


Kyushu Journeys

DREAM • EXPLORE • DISCOVER

Kyushu Cherry Blossom Tour

March 2024



Come with us to explore the best of Kyushu's cherry blossom spots. Discover the outstanding scenery and exceptional cuisine that makes Kyushu an unmissable destination for lovers of Japan. You will travel by private bus accompanied by a fun and knowledgeable English-speaking tour leader.

DAY 1: SUNDAY MARCH 24 ~ OVERNIGHT IN HITA



Meet your tour leader and fellow travelers in Fukuoka city and hit the road. First stop will be for a stroll to the remains of a 17th century castle. It's one of the most marvelous displays of cherry blossom in the whole of Fukuoka.

We'll stop for lunch at a specialty eel restaurant. Westerners may not have much experience with eel but it's a classic Japanese dish. The meat is tender and the sauce is delicious.

After lunch we'll do some more cherry blossom viewing at the shrine you can see on the first page of this brochure.



For the first night of this tour we're staying in Hita city, the hub of Kyushu in the Edo period. Before checking into our hotel let's explore the well-preserved old town and bygone era shops.

Dinner will be in a much-beloved casual restaurant that has been serving locals for more than a century. You will feel like one of its regulars while you enjoy your dinner and get to know your fellow travellers.

DAY 2: MONDAY MARCH 25 ~ OVERNIGHT IN ASO-KUJU MOUNTAINS

After breakfast we'll check out and head into the scenic heart of Kyushu. On the way we'll stop at a temple that is unusual in combining elements of both Shintoism and Buddhism. The temple was established 1,200 years ago and is crowded with over 2,000 statues dedicated to the guardian deity of children. It's incredibly photogenic.



At Aso Volcano you'll get the unique opportunity to stare right into an active volcano crater! Smell the devilish sulphur pong and see the smoke billowing out. If the crater is closed on the day for safety reasons we'll still get as close as we possibly can.

In this rural area expect a countryside lunch made with freshest seasonal local ingredients.

We'll stay tonight in a wonderfully picturesque location. Enjoy indoor or outdoor onsen (natural hot spring baths) with glorious natural views. For dinner let's have the Japanese favourite of sukiyaki. Expect the tastiest grass-fed local beef.

DAY 3: TUESDAY MARCH 26 ~ OVERNIGHT IN SHIMABARA



Today we continue our journey through the remote countryside. We'll visit one of the most idyllic locations for cherry blossom viewing. This single cherry tree is over 14 meters tall and 400 years old. Its beautiful flowers have been captivating Japanese for generations and now you can experience it too.

Lunch will be served in a 100 year-old diner allowing you to admire the traditional architectural style.

We'll continue our journey taking in the sea breeze as we hop on the ferry to Shimabara peninsula. In Shimabara we hope to see another wonderful display of cherry blossom blooming, this time set amongst acres of bright yellow rapeseed with a mountain backdrop. Time-permitting we'll also pay a quick visit to see the remains of houses buried up to their roofs after a volcanic explosion and landslide. It's a truly dramatic sight.

Tonight we'll be staying close to the ocean. As all Japanese know, there's nothing better than seafood when you can smell the sea. Enjoy a variety of fresh and tasty dishes based on the fishermen's catch of the day.



DAY 4: WEDNESDAY MARCH 27 ~ OVERNIGHT IN URESHINO

More sakura hunting! We'll visit a park famous for its amazing collection of 2,000 flowering cherry trees of 20 different species. In fact it's on the list of Japan's top 100 cherry blossom spots. The park is situated amongst the remains of a 17th century castle.

You can't visit Japan without having sushi, right? Have you tried pressed-zushi? It's not so common overseas but it's a local specialty so that's what we'll be having for lunch at the park.



Next enjoy a fun and practical hands-on activity. We'll learn how to brew green tea like a pro! You will have your own tea, pot and hot water and will learn tips and tricks from an expert.

Accommodation this evening is a real treat. We'll be staying at an authentic Japanese inn (ryokan) with onsen hot-spring baths. Japanese have been enjoying onsen in this area for a staggering 1,300 years. Ladies (and guys!) come here from across Japan to bathe in the silky smooth water and enjoy the beautifying effects on the skin.

The final dinner of this tour is the culinary highlight. Enjoy an unforgettable multi-course

feast (kaiseki). Each dainty course is served with the chef's pride and made with the freshest local ingredients.

DAY 5: THURSDAY MARCH 28 ~ OVERNIGHT IN FUKUOKA CITY



Today's cherry blossom view is another venerable old tree. It's a different species of cherry flower so see if you can tell the difference. This tree is located in a green tea plantation so you'll get a wonderful shot of the pale pink cherry flowers set against the deep green tea bushes.

We'll have lunch at a local pottery gallery. Enjoy tasty Japanese food served on tableware showcasing the contemporary local style.

Next we'll explore the 'Village of the Secret Kilns', a hidden gem tucked away in the mountains. For centuries access was strictly controlled to stop the techniques of pottery production leaking out. Enjoy some free time to stroll around and pick up a quality souvenir; a cup and pot for your green tea perhaps?

You'll be dropped back to your hotel conveniently located in the heart of Fukuoka city. The evening is your free and easy time for shopping, eating and exploring. Still not had enough cherry blossom viewing!? Stroll to Fukuoka's cherry blossom festival (although the dates haven't been finalised yet). It's set in the grounds of Fukuoka Castle and is packed with street-food stalls.

DAY 6: FRIDAY MARCH 29 ~ END OF TOUR

Breakfast at the hotel and then checkout. The tour is over but the memories remain. Thanks for trusting Kyushu Journeys for your Japan Cherry Blossom Tour

TOUR DETAILS

Tour Price

¥360,000 (Japanese Yen) per person

This price is based on double / twin sharing. For a single traveler staying in a room alone the additional charge is ¥132,000. For triple sharing price, contact us for details.

Inclusions

Accommodation with breakfast x 5 nights

Lunch x 5

Dinner x 4

English-speaking tour leader

All transport in private tour bus

All entrance fees

Exclusions

Flights

[Contact Us Now](#)

[@ letsgo@kyushujourneys.com](mailto:letsgo@kyushujourneys.com)

[+81-90-8354-1194](tel:+81-90-8354-1194)

[Message us here](#)

[Schedule a chat here](#)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Why book a Kyushu tour with Kyushu Journeys?

Because we're Kyushu's biggest fans! We live in Kyushu and our company is owned and managed by a Kyushu local. We are a fully registered Japanese travel agent with all legal protections in place.

What kind of food can I expect on this tour?

Each restaurant has been carefully chosen to highlight a wide variety of the tastiest Kyushu cuisine. The focus is on using locally-sourced seasonal ingredients wherever possible. If you have any dietary restriction please ask us about alternatives before booking your tour.

What kind of accommodation will I stay?

You will stay in a mix of clean and comfortable city hotels and traditional Japanese ryokan inns. In the city hotels you will be sleeping in western beds. In the ryokan you will be sleeping in western beds or traditional Japanese-style futon beds on tatami mat flooring. If you have any difficulty sleeping on a futon please ask us about alternatives before booking your tour.

What is 'onsen' bathing?

An onsen is a bathing pool using water from natural hot-springs. It's a wonderful pleasure with many health benefits. As nudity is required, onsen bathing is usually sex-segregated with males in one public bath and females in a different public bath. If you feel uncomfortable you can skip this activity. Feel free to contact us with any questions you have about onsen bathing.

How will I travel around?

Comfortable private bus throughout the tour.

How many people can join this tour?

We want this to be a small group intimate tour. Maximum participants will be 12 pax.

Can you run a private tour?

Yes we can. We have several options for couples or private groups of family or friends. Contact us for details.

Is this tour suitable for seniors?

Definitely. You will be travelling by private tour bus and accompanied at all times by an English-speaking tour leader. There are no long hikes on this tour but of course you will need to walk around the attractions. There will be some non-paved paths and steps to climb (especially in shrines or temples). It will be no problem if you prefer to skip any activity and wait for the group on the bus or in a seated area.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Is this tour suitable for children?

This is an adult tour with no activities for children. We welcome all participants aged 12 years or older. However on a private tour children of any age can join.

Anything else I need to pay?

From your own pocket you need to pay for dinner on the final evening. You also need to pay for any alcohol and in-room hotel charges (phone calls, room service etc). Rowing a boat in Takachiho Gorge is an optional activity at your own expense. Tipping is not required in Japan so it is your choice if you want to show appreciation to your tour leader and / or driver if you receive exceptional service.

How do I secure my booking?

A deposit of 20% is required to secure your places on the tour. The 80% balance is due 60 days before the tour begins.

There are only 12 places available on this tour so please contact as soon as possible if you want to join. We can temporarily block your places on the tour with no payment required to give you time to check your flights.

What are the cancellation charges?

After payment of deposit: 20% cancellation charge (forfeit of deposit) || 60 ~ 46 days before the tour begins: 30% cancellation charge || 45 ~ 31 days before the tour begins: 40% cancellation charge || 30 ~ 16 days before the tour begins: 60% cancellation charge || 15 ~ 8 days before the tour begins: 80% cancellation charge || 7 days or later before the tour begins: 100% cancellation charge.

We suggest you take out travel insurance to protect yourself in case you need to cancel for any unexpected reason.

What's the next step?

Contact us with any questions or to inform us how many people are interested to join this tour. We'll get back to you with everything you need to know.



Contact Us Now

@ letsgo@kyushujourneys.com

+81-90-8354-1194

Message us here

Schedule a chat here

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO
OUR AMAZING ISLAND OF KYUSHU!**

What did previous tour participants say?

"Everything was fantastic: the Sakura, onsens, the Kaiseki dinners. our guide was the best and the driver did a fantastic job. Thank you."

LH Jane ★★★★★

"we just finished our Kyushu Journeys Cherry Blossom Tour. It was Magical. The guide and the whole group were fantastic. Definitely recommend Kyushu Journeys."

Carolyn Nowick ★★★★★

"Thank you very much for a wonderful and memorable tour. I thoroughly enjoyed the lovely sights, the gourmet meals and the onsen. Huge thanks to Kyushu Journeys!"

Esther Kwan-Leong ★★★★★

Happy previous tour members

