

# 15 DAY ESCORTED JAPAN CHERRY BLOSSOM TOUR



Thursday 21 March 2024 — Thursday 04 April 2024

## DAY 1: (D) ADELAIDE TO SYDNEY

THU 21 MARCH 2024

Welcome to our 15 Day tour as we embrace the culture, the food and natural beauty of Japan during the Cherry Festival. We board our flight at Adelaide this afternoon to Sydney, where we check in our hotel to be ready for our early morning flight to Japan. Enjoy our welcome dinner in-house.

Accommodation: Novotel Sydney Airport Hotel

## DAY 2: (BD) SYDNEY TO TOKYO

FRI 22 MARCH 2024

An early breakfast before checking in and boarding our flight to Tokyo. Relax and take in the inflight services. Upon your arrival at Tokyo, you will be warmly welcomed by your English-Speaking guide at the airport arrivals hall. Relax in comfort as you embark on a scenic journey to your hotel. Upon arrival at the hotel, check-in and settle into your room. Time to relax before we meet tonight for our welcome dinner.

Accommodation: Hotel Metropolitan Edmont | 4 Nights

## DAY 3: (BD) TOKYO SIGHTSEEING

SAT 23 MARCH 2024

Get ready for an exciting day exploring Tokyo. Our first destination is Asakusa, a district known for its historic charm. Wander through the bustling streets and visit the iconic Senso-ji Temple. Admire the beautiful architecture and traditional shops lining the Nakamise Shopping Street, where you can find a wide array of souvenirs and local treats. Next, experience the enchantment of the Ueno Cherry Festival. Stroll through Ueno Park, adorned with stunning cherry blossoms during the spring season. Take in the beauty of the delicate pink flowers and immerse yourself in the festive atmosphere. Enjoy various entertainment activities and perhaps indulge in some traditional Japanese street food. Continue your exploration with a visit to the Imperial Palace, the primary residence of the Emperor of Japan. Marvel at the grandeur of this historic site and learn about its rich cultural

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**\$11,550.00**  
per person  
**\$1,350.00**  
single supplement

significance. Return to hotel to relax and prepare for a memorable dinner experience accompanied by a Geisha Performance. Witness the grace and elegance of these traditional entertainers as they showcase their talents in dance, music, and conversation. Before concluding the day's activities, we stop at the Tokyo Metropolitan Government building. Take an elevator ride to the observatory deck and enjoy breathtaking panoramic views of the cityscape illuminated by the evening lights.

**DAY 4: (BD) TOKYO SIGHTSEEING**

**SUN 24 MARCH 2024**

Our first stop is the iconic Sky Tree, a towering structure that offers panoramic views of the city. Ascend to its observation decks and marvel at the sprawling metropolis below. Capture breathtaking photos and take in the awe-inspiring vistas. Next, immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere of the Fish Market. Experience the lively energy as vendors showcase an impressive selection of seafood. Explore the market, where you can find an array of delicacies and perhaps even witness a traditional tuna auction. Afterwards, enjoy some free time for shopping in the upscale Ginza area. This renowned district is known for its luxury boutiques, department stores, and stylish shops. This evening, indulge in a traditional Japanese meal. Immerse yourself as you savour a variety of authentic dishes prepared with meticulous attention to detail and presentation.

**DAY 5: (BD) TOKYO TO MOUNT FUJI**

**MON 25 MARCH 2024**

Today, we embark on a journey to Fuji Kawaguchiko, a destination renowned for its connection to the majestic Mount Fuji. As you travel to Fuji Kawaguchiko, enjoy the scenic landscapes, and natural beauty of the region. We stop halfway up the mountain; this vantage point offers breathtaking panoramic views of Mount Fuji and its surrounding landscapes. Capture the awe-inspiring beauty of the iconic volcano and the picturesque scenery. Continue our visit to the Kitaguchihongu Fuji Sengen Shrine, a sacred place nestled at the foot of Mount Fuji. Next, journey to Oshino Hakkai, a collection of eight natural spring water ponds. Marvel at the crystal-clear waters, which are renowned for their purity. After our fulfilling day of exploration, return to our hotel for dinner.

**DAY 6: (BD) MOUNT FUJI TO TAKAYAMA VIA HAKONE**

**TUE 26 MARCH 2024**

Today, we travel to the enchanting region of Hakone, known for its natural beauty and hot springs. Upon arrival in Hakone, prepare for a delightful experience on the serene waters of Lake Ashi. Board a cruise and set sail across the lake, surrounded by lush greenery and majestic mountains. Marvel at the breathtaking views of Mount Fuji, weather permitting, and appreciate the tranquillity of the surroundings. Next, embark on the Hakone Ropeway, a cable car ride that offers panoramic vistas of the surrounding volcanic landscapes. Ascend to higher elevations and witness the stunning beauty of Hakone from above. We continue and visit the Owakudani Valley, renowned for its geothermal wonders. We travel to Takayama passing through charming towns and picturesque landscapes along the way. Tonight, savour a delectable dinner featuring Hidagyu Beef, a local specialty known for its tender and flavourful qualities where you will be treated to a memorable dining experience.

Accommodation: Hotel Associa Takayama Resort | 2 Nights

**DAY 7: (BD) TAKAYAMA**

**WED 27 MARCH 2024**

This morning, we stop at the Morning Markets. Enjoy the lively atmosphere as you explore the stalls filled with fresh produce, local delicacies, and handicrafts. Engage with friendly vendors, sample regional specialties, and perhaps purchase some unique souvenirs. Next, proceed to the Hida Folk Village, an open-air museum that showcases traditional Japanese houses known as gassho-zukuri. Marvel at the architectural beauty and cultural heritage preserved within these charming thatched-roof buildings. Learn about the local history, customs, and lifestyle of the region as you wander through the village. Afterward, we visit the Takayama Crafts Experience Center, where you can engage in hands-on activities and learn traditional crafts such as woodworking, pottery, or weaving. Return back to our hotel and unwind before dinner.

**DAY 8: (BD) TAKAYAMA TO KANAZAWA**

**THU 28 MARCH 2024**

Our first destination is Gokayama, a picturesque region known for its traditional thatched-roof houses. Marvel at the charm and architectural beauty of Ainokura Village, a UNESCO World Heritage site and learn about the unique lifestyle and culture of the local residents. Engage in a hands-on experience of making Washi Paper, a traditional Japanese craft that has been passed down through generations. We continue our journey to Kanazawa, a city renowned for its rich cultural heritage and check-in for the night before dinner.

Accommodation: Hotel Kanazawa | 1 Night



**INCLUSIONS**

- Private Coach
- 13 nights accommodation
- 13 cooked breakfasts
- 13 dinners
- English Speaking Guide
- Experience the Cherry Festival
- Geisha Performance
- Mount Fuji
- Making Washi Paper
- Learn Traditional Crafts
- Omicho Markets
- Peace Memorial Park & Museum
- Tea Ceremony
- Himeji Castle
- Osaka Castle
- Osaka Street Food

## DAY 9: (BD) KANAZAWA TO HIROSHIMA

FRI 29 MARCH 2024

As you embark on today's sightseeing, your main luggage will be sent to your hotel in Kyoto for a convenient and hassle-free journey. We visit Kenrokuen, one of Japan's most famous and beautiful gardens. Admire the meticulously landscaped grounds, serene ponds, and traditional architecture that make this garden a true gem. Next, we experience Kanazawa Castle Park, where you can delve into the city's samurai past. Explore the castle grounds, stroll through historical structures, and learn about the rich history and cultural heritage of Kanazawa. Our next stop is Omicho Markets where we immerse ourselves in the vibrant atmosphere and bustling hub of fresh produce, seafood, and local delicacies. Perhaps enjoy a delicious lunch featuring the freshest ingredients. Our final visit is to the Higashi Tea District, known for its traditional tea houses and beautifully preserved historic streets. Late afternoon, we experience our Bullet Train to Hiroshima. Enjoy the scenic journey as we make our way to this significant city. Upon arrival, check-in our hotel and enjoy dinner.

Accommodation: Sotetsu Fresa Inn Hiroshima | 2 Nights

## DAY 10: (BD) HIROSHIMA TO MIYAJIMA RETURN

SAT 30 MARCH 2024

Our first stop is Miyajima, a scenic island known for its iconic Itsukushima Shrine. A UNESCO World Heritage site famous for its floating torii gate. Explore the shrine grounds, soak in the serene atmosphere, and capture memorable photos of the stunning architecture and natural beauty. Next stop, we visit the Atomic Dome, a haunting reminder of the city's tragic history. Stand in awe as you witness the preserved ruins of the former Industrial Promotion Hall, which serves as a poignant symbol of the atomic bombing in 1945. We visit the Peace Memorial Park and Museum, dedicated to promoting peace and commemorating the victims of the atomic bomb. Explore the park's peaceful gardens, visit the Cenotaph for the A-Bomb Victims, and learn about the historical context and humanitarian consequences of the atomic bombing at the museum. After a day of emotional and thought-provoking experiences, return to our hotel.

## DAY 11: (BD) HIROSHIMA HIMEJI KYOTO

SUN 31 MARCH 2024

We take a Bullet Train to Himeji. Enjoy a comfortable ride as you traverse the Japanese countryside, witnessing the beautiful landscapes along the way. Upon arrival in Himeji, visit Himeji Castle, one of Japan's most impressive and well-preserved feudal castles. Marvel at its stunning white exterior, intricate architecture, and expansive grounds. For lunch, take the opportunity to savour local cuisine in Himeji. (*Own expense*). We board our train and continue to Kyoto for the next 2 nights.

Accommodation: Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo | 2 Nights

## DAY 12: (BD) KYOTO SIGHTSEEING

MON 01 APRIL 2024

Our first stop today is a mesmerizing Maiko Show, where you'll have the opportunity to witness the grace and beauty of traditional Japanese Maiko performances. Admire the intricate dance and music. Next, venture into the enchanting Bamboo Forest, a serene and picturesque setting. Walk along the winding pathways surrounded by towering bamboo stalks, basking in the tranquillity and natural beauty of the surroundings. Continue your cultural journey with a Tea Ceremony, a time-honoured Japanese tradition. Experience the art of preparing and serving matcha tea, and learn about the significance and rituals associated with this ancient practice. Next, we visit the iconic Golden Pavilion (Kinkaku-ji), a dazzling temple covered in gold leaf. Marvel at its reflection on the tranquil pond. This evening, enjoy a delightful dinner in Kyoto, where we can savour local delicacies and traditional cuisine.

## DAY 13: (BD) KYOTO TO OSAKA

TUE 02 APRIL 2024

Today, we board our coach to Osaka, a vibrant city known for its modern attractions and rich history. Upon arrival in Osaka, begin your exploration with a visit to Osaka Castle, a magnificent fortress that played a significant role in Japan's history. Explore the castle grounds, learn about its historical importance, and enjoy panoramic views of the city from the observation deck. Next, we wander into the lively Dotonbori Area, famous for its vibrant neon lights, bustling streets, and diverse culinary scene. This evening, we treat our taste buds to an authentic Osaka dining experience of Osaka Street Food. Sample a variety of local delicacies, including takoyaki, okonomiyaki and other delicious treats that showcase the city's culinary specialties.

Accommodation: Hotel New Hankyu Osaka | 1 Night

## DAY 14: (B) OSAKA TO KANSAI AIRPORT

WED 03 APRIL 2024

Enjoy some free time to explore the city. Perhaps indulge in some last-minute shopping, or savour the local cuisine. At the designated time, we are transferred to Kansai Airport and bid farewell to Japan and board our flight home.

## DAY 15: (I) ARRIVE ADELAIDE

THU 04 APRIL 2024

On arrival in Sydney, clear customs and check in for our domestic flight to Adelaide. On arrival, make our way home with many fond memories and new found friends.



## CONTACT US TODAY & LOCK IN YOUR ADVENTURE!



**Join Kim and David on this Oriental Adventure enjoying Spring Blossoms, Bullet Trains, Mt Fuji, Tokyo, Hiroshima plus so much more**

#### **TERMS & CONDITIONS**

- ◆ Price is based on twin share, single supplements apply
- ◆ \$450 deposit required upon booked (when receiving paperwork)
- ◆ Deposit is non-refundable
- ◆ Balance due 60 days prior to tour departure
- ◆ Dietary requirements upon booking
- ◆ 5 weeks to 14 days 50% loss
- ◆ 45 days prior to travel 100% cancellation fee if guest cancels
- ◆ 100% refund if EP Bus Charters cancels the tour
- ◆ Itinerary subject to change due to weather or events out of our control
- ◆ Travel Insurance is highly recommended
- ◆ Double vaccination is required for entry to Japan