

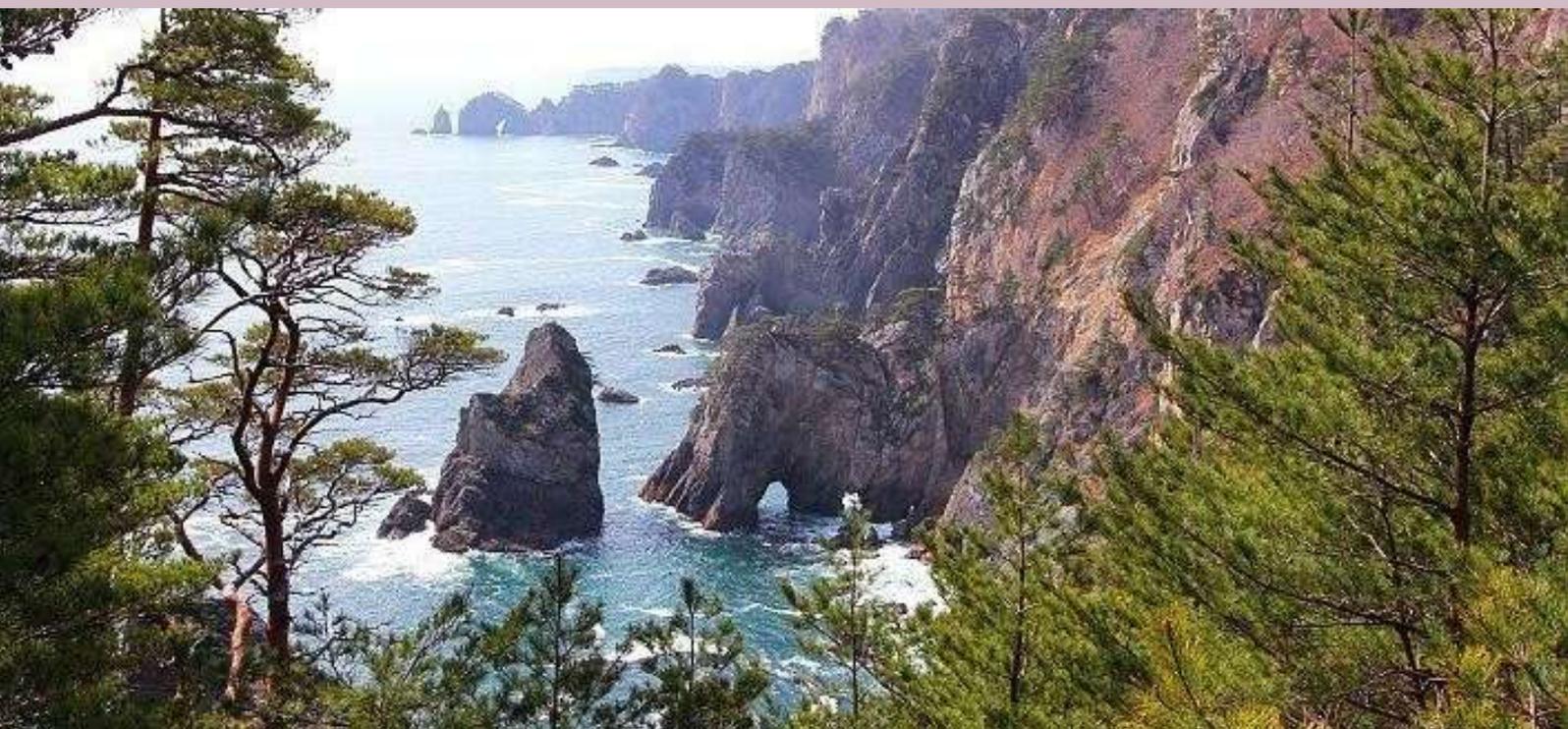


Japan Holidays

TOHOKU CHERRY BLOSSOM TOUR 2023

Wed 12th April - Wed 19th April 2023

From \$6,100 Per Person Twin share



TOUR DESCRIPTION



8 Days / 7 Nights tour

Begin: Wednesday 12th April in Tokyo

End: Wednesday 19th April in Tokyo



\$6,100 pp - Twin Share

(Single Supplement \$1,400 pp.)

*Subject to exchange rate.

Inclusions



7 daily breakfasts,
6 lunches, 5 dinners



7 nights
premium accommodation



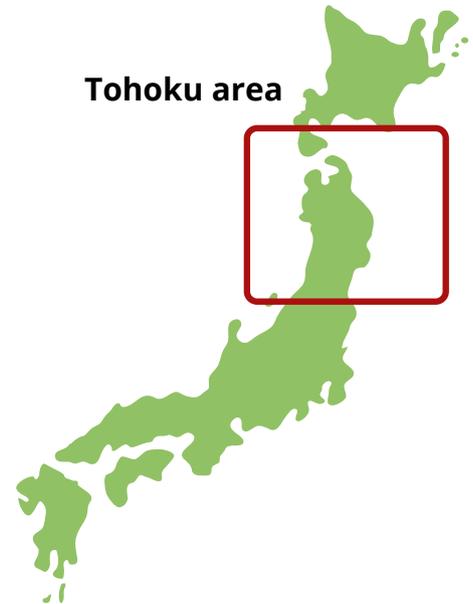
Private escort, & tour guide

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

Highlights

Japan's Tohoku – or northeastern – region is rich with history, natural beauty and noteworthy cultural sites. This tour will immerse you in all of this, including ancient temples, shrines, samurai residential areas, castles, and local crafts – all set against the fragrant beauty of peak cherry blossom season. You'll enjoy scenic countryside, high-speed bullet trains and peaceful *ryokan* inns at day's end. The tour begins and ends in Tokyo – a city of unparalleled shopping, tourism and activities to introduce you to Japan's commercial side. To peer into Japan's soul, you'll need to see the timeless Tohoku region, unique for its mountains, gorges, forests, natural beauty and ancient samurai culture and lifestyle.

Tohoku area



Your Japan Holidays Escort – Mr Ken Takenaga

Born in Yatsushiro City, Kumamoto Prefecture, on the island of Kyushu in southern Japan, Ken moved to the USA as a teenager. He was immersed in American culture and language, which he combines with his deep understanding of Japan's colourful history in a way few tour guides accomplish. Ken's passion for and profound knowledge of southern Japan's history and key historical sites plus his fluency in English make him the perfect guide for English-speaking tourists here. He is a rare combination of military precision, comprehensive knowledge, and genuine connection, qualities invaluable as a tour guide for both large groups or smaller custom tours. Ken has more than a decade of experience guiding groups.

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ITINERARY

12th April 2022 - 19th April 2023

1 TOKYO Arrival
Arrive at either Narita Int'l Airport or Haneda Int'l Airport. The Park Hotel Tokyo is located on the 25th floor of the Shiodome Media Tower downtown, where you'll enjoy a stunning panorama of the city from your window.

Accommodation: Park Hotel Tokyo (2 nights)

2 TOKYO
You'll be met by your English-speaking tour guide and embark on a day-long tour of Tokyo. Among many highlights of the day will be the **Imperial Palace**, **Meiji Shrine**, **Omotesando** shopping area, **Ginza** district, and **Hama Rikyu Gardens**. We'll travel on Tokyo's super-efficient public transportation.

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Hama Rikyu
Gardens



Imperial Palace



3 TOKYO- KORIYAMA
We'll travel to Koriyama, gateway to Fukushima's mountain ranges to the east and west. Your guide, Ken Takenaga, will meet you. Your first stop by private bus is the famed **Tsuruga Castle**. After a local lunch, we'll continue on to **Bukeyashiki Aizu** samurai residence. We end the day at **Ouchijuku**, a former post town in a beautiful mountain setting.

Accommodation: Ashinomaki Onsen Okawaso, Aizu

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Tsuruga Castle



Ouchijuku



4 KORIYAMA -KITAKAMI - MORIOKA
We'll travel by car and stop en-route at the famous **Tenshochi Park** in Kitakami which is registered as one of the *100 Best Sakura Viewing Sites* in Japan. Continuing on, we arrive in Morioka in the afternoon, with a stop at the **Morioka Handi-Works Square**. This amazing cultural craft "village" offers workshops as well as a wide range of stores selling popular gift items by master craftsmen.

Accommodation : Hotel Metropolitan Morioka New WIng (2 nights)

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Jodogahama



Highlight!

Tenshochi Park

5 JODOGAHAMA -YAMADA BAY - MORIOKA
It's a short drive to **Jodogahama** ("Pure Land") **Beach** this morning. Resembling a gigantic dragon in its outline, Jodogahama conjures up the Buddhist vision of paradise, after which the beach is named. A soothing stroll helps work up your appetite for a special lunch treat in **Yamada Town**: delectably fresh oysters and scallops harvested from their sea farms by local fishermen.

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6 MORIOKA - HIRAIZUMI - HANAMAKI
We depart Morioka and head south to Hiraizumi and its top attraction: **Chusonji Buddhist Temple**. This Tendai-sect Buddhist temple commands a spectacular view of cherry blossoms in full bloom. Among the few remaining sites here is the fabulous **Golden Pavilion**, completely covered in gold leaf. After that, you'll be ready to relax in a steaming hot springs bath at our onsen inn tonight.

Highlight!

Accommodation: Osawa Onsen Sansuikaku

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Golden
Pavilion

7 HANAMAKI -KAKUNODATE
Today, you'll step back in time to the samurai era in fabled **Kakunodate**. The wide open streets lined by a lacy canopy of cherry blossoms frames a picture-perfect view into the past. There are museums, gift shops, gardens and architecture to explore here. Tonight we'll meet up for a farewell dinner with your guide.

Accommodation: Machiya Hotel Kakunodate

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Kakunodate

8 KAKUNODATE - TOKYO
You'll depart for Tokyo by bullet train. Enjoy the snacks and drinks on-board while admiring the view.

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End of Tour....

Sayonara!