



*Japan Holidays*  
EXCLUSIVE TOUR

# CLASSIC CHERRY BLOSSOM TOUR 2023

Wed 22nd March - Sun 2nd April 2023

From \$7,499 Per Person Twin Share



# TOUR DESCRIPTION



11 Nights / 12 Days

Begin: Wednesday 22nd March 2023 in Tokyo

End: Sunday 2nd April 2023 in Kyoto



\$7,499 pp - Twin share

(Single Supplement - \$1,400)

\*Subject to exchange rate

## Inclusions



Daily Breakfast, 4 Lunches  
& 3 Dinners



11 nights in  
quality accommodations



Private escort /  
guide in Japan



Transfers, tours and entrance fees listed  
on the tour



Forwarding of one  
item of luggage on one occasion

Exclusions: International or domestic airfares / Entrance fees & Meals not shown in itinerary

## Highlights

**Highlight!** Enjoy Tokyo's outstanding sites against a stunning backdrop of Mt. Fuji

**Highlight!** Immerse yourself in tradition in a ryokan built using ancient timber and experience a traditional kaiseki dinner

**Highlight!** Experience the speed and efficiency of Japan's shinkansen as you reach far-flung destinations in mere hours

**Highlight!** Spend a day in Kyoto - renowned for its Nishiki food market, malls and temples and shrines

**Highlight!** Enjoy a traditional performing arts performance where you can dress up in Kimono and try your hand at Taiko Drumming

**Highlight!** Explore several UNESCO World Heritage sites



*Your Japan Holidays Tour Leader - Mrs Juliane Suzuki*

Juliane spent almost 20 years living and working in Japan as an interpreter before moving back to Australia in 2015 and joining the Japan Holidays team. Travelling extensively throughout Japan and living in different regions of the country with her Japanese husband and bi-cultural children has given Juliane a really unique insight into this culture and lifestyle that few foreigners get to experience. Juliane loves being able to utilise her language skills and share her knowledge of Japan with clients to ensure they have the best possible experience during their time in Japan.

# ITINERARY

22nd March - 2nd April 2023

## 1 TOKYO Arrival

Arrive at Tokyo's Narita or Haneda International Airport. After clearing customs, you'll be met by a meet n' greet assistant who will escort you to a shared shuttle bus to your hotel. Upon arrival at the hotel, your Japan Holidays' Tour Leader, Juliane Suzuki, will be there to greet you and help settle you in. Juliane will remain with you for the entire tour.

Accommodation: Tokyu Stay Ginza, Tokyo (4 nights)

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## 2 Full Day TOKYO

Full Day Tour of Tokyo - You'll be met at the hotel by a Japan Holidays local tour guide who will show you some of Tokyo's top sites. The Metropolitan Government Building offers stunning aerial views of the city, including Mt. Fuji, Tokyo Tower and Meiji Shrine. Sensoji Temple, completed in 645 AD, is Tokyo's oldest and most colourful Buddhist temple in the vibrant Asakusa shopping district. Shop for local crafts and delicious food items on Nakamise-dori, where generations of artisans have sold their wares. Stroll the timeless Imperial Gardens under a lacy canopy of cherry blossoms; then enjoy the juxtaposition of skyscrapers that encircle the tranquil Hamarikyu Garden. We'll end the day with a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant hosted by Japan Holidays.

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### Tokyo *Highlight!*



## 3 HAKONE Day Tour

Your local guide will meet you at the hotel for another full day of site-seeing. Relax on the scenic Romance Car train ride to Hakone, a lovely town renowned for its hot springs and postcard views of soaring Mt. Fuji. You'll hop on a cable car through town, skim above the trees on the ropeway, and enjoy a cruise on the sapphire blue caldera of Lake Ashi.

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### Lake Ashi



## 4 Full Day KAMAKURA

Juliane will take you to the scenic south coast by train to the ancient capital of Kamakura, where we will meet our local guide. We will visit a serene bamboo grove where we'll enjoy a traditional macha green tea and sweets before visiting Kamakura's most important shrine - Hachimangu Taisha - where you can enjoy views all the way to the sea. We will walk the old streets and enjoy a traditional lunch then jump on the Enoden tram to see the Giant Buddha, which gazes over the city's temples and traditional gardens, before we make our way to the seaside on the old tram to Enoshima Island, where another view of Mt Fuji awaits across the ocean!

Note: Your suitcase will be forwarded to Kyoto this evening, so pack some essentials for the next few days.

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### Kamakura



## 5 TOKYO - TAKAYAMA

We travel by high-speed shinkansen to the timeless mountain town of Hida-Takayama. Renowned for its timber that was widely used in feudal times, Takayama is a rare treasure with a preserved old town. Our local guide will show us the old town, historic buildings and the amazing Festival Floats Museum. We then experience a traditional Performing Arts Show before returning to our accommodation. Our ryokan has been made using traditional wood joinery methods without nails from ancient trees. Dinner will be a sumptuous, multi-course Kaiseki dinner.

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### Shinkansen (Bullet train) *Highlight!*

Experience the speed and efficiency of Japan's shinkansen as you reach far-flung destinations in mere hours, enjoying the countryside and spring foliage at its peak.



## 6 Travel Back in Time, Shirakawago

Today, you travel back in time - a few thousand years! - to the ancient, isolated village of Shirakawago. Nestled in steep, thick forest, this UNESCO Heritage site features unique, "gassho" roofed houses, which resemble hands joined in prayer. After a traditional lunch, we'll be guided through this village by a local guide who grew up here and knows all the local secrets. We continue on to Kanazawa after exploring this picturesque area.

Accommodation: Hotel MyStays Premier, Kanazawa (2 nights)

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### *Highlight!* Shirakawa-go UNESCO World Heritage sites



**7 KANAZAWA**

Enjoy a relaxing day exploring historical **Kanazawa Castle** and the enchanting **Kenrokuen Garden** nearby. The Edo-era castle was the seat of power second only to the Tokugawa in its day. Several museums, crafts and gardens surround the castle, and you can also stroll the adjacent renowned Kenrokuen Garden. One of the finest landscape gardens in Japan, Kenrokuen will be bursting with cherry blossoms and springtime foliage for spectacular photos!

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**Higashi-chaya**



**8 KYOTO Free Day**

After a buffet breakfast, we'll take a bullet train to Kyoto and leave our bags at the hotel before making our way to the lesser known town of Uji, where we'll have a Traditional Tea Grinding Experience and taste some more Japanese sweets that are paired perfectly with our green tea. We'll then return to Kyoto, where you can enjoy some free time late afternoon to explore areas such as: Nishiki Food Market which has several blocks of tempting stalls selling exotic foods, textiles, housewares and unique gift items. Or take an evening stroll in the romantic Gion Geisha District and then have dinner in one of the many restaurants in the atmospheric Pontocho alley which runs along the Kamogawa River.

*Accommodation: Intergate Shijo Shinmachi Hotel, Kyoto (4 nights)*

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**Nishiki Market**

Nishiki Market is a narrow, five block long shopping street lined by more than one hundred shops and restaurants.



**9 KYOTO Day Tour**

Private Day Tour of Kyoto - Wear comfortable shoes to explore Kyoto's most famous sites today. Your English-speaking guide will take you on a full day's tour beginning at Kiyomizudera with its spectacular view of Kyoto and sacred water rituals for long life and love. We then explore the beautifully preserved street of Ninenzaka and try some of the many samples of traditional snacks before making our way to the UNESCO site of Nijo Castle - with its impressive palace architecture and singing "nightingale" floors. After lunch, we enjoy a short Kimono fashion show before we visit the shimmering Golden Pavilion, with its Zen temple and tranquil grounds; and Japan's most famous rock garden at Ryoanji Temple.

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**Kyoto**



**10 HIROSHIMA & MIYAJIMA**

Miyajima & Hiroshima Day Tour - You'll take a scenic ferry to Miyajima Island, with its iconic, "floating" torii gate of Itsukushima Shrine. You'll also view the stunning, vermilion Five Storey Pagoda and lovely foliage at the Daishoin Temple. We then head over to Hiroshima's world-renowned Peace Memorial Park and visit to Ground Zero. The museum here explores the advent of the nuclear bomb and its explosive impact.

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**Hiroshima**



**11 NARA**

Half Day Tour of Nara - Nara was established in the 8th century, when powerful Buddhists challenged the government's control. The city brims with historical treasures, temples, and parks. You'll tour Todaiji Temple with its imposing architecture and enormous bronze Buddha, the celebrated Shinto Kasuga Shrine, dedicated to the deity who protects the city, and Nara Park, filled with wild deer, which are revered in Nara.

Tonight, we return to Kyoto to enjoy a farewell dinner in a local Izakaya restaurant.

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**Nara**



**12 KYOTO - Departure Day**

Departure day - After breakfast, your guide will assist you with your transfers for further travel in Japan or your flight home.

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End of Tour....

*Sayonara!*

*Contact us*

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