

Japan Cherry Blossoms

29 March 2024 | 19 Days | Fly, cruise & tour package



TRAVEL



HIGHLIGHTS & INCLUSIONS

- Flight credit towards your airfare
- 4 nights Tokyo including daily breakfast
- Land touring in Tokyo pre & post cruise including English-speaking guide
- 14 night cruise on board Holland America's Westerdam
- All meals whilst on board the cruise at a range of complimentary venues
- Port charges & government taxes
- **Bonus cruise offer:** USD75 on board credit + 1 x specialty dining experience



Day 1: 29 March 2024

Tokyo, Japan

Welcome to Tokyo! After clearing customs, meet your guide in the arrival hall. ^From the airport, you will first visit the outside of the Imperial Palace, located on the former site of Edo Castle, a large park area surrounded by moats and massive stone walls in the centre of Tokyo, and the residence of Japan's Imperial Family. Although the Palace is not open to the public, from Kokyo Gaien, the large plaza in front of the Imperial Palace, you can view the Nijubashi, two bridges that form an entrance to the inner palace grounds. The stone bridge in front is called Meganebashi (Eyeglass Bridge) for its looks. After the visit of Imperial grounds, hop on your private coach and transfer to Tokyo Tower. Climb the emblematic Tokyo Tower, and from the observation deck, enjoy spectacular views of the city.

Day 2: 30 March 2024

Tokyo, Japan

This morning after breakfast, join your transfer to Yokohama cruise port and embark on your 14 night cruise.

Day 3: 31 March 2024

At sea

Day 4: 01 April 2024

Osaka, Japan

Osaka is Japan's second largest metropolitan area after Tokyo. Along with plenty of shopping and modern attractions, Osaka also has a historical side, the highlight of which is Osaka Castle. The castle is a great place to discover more about Japanese history and to wander the beautiful grounds, especially during cherry blossom season when the sakura blooms and the weather is often at its best.

Day 5: 02 April 2024

Kochi, Japan

High atop a hill in Kochi sits 17th century Kochi Castle, once the seat of the Yamauchi lords. Explore this historic site and enjoy panoramic views of the city. For a true taste of Kochi, have something to eat and drink at the Hirome Market. There are dozens of stalls to choose from, all serving a variety of cuisine, including delicious local Kochi dishes.

Day 6: 03 April 2024

Hiroshima, Japan

The city offers visitors a great deal more than the tragedy of the recent past. In addition to the memorials to the events of World War II, there are an array of shrines and temples, as well as the city's reconstructed castle, which was originally founded in the 16th century. Nature lovers will be charmed by the historic Shukkei-en Garden, commissioned in 1620, and Miyajima Island, one of the most scenic spots in Japan.

Day 7: 04 April 2024

Busan (Pusan), South Korea

South Korea's second-largest city (after the capital, Seoul), Busan is located in the south eastern corner of the country along the Sea of Japan. It combines a vibrant, big-city atmosphere with a famously laid-back attitude and subtropical landscapes. Often described as the "San Francisco of Korea", thanks mainly to its hilly terrain and close-knit neighbourhoods, it offers visitors a little of everything: fashionable boutiques, dynamic culture and busy nightlife, as well as sandy beaches, hot springs and nearby mountains crossed with hiking trails and dotted with temples.



Day 8: 05 April 2024

Sakaiminato, Japan

Sakaiminato is a small fishing town in the north-west end of Tottori Prefecture and offers a unique blend of delicious seafood and fascinating cultural attractions.

Food enthusiasts should not miss trying this snow crab delicacy featured in their local dishes. The city is also home to the manga-themed Mizuki Shigeru Road, where fans can explore shops related to the artist's work.

Day 9: 06 April 2024

Tsuruga, Japan

Tsuruga is a port town right on the coast of Tsuruga Bay south of Fukui Prefecture with a prosperous history as a strategic transportation centre. In addition to its coastline, forests, and wetlands, Tsuruga has ancient temples. It also has well-preserved historical sites that provide a glimpse into times past. It is, of course, famous for seafood.

Day 10: 07 April 2024

Toyama, Japan

Visit the Toyama Castle, an impressive reconstruction of the 1543 original. Take the railway up to Mount Tateyama, the highest mountain in the range, or cruise through a cherry blossom tunnel on the Matsukawa River. Whatever activity you do, take time to savour the region's renowned seafood, elegantly presented in many forms.

Day 11: 08 April 2024

Niigata, Japan

Located along the rugged coast of the Sea of Japan, Niigata is known for its natural splendours and high-quality sake. Unwind in open-air thermal hot springs and refresh with a stroll through a forest, known as shinrin-yoku or forest bathing. See the breathtaking rice fields of the Tokamachi

area, especially resplendent after rainfall. Or head to the Kiyotsu Gorge, a canyon with a tunnel that winds along the river.

Day 12: 09 April 2024

At sea

Day 13: 10 April 2024

Otaru, Japan

The highest vantage point in Otaru is the top of Mt. Tengu, which offers panoramic views of Ishikari Bay, the Shakotan Peninsula, and Otaru. The mountain towers over the city and is a popular ski resort in winter. Take the ropeway up the mountain to enjoy the views. Otaru is also known for its fresh seafood, and abundant hot springs.

Day 14: 11 April 2024

Hakodate, Japan

The picturesque city of Hakodate is renowned for its fresh seafood and spectacular views, while its location at the southern tip of Hokkaido makes it a convenient base for exploring the abundance of nature nearby.

Day 15: 12 April 2024

At sea

Day 16: 13 April 2024

Yokohama (Tokyo), Japan

Meet with your guide when you disembark the ship. Visit Meiji Shrine, a shrine dedicated to the deified spirit of Emperor Meiji and a popular place for traditional Japanese weddings. After visiting the shrine, you will walk down the adjacent Omotesando shopping street, a broad tree lined avenue home to the flagship stores of the world's top fashion brands. After shopping in Omotesando, it's time to cook! You will visit a sushi restaurant for sushi making experience. A Japanese sushi chef will answer all your questions about sushi and Japanese food culture and will

help you to make a selection of delicious fresh sushi. You will then get to enjoy your home-made sushi for lunch. The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure.

Day 17: 14 April 2024

Tokyo, Japan

Today you will visit Hamarikyu garden, an Edo Period Japanese garden surrounded by the Shiodome district's futuristic skyscrapers, a great example of how Japan is the land of contrasts, where you will stop for a cup of steaming matcha and Japanese sweets in a tea house on a small island in the park's lake. From here, you will head to Hinode Pier where you can take a seat on one of the futuristic looking boat and travel up the Sumidagawa River on Tokyo's Water Bus. You will arrive at Asakusa, Tokyo's old town where you can soak in the atmosphere of the Tokyo of old. Visit Sensoji, Tokyo's oldest temple and wander down Nakamise, a shopping street that has been providing temple visitors with a variety of traditional, local snacks and tourist souvenirs for centuries. After lunch (own expense), you will have the unforgettable opportunity to participate in an authentic tea ceremony in Asakusa. Sample freshly made green tea in a Japanese style tearoom nearby. Finally head to Ginza - Tokyo's upmarket district and enjoy its boutiques, art galleries and department stores which all offer the town's finest quality goods.

Day 18: 15 April 2024

Tokyo, Japan

Today is a day to enjoy at your leisure.

Day 19: 16 April 2024

Tokyo, Japan

After breakfast at your hotel this morning, meet with your guide in the hotel lobby for a transfer to the airport for your departure flight back to Australia. ^



19 Days Japan Cherry Blossoms

2024 Departure
29 March – 16 April

From
(Flight credit
included)

Inside stateroom
per person twin share

\$6,950*

Single supplement

\$3,470*

CRUISE CABIN UPGRADES

Oceanview stateroom
per person twin share

add **\$540***

Balcony stateroom
per person twin share

On request

RACT Travel Exclusives are your gateway to History. Adventure. Connection. Culture. The world.

Join our exclusive tour to discover some of the world's most stunning destinations. These inclusive tours are truly trips of a lifetime, with bespoke itineraries, incredible access and wandering off the tourist trail at times and all with that personal touch!

Utilising our expertise and passion we ensure an unforgettable holiday every time, with plenty of free time to immerse yourselves into the local culture – truly trips of a lifetime! Travelling with us means safety, security, confidence and value.

FOR GREAT DEALS ON SOME OF OUR FAVOURITE TRAVEL DESTINATIONS, VISIT ONE OF OUR STORES LISTED BELOW
Burnie | Devonport | Hobart | Kingston | Launceston | Rosny | Ulverstone

Book with us today

racttravel.com.au | 1300 368 111



TRAVEL

a member of
helloworld
TRAVEL

*Conditions apply: Prices are correct as at 17 July 2023, per person (pp) twin share in AUD, inclusive of port charges & government taxes and subject to availability at the time of booking. Flight Credit: Inside bookings receive \$600 per person, Oceanview receive \$800 per person and Balcony receives \$1,000 per person. A non-refundable deposit of \$800 per person is due 5 days after booking. A second deposit will be required to cover airfares once flights are available. Final payment is due no later than 13 December 2023. Tours are based on reaching a minimum number. Cruise gratuities are not included. USD\$75 onboard credit (OBC) is per cabin for up to 2 guests per stateroom. OBC is for use onboard and not redeemable for cash. ^Return airport transfers will only be provided on dates specified and dependant on flights booked. No refund will be given for unused transfers. Cherry Blossoms are weather dependant, and it is not guaranteed that they will be in bloom at the time of your visit. Travel insurance is highly recommended and available at an additional cost. Itinerary is subject to change. Payment by credit card may attract a merchant fee. Service fees not included. Further conditions may apply, see in-store, or visit racttravel.com.au. Members Travel Group Pty Ltd trading as RACT Travel | ABN 45 144 538 803 | A11470