

Japan Cherry Blossoms 2025

29 March 2025 | 19 Days | Fly, cruise & stay package



TRAVEL



Highlights & inclusions

- Air credit towards flights
- Luxury Airport Lounge Access in Australia*
- 4 nights in Tokyo including daily breakfast
- Land touring in Tokyo post cruise, including English-speaking guide
- 14 night cruise onboard Holland America's Noordam
- All meals whilst onboard the cruise at a range of complimentary venues
- Port charges & government taxes
- **BONUS CRUISE OFFER:** USD75 onboard credit*



Day 1: 29 March 2025

Tokyo, Japan

Enjoy your luxury airport lounge access before you depart. Upon arrival into Tokyo, make your way to your hotel ready for check in. Tokyo is the largest city on earth and packed with some of the world's best shops, museums and restaurants, big and small. While the bright neon lights and the bustle of contemporary Tokyo may be what comes to mind when you think of the city, there is another side. Tokyo's historic gardens and neighbourhoods of traditional homes on narrow lanes speak to a timeless Japan that has survived into the 21st century.

Day 2: 30 March 2025

Tokyo, Japan – Embark

After breakfast and checking out of your hotel, meet with your guide in the hotel lobby for your private coach transfer to Yokohama Port ready to board the Noordam for your 14 night Circle Japan cruise.

Day 3: 31 March 2025

At sea

Day 4: 01 April 2025

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, then perhaps dine on sushi at Hirome Market.

Day 5: 02 April 2025

Kagoshima, Japan

Situated at the southern tip of Japan, Kagoshima is the capital of the prefecture of the same name and famous for its dramatic views of Sakurajima, an active volcano that smoulders across the bay. Kagoshima, however, offers much more than the

volcano's almost overwhelming beauty. The food scene provides opportunities to experience the area's rich culinary culture and features dishes using locally caught fish and regional specialties, like satsuma a'ge (deep-fried fish cake) and shōchū, a traditional beverage made at more than 100 distilleries in Kagoshima alone.

Day 6: 03 April 2025

Nagasaki, Japan

Nagasaki is one of the country's most cosmopolitan port cities, with a decent tourism infrastructure, a fascinating past that stretches back to the early 7th century and a picturesque harbor that's been an active port since the 16th century. Check out the Nagasaki Peace Park and Atomic Bomb Museum, which outline the horrific bombing of the city during World War II while making a poignant pledge for world peace.

Day 7: 04 April 2025

Busan, South Korea

Busan 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 buzzy nightlife, as well as sandy beaches, hot springs and nearby mountains crossed with hiking trails and dotted with temples.

Day 8: 05 April 2025

At sea

Day 9: 06 April 2025

Kanazawa, Japan

Located on the shores of the Sea of Japan, Kanazawa, the port is just west of the city centre—a former samurai town that was once one of the largest



in Japan. The city escaped bombing in World War II, and its historic buildings provide a glimpse of old Japan. Of the three teahouse (chaya, in Japanese) neighbourhoods, the most famous is the charming Higashi Chaya District.

Day 10: 07 April 2025
Niigata, Japan

Niigata is known for its natural splendours and high-quality sake. The island is now a vacation destination and home of the last wild Japanese Crested Ibis (Toki), a large, delicate bird with rosy plumage. Toki Forest Park offers a chance to learn more about conservation efforts and to view the birds. If you don't want to make the trip to Sado, there's plenty to do near the Niigata cruise port.

Day 11: 08 April 2025
At sea

Day 12: 09 April 2025
Otaru, Japan

Otaru is a charming port town in Hokkaido, Japan, that offers a glimpse into the past. Once a major trading hub with Russia and China, Otaru still preserves its historic stone buildings, warehouses, and canal that reflect its rich heritage. You can stroll along the canal, visit the museums, and admire the architecture of the former banks and trading companies. Otaru is also known for its glassware, music boxes, and seafood, which you can find in the shops and restaurants along Sakaimachi Street.

Day 13: 10 April 2025
Aomori, Japan

Relatively unexplored, Aomori's verdant landscapes, famous festivals and World Heritage sites can all still be called "hidden gems." Don't miss ancient ruins

and great temples, shrines, castles, and Aoni Onsen, a remote hot spring resort with a traditional ryokan lit only by gas lantern and unrivalled seafood from the cold waters of both the Sea of Japan and Pacific Ocean.

Day 14: 11 April 2025
Hakodate, Japan

Hakodate is best known for the spectacular views to be enjoyed from Mount Hakodate and its delicious, fresh seafood. Hakodate was among the first Japanese port cities that were opened to international trade after the country's era of isolation. As a result, the city has experienced notable influence from overseas, and the foreign population's former residential district and a Western-style fort are among its main tourist attractions.

Day 15: 12 April 2025
At sea

Day 16: 13 April 2025
Tokyo, Japan – Disembark

After disembarkation this morning, meet your guide ready to depart on your day tour. Visit Meiji Shrine - a shrine dedicated to the deified spirit of Emperor Meiji and a popular place for traditional Japanese weddings.

Then, enjoy a sushi making experience with a Japanese sushi chef, who will answer all your questions about sushi and Japanese food culture. You will then get to enjoy your home-made sushi for lunch. Stop by Omotesando, before heading to Shibuya - Tokyo's main centre for youth fashion and culture, as well as being home to the famous 5 way 'scramble crossing'. You will visit Shibuya Sky, breathtaking 360 degrees views over the city.

A private coach will take you back to your hotel.

Day 17: 14 April 2025
Tokyo, Japan

Enjoy breakfast this morning before meeting your guide for your day tour starting at Tsukiji Market - the world's largest fish market. While the inner market has moved to its new location, the outer market remains standing and you can take time to wander through, exploring both the vegetable and fruit areas plus the impressive seafood section. Next, 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. A private coach will take you to Hinode Pier, where you will travel up the Sumidagawa River on Tokyo's Water Bus, arriving in Asakusa, Tokyo's old town. 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. The tea masters are always willing to instruct newcomers on the finer points of enjoying tea. Finally head to Ginza, Tokyo's upmarket district. Enjoy its boutiques, art galleries and department stores before returning to your hotel by private coach.

Day 18: 15 April 2025
Tokyo, Japan

Enjoy a day at your leisure today.

Day 19: 16 April 2025
Tokyo, Japan

Your holiday ends this morning after breakfast at your hotel. Make your way to the airport ready for your journey back to Australia, or you may wish to extend your trip.



19 Days Japan Cherry Blossoms

2025 departure
29 March – 16 April

From
Air credit
included

Inside stateroom
per person twin share

\$7,975*

Cruise cabin upgrades

Oceanview stateroom
per person twin share

add **\$335***

Balcony stateroom
per person twin share

add **\$1,350***

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*Conditions apply: Prices are correct as at 16 January 2024, per person (pp) twin share in AUD, includes port charges & government taxes on the cruise and is subject to availability at the time of booking. A non-refundable deposit of \$800 per person is due 5 days after booking, this amount may be higher depending on cruise category booked. An air credit of \$850 per person is included. A second deposit will be required to cover airfares once flights are booked. Final payment is due no later than 16 December 2024. Cabins are based on a guaranteed basis with the cabin number and location on the ship to be allocated at the discretion of the cruise line. *USD\$75 onboard credit (OBC) per cabin for up to 2 guests per stateroom pending minimum tour numbers being met. OBC is for use onboard and not redeemable for cash. Cruise gratuities are not included. Luxury airport lounge access is only available in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and must be pre-booked. All passports, vaccination, visas, and items of a personal nature are the responsibility of the guest. 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