









# 2026 CHERRY BLOSSOMS JAPAN'S "TOP 3" GARDENS

Kairakuen Garden, Kenrokuen Garden & Korakuen Garden

Enjoy your choice of Japan Airlines' "Economy" or the affordable luxury of "Business" class service. Business class customers will begin their journey with a relaxing visit to JAL's "Sakura Lounge — Hale."

9 Nights / 11 Days • 16 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 3 Dinners)
Escorted from Honolulu • Includes an English-Speaking Local Guide
March 28 – April 07, 2026

## **VISIT:**

Tokyo • Mito • Kanazawa • Kyoto • Arashiyama Yoshino • Okayama • Kurashiki • Osaka

### **TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:**

Kairakuen Garden • Kodokan • Hitachi Seaside Park • JR Express Train Ride
Higashi Chaya District • Nomura-ke • Omicho Market • Kenrokuen Garden
Shinkansen Bullet Train Ride • Arashiyama Bamboo Forest
Cherry Blossom Viewing at Yoshino Mountain • AEON MALL
Kurashiki Bikan Chiku • Korakuen Garden • Kuromon Ichiba Market
Dontonbori Shopping • Shinsaibashi Shopping Arcade
Osaka Castle Park • AEON MALL Rinku Sennan

# **HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES:**

Games with Geiko Entertainer • Japanese Sweets Making Class • Yuzen Dyeing

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DON'T MISS A THING!!

WHISPER — Wireless Tour Guide System!

English narration directly to your ear!

\* 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. 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-cruiseline" Air and Land Package must be made by money order or personal check. NST does not guarantees 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" cruise or 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: 11/18/25. NST at its discretion, may use group and individual photos on its website, print, television, and various social media. Cherry blossoms are subject to weather conditions and are NOT guaranteed. † Early booking discount is per person. Purchase of NST's complete Air and Land Package is required. † Earn rewards every time you refer a friend. For each "new-to-NST" customer you refer, both you and your referral can receive a \$25 discount off your next NST escorted group.

# COMPLETE PACKAGE!

Includes Roundtrip Airfare from Honolulu, 9 Nights Hotel, 16 Meals, Tips for Local Tour Guides and Motorcoach Drivers, All Taxes & Fees

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Day 1: Sat, Mar 28 — HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via Japan Airlines flt #783 at 12:40 pm.

**Day 2: Sun, Mar 29** — NARITA — TOKYO. Arrive at the Narita International Airport at 4:50 pm. After entry formalities, transfer to your hotel. GRAND NIKKO TOKYO DAIBA (3 Nights)

**Day 3: Mon, Mar 30** – TOKYO – MITO – TOKYO. After breakfast, start the full day of touring. Ranked amongst Japan's three finest landscape gardens, **Kairakuen Garden** is most famous for its over three thousand plum trees. Kairakuen is particularly popular during the plum blossom season. The garden features a forest of 3,000 trees of over one hundred different plum tree varieties with white, pink, and red blossoms. Besides the plum trees Kairakuen also features a bamboo grove, cedar woods and the Kobuntei, a traditional Japanese style building. A nice view of Kairakuen and nearby Senba Lake can be enjoyed from the building's top floor. After lunch, visit **Kodokan**, which opened in August 1841, served as the Mito Clan's school for the feudal warriors and their children. Next, visit **Hitachi Seaside Park**, just in time for the nearly one million narcissus flowers (over 600 varieties). Return to the hotel in Tokyo. Walk to a nearby restaurant for dinner tonight. (B, L, D)

**Day 4: Tue, Mar 31** — TOKYO. Full day at leisure. Perfect day to relax and/or visit with family and friends in Tokyo. Your Local Guide will be available to assist as needed. (B)

 ${\bf *Baggage\ will\ be\ sent\ from\ Tokyo\ to\ Kyoto, skipping\ Kanazawa.\ Prepare\ an\ overnight\ bag\ for\ two\ nights.}$ 

**Day 5: Wed, Apr 01** – TOKYO – KANAZAWA. After a leisurely morning, transfer to Tokyo Train Station to board our **JR Express Train** to Kanazawa on the Sea of Japan. Take a walking tour of the **Higashi Chaya District**. Chaya ("teahouse") is an exclusive type of restaurant where guests were entertained by geisha, who performed song and dance. Freshen up at the hotel before walking to the restaurant for a **Kaiseki Dinner**. This evening, we are **entertained during dinner by an authentic Geiko**. Dancing, singing and playing fun games. Kanazawa cuisine uses the great water brought from Hakusan Mountain, Kaga vegetables and fresh seafood from the Sea of Japan. HYATT CENTRIC KANAZAWA (2 Nights) (B, D)

**Day 6: Thur, Apr 02** – KANAZAWA. After your bountiful breakfast buffet, explore **Nomura-ke**, which is a restored samurai residence displaying the lifestyle and artifacts of the era when samurai were prosperous. **Omicho Market** is Kanazawa's local market. Kanazawa's people call them "Kanazawa's kitchen." They sell everything you can find in your kitchen. Not only fish but also vegetables and meats are sold. Ample free time for shopping and lunch (on your own). Next, take a **Japanese sweets making class** before exploring **Kenrokuen Garden**. The spacious grounds used to be the outer garden of Kanazawa Castle and were constructed by the ruling Maeda Family over a period of nearly two centuries. Opened to the public in 1871, Kenrokuen features a variety of flowering trees including cherry blossoms, which provide the garden with a different look for each season. Return to the hotel for an evening of leisure. Your Tour Guide will have suggestions for dinner. (B)

**Day 7: Fri, Apr 03** – KANAZAWA – KYOTO – ARASHIYAMA – KYOTO. After breakfast, walk to the Kanazawa Station. Depart for Kyoto aboard the **JR Shinkansen and Express Trains**. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant in Kyoto. After lunch, take a stroll around the Arashiyama area and shop for world-famous Arashiyama bamboo products. You may also explore the famous **Arashiyama Bamboo Forests**. Today's hands-on experience is **surikomi yuzen (brush dyed yuzen)**. Since the patterns are dyed by placing a paper stencil over an item, you can make an authentic piece, even if this is your first time. A great souvenir of this trip! Return to Kyoto for an evening of leisure. The Local Guide will have suggestions for dinner. DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON KYOTO STATION (2 Nights) (B, L)

**Day 8: Sat, Apr 04** - KYOTO - YOSHINO - KYOTO - Enjoy the view from **Japan's most famous cherry blossom viewing spot, Yoshino Mountain**. It is said that the first tree



was planted more than 1,300 years ago, and today the mountain is covered by approximately 30,000 cherry trees. Enjoy a bento lunch. Return to hotel where the remainder of the evening is at your leisure. (B, L)

\*Baggage will be sent from Kyoto to Osaka, skipping Okayama. Prepare an overnight bag for one night.

**Day 9: Sun, Apr 05** – KYOTO – OKAYAMA. Enjoy a morning of leisure. In the mid-afternoon, transfer to the Kyoto Train Station to board the **Shinkansen Bullet Train** to Okayama. Upon arrival in Okayama, walk to the hotel. After checking-in to the hotel, walk to the nearby **AEON MALL**, where hundreds of shops and restaurants await you to dine (on your own) and shop. HOTEL GRANVIA OKAYAMA (1 Night) (B)

**Day 10:** Mon, Apr 06 – OKAYAMA – KURASHIKI – OSAKA. After breakfast, depart Okayama. Visit **Kurashiki Bikan Chiku**. The beautiful streetscape of storehouses and merchant homes was selected as an Important Traditional Structures Conservation Area by the Agency for Cultural Affairs. After lunch, explore **Korakuen Garden**, the last of our "Top Three" Japanese gardens. It is located just beside Okayama Castle, which can be seen from the garden as "borrowed scenery." Depart the Okayama station via **Shinkansen Bullet Train** to Osaka. Upon arrival in Osaka, transfer to the hotel and refresh before dinner. Walk to a local restaurant and enjoy a farewell **Kobe Beef Shabu Shabu Dinner**. HILTON OSAKA (1 Night) (B, L, D)

**Day 11: Tue, Apr 07** – OSAKA – KANSAI – HONOLULU. After hotel checkout, 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. Next, visit **Dotonbori**, one of Osaka's most popular tourist destinations, this street runs parallel to the Dotonbori Canal. It is a popular shopping and entertainment district and is also known as a food destination. Next stop is **Shinsaibashi Shopping Arcade**, Osaka's premier shopping center. Approximately 600 meters long, this area is unique as it combines chain retail stores and trendy boutiques with expensive department stores and top designer fashion labels. You'll have time for shopping and lunch (on your own) here. After lunch, stop at Osaka Castle Park for a photo opportunity. Located in the center of Osaka, this vast park includes the Osaka Castle Museum and plenty of spots to enjoy flowers throughout the seasons, including the Nishinomaru Garden, where you can enjoy around 300 cherry trees. One last shopping stop at **AEON MALL Rinku Sennan** before transferring to the airport for the return flight home. Depart the Kansai International Airport via Japan Airlines flt #792 at 10:10 pm and arrive Honolulu at 10:45 am the same day. Aloha and welcome home! (B)

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.

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