After completing Immigration and Customs formalities, we meet our English-speaking Japan guide and transfer by private coach to the Grand Nikko Tokyo Daiba Hotel for the night. Alex and our Japan guide will be available to make the most out of our stay.

Day 3. To Kusatsu, Gunma Prefecture. After breakfast we board our coach and head for **Kusatsu**, one of the Japan's top three hot spring towns. In a country known for its hot springs, Kusatsu has the largest natural flow (1,300 gallons a minute). We stop at a **Daimonya Workshop** with a 200-year history of making intricate *Daruma* (*traditional Japanese round wooden dolls*) by hand. Hear the history, watch the crafters at work, and maybe even try to make your own doll. Next take a lunch break at **Aeon Takasaki Mall**.

In the mid afternoon we arrived at **Yubatake** or "*Hot Water Field*," one of the Kusatsu's main sources of hot spring water. After bubbling to the surface at more than 150 degrees, the water is cooled down in the Yubatake's wooden conduits before being distributed to the various Ryokan and public baths. Enjoy an Ashiyu or "*Foot Bath*" before we watch the **Yumomi Show** - a traditional method of cooling down the spring water by stirring the water with large wooden paddles while singing local folk songs. Dinner, Onsen and overnight at the Nakazawa Village Hotel. (B), (D)

Day 4. To Nagano, Nagano Prefecture. Today we travel a short distance west to **Nagano**, the capital of the Nagano Prefecture and home of the 1998 Winter Olympic Games. The area is famous for its production of Soba or "*Buckwheat Noodle*" and for a unique experience we visit the **Takagi Workshop** to try our hand at making Soba. Choose to eat yours there or bring it home as a souvenir. Lunch is included at the restaurant (*and no not the Soba you just made - someone else in the group made it - SMILE*). Next a short drive brings us to **Matsumoto**, the second largest city in the Nagano Prefecture. Here we visit the **Matsumoto-jo**, one of Japan's most beautiful original castles. Hotel Kokusai 21 Nagano. (B), (L) ***Please remember to pack an overnight bag for tomorrow (Sado Island).*

Day 5. Via Niigata to Sado Island, Niigata Prefecture. Our coach works its way up north to **Niigata Port** for our hour long *Hydrofoil ride* to **Ryotsu Port**, the main port of Sado Island. Niigata was a key location along the Kitamaebune route, and as such thrived both as a major maritime transportation hub as well as a center of cultural and gourmet growth. The area is famed for its abundance of seafood. Before we continue to the port we break at the **Aeon Mall Niigata Minami**.

Just about 20 miles off the coast of **Honshu** in the *Sea of Japan*, **Sado Island** seems remote even today. For centuries it was a colony of exiles and prisoners and most of them never came back once they were shipped off. Enjoy a half day guided exploration of the island before experiencing a unique **Tarai Bune** or "*Tub Boat*" ride. At one time they were a practical way to navigating around the cliffs to collect seaweed and abalone. Dinner, Onsen, and overnight at the Yoshidaya Hotel. (B), (D)

Day 6. Via Niigata to Akita, Akita Prefecture. Before saying good-bye to **Sado Island** we explore the **Sado Kinzan** or "*Gold Mine*." This was Japan's largest gold mine which was in operation for 388 years. In total, 15,000,000 tons of ore were mined here producing 78 tons of gold and 2,300 tons of silver. Head to **Ryotsu Port** for our *Hydrofoil ride* back to **Niigata**. Transfer to the train station to catch the scenic **Inaho Limited Express** and travel along the *Japan Sea Coast*. Our destination is **Akita**, located between the Dewa Mountains to the east and the Japan Sea to the West. The city is best known for hosting the Kanto Matsuri or "*Pole Lantern Festival*," a large festival in which revelers balance long bamboo poles with dozens of paper lanterns attached to the end. After checking into the Hotel Metropolitan Akita we savor dinner at a local restaurant. (B), (D)

Day 7. Via Kakunodate to Tsunagi, Iwate Prefecture. After breakfast we head east toward the Iwate Prefecture and the **Tsungai Hot Springs**. Before leaving the Akita Prefecture we make a stop at **Kakunodate** a former castle town and samurai stronghold. The town is famous for its hundreds of Shidarezakura or "*Weeping Cherry Trees*." Remarkably unchanged since its founding in 1620, the city has some of the best examples of samurai architecture in all of Japan. Next visit **Lake Tazawa**, one of the most scenic spots in the Akita Prefecture. This picturesque sapphire-blue colored lake is the deepest in Japan at 1,400 feet and almost a perfect circle. Spend some time around the lake and at one its **Rest Houses** before heading to **Tsunagi Hot Spring** and the Hotel Shion, our home for the night. Located by **Lake Goshoko** on the boarder of Morioka this resort area has a 900 year old history. Dinner and an opportunity to enjoy a soothing Onsen bath at our hotel. (B), (D)

Day 8. Via Hiraizumi and Matsushima Bay to Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture. Our first stop this morning is at the **Chusonji Temple** in Hiraizumi. Once the "Northern Branch" for the Fujiwara Family (*the most powerful clan in Japan during the Heian Period*), Hiraizumi grew into a cultural center and political power rival to Kyoto, the national capital. One of most famous attraction is **Chusonji** (a UNESCO site) established in 850 as a Tendai Buddhist Temple. Our highlight here is the gold covered **Konjikido Hall**.

Next we view the stunning **Genbikei Gorge** shaped by the rapid flowing water of the river. The gorge is designated as a national site of scenic beauty and a natural monument. Before arriving in **Sendai** and the Metropolitan Sendai Hotel we take a cruise on **Matsushima Bay**. Dotted by over 200 small pine tree covered islands, the bay is one of Japan's three most scenic views. (B)

Day 9. To Nasu Kogen, Tochigi Prefecture. Our heading today is south to **Nasu Kogen**, on the slopes of Mount Nasudake, and our last spot for a relaxing Onsen bath. Before lunch we explore the **Tsuruga (Wakamatsu) Castle**, previously known as Kurokawa Castle. Built in 1384 the Castle was one of the last samurai strongholds loyal to the Edo shogunate. Later we visit the **Byakkotai Memorial Hall**. After the decisive defeat at Tsuruga Castle in 1868, a group of young Aizu soldiers from the Byakkotai or "*White Tiger Corps*" looking out from Limoriyama Hill, saw their castle engulfed in flames and committed Seppuku or "*Harakiri*." The Hall located at the bottom of the hill contains a rich collection of articles and documents associated with the Boshin War. Dinner, Onsen and overnight at the Rindoko Royal Hotel. (B), (D)

Day 10. To Tokyo, Tokyo Prefecture. Today our coach continues south to **Tokyo**, the capital and largest city of Japan. Along the way we spend time at **Nikko Edomura** or "*Edo Wonderland*." This historic theme park is built in Edo (1603-1868) style architecture and populated by townspeople in period costume. There are many restaurants and shops to be found. Many shops sell souvenirs such as teapots, woodblock prints and toy weapons, but a few such as the Blacksmith and Armor Repair Shop, are replica storefronts that show period craftsmen at worked. There are also two wax museums, *Kodenmacho Jail House* and *Kira-Kozukenosuke Residence* which show grisly scenes of prison life, torture, battle and vengeance. We end our day at the Grand Nikko Tokyo Daiba, our home for the next two nights. (B)

Day 11. Exploring Tokyo. We start our guided sightseeing with a ride up the **Tokyo Tower** for a panoramic view of the city. Next we visit **Tsukiji Outer Market**, the largest wholesale market for fish (*handling over 2,000 tons of marine products per day*), fruits and vegetable in central Tokyo. Then to **Asakusa Sensoji Temple**, one of Tokyo's oldest and most popular Buddhist Temples. Entering from the outer gate we pass the colorful **Nakamise Arcades**. Here we can find typical Japanese souvenirs such as yukata, folding fans, and various traditional local snacks. Later we make our way back to our hotel for a delicious Sayonara Buffet Dinner. (B), (D)

Day 12. To Honolulu. This morning we are free until departure. A little afternoon, we check out and head to the **Edo-Tokyo Museum** housed in a unique looking building. Experience and learn about various aspects of Tokyo's Edo period, such as the way of life, architecture, cultural heritage, political climate, commercial situation and more. Through numerous models of towns, figurines and life-sized figures, the museum is a fascinating way to discover.

Later we transfer to Narita International Airport and check in for our United Airlines flight. We arrive in Honolulu in the morning of the same day, clear Immigration and Customs, and remember our fabulous time exploring Tohoku, Japan. (B)

General Conditions – Tohoku Japan

DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT: A **CHECK deposit of \$100** per person is required with your **RESERVATION FORM** to secure your space. This deposit is part of your final payment which is due no later than **65 days** prior to departure. You will receive a final payment request approximately two weeks before the due date. CHECK is the main form of payment (*credit card maybe used for the airfare charged via ES International - DWJ's ticketing agent*). **THIS IS NOT A GLOBUS FAMILY JOURNEY.**

Sign-up discounts are combinable with other discounts, but are not transferable to other programs. **Land-only** space is limited. Land price does NOT include airport transfers, dayrooms, or pre or post night hotel accommodations. *These can be purchased.*

CANCELLATION AND REFUND: Full refund* will be made if cancellation is received up to **120 days** prior to departure; thereafter, only the monies which will be recovered from the hotels, tour operators, airlines, etc., will be refunded. No refund will be made for services not used once the tour commences. All refunds or penalties are subject to rules and tariffs of the vendors concerned. (*Note: Once your airline ticket is issued it is non-refundable.) There is a \$25 fee for any changes made after 90 days.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We recommended purchasing the Travelex Travel Insurance with your FINAL PAYMENT. A copy of the coverage offered for this journey can be found online. This insurance is **non-refundable**. As long as you purchase insurance with your final payment you WILL be COVERED for a PRE-EXISTING condition.

PRICE: Prices are per person based on two people sharing a room and accurate as of December 06, 2016. The price is based on the rate of **110 yen to the dollar**. If the yen/dollar exchange rate changes significantly, we will alter the price of the journey. We need a minimum of 20 people to operate this program.

PRICE INCLUDES: The journey price includes airfare (and taxes) based on a special excursion fare to Japan, which is subject to certain restrictions; accommodations in First or Superior First class hotels/ships, based on two people sharing a room with private facilities (bath or shower); meals as indicated in the itinerary, (B) breakfast, (L) lunch, and (D) dinner; and entrance fees where applicable.

NOT INCLUDED: The trip price does not include passport expenses; meals not listed above and all beverages; Country tax; airline baggage fees; baggage and health insurance; laundry expenses; and all items of a purely personal nature. Tips to local guides, coach drivers, and hotel personnel; excursions, city sightseeing, and entrance fees are excluded unless specifically noted in the itinerary.

PASSPORT AND DOCUMENTS: A passport valid 6 months past the date of your return with 2 blank visa pages is required. Tourist Visas are not required for U.S. citizens on this tour. A copy of your passport is due with final payment.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: Single rooms are **limited**. For persons traveling alone who wish to share hotel rooms, every effort will be made to find you a roommate; however, if this is not possible, through choice or circumstance, the single supplement must be charged (*if a single room is still available*).

SIGHTSEEING AND TRANSFERS: All sightseeing and transfers are by private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach. No Smoking on coaches.

BAGGAGE: Due to limited motorcoach capacity, only one suitcase (50 lbs maximum) and one carry-on per person will be allowed. Porterage for this suitcase is included in the journey's price. Airline baggage fees are not included. No responsibility is accepted for loss of or damage to baggage or any of the passengers' belongings. We strongly recommend buying travel insurance.

RESPONSIBILITY: Dold World Journeys, LLC., and/or its agents, sub-agents, and affiliates act only as agents for the owners and contractors providing means of transportation or other services, and all tickets and/or vouchers are issued subject to any and all terms and conditions under which such means of transport, accommodations, or other services are offered or provided. The issuance and acceptance of such tickets and/or vouchers shall be deemed to be consent to the further conditions that Dold World Journeys, LLC, and/or its agents, sub-agents, and affiliates shall not be or become liable or responsible in any way in connection with such means of transport or other services, or for any loss, injury, or damage to or in the respect of any person or property howsoever arising. The right is reserved to alter without notice the services, accommodations, and prices given in this brochure and/or written itinerary and to decline, accept, or retain any person as a member of this tour. Dold World Journeys, LLC, and/or its agents, sub-agents, and affiliates cannot be held responsible for any disruption of travel and/or related services in troubled areas due to monetary crisis, political or social unrest, labor problems, mechanical or construction difficulties, climatic aberrations, local laws, disease, or novel conditions.

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Any disability requiring special attention should be reported at the time the reservation is made. All reasonable attempts to accommodate the special needs of disabled tour participants will be made, but Dold World Journeys, LLC, is not responsible for any denial of services by carriers, hotels, restaurants, and other independent suppliers. The motorcoach company and other carrier employees may not physically lift participants or assist them on or off transportation vehicles. A qualified companion must accompany persons requiring such assistance. (Travel Agents Registration #7051)

Reservation Form

Tohoku with Sado Island

Date of Tour: **March 31, 2017**

To join our journey please complete, sign, and return by e-mail or mail. If the itinerary has been finalized a \$100 per person CHECK deposit will be due to hold your space.

Dold World Journeys, LLC

4348 Waialae Avenue, Box 372, Honolulu, HI 96816

alex@doldworldjourneys.com / www.DoldWorldJourneys.com / (808) 732-9430

Name (1): Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____

Roommate (2): Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____

Correspondence & Billing Information

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Home Phone _____ **Other Phone** _____

Email _____

In Case Of Emergency While On Tour, Please Notify

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Home Phone _____ **Other Phone** _____

Secure Flight Passenger Information

We need your LEGAL NAME and BIRTH DATE for all tours

Passport copies are due with final payment for all international tours, including Canada & Mexico.

Person 1

Legal Name _____ **Birth Date** _____

Citizenship _____ Example: United States, Japan, Philippines

Person 2

Legal Name _____ **Birth Date** _____

Citizenship _____ Example: United States, Japan, Philippines

By signing this application I acknowledge that I have read the General Conditions and agree with the terms outlined therein.

Signature _____

World Explorations in the Dold Family Tradition of Value and Service!