

world.
JOURNEYS

CHERRY BLOSSOM JAPAN

2020

CHERRY BLOSSOM JAPAN

Each spring, Japan's landscape is host to fragile pink and white sakura blooming; stunning colour that is celebrated throughout the entire country. Start this journey in bustling Tokyo and see its impressive gardens, go in search of the famous 'snow monkeys' and the alpine 'old town' of Takayama. On to cultural Kyoto and poignant Hiroshima, ending with spectacular views of Mt Fuji from the top of Mt Owakudani. This unique and incredibly scenic country with enchanting culture, wonderful cuisine, and gracious people awaits you.

17 DAYS • HOSTED JOURNEY

DEPARTS 24 March – 9 April 2020

DEPARTS 8 – 24 April 2020



YOUR JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

- Visit some of the best spots for cherry blossom colour
- Enjoy Tokyo's mix of traditional and modern culture
- Visit the 'snow monkeys' in Yudanaka
- Japan's most atmospheric townscape, Takayama
- See beautiful Buddhist temples, imperial palaces, and the Arashiyama Bamboo Grove in Kyoto
- Visit poignant yet vibrant Hiroshima
- See spectacular views of Mt Fuji, an iconic landmark
- A World Journeys host to guide you every step of the way

SPECIAL EXPERIENCES

Take the ultimate sushi-lovers tour in Tokyo

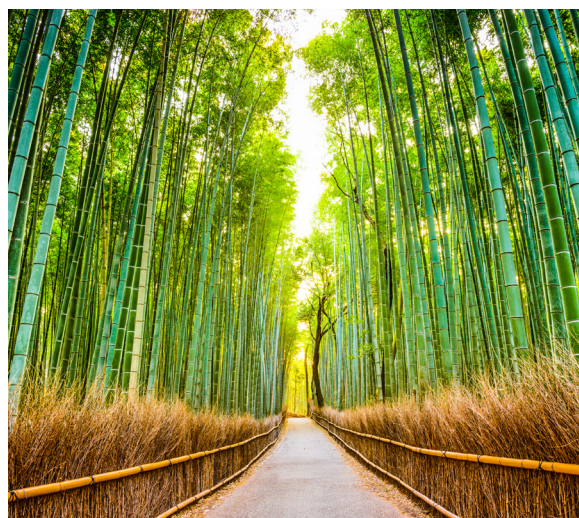
Visit Tsukiji to see the world's largest fish market. A sushi master will guide us through making sushi rolls and nigiri which we will then enjoy for lunch.

Visit steaming hot springs to see monkeys bathing

Visit Yudanaka Onsen where we hope to see wild 'snow monkeys' (Japanese Macaque) relaxing in the steaming hot springs surrounded by thick forest.

Tour the historic villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama

Located in a mountainous region that was cut off from the rest of the world for a long period of time, these villages with their Gassho-style houses subsisted on the cultivation of mulberry trees and the rearing of silkworms. On this tour we will see the fascinating houses with their steeply pitched thatched roofs, the only examples of their kind in Japan.



Arashiyama Bamboo Grove



Snow Monkey, Yudanaka

CHERRY BLOSSOM JAPAN ITINERARY

ALL FLIGHTS INCLUDED **B** BREAKFAST **L** LUNCH **D** DINNER

DAY 1 AUCKLAND > TOKYO

Morning flight to Tokyo. On arrival we will be transferred to the Grand Nikko Tokyo Daiba for an evening at leisure.

DAY 2 TOKYO **B** **L** **D**

We enjoy a full day tour of Tokyo visiting Meiji Shrine, Tokyo's most famous Shinto shrine. Visit Tokyo Tower, Omotesando Street, Asakusa Kannon Temple, Akihabara Electronic Town and drive by the famous intersection of Shibuya, the bustling shopping district. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, then a welcome dinner in the evening at our hotel.

DAY 3 TOKYO **B** **L**

Half day tour of Tokyo visiting the Tsukiji Fish Market, learning how to make sushi from a local chef, and Ginza Mitsukoshi, the oldest surviving department store. We will see the Imperial Palace Plaza, Hamarikyū Garden and Ueno Park, a popular spot for cherry blossom parties with more than 1,000 cherry trees. Afternoon and evening at leisure.

DAY 4 TOKYO > YUDANAKA **B** **L** **D**

This morning we depart for Nagano by bullet train and then travel by train to Yudanaka, the spa town. Here we visit the Jigokudani Monkey Park where we hope to see 'snow monkeys' bathing in the steaming onsen pools. Check in to our hotel complete with indoor and outdoor onsens (spas).

DAY 5 YUDANAKA > TAKAYAMA **B** **D**

Continue to the historical town of Takayama set in the heart of the Japanese Alps. This town is beautifully preserved with many buildings dating from the Edo period, when the city thrived as a wealthy town of merchants. They provide a glimpse into the former living quarters of the merchants and exhibit traditional household goods and local arts and crafts. In the afternoon we visit the Zenkoji Temple, a wasabi farm and Matsumoto Castle.



Takayama

DAY 6 TAKAYAMA > SHIRAKAWA-GO > GOKAYAMA > KANAZAWA **B** **D**

Visit the morning markets and the former government house of Takayama. See the Shirakawa-go UNESCO World Heritage Site, famous for its traditional gassho-zukuri farmhouses, with their steeply pitched thatched roofs, some of which are more than 250 years old. Visit the Japanese Paper village of Gokayama. We finish in Kanazawa, a pristine castle town with an array of cultural attractions.

DAY 7 KANAZAWA > KYOTO **B** **D**

Visit Kenrokuen garden, one of Japan's most beautiful gardens. In spring, visitors can see plum and cherry blossoms. We also visit the Samurai House, Gold Museum and Ohmicho Market. Then we travel by train to Kyoto (2½ hours).

DAY 8 KYOTO **B** **L** **D**

Kyoto is Japan's cultural heart, known for its Buddhist temples, beautiful gardens and colourful shrines. Visit the Kinkakuji Temple, Ryoanji Temple and Kiyomizu Temple, perched on a hill overlooking the Kyoto basin and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Dinner at a local restaurant.

DAY 9 KYOTO **B**

Visit Nijo Castle, then the Arashiyama Bamboo Grove, with thick green bamboo stalks which seem to continue endlessly in every direction. See the 'Moon Crossing Bridge', a central landmark famous for its cherry blossom viewing. Finish with a visit to Tenryūji Temple. Afternoon at leisure.

DAY 10 KYOTO > NARA > OSAKA **B**

Touring includes Nara where we will see Todaiji Temple, Nara Park, the Kasuga Shrine and then Osaka Castle, which offers great views from the observation deck. Continue to Osaka.

DAY 11 OSAKA **B** **L**

We enjoy a half-day tour of Osaka including the Kaiyukan Aquarium. See Umeda, the commercial and business district, with its prominent skyscrapers. Enjoy time at leisure.

DAY 12 OSAKA > HIROSHIMA **B** **L**

Drive to Kobe to visit a sake brewery, then we have lunch at a Teppanyaki restaurant. In the afternoon, we take the bullet train to Hiroshima.

DAY 13 HIROSHIMA & MIYAJIMA **B** **D**

Hiroshima has rebuilt itself as one of Japan's most laid-back, vibrant cities, full of wide boulevards and art museums, great food and friendly, welcoming people. We visit the Peace Memorial and Museum, A-Bomb Dome and take a short ferry ride out to Miyajima Island, a small wooded island located in the Inland Sea. Here we will find the famous Torii Gate, a shrine known worldwide for being built over water.

DAY 14 HIROSHIMA > HAKONE **B** **D**

Take the bullet train to Hakone. Visit the Ichiku Kubota Museum and Lake Kawaguchi, then transfer to our hotel.

DAY 15 HAKONE > TOKYO **B** **L** **D**

Ride the cable car up Mt Owakudani, passing over sulphurous vents and hot springs. In this volcanic area, you can eat a hard-boiled egg from the sulphuric hot springs, adding seven years to your life! From the top, if it's a clear day, we will see stunning views of Lake Ashi and Mt Fuji, Japan's highest and most worshipped mountain. End with a cruise on Lake Ashi, then travel by road to Tokyo where we have a farewell dinner.

DAY 16 TOKYO > AUCKLAND **B**

Morning at leisure before we transfer to the airport for our overnight flight to Auckland.

DAY 17 AUCKLAND

Morning arrival in Auckland.



GRAND NIKKO TOKYO DAIBA

This lovely hotel is a waterside oasis, located on Odaiba Island, overlooking Tokyo Bay, with views of Rainbow Bridge. The hotel features elegant European-style decorations and natural wood furniture. We can relax in the onsite wellness salon and enjoy perusing the hotel's private art gallery with its leading painting exhibitions.



THE BULLET TRAIN

Travelling on the bullet train or shinkansen is a joy and an experience like no other. These trains are punctual, run at speeds of up to 300 km per hour and are remarkably quiet. Travel in comfort and safety, with forward facing seats, as the scenery flashes past our window.

Departs 24 March & 8 April 2020

	Twin <i>per person</i>	Single <i>per person</i>
Tour Cost	\$15,395	\$18,490
Premium Economy Upgrade	\$2,335	\$2,335
Business Class Upgrade	On Request	On Request

INCLUDED

- Economy Class airfares ex Auckland
- Airline and airport taxes
- A World Journeys host
- Accommodation in 4 star hotels
- Transfers, sightseeing, and entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Train journeys as per the itinerary
- Meals as indicated ⊕ ⊙ ⊕

NOT INCLUDED

- Items of a personal nature
- Travel insurance (mandatory)
- Visas (if applicable)
- Optional activities

GRATUITIES

Tipping is neither required nor expected in Japan.

BOOKING CONDITIONS

A non-refundable deposit of \$1,500 per person is required, with the balance due 22 January 2020 (for 24 March departure) or 5 February 2020 (for 8 April departure). As cancellation fees apply, travel insurance is mandatory. Please refer to World Journeys terms and conditions.

BOOK EARLY AND SAVE

Book and pay your deposit by 31 July 2019 to save \$400 per couple or \$200 for a single traveller.

WELCOME BACK

If you have travelled on one of our Hosted Journeys before, we would like to welcome you back with an extra saving of \$400 per couple or \$200 for a single traveller.

Offers can be combined when booking.

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